

On the road with Ed and Mary

Our Bookmobile Saga

By Mary Stewart Erm, Assistant Director/Adult Services Department Head

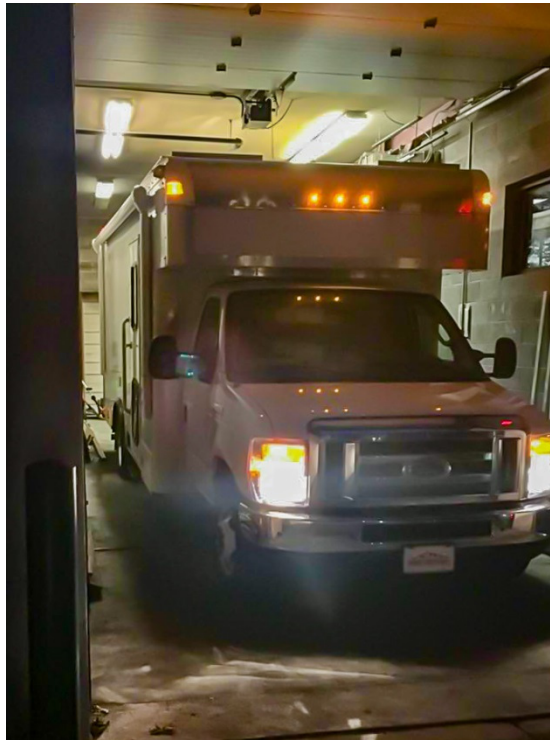
Since 2017 the Library Board and Library Friends had been gearing up, planning for a bright beautiful new Bookmobile to replace the current aging one. Then, one day in mid-July of this year, staff returned to work to the smell of smoke and ribbons of caution tape. The Bookmobile was the casualty of an unfortunate electrical fire. The damage to the building was nearly nonexistent, but the Bookmobile was finished. The insurance company declared the vehicle totaled, so planning was thrown into turmoil.

The lead time to purchase a brand new Bookmobile is 12 to 24 months, and no one wanted to see the bus out of service for that long. Luckily, energetic research by our director Sue Lyons turned up the perfect solution – a new Bookmobile at a used price! A vehicle manufacturer in Ft. Lupton, just a bit north of Denver, Colorado had just the thing.

Summit Body Works manufactures all types of specialty vehicles: SWAT and other emergency response vehicles, mobile medical units and custom Bookmobiles! It just so happened they had a vehicle-

one of a fleet that had been manufactured for the Reading Is Fundamental non-profit in Pittsburgh, PA.

RIF opted out of that particular purchase, and after much research and discussion, the Library opted in. Summit sent a massive binder of tech specs and manuals, and our maintenance man Ed Erm (formerly of New Jersey Transit Bus Operations) scoured the contents and prepared for our journey west.



An appointment was set, tickets were purchased, and just days before our trip we hit a bump: pre-purchase testing and QC turned up a small leak in the cab-over section of the bus. We were put on hold for another month. At last the company was able to fabricate replacement parts, replace the caps, and the road trip was on!

The trip began at 3:30am Eastern Standard Time on Friday, October 12; our ride (my son-in-law) had to be to work by 7am, so time was of the essence. We groggily left our beds, and headed to the Library to meet him. We had an uneventful wait in the airport; the plane lifted off a little bit after 9:00am, and we were on our way!

(continued on page 4)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Friends. It's that time of the year when we are busy running from one thing to the other and now the holidays are thrown into the mix. This is truly my favorite time of the year. I love listening to Christmas music, decorating, baking, watching holiday movies, shopping for that perfect present, setting unrealistic expectations/goals and the overall chaos of my family.

A lot of us are performing family traditions that have been passed down from previous generations. This helps us to feel close with the person who taught us the tradition as well as passing it along to the next generation. My tradition is baking Christmas

cookies, even though it is usually the thing I push to the last minute each year. I have wonderful memories of baking cookies with my grandmother who loved the holidays as well.

To help me fully immerse myself in the holiday season, I love reading books based around the Christmas holiday. Our Friends' Bookstore located within the café is a great resource to find some gifts for some of the readers within your life.


I wish you and your family a Happy and Healthy Holiday season.

— Cathleen Conway

Our Bookmobile plan pays off

When the last bookmobile was purchased with Friends' support years ago, Friends' Board member Faye Cyphers proposed setting up a fund for its future replacement. The Board decided to set aside 30% of the annual Book Sale profits each year, and we have been able to add \$9-11,000 annually to the replacement bookmobile fund.

Then, in September, with \$153,000 in reserve for the purpose, we were able to gladly say yes to the proposal to send Mary and Ed Erm to Colorado to bring back a beautiful new bookmobile.

So thank you for buying all those books over the years! Watch for your bookmobile on the road. 

Visit the Friends Bookstores for your holiday shopping

With the Holiday Season fast approaching, our thoughts will soon turn to gift giving for friends and family. The Friends Bookstores in the Hughes and Smithfield Libraries are a perfect answer for that special little something to round out every shopping list.

We have an excellent selection of books, music and movies changing every week and the prices are truly amazing! While you are at it, don't forget to pick up a little something for yourself.

We wish you and your family all the blessings of this season, no matter how you celebrate it.

— Lynn Burgoon



From the Director:

The Library's Fourth Branch: The Bookmobile

By Sue Lyons, EMPL Director

Just 25 years into the existence of our library, our predecessors understood the need to move beyond one physical location. In 1941, the library purchased its first bookmobile with funding from the County Commissioners and the Kiwanis Club.

That first vehicle was swept away in the great flood of 1955, but that did not stop the library from providing mobile outreach

services. With the help of the Red Cross and borrowed delivery vans, the library continued to offer service for six months until the Kiwanis Club again came to the rescue and helped the library to purchase its second bookmobile in 1956.

The average lifespan of our library bookmobiles has ranged from 15 to 17 years. When the familiar blue Bluebird bus bookmobile caught fire this past July, at the age of 16 ½, it was a shock but not really a surprise. This time, the careful planning and good stewardship of the Friends of the Library came to the rescue.

Our new bookmobile has lots of great features that are standard in newer vehicles: a backup camera; outside speakers; lots of electrical and USB outlets to help us check out books; LED lighting; solar panels; and an awning that we can open at community events.

The newly stocked bookmobile is now back on the road and making stops throughout the 310 square miles of our service area, an area greater than all of New York City. Its two-week schedule includes stops at over 40 locations, from day care schools to senior centers, and community centers.

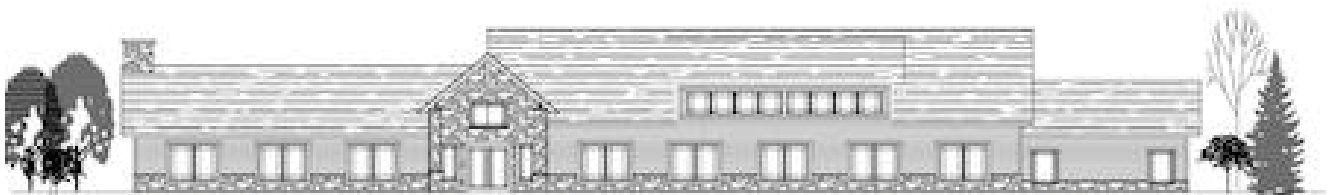
With the help of the Friends of the Library, we look forward to having the bookmobile professionally wrapped with the design of the winner of a contest being sponsored by the Friends and the Pocono Arts Council.

Up Next: Smithfields Library

In 2016 and 2017, with the help of the Hughes Foundation, the Friends, and many generous patrons, the library completed a major renovation of the Hughes

Library. In 2018, your work and funding put a new bookmobile on the road.

For 2019, we have another major challenge: finding a permanent home for the Library of the Smithfields. A grant from the Hughes Foundation has gotten the effort off to a good start. In cooperation with Middle Smithfield Township, we plan to break ground next year on a library and community and cultural center in Echo Lake Park on Route 209 in Middle Smithfield. Below is the architect's sketch of the front of the new library. Look for more details in the next newsletter.



Our Bookmobile Saga (continued from page 1)

As I watched the “fly over states” sliding past below us, I considered what a leap of faith it was to purchase a one-way-ticket. At the advice of a friend, we were planning to take route 70 east as we headed back rather than route 80. I clutched my bag of maps and books, my GPS and my Google Maps app – I was ready.

We landed in Denver at 11:30am Mountain Time; with only carry-ons and no luggage to claim, we were confident all was well. A few misfires later, we found ourselves 40 minutes from Ft. Lupton with no ride. I quickly downloaded the Uber app and scheduled a pickup which arrived almost before I’d disconnected the call.

A personable guy named Steve picked us up, chatting cheerfully as we went. The Garmin on his dash was taking us further and further from town and away from most signs of civilization. When it brought him to a stop precisely in front of what appeared to be unoccupied farmland and outbuildings, I am sure he was convinced we were planning to steal his car and leave his body in the desert. We hadn’t realized that Summit’s recent move did not show up on the Garmin’s maps quite yet, but with a little bit of encouragement we discovered the facility was in another cluster of buildings just about a quarter mile down the road.

The Summit facility was beautiful; the new digs included everything from chassis to graphics, metal work to carpentry. The staff were friendly as could be and justifiably proud of

their facility. The tour took about half an hour, the training several hours more. It was 4:30pm Mountain Time when we’d finished and headed out; we had now been up for about 13 hours with 7.5 hours drive to go.

Salina, Kansas here we come!

It was then we discovered that the “North American Maps” that came with our “lifetime maps” subscription – for whatever bizarre reason – did not include Colorado. With our GPS looking confused on the dash, and me scrambling with paper maps and phone based Google, we headed

due south and hoped for the best. We had about 40 minutes south to go before we could connect with 70 and truly start heading home. Everything I had found got us that far, but I was down to Google maps trying to find an on ramp for 70. After a bizarre series of loops, lefts and clover leaves we were finally heading east.

The eastern edge of Colorado was surprisingly flat and uninspiring. Our flight into Denver had dropped us just short of the magnificent Rockies, so that view was behind us as we drove. Kansas, though, was a pleasant surprise. Rather than the flat dullness we expected,

the ride was filled with a gently rolling landscape, farms, trees and prairie grasses. We reached Salina about 11:30pm Central Time. We had now been up for around 18 hours; it was time for bed.

We got up early the next morning and headed out. We traveled out of Kansas



and into Missouri; Missouri to Indiana; past hundreds of miles of farmland and road signs – and more windmills than I would have thought possible. At last we stopped in Indianapolis for the night. We were now 12 hours closer, one day to go.

The next day we were in Ohio and tracking north to pick up 80. The lush, green farmland looked a bit like Lancaster and felt surprisingly like home. It was just starting to drizzle, and we were feeling confident we could make home by early evening. But of course Ohio is two pages in the road atlas so...

Ed had done all the driving; I was travel agent, navigator, cheerleader and entertainment. We discovered a good marriage can survive 30 some odd hours in a vehicle – as long as the radio works and you can stream Pandora! We wiled away the hours, talking about how much fun it will be to take this same trip in our camper one day, but with the luxury of stopping where we like and no deadlines pushing us forward.

Finally we saw it: the sign informing us we were now entering Pennsylvania; only five more hours to go! We were humming along the familiar miles of route 80, excited that we were almost home and might still make it in daylight.

Then, just 38 miles from Stroudsburg, we spotted that native Pennsylvania critter that strikes dread into the heart of all: the orange road cone. Sunday afternoon, the Poconos in our view, and we were at a dead standstill. So close; so close! Inch by inch, we covered the several miles of road coned route 80 and the minutes ticked by. No trucks. No workers. Just road cones and a traffic jam. Finally, the jam began to break up, and in about 20 more minutes, as the sun set, we pulled into the Library parking lot. Ed maneuvered the Bookmobile into its snug new home. 1700 miles later, and it was like we had given birth. The new Bookmobile was home at last!



2018 Elizabeth Kane Award Presented to Dawn Migliacci

The following are President Cathleen Conway's remarks at the presentation of the Elizabeth Kane Service Award at the 2018 EMPL Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. The award is presented annually in memory of Elizabeth Kane, head librarian from 1936 to 1974. The award honors an individual who has provided exceptional service to the EMPL as an employee, volunteer or supporter.

I am happy to be here with all of you today. This year's Elizabeth Kane Service Award recipient is someone who has been helping make the library better. She has been on the Friends of the Library Board for several years. During this time we have been blessed to see someone who truly wants to help and cares about everything she touches.



Dawn (L) and Cathleen (R)

She is the first person to volunteer herself or her family to do something. A few years ago she took over the role of Treasurer for the Friends Board. This past year we needed some new artwork for our Children's Book Sale and she volunteered her husband to do it. Her daughter flew in from Orlando this year to help out at our Annual Book Sale, because her family knows how much she cares about making the sale successful.

While sometimes we may be pushed to think in a different way, it only helps to make us a more well- rounded person. She does this every day by helping us to look at a decision from another perspective. This year the Elizabeth Kane Service Award is being given to Dawn Migliacci. Along with the award Dawn will be receiving a lifetime membership to the Friends!

— Cathleen Conway

News from the Friends of the Eastern Monroe Public Library

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Recognizing the impact of EMPL

By Ann Super, Board of Trustees President and Friends Board Member

The following are the remarks Ann made at the recent EMPL Volunteer Luncheon:

We have had a very busy year. Our renovations at the Hughes Library are behind us (and we finally have bathrooms on the second floor) thanks to the generous contribution of the Hughes Foundation and private donors - and Sue Lyons diligently holding the contractor's feet to the fire. The Library Café, run by Fitzmaurice Residential Services, is up and running. Dreams do come true – sometimes they just take a very long time to come to fruition! And who can resist the smell of fresh coffee brewing and cookies right out of the oven?

Unfortunately, all was not good news this year. On July 18, we had a fire that destroyed our beloved bookmobile. For 16 years and 160K miles, this bookmobile served our community well. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of EMPL, and your support of their fundraising endeavors, we have purchased a new bookmobile.

The EMPL enterprise is truly the hub of our community. We have become so much more than a repository for books – we are the community's center for social, community and cultural engagement and discovery. We officially serve the residents of 10 municipalities in Monroe County and our footprint encompasses libraries in Stroud, Smithfield and Pocono Townships, as well as providing services at Monroe County Correctional Facility. The bookmobile serves community members ranging from day care centers to senior centers. If you look at the calendar on the library's website, you would be so impressed with what happens on any given day. I don't believe that there is any blank day!

As examples: We have volunteer tutors for the GED program and people studying for their citizenship exams; volunteers putting books away on shelves; children's room readers; sorters for the book sales

and readers running book clubs. We have people sitting on the three Boards that function to best serve the library – the Trustees, the Foundation and the Friends. The Hughes Library hosts the Stroud 4 elections for the County twice a year. We have all kinds of meetings – writers, quilters, Toastmasters, and motorcycle groups – if that's not an eclectic demographic – I don't know what is! The Library is an official TedX site and annually we have experts in the community who deliver talks on their subjects of expertise and passion at the TedX talks. Pocono Arts Council sets up a rotating art exhibition every month so we provide a gallery for local artists. We have a monthly BookHouse concert where local musicians entertain us. I recently attended a concert where Nancy and Spencer Reed were the musicians. We are blessed to have that level of talent in our area. With their willingness to share that talent at a library event – how lucky are we?

You are the backbone of the Eastern Monroe Public Library. We couldn't possibly have the significant impact on our community without you sharing your time, talents, and your commitment to our present as well as our future. I want to announce that Rotary District 7410 has awarded us a grant for the GED and Citizenship Programs to continue our commitment to literacy in our community. The Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs submitted this grant application on our behalf.

We are also this year's recipient of Pocono Cinema and Cultural Center's Searchlight Award for an Organization that provides remarkable, meaningful, and important service or benefits to the community at large, or to particularly needful, under-served, or deserving segments of the community. Sounds like our mission statement. So again, thank you to all the volunteers and to the staff for ensuring our community has such a significant impact.

