



HB photos / Perry Reichanader

DalevilleCommunity Library, which has 10,000 books, will be dedicated Saturday at 2 p.m.

Couple opens new library despite half-filled shelves

DALEVILLE — Imogene Taylor sits at one of the Daleville Community Library's break room tables. The urbane woman flips through a catalog of grandfather clocks while a construction worker, sitting across from her, eats a Snickers.

To no one in particular she muses, "I can't decide which one would look best in the circulation area."

After two years of making sizable decisions about the content and style of Daleville's new library, Imogene and husband Bob, who donated land and money to the endeavor, are delighted to have whittled the project down to decisions of clocks and other ornamental objects.

Taylor slings the catalog on the table and begins wandering through the quiet library, the odor of fresh paint permeating the air.

"We only have 10,000 books right now," she motions to the somewhat barren shelves. "That doesn't even halfway fill the library but we'll get more soon."

Too excited to wait for the shelves to fill, Taylor and the library board, which consists of 15 community members, have slated the facility to



Joann McKinney and her daughter, Hannah, visit the new Daleville library, while an encyclopedia man stands in the corner (below).

open on Saturday.

This is the first permanent library the town has ever seen.

"We had a bookmobile for a while," said board member Robert Stewart, "And the Muncie Library had an extension here but after the trial period was over the town voted it down. They didn't want to pay the taxes."

The new library, rather than raising the tax rate, will operate on a \$2 million endowment and, after the first of the year, a \$12 membership charge per family will be institut-

ed.

"We are excited, there is a real

sense of achievement," said library board President Charles Edwards. "We are ready for the community to become a part of it."

The general populous will be introduced to the library during the open house and dedication on Saturday beginning at 2 p.m.

The dedication will consist of a tour, a brief ceremony during which U.S. Rep. David McIntosh will present the library with a flag that flew over the Capitol in Washington, and a song performed by Taylor's grandson.

"The library will provide the community with so many benefits," Edwards explained. "We want to encourage them to use the board room for meetings; we will have story hours for the kids, and computers for public use."

Daleville celebrates opening of new library

BY CHRIS W. COLBY
Staff Reporter

DALEVILLE — It is the pride, selflessness and effort that brought the community and its first library where it was Saturday.

For the more than 100 residents who came to celebrate the opening of the Daleville Community Library on Indiana 67 near the Indiana Factory Shops, Saturday was their day.

For Bob and Imogene Taylor, who dedicated the land, paid to have the library built, and donated the first \$200,000 of the \$2 million private endowment that will fund the library, Saturday was their day. For the 14 library board members, and Christine Mahon, the librarian, Saturday was their day.

Residents walked through the library, guided by and chatting with the library board members, the Taylors, and the other members of the community who made its birth possi-

ble. The consensus among them was the library is not only special to the community, but it is now an integral part of it.

"We're so proud of it. We're just so very, very proud of it," said Marlene Lambert. "It's really nice for the community to have a facility like this. I hope it's utilized. I hadn't been here before today. I had just heard bits and pieces about it and I wanted to come and see it."

"I think it's wonderful," said Cindi Howard. "We haven't had a library that's convenient for us. We live just 10 minutes away. I have a young reader so we will be here a lot."

Howard's 9-year-old daughter, Ellie, perused the children's book section with her mother. Ellie said she checks out and reads many books during the school year, but books are more difficult to obtain when summer comes and school closes.

"I think it's great because usually the only time I can get books is from

school," said Ellie Howard, who led residents in the Pledge of Allegiance before the Cub Scouts hoisted an American flag on the pole in front of the library. The flag, presented by U.S. Congressman David McIntosh, flew over the U.S. Capitol.

John Lambert of Daleville said the community is lucky to have the library. It will serve not only as a center of academic learning and discovery but as a community center.

"Because this library is privately funded, it's going to stay up," Lambert said. "It's a great place for keeping community records or anything else the community wants to do."

A seven-foot bronze statue will grace the front of the library. Sculpted by Ken Ryden, Anderson artist, the sculpture of a young woman with small angelic wings and a flame emanating from her palm is entitled "Illumination."

The sculpture, which stands on



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Imogene Taylor looks on at the grand opening of the new Daleville Library.

three books, symbolizes knowledge of the past that illuminates learning and accomplishment of the future, Ryden said. That is appropriate, as the effort and sacrifice put into

bringing the library to fruition could well illuminate residents to the benefit the resources inside could bring them in their own futures.