

Linton resident helps Greene County readers

By Patti Danner
STAFF WRITER

Bloomfield-Eastern Greene County Public Library (BEGCPL) Outreach Coordinator Bob Turner works harder than one would expect an octogenarian to.

At age 84, Turner puts great effort into his work with two important services offered by BEGCPL, and that effort is exemplified by the success of both.

Turner spends the better part of his week in his car, a silver Ford with so many books and library materials in the trunk, it resembles a cross between a silver Ford and bookmobile.

He services the many Little Library locations in Greene County, stopping in Switz City, Owensburg, Newark, Bloomfield and the Tulip Trestle to check each LL, restocking if necessary and noting the visitor counts at each one.

Every Little Library is essentially the same in function, but all are somewhat different in form, with design and color choices reflecting the locations in which they are installed. For example, the Little Library which serves visitors to Greene County's Tulip Trestle is a small locomotive, painted red with black train wheels and a black smokestack.

"My favorite place to stop is the Tulip Trestle," said Turner. "As of May, over 21,000 books have gone through that location."

Automatic counters installed on each Little Library record the number of times the door is opened.

Turner makes sure each Little Library is clean and in good repair, fully stocked and ready to serve.

Turner also spends much of his workweek serving Greene County homebound library patrons through Library Express, choosing selections based on the patron's profile with the service.

Turner delivers books, magazines, DVDs and anything the library itself offers, trading new items for previously borrowed items each visit.

One item delivered by Turner, however, is not listed on any library website, nor can it be checked out.

That item is compassion.

As Turner makes his rounds, he stops to chat with patrons, all of whom welcome his smiles and conversation as readily as the library materials he brings. A stop at Worthington's Senior Apartments earns Turner shouted greetings and waves from residents accustomed to seeing Turner's friendly face making his rounds.

Turner's position with BEGCPL is a voluntary one, and his hours are donated, though the library is able to recompense Turner's mileage.

"We have always loved having Bob at the library," said BEGCPL Director Austin Stroud. "The job fits his personality so well." Stroud said Turner started helping out at the library by working the front desk, but once the Little Library program was up and running, thanks to a grant obtained by the Greene County Literacy Coalition from the Greene County Foundation, Turner was a shoo-in for the position.

"Dad has a big heart. He has always gone the extra mile for others, even when he doesn't have the means



Bob Turner, Outreach Coordinator for the Bloomfield Library, services his favorite Little Library location, the Tulip Trestle in Solsberry.

to," said Turner's only natural child, his daughter Robin Neill, Operations Manager for Choice Insurance Agency of Linton.

Neill's mom, Turner's wife Edna, passed away tragically in 1973, when Neill was nine years old, and Turner remarried several years later, in the early 1980s.

Neill's memories of growing up with Turner as a role model bring a smile to her face as she remembers.

"My dad was a dry waller, and he had this little mixer bucket that kind of looked like the big mixer on cement trucks," she said. "There was a phase that I went through where I loved to make mud pies, mud forts and such."

"Don't sweat the small stuff, and it's mostly small stuff."
Bob Turner



One day, I decided to mix my mud in his mixer. When I got caught, I was sent to my room 'untill your father

See **Turner**, Page 3

Couple celebrates decades of love, work, travel

By Jason Mowery
STAFF WRITER

J.R. and Ruth Lumm are about to celebrate a rare achievement. Their 69th wedding anniversary is coming up in December.

They are a testament to older times, when people began with nothing and had to work very hard just to make it in this world. They did just that as a team of husband and wife.

They couple said they met and got together after J.R. returned to the U.S. after being stationed in Japan with the Army. He was 21 and Ruth was 18 and waiting tables at the local truck stop restaurant in Griffin, Indiana. They were married shortly after on Dec. 23, 1948. J.R. continued to work in the oilfields as a driller in Southern Indiana and she kept waitressing. He also opened a couple of restaurants and a truck stop. Ruth went to cosmetology school and opened her own beauty parlor. As if this was not enough, they were also

trying to farm as well.

J.R. went west to Blackwell, Okla. after a few years to work at another oil field. This was before kids and they moved around so much, and so often that Ruth would sometimes have to pick J.R. up from the oil rig to take him home and show him where he lived. After their son was born in 1956 while they were in Texas drilling oil, it was decided that he wanted to find something stable where he wasn't running all over the country. They said, at this time, maybe it was time to settle down and stayed out west for five more years.

His father passed in 1961 and they moved back to Indiana to start a logging business with Ruth's brother. The couple said this venture did not work out and shortly after they moved to Vero Beach, Fla. J.R. took a different career path this time and started cooking. He said he was very good at it and would go on to become a chef.



J.R. and Ruth Lumm will soon celebrate 69 years of marriage.

Courtesy photo

See **Lumm**, Page 4

Grief support coming to Greene County General Hospital

It can be hard to know the right things to say to someone who has just lost a loved one. Without support, grief is only made worse. Sometimes we avoid bereaved friends and relatives simply because we don't know what to say or do, but there are ways to help.

Greene County General Hospital has received funding from the Greene County Foundation and the Smithville Foundation to provide Grief Support to the community in the coming months. Led by a trained grief support specialist, these closed groups will provide much-needed assistance to those dealing with loss as the holidays approach. You can find out more about the planned groups by contacting the Greene County General Hospital Foundation at (812) 699-4438.

While the groups will target the grieving, there are plenty of resources available to those who care for them.



Even if you are not extremely close to someone who is dealing with loss, you can offer support through small gestures like sending cards and flowers, bringing food, or taking care of chores around the house that might get overlooked, like mowing the lawn or doing a load of dishes. It can also be helpful to donate blood if there was a serious illness involved in the loved one's death, or many times families identify charities that are meaningful to them where we can donate funds.

Dealing with fears

It is important to be aware of how the loss of a loved one can affect people. For example, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) says someone who has just lost a wife or husband has some common fears such as safety and security, loneliness, and financial issues. They also have concerns about losing their friends, since they are now a single person and their friends are couples. There is also a sudden identity change without the partner; "we" now becomes

just "me."

Listening and offering support

When someone has these kinds of fears, one of the most important things is simply to be there and to listen. It is essential to let the other person express their emotions and thoughts without adding your own spin. Sometimes we are tempted to say we know how someone feels, but that may sound like a cliché. We really cannot know exactly what they are experiencing. We may tell them how we felt in a similar circumstance, but the most important thing is to give them time to talk about their own feelings. It is also important to understand that sometimes a grieving person can be bitter or angry. They may feel angry and abandoned by the loved one who died and then feel mad at themselves for feeling this way. It is important

See **Grief**, Page 2