Students' reading marathon lands them in record book

By Alice Collins staff writer

Lone Pine School sixth-grader Ellen Ozolins said she "made a few
mistakes cause my longe got tied.
But fidder those is, another sixthozolins, and the got a tired throat.
The minor symptoms Ellen and
Celica suffered last week were
caused by reading—lots of reading.
They, along with 260 other Lone
Pine pupils, participated in a reada-thon believed to have set the first
world record for continuous reading
—54 hours.
The record setters expect to be

- 54 hours.

The record setters expect to be listed in the next "Guiness Book of World Records."

Lone Pine, a Bloomfield Hills district school, is in Orchard Lake.

The media center at the school

was the scene of the reading, eating and sleeping activities, which began at 9 a.m. Wednesday and ended at 3 p.m. Friday. When it was over, there were free bagels and blue ribbons for all.

Thursday, May 28, 1981

"OUR REASON for doing this," said Principal Marjorie Thomas, "was to emphasize reading as a skill and to show the children that it can

and to show the children that it can be fun., "Instead of having a contest and pitting one class against another, we decided to go for a record. This way, we have the whole school working together, cooperating rather than competing."

The read-a-thon had the support and assistance of the parents as well as the teachers and stidents. "I thought they (parents) might think it was a little bit crazy," added

"AT FIRST, we were thinking about doing it from 9 to 3, but we realized to make a record we'd have to go continuously day and night." Day-long practice sessions were held for three days prior to the start of the read-a-thon. Most of the 420 pupils in grades one-six participated in the practice. Requirements for establishing a Guiness World Record were followed. A log was kept as the readers participated, and each step of the event was properly witnessed. The children took scheduled turns reading while stretched out on a chaise longue named the "Reading Tarone." Most of them read ': 15-minute overlapping segments.

Ms. Thomas, "but they got behind it, Ms. Thomas, "out they got be and a troo."

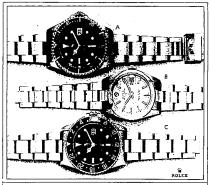
Teacher Gerry Finnigan said the current "Guiness Book of World Records" was carefully examined, and "We coudn't find any reference to such a record.

Throne." Most of them read ! 15-minute overlapping segments.
"Each reader began about a min-ute before the previous one finished so it could be continuous," said Ms. Thomas. "And no one dared inter-rupt them."

THE YOUNGSTERS scheduled through the nights slept in sleeping bags on the floor.

Lynn Prybis (left) and Sandy Staehlin watch to make - reading marathon last week during which they set sure Lone Pine pupil Merrick Faber doesn't pause - what is believed to be a record for continuous out-while reading. Lone Pine School's 260 pupils held a | loud reading — 54 hours.





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