

## ***“Librarian’s Shelf” by Jill Owens***

Access back issues of newspapers @ your library®

Did you know there’s more than one way to read the paper at the library? Stop in and make use of our newspapers on microfilm and disc. The Columbus papers begin February 28, 1874, and the microfilmed issues end June 29, 2001. The issues after that date are on discs which are given to the library by the Telegram.

As some readers may know, the Columbus paper was not always daily, and was not always called the Telegram. Come do a little exploring through these archives. Seeing the old ads and headlines is very absorbing. Sometimes I am looking for something specific such as an obituary for a patron, and I have to resist being distracted by interesting things that catch my eye in the process.

The library also owns two sets of back issues of the Humphrey Democrat on microfilm. One set covers March 23, 1888 through June 8, 1917 and the other spans June 17, 1982 through December 31, 1998.

Our microfilm reader was recently worked on. The light is more even and as a result, the screen is now much clearer to read. This machine also has a printer so researchers can print what is on the screen. The best news of all is that a person doesn’t have to be electronically or mechanically inclined to use the reader/printer. Staff is happy to help users who need a bit of coaching.

There is an option for people who need other papers. The Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) has Nebraska newspapers listed online which can be obtained through interlibrary loan at the Columbus library. The NSHS does charge a fee, but it is a valuable service that these historical papers are available. The borrower can read the film on the library’s reader, print the information needed, and then Columbus Library will return the film.

The online obituary index has proven valuable for people who don’t want to look at rolls of microfilm to find a particular entry. Accessible via our website, <http://www.columbuslibrary.info/obituaries.htm>, the index will narrow the timeframe for you, thereby saving you time when you get to the library. Once you know which film to load, you can have the obituary printed out in a matter of minutes.

The Columbus newspaper obituaries are indexed back to 1930. The earliest newspapers had death notices, often only a line or two scattered throughout the paper, but did not have an obituary section as we know it today. This index was made possible by countless hours of work by the Kin Seekers and library staff.

The library’s collection of papers on microfilm and discs are a great resource for our patrons.

Memorials were given to the Library Foundation as follows: In honor of Julia Cheloha by Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Wilke; for Dale Zehring by the Between the Lines Book Club; in honor of Fritz & Janet Engel by Tim & Peggy Engel; In honor of Amrose Wlaschin by Stan Musil; in honor of David Senften by Arden & Nancy Saalfeld; and Roberta Saalfeld donated two memorials in honor of John Fairbairn and David Senften. A donation was also given from the Columbus Woman’s Club.

Other recent memorials to the Library Foundation were given in honor of Lucille Wallace by Joann

Dobbie, Mr. & Mrs. Rich Attebury, Mr. & Mrs. Scott Behnken, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Bemis, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Hoffmann, Mr. & Mrs. Randall Spiegel, Sharon Unkel, Donna Halac, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Rup, Mr. & Mrs. Warren Hellbusch, Connie Didier, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Ruth, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Ruth, and Mr. and Mrs. James McClintik.