

Mrs. Embree Observes Growth of Local Library

If you are a youngster now or even a not-so-lately youngster with perhaps a bit of arthritis and thinning hair you probably are one of the many who have come to know and love Madrid's librarian Mrs. Trace Embree, through her many years of service here.

Despite her 87 years she faithfully carries on the duties of checking in and checking out books for those who love to read. When she began her duties about 1935 books were few and her \$1.50 wages small but the popularity of the books has grown until during the July just past a total of 1083 books were taken from the library. The largest number in any one day in the history of the library were checked out during July when 100 books were borrowed. The average number for July was approximately 63 daily. Mrs. Embree notes with interest that the greater number of readers are children and younger people. This is an encouraging indication that the children are developing desirable reading habits. This is, in part, perhaps due to the recent addition of more Golden Books and other popular reading matter for children.

Mrs. Embree was born and grew up at Springville in Linn County. She recalls in her first year at school how the teacher thumped her ears and eventually stood her in the corner when she spelled grass, g-r-a-s and could think of no other way even on another chance. Mrs. Embree, like many of us, can remember when spelling was sometimes learned the hard way. When she went home with her ears and face swollen her sister vowed it would never be that way when she went to school.

While still a very young lady she began teaching in a rural school near Springville. It was often with many misgivings that she faced pupils as old and much larger than she, but she had passed her examinations and also met with the approval of the hiring director who tested the teach-



Mrs. Trace Embree, local librarian for more than 25 years, is still giving service with a smile as she checks books in and out each day at the city library.

ers by asking two questions: 1—What is a peninsula?; 2—What latitude do we live in?

Mrs. Embree, who claims she wasn't as quick in arithmetic as in some other subjects says she studied hard to keep ahead. A certain young man, who afterward became her husband, told her if she had difficulty with any problems to call on him. The

time did eventually strike when she needed his assistance and he solved the problem and made a copy for her to put on the blackboard. She discovered later that another teacher and even the county superintendent were also unable to solve the problem.

She married Mr. Embree in 1893. He was a railroad worker. He served as depot agent at

Maxwell for three years. In 1909 they came to Madrid. The baby Robert was two months old at the time. He attended school here and graduated from Iowa State College with a degree in electrical engineering. The greater part of the time since then he has been associated with Christy Laclede Co. at St. Louis, Mo. He married Jessie Unquardt and they have one daughter who is married to Dona Anderson. Their two children, Stevie and Kenneth Anderson are Mrs. Embree's great grandchildren. All live in St. Louis, Mo. and Mrs. Embree goes there with the family each Christmas having the enviable record of spending every Christmas with her son but two. He is now past 50 year of age.

Mrs. Embree was left a widow in 1932 and about three years later began her work as librarian in the library located at the fire station which was located where Dr. Gilman's office now. At that time books were scarce and hard to obtain so books were donated by local people to start the library. So of the original books were among the 500 which were culled out a little over a year ago to make room for newer editions. The discarded books went to Sheldahl to help stock their library.

Madrid's new library opened in 1952 with Mrs. Embree still giving of her time and valuable experience.

As of now she says she has plans for retirement from work.

New Books

Here is the list of the books that have been placed on library shelves recently.

"The Lion," Kessel; "Born the Sun," Culp; "The Years," Ross; "The Big Hank Searls," "The Hawaiian Islands," Webb N.; "Give Us Tools," H. Viscardi; "1959 Sports Stories" and "The Vaing Evangelist," Thomas.

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