

The new temporary location of the Gleed Public Library  
at the Lower Naches Grange

## Gleed library finds temporary home

The Gleed Library, which has been looking for a new location for several months, has moved to temporary quarters as of June 2. The Lower Naches Grange has opened its doors to the library and offered the use of the main floor until a permanent location can be found. The library will continue to be open Mondays and Thursdays; however the hours will change from 2-7 p.m. to 1-6 p.m.

The Gleed Library has been serving the community since 1954. Many people use the library and community residents borrow 5,000 to 6,000 books per year. It has been a resource for everyone, especially students, seniors and kids in the summer reading program. But it must now find a new permanent home.

The Gleed Library Board is a voluntary organization with no taxing ability and it does not have the funds to purchase other facilities. The Yakima Regional Library furnishes the books and the librarian, but the residents of the community must find a building.

A committee has been established called "Friends of the Gleed Library." This committee was established to help the Library Board build for the future. Volunteers have been conducting a phone survey of citizens in the community asking what library services you would like provided. For example, some libraries provide a meeting place for organizations such as the Boy Scouts, or computer stations with Internet access. If you receive a call, please take the time to answer the questions. The information will be used to help decide what should be done to keep a library in the community.

Community groups working with "Friends of the Library" are: the Lower Naches Grange, the Women's Club, the Garden Club, the Lions Club, the Gleed Fire District, and the Yakima Valley Regional Library. "Friends of the Library" would like to express a special thanks to Conover Insurance for the use of their phone for this survey.

If you would like to contribute to "Friends of the Library," complete the coupon below and mail it with your contribution. If you have any questions, contact Kathy Pilgrim at the Gleed Library, 965-0928, or 966-4373, or Dennis Bowhay at 4564-7866 (work) or 697-9060 (home).

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.]



# Gleed library closing

By **WENDY HARRIS**

Of the **Herald-Republic**

With no place to call its own, the Gleed Community Library is closing its doors today after a one-year temporary stay in the Lower Naches Grange hall.

"We've been looking for a home but haven't been able to find one," said Kathy Pilgrim, who had been the Gleed librarian for 12 years. "We are still going to work on finding a site. We aren't going to give up."

To say good-bye to the library's customers, a reception is being held today from 1-6 p.m. at the Grange, located at 1800 Old Naches Highway.

Punch and cookies will be served. Pilgrim said she sent out invitations to roughly 160 residents who have used the library in the past couple of years.

The Gleed Community Library, one of 20 libraries affiliated with the Yakima Valley Regional Library system, had resided in the old Gleed Fire Station for 43 years until the building was sold last year when the fire department moved into a new facility.

The library moved into the grange building on a temporary basis and the nine members of the Friends of the Gleed Library remained hopeful they would find a new building.

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Local History

## Meet Your Librarians

# Gleed Library Maintains High Book Stock, Circulation



**MARGERY GILDE**

The Gleed Community Library, though located in one of the Valley's smaller unincorporated areas, still boasts an impressive stock and circulation.

In the 1960 annual report the tiny library had a total circulation of 7,319 and averages between 500 and 600 books per month.

Miss Margery Gilde is the head librarian at the Gleed Library, a position she has held for two and one-half years. She is assisted by Miss Paula Edmondson.

Miss Gilde is a native of Naches and was graduated from the Lower Naches High School and Whitman Business College.

The board which maintains the library, which is located behind the Gleed Fire Hall, consists of Mrs. Max Clark, Mrs. Lloyd Doyle, Mrs. George Assink, Mrs. Lawrence Cuillier and Mrs. Lee Luettgen.





(Staff photos by Gordon King)

Nonie Burns and her grandson, Cole Burns, visited the Gleed library Thursday afternoon to pick out more books for Cole. His favorite books are those about trains.

# Storied tradition

## After 40 years, Gleed's library is losing its home

By CRAIG TROIANELLO  
Of the Herald-Republic

GLEED — The door to the Gleed library has been open only a few minutes and already a handful of patrons are browsing the stacks.

A slight, gray-haired woman arrives and is greeted with a hug from librarian Kathy Pilgrim. Nearby, a man in a mechanic's outfit is searching the biography section.

If Hollywood created a rural library where operations are run on a shoestring and an armload of community help, the Gleed library might well be the result.

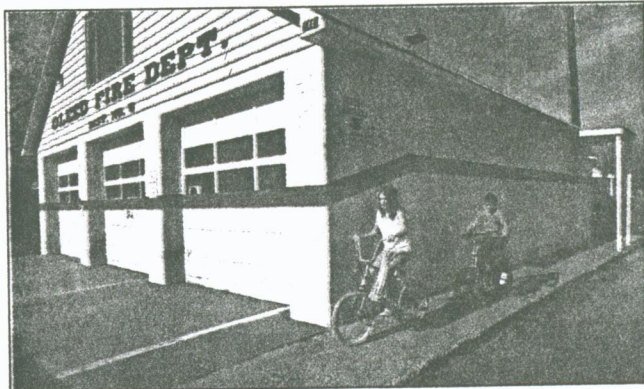
It's small. One room, in fact. There's nothing fancy, but the place is welcoming. Everything, from the chairs provided by the Lower Naches Women's Club to the tiny tot table built and donated by a local resident, speaks of hospitality and community support.

When patrons can't get to the library, Pilgrim sometimes will deliver books to their homes. She has run the library for 10 years. Before that her mother was librarian for 16 years.

But after 40 years in a room in the back of the Gleed fire station, the library faces an uncertain future. The library must find a new home by December, after the fire station moves into a new \$850,000 station a few blocks away now under construction.

So far the search has been discouraging.

Many residents believed the li-



Chelsea Blaine and Justin Bernhardt ride their bikes from the library after Blaine returned several books and picked up another Thursday afternoon. The Gleed library is housed toward the back end of the fire station.

brary would move with the fire station when voters approved the \$850,000 construction bond, said Nancy Richardson, library board member. But the library was not part of the ballot measure.

"It would have been nice to build a new library, but state auditors would have taken a real dim view," said Fire Chief Jim Kohl, whose mother was librarian in the 1950s.

Richardson said residents are ready and willing to undertake a fund-raising drive or otherwise help in a relocation effort. But any effort will remain in limbo until a new site can be found, she said.

One hope lies with the Yakima

County Sheriff's Office, which is searching for a location for an Upper Valley precinct.

If the building is acquired anything is possible, including allowing the library to remain, Sheriff Doug Blair said. But Blair warns that there's no assurances the building ever will be purchased by the county.

On Thursday, patrons filtered in and out of the library, seemingly oblivious to its problem. In one corner are cardboard books for the very young. Across the room are large-type books, often desired by older patrons. Elsewhere is a small selection of Spanish-language books. Basically the library contains everything a

larger one holds, but in fewer numbers.

Like its larger counterparts, the Gleed library holds a summer reading program for children. Patrons range from toddlers to senior citizens.

One man kept coming in to study the large-type texts, Pilgrim recalls.

"It took me a while to figure out what he was doing," she said. "Then I realized he was teaching himself to read."

More than 6,000 books are checked out of this tiny room each year, making it one of the busiest community libraries for its size in the Yakima Valley Regional Library system of 20 libraries, Pilgrim said.

The library is one of the system's six community libraries located in unincorporated areas. It is open just twice a week, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays.

Closure would hit some patrons harder than others. Some are physically unable to drive to other libraries, Richardson said.

"We would really hate to lose this," Richardson said. "It is so much a part of the community."

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People who know of a site in the Gleed area that could be used by the library may call librarian Kathy Pilgrim at 965-0928 during library hours (2 p.m. to 7 p.m., Mondays or Thursdays) or library board member Nancy Richardson at 966-5473.