

LOCAL HISTORY  
LANSING PUBLIC LIBRARY  
NEWS ARTICLES  
PAMPHLET FILE

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and  
Ann R.*

For Reference

Not to be taken from this room

THE TIMES

Friday, January 2, 1970



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### Career To End

Mrs. Mary Fox has checked out thousands of books during her career with the Lansing Public Library. These are among the last. Mrs. Fox is about to retire from library service.

## Veteran Library Worker Will Retire This Month

LANSING — A familiar face will be gone from the Lansing Public Library at the end of January.

Mrs. Mary Fox, part-time library assistant for nearly 24 years, has decided to retire. The decision was reached reluctantly since Mrs. Fox's vocation is also her avocation.

A former Curranville, Kansas, school teacher and recorder in the registrar's office at Kansas State Teachers College, Mrs. Fox was well acquainted with books and college curriculum before she moved to Lansing in 1936. Reading had been and still is her favorite hobby.

In the early 1940's, Mrs. Fox became interested in helping the library when she heard of its financial difficulties. At the time, the library was operated by the WPA which initiated the project in the 1930's.

Mrs. Fox offered her services without pay but, in the meantime, the village took over the project and the library came under its jurisdiction.

SEVERAL YEARS later, through her daughter, Carol, who was a library page, Mrs. Fox learned that the librarian, Mrs. Francis Edwards, needed an assistant to take over when she was away from the library. And so, in May, 1946, her long part-time career began.

Mrs. Joanne Jensen, librarian for the past ten years, said, "Mrs. Fox has been the backbone of the library. She has undertaken with enthusiasm all the necessary, tedious jobs — weeding out the outdated material, working on the pamphlet file, and cataloguing new books."

To Mrs. Fox, the work was never tedious

or boring. She said, "I learned and grew right along with the young people."

She also enjoyed her working schedule which left time to keep up her home at 18135 Oakwood and to be with her husband, Charles, and two growing daughters, Carol and Mary Jo, who are now married.

Mrs. Fox accomplishes the "behind the scenes" library chores on Tuesday and Thursday mornings while the library is closed. Every Saturday morning, though, she is busy behind the desk checking out books, looking up references, and stacking the shelves.

THE LIBRARY and the workload have changed in the past years. Recalling the old library, Mrs. Fox said it was slightly warmer than Ridge Road during the winter. A pot-belly stove supplied the only heat.

Today, the modern library is stocked with 25,000 books and 1,000 new books must be catalogued annually. The library receives many more requests for reference materials each year, she said.

A record library was added six months ago and now totals 50 records ranging from classical to folk and even "Hair."

Mrs. Fox admits she will miss all the fun of working at an "alive" library. "The time has come, though," she said, "to take it easy and to spend more time with my husband who retired two years ago. We would like to travel and see and do the things we never had time for before because of our jobs."

Mrs. Fox probably will still help out at the library occasionally. It has been part of her life for too many years.