

Historical Glimpses Reveal A Library With Character

By David Popiel
PLAIN TALK Staff Writer

the wooden building 95 years ago.

"I think way long time ago it was a doctor's office." The substitute librarian, Mrs. Annie Myers, who had worked for 10 years there as the librarian, had lost the history of the old building as many Parrottsvillians ad.

Today the small library

looking like something out of a Grimms Fairy tale beckons readers from off the Greeneville Highway which it faces and the narrow sidewalks tracking through the slow timed town of Parrottsville.

Its pointed roof is almost as tall as the walls, a red shield looms mysteriously in the center of the front gable and gray stone steps pitch from the old worn and flaked red Library door to the sidewalk.

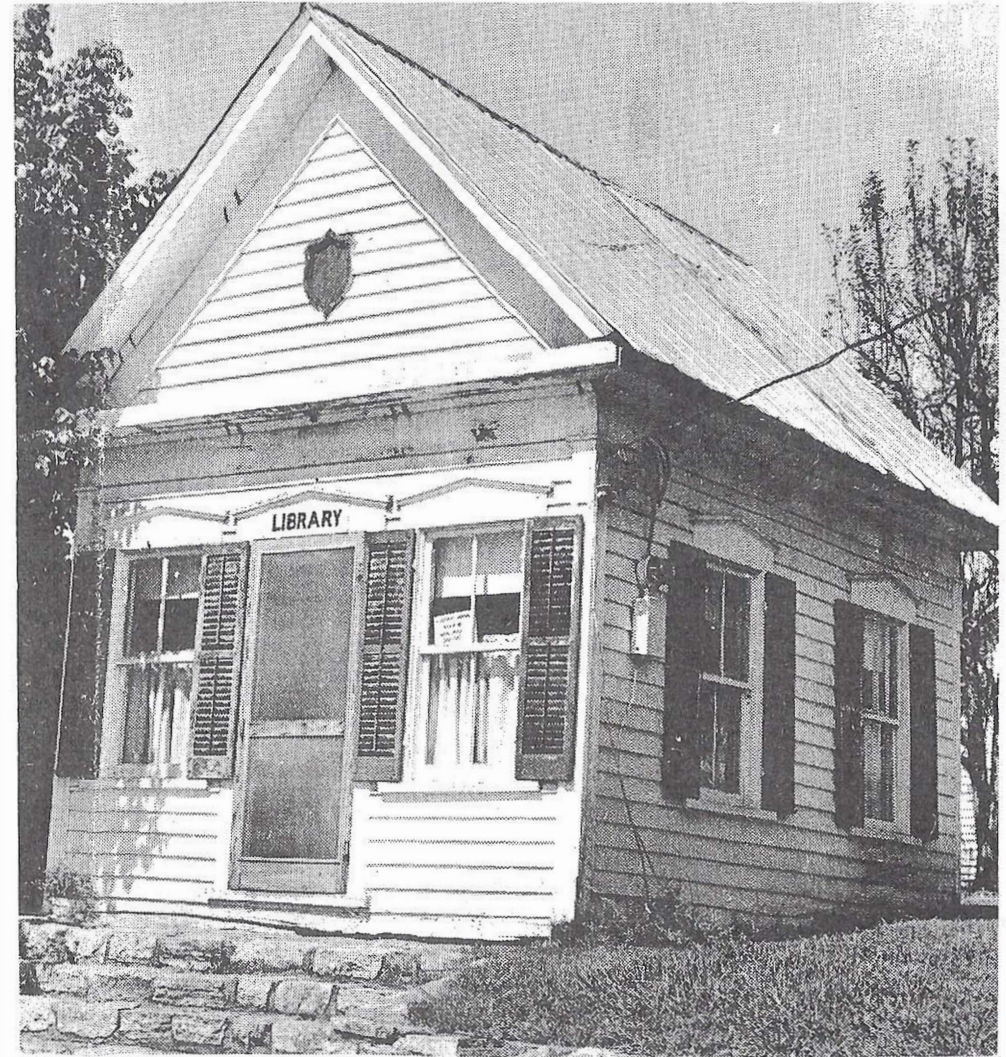
The outside of the Library has the oldness becoming to a white bearded grandfather with the innards filled with knowledge and fantasy ready to absorb readers for hours. Mrs. Myers and Mrs. May Huff, the fulltime librarian, help the community visitors find books, paperbacks or magazines.

Most of the books in the library come from the regional library in Morristown and about 1000 hardbacks are kept in the Parrottsville library.

The bookmobile comes every ten weeks to change the book selection before moving on to Del Rio and other stations.

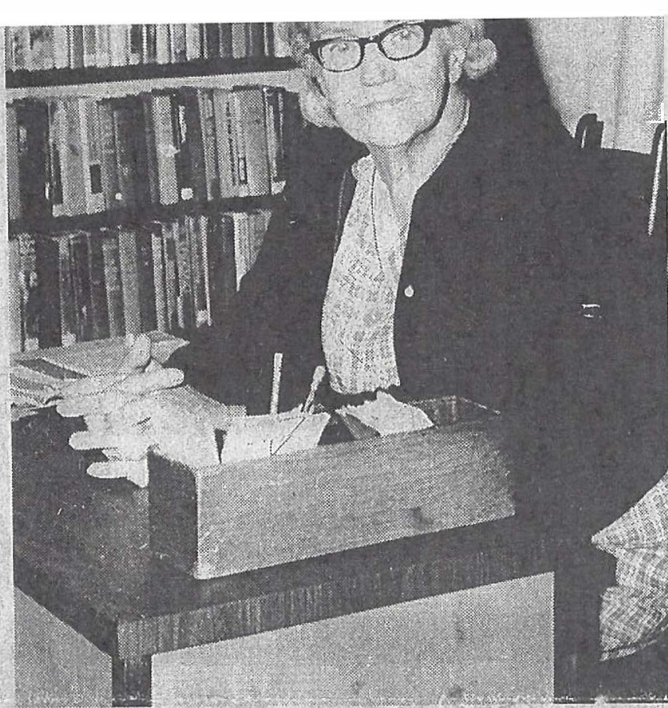
The original library was started over 15 years ago in the Parrottsville High School building, and Mrs. Thad Ellison took care of the library chores. Later the library flowed into the old shell of a once live doctor's office.

Liston Davis sat in a comfortable gray rattan chair on his front porch in the cool shadows



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ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN, Mrs. Annie Myers, mans the small metal librarian's desk in the center of the Parrottsville Community Library. She occasionally fills in for Mrs. May Huff, the full - time librarian.

...Monday today to assist readers for hours. Mrs. Myers and Mrs. May Huff, the fulltime librarian, help the community visitors find books, paperbacks or magazines.

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Liston Davis sat in a comfortable gray rattan chair on his front porch in the cool shadows recalling some of the old building's history.

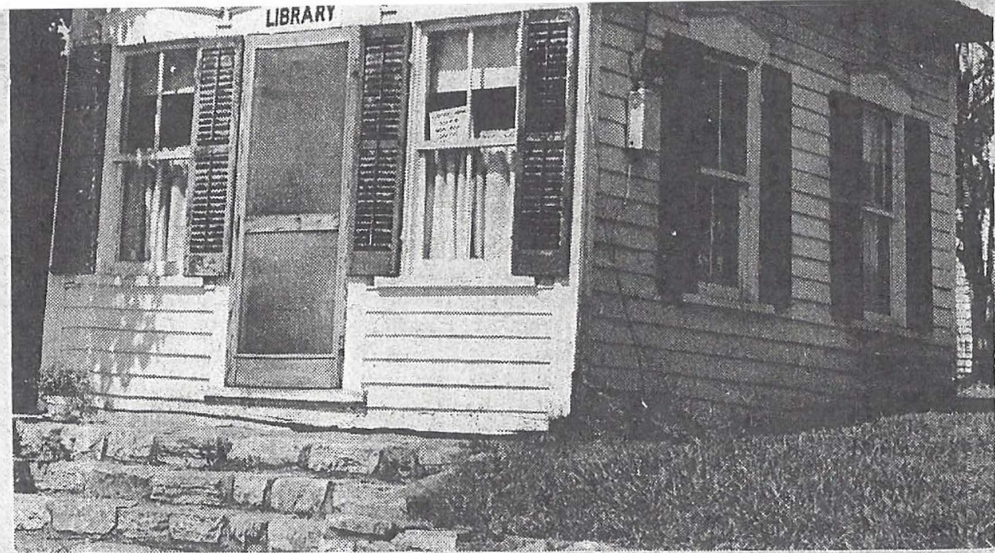
"We've been here 55 years and it wasn't a new building when we came here. We saw some of his old doctor books dated 1881, 82".

Liston talked to Dr. Darius Nease who had built the Tom Thumb size office, practicing medicine in the front section and storing his pills, potions and medicines in the back.

Dr. Nease died during WW II, said Davis, and then his son-in-law, Dr. W.T. Mathis ran the clinic. After Dr. Mathis moved to Greeneville several people occupied the solitary dwelling as borders.

One of the real old timers in Parrottsville, Starnes Hixon, could recall the long vanished Dr. Nease and when his office, now the library, was built.

"It was built along in the 1880's as best I could tell." Starnes, wearing a faded dungaree jacket and a blue cap stopped his work momentarily, leaned on his fake handle and recalled the past, his shadow



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rested in the cool, cut grass, the waning Fall sun was brilliant.

"Dr. Nease was raised in Greene County, went to school at Mosheim," Starnes stopped to think, putting the scrapes of a past life together.

"He was an up to date, well educated aristocratic fellow. He married Ida Bell, daughter of Dr. B.F. Bell of Parrottsville."

Starnes Hixon visited the old German doc many times in the tiny office just down the street. "Dr. Nease would weigh his medicine out in a little pair of scales."

It's ironic that a man of knowledge like Dr. Nease unknowingly helped the community as a doctor in life and in death provided a legacy for Parrottsville residents who use the little old library.

Sometimes if you stand frozen in the diminutive room on the flowered lineoleum of the library floor, you can almost see Dr. Nease stroll toward the office with his black derby bobbing at a jaunty angle as he walks.

Morristown

production and the Morristown