

Changing times and different paper makes book preservation a chore

By C.J. RISAK

Rare books is a term used in reference to very old texts, of which few copies remain intact.

Today, part of that definition applies to hardcover books now being printed. While not old, few copies remain intact for very long.

Four conditions weigh heavily on how long a book will last—temperature and humidity, dust, usage, and the acidity in the paper the pages are printed on.

"The paper used now is not the same quality as the paper used 100 years ago," Gloria Francis, head of the rare book department in the Detroit Public Library, said. "During the last two decades of the 18th Century, chemical processes were developed that made the use of wood pulp available for paper. The quality of the paper was cheaper, but it was cheaper in price, too."

The introduction of wood pulp which replaced the rag pulp paper, has led to many problems for librarians and rare book dealers. Books written in the late 1800s are now falling apart and the pages are disintegrating.

"The Library of Congress is micro-filming everything they have from that era," Ms. Francis said. "Everything they have is falling apart, despite their efforts to preserve them."

The Detroit Public Library's collection of rare books is an extensive one. Much of it deals with the religious, some dating back more than 500 years. Included are works by Cicero, dated 145; a Koberger Bible, printed in 1483 in Germany; and the oldest of the American works, the Eliot Indian Bible, written by missionary John Eliot for a Massachusetts Indian tribe in their language in 1685.

"Keeping these books in good condition can be a problem. "We keep the temperature at a constant level," Ms. Francis said. "Humidity is important, too, especially in the winter. Dry air really hurts the paper. We also keep them out of direct sunlight—that can fade the covers."

"There are two schools of thought on whether or not they should be kept in glass cases to keep the dust off them, or in open shelves, like we have here. We like the open shelves because it allows for air flow, which is important."

"To prevent dust, we'd like to put each of them in a box or a covering that would protect them. Not all of them have it, but we think that this is the best way."

"The acidity in the paper is the major factor in how long it will take for the paper to break down. The higher the acidity, the faster the paper will begin to yellow and decay.

Bindings, too, have cheapened in recent times.

"Before, every signature (a group of pages that make up part of the book) was sewn together by hand with linen cord," said Alice Dalligan, chief of the Burton Historical Collection.

"Now, they just cut ridges in the back of the signatures, put some cords in there, and slop a lot of glue on it. That won't hold very long."

The Burton collection deals with all documents which make up the history of Detroit and other parts of Michigan. Records go back to pre-Revolutionary War days and include histories of Indian tribes which inhabited the area as well.

Preserving documents and papers is even more difficult than books. Special filters for the fluorescent lights, which have the same damaging effects that direct sunlight does, are used, as well as protective plastic coverings that are acid-free.

"We do our best to make sure that everything is well taken care of," Ms. Dalligan said. "One of our big problems was with people trying to make

copies of the pages in the books. They'd cram them into the Xerox machine and just push on it and force it down. Of course, that broke down the binding. Now, we make the copies on a special machine for them."

The Burton has been swamped by researchers during the past few years, all of them looking for the same thing— their roots.

"After the first time it ("Roots") was telecast, this place was jammed," she said. "And we're still real busy. Now, we offer courses in genealogy and help people, tell them how to get started."

The increasing usage of the library's documents is taking its toll. Soon, microfilm may be the only way to preserve them. In the rare books, restoration is possible, but the cost is high—between \$300 and \$400 for a single book.

Commercial possibilities and cost limitations dictate what quality of paper and what type of bindings will be used on books published today.

Our mailing address has changed

Persons who wish to contribute news items to the Farmington Observer are asked to note our new mailing address.

We are now receiving mail at our local bureau, 22170 Nine Mile, Southfield, 48034.

BONANZA

"Atmosphere On A Budget"

Tuesday Night Specials

RIB EYE STEAK	CHOPPED STEAK
only \$2.39	only \$2.19
Includes Baked Potato Texas Toast & Salad Bar - Served from 4 p.m. 'til closing	

Great
SALAD BAR

13 Items
to mix
5 delicious dressings

MONDAY IS SENIOR CITIZENS DAY! SENIOR CITIZENS RECEIVE THEIR BEVERAGE FREE! ALL DAY!

LUNCHEON SPECIALS

CHOPPED STEAK DINNER	N.Y. PETITE STRIP DINNER	BREADED VEAL CUTLET
\$1.79	\$1.99	\$1.79
Includes Toast, Potato, Salad Bar		

SERVED ALL DAY MONDAY — 11-4 TUES.-SAT.

SOUTHFIELD 25610 W. 8 MILE RD. AT BEECH DAILY RD. IN KAMART PLAZA	BELLEVILLE 2053 RAWSONVILLE RD. OFF 194 IN KAMART PLAZA	LIVONIA 33456 W. 7 MILE RD. AT FARMINGTON RD. IN KAMART PLAZA
--	--	--

HOURS: MON.-THURS. 11 to 8:30
FRI. & SAT. 11-9 • SUNDAY 11 to 8

Obituaries

JOHN FOLEY

John A. Foley, 82, of Farmington, died Aug. 30 in the Oakhill Nursing Home. Services were Sept. 1 in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, and a rosary was recited in the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home. Burial was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Mr. Foley was retired as an employee with the City of Detroit in the transportation department. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Surviving are daughters Lorraine Fey and Audrey Bozema; son John J. Foley; 13 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

DWIGHT GORDON

Dwight M. Gordon, 71, of Farmington Hills, died Sept. 1 in Botsford General Hospital. Services were Sept. 5 in the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Detroit with Dr. Carl G. Howie and the Rev. James Cole officiating. Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, and cremation was in Evergreen Cemetery.

Mr. Gordon was a retired engineer with the Carter Carburetor Co. and active in many community organizations during his 25 years of residency in the area.

Surviving are his wife Dorothy; daughter Miriam Ellis; son John F. Gordon; and grandchildren Danielle and Marcus Dwight.

Memorial contributions may be made to the church memorial fund or charity of choice, the family suggests.

VANNETE'S PIZZA BOX

Features:
Square Shooter Pizza
Subs-Ribs-Slushes
Frozen Yogurt



Call 532-1281
Next to the Redford Theatre
17376 Lahser, (Old Redford)

YES—YOU CAN REGISTER THRU SEPT. 12 AT SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

Traditional College Classes

Late registration August 31 and September 1, 5-12

Call 591-6100 Ext. 310

Continuing Education and Community Services Classes

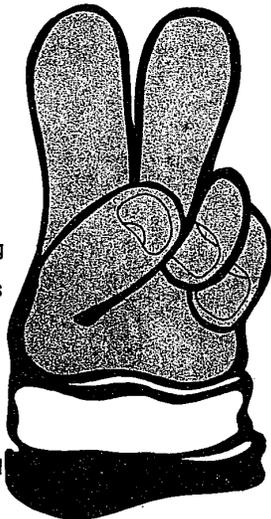
Walk-in registration Sept. 6-7
Late registration September 12

Call 591-6100 Ext. 101

Michigan National Bank

Farmington

Two choices to check and save



1.

Cost-Free Checking
With a \$99 minimum balance, or a \$200 average monthly balance.

You can enjoy a checking account that is free of per-check and statement charges by maintaining a minimum of \$99 in your account, or as long as your average monthly balance is at least \$200.

If the balance in your account is less than the minimum, you'll be charged just 12¢ per check and 75¢ per month for statement maintenance.

2.

Check-Save-Plus®

The complete account with automatic saving. Your Check-Save-Plus account will cost you nothing if you'll let us automatically transfer a regular deposit from your checking account each month. And the money in your savings account will earn 5% annual interest, compounded continuously for a 5.2% yield.

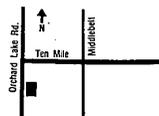
With a Check-Save-Plus account, all of your financial transactions—savings account, checking and loan payments if you have them, are combined in a single, easy-to-understand monthly statement.

For both accounts, these services are also available: "No-bounce" check protection, Bank-by-mail, Automatic Direct Deposit...and a rainbow selection of personalized checks.

Your Hometown Bank

MEMBER FDIC INSURED TO \$40,000
Affiliated with Michigan National Corporation
a \$4.3 billion banking organization

Our Drive-In Facility is open 6 1/2 hours per week
Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Open Monday thru Friday Evenings 11 1/2 p.m. to 10 p.m. for Your Banking Convenience
Full banking service at day Saturday, Drive-In & Lobby Open 4:30 p.m.



24040 ORCHARD LAKE RD. SOUTH OF TEN MILE 477-3330