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Indiana Ave. School - Site For New Library?

By Carole Sebastian

LANSING - What will become of Indiana Avenue School? Mrs. Joanne Jensen, Lansing librarian, has the answer.

According to Mrs. Jensen, we have outgrown our library and the Indiana Avenue School land site would be perfect. There would be plenty of land for parking and room for a new

multi-level, million dollar library after the old school is removed.

A survey conducted by R. Paul Bartolini, director of the Lake County Library System, reveals that Lansing's population potential by 1980 is 50,000 residents. The survey has shown that Lansing's library on Ridge Road and Chicago Avenue has reached its capacity.

There are only 25,000 volumes to choose from at the present time in the library and the recommended number is two books per person. With Lansing's population at 25,000 we are already way behind, according to Mrs. Jensen.

To allow enough room for parking and to add rooms to the present site, four homes would have to

be removed and the library would still be located at a bad intersection for youngsters, the librarian stated.

Mrs. Jensen tells how she always fears for the safety of youngsters who must cross Ridge Road to come to the library.

At the present time, families pay only \$4 per family, per year, in taxes

to keep the library functioning.

When a site is found, it will be up to the taxpayers to pass a referendum to get a new million dollar library and cultural center for Lansing.

The librarian envisions more than just an art center - she sees a perfect location for art fairs, book fairs, and enough room

for the children's story hour.

If Mrs. Jensen gets her way, the ghosts of Indiana Avenue School will continue to hear the happy laughter of youngsters.

Little ones and adults alike will be coming to a brand new building filled with adventure, similar to those held for 72 years by that grand lady of education-Indiana Avenue School.