

Library services give hope to blind patrons

Continued from Page 1

books and transcribing Braille, to repairing equipment, a service performed by the Farmington-area "Pioneers" — retired Michigan Bell workers.

BOOK SELECTIONS are the same as found at regular libraries, Hund said, and are available for all age groups. Bestsellers, biographies, fiction and how-to-do-it books are in demand.

Speech and hearing impaired individuals can now communicate over telephone lines to the Farmington Hills Branch Library through a special line with a portable typewriter-like machine.

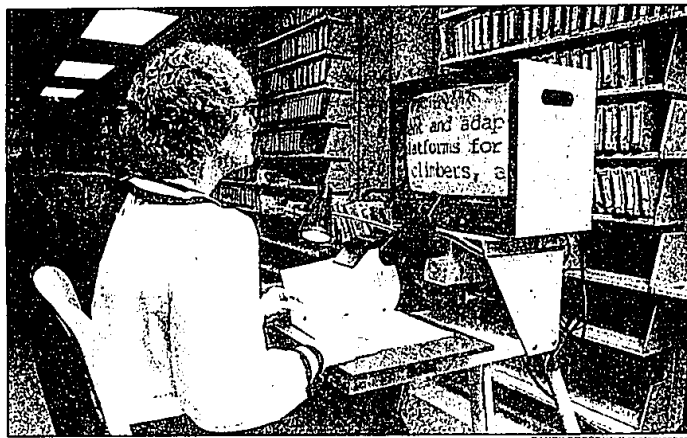
Hund believes that more people could take advantage of the library. "A good share of my job is running around to different libraries and things, informing them of the kinds of services we have," she said.

Of her job, she says, "It is a nice place to work, because it's such an excellent library." Then there is the reward that comes from library patrons.

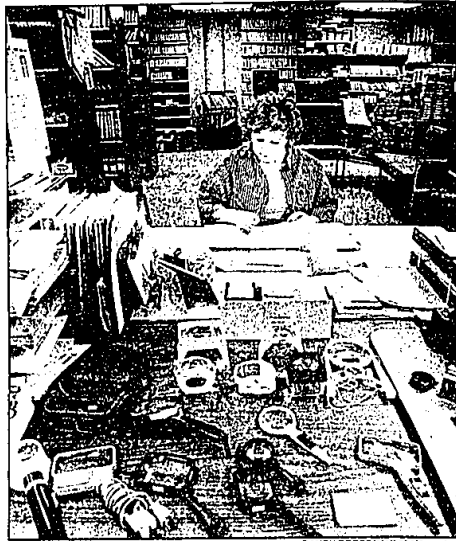
"You know, a lady son, 12 and said, 'please buy yourselves some Valentines,'" she said with a smile. "I love my books. I don't know what I would do without them," she read from the note.

"It makes you feel like your job is very worthwhile," she said. For more information about the Oakland County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, area residents may call 553-0300 or toll-free 1-800-992-9012. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

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Susan Woollard checks the operation of a video recorder. The device uses a television camera to project an enlarged image of a book onto a video monitor.



Karen White, an employee of the Oakland County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Farmington Hills branch, displays some of the magnifiers used by patrons.

Unlike those on regular library shelves, these selections carry labels with warnings such as "extra sex, violence, strong language."

"When you read a book, you can go over it quickly," says Hund. "When you are listening to a book it is very blunt. A lot of people will tell us they don't want that. Other people will tell me that they simply block it out."

One available cassette, not often used, is a 56-cassette Concise Heritage Dictionary. A student may find it useful but many patrons call to check a word's spelling, Hund said.

Also on the shelves are books in large print and Braille. A line of Braille storybooks with illustrations allows a blind parent or grandparent to read to a child.

Although free subscriptions to more than 70 magazines — including U.S. News and World Report, Readers Digest and National Geographic — are available, the passage of the federal Gramm-Rudman bill may make that obsolete. Those signing up now will be placed on a waiting list, with subscriptions transferred only when a cancellation is received, she said.

AVAILABLE for testing, although not for sale, are a collection of over 20 hand-held, eyeglass-type and table-size magnifiers. Many were donated by Horie-Seidewick Opticians in Birmingham.

A variety of programs is also offered. One, called "Orientation to Blindness," is used by blind individuals and their families.

An evening discussion series of best-sellers, in connection with the Farmington Community Library, will start Monday, Feb. 17, in which such books as "Gone with the Wind" will be discussed.

The library recently expanded ser-

By Randy Borgstreat for the Staff

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Join the audience Live from the Director's Chair Wednesday February 28th, 7:30 P.M. Farmington City Hall

Program content will explain the function of the Cablevision and what it means to produce television at a local level.

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