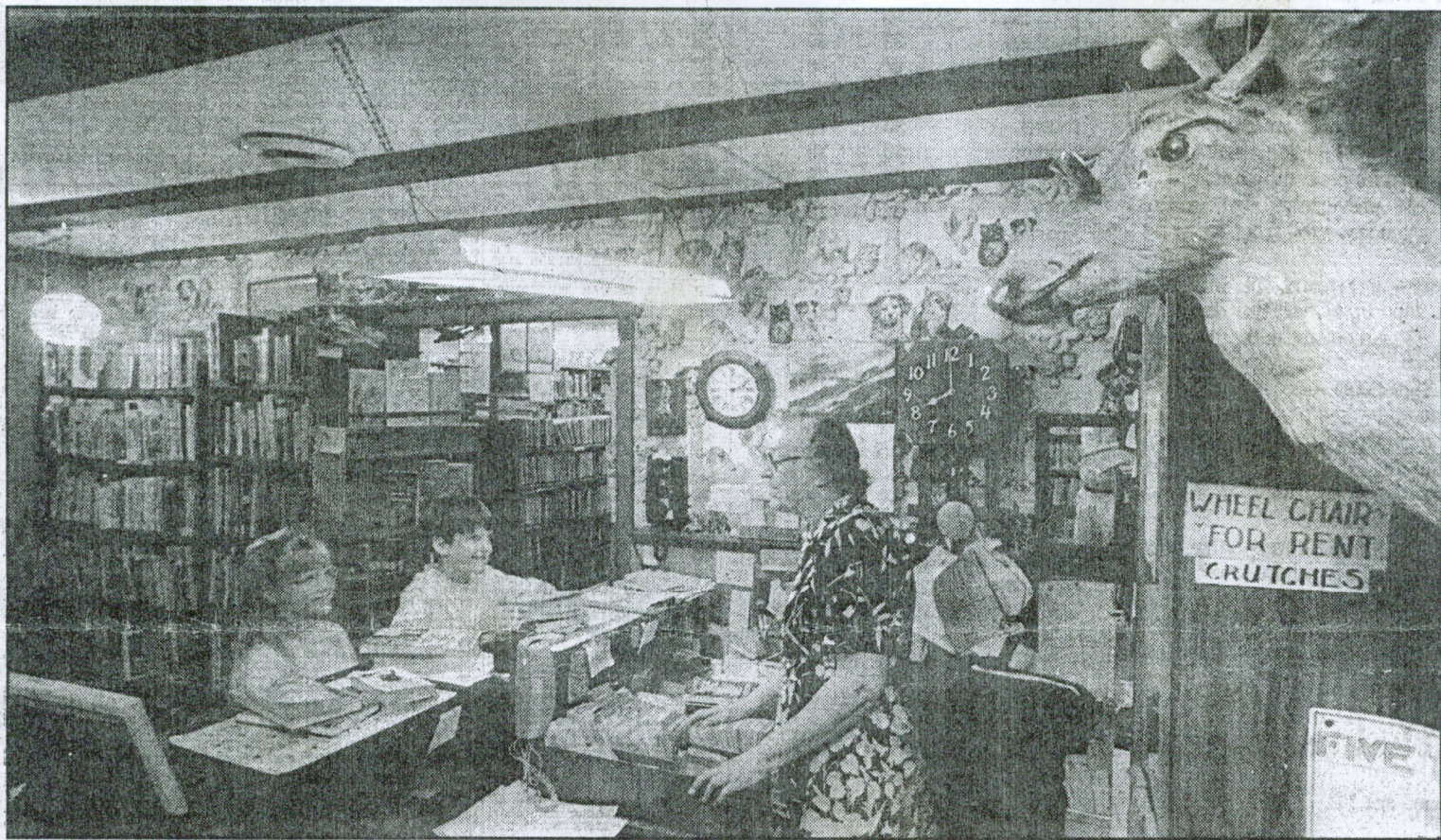




BY MARTY HAIR
Free Press Staff Writer

Since the 1950s, the Trinity Library has been a Chesterfield Township meeting place crammed with books, taxidermy specimens, dusty toys and goodwill.

Ceola Trinity Pieronek and her husband started the library next to their home. To attract children, they added displays. Eventually, they built on a museum and penny candy store.

But the era of the Trinity Library is coming to an end. Pieronek, 72, plans to retire in July and sell the property.

"It's a little sad to see something like that go," township Supervisor Jim Pollard said recently. He said it is very unlikely that the township will buy the Trinity Library. A modern library may be incorporated into a new administration complex the township hopes to begin building this year.

As it stands, the rustic Trinity Library has an almost frontier atmosphere. There are no library cards, no computers. Books are shelved casually by Pieronek and three aides.

"Our card catalog's up here," said Pieronek, tapping her head. To request a best-seller, patrons simply sign their names and phone numbers on a clipboard.

The Trinity Library started with Pieronek's first husband, Bernard

CHECKING OUT

Library with personal touch soon will join history section



JOHN COLLIER/Detroit Free Press

Top: Ceola Trinity Pieronek helps Lisa Johnson, 7, and her brother Jason, 10, check out some books from Trinity Library in Chesterfield Township. Above: Pieronek says she and her aides use their memories as their card catalog.

Trinity, in the 1950s. Several neighborhood boys who lacked transportation to the county library asked to borrow books from Trinity's attic for schoolwork. Other browsers followed.

Soon Trinity built an addition onto his upholstery workshop for the couple's 500 books. Customers served themselves on the honor system.

In 1957, Trinity became Chesterfield Township's official library, making it eligible to borrow books from the Macomb County library system. The township still rents the building and — through the county — pays the salaries of Pieronek and her helpers.

Bernard Trinity died in 1976. Ceola later married Walter Pieronek, who died last August.

"There are a lot of memories," said Pieronek, leading a visitor through the displays.

Business was brisk at the wooden checkout desk. People who had heard about the library's probable closing were wistful.

"This is a home away from home. That's why the kids like it," said Pat Neubecker, who has worked there for eight years. "They're not shushed, they have fun, the radio's on."

Teresa Zbikowski said she visits the library several times a week.

"It's such a friendly atmosphere. They know me by name."