

February 7, 1996

The Upper Valley Press

Local History

Looking for a home

The Gleed Library is looking for a home.

When the levy for the new fire station was approved, many residents were under the impression that the library would move with the fire station. Not so! That means that the Gleed Library has until December 31 of this year to find a new home, or someone to purchase the old fire station they're presently in and let them stay.

There are several options in the works at the present, but nothing has been solidified. The Sheriff's office is considering leasing the old fire station for a sub-station. Calls to the Sheriff's Department have not been answered, so we can't report on that aspect at this time.

The Lower Naches Lions Club is considering purchasing the building, but, according to Frank Wesselius, "There is nothing concrete. No sales price has been determined and our committee is still working on it."

People in the Gleed area are concerned that there may be no more library and are searching for ways to find a new location. And, they're asking for community help.

The Gleed Library is small, but busy. Its circulation has held steady in the 5,000 to 6,000 range in the last ten years, and it circulated 6,087 items to area residents in 1993. This is from a library that is open only ten hours a week. During that ten hours Kathy Pilgrim, the Gleed Librarian, checks out an average of 11.7 items per hour, with only three other community libraries out of twenty-some libraries, checking out more items per staff hours worked.

The Gleed Library is one of six Yakima Valley Regional Library system libraries located in the unincorporated part of Yakima County. Those libraries are funded in a variety of ways, from the Gleed situation where the fire

district has been providing the room, to the Nile Library where the Nile Women's Club provides a room in their community building.

In all cases, local clubs and library associations help with fund-raising, building maintenance, and advising the Regional Library about service in their area. The Regional Library gives a certain amount of funding, depending on the hours the library is open. They supply staff, books and other library materials, and the circulation system. They receive a certain mill levy from unincorporated parts of Yakima County and contract fees at an equivalent rate from cities and towns which choose to belong to the system. The local community, incorporated or not, provides the library building, equipment and maintenance.

The Gleed Library provides many services to their community, from senior citizens to small

children. With in-home teaching becoming more prevalent in the area, it has become a resource for parents teaching their children at home. They have even had a lady from Germany check out children's books to learn to speak English.

The Gleed Library is definitely a community library. It receives donations from the Lower Naches Lions Club, the Women's Club, the Lower Naches Garden Club, as well as from the Gleed Fire Department. They also have a lot of community support in the way of donated furniture, shelves, etc.

But, they need a home. If you have an idea, a solution, or some help, you may call Librarian Kathy Pilgrim at 965-0928 Mondays or Thursdays; Nancy Richardson, 966-5473; Gladys Houser, 966-3482; or Betty McLaughlin at 966-5249.

[Read "History of the Gleed Library" on page 4.]