



Ceola Trinity runs a one-of-a-kind "homey" library out of a building she and her husband built.

Trinity to close book on library's rich heritage

She's retiring in July

BY TOM STANTON
VOICE EDITOR IN CHIEF

Cozy Trinity Library — with its fireplace, mounted animals, human skulls, museum and candy counter — will likely recede into the annals this summer.

Ceola Trinity, who with late husband Bernard started Chesterfield Township's first library in the 1950s, plans to retire and move in July. She will be selling the library and her neighboring home.

And, unless the financially strapped township buys the property, Trinity Library will become a memory.

"We knew it was going to have to come to an end one of these days," said Pat Neubecker, who worked eight years at the library and has been a patron for many more.

"(The Trinities) brought their souls and hearts to this library. They've put everything into it. (Ceola) gives these people something so old world that it's going to be impossible to replace. I consider this place an extension of home. The children are so relaxed when they come here."

In 1953, Bernard Trinity, a local historian, allowed a group of neighborhood boys to borrow books from his collection. His goodwill grew into Trinity Library, opened in 1957 in what had been his workshop.

When Bernard died in 1976, after raising two children and writing the history of the township, Ceola Trinity became a paid employee of the library. Funded by the township, the library is stocked with books owned by the Trinities, Macomb County Library and the township.

But books are only a small part of the experience.

In the 1960s, the Trinities hosted the annual township picnic on their grounds at Sugar-bush and Cotton roads. "Everyone brought their own hotdogs and one dish to pass," and Bernard would arrange for the highlight — maybe an experimental tank or a missile from



A museum is part of the facility.

Selfridge — recalled Ceola.

The library offers a trip back in time, to when doctors made house calls. You'll find many artifacts and old-fashioned friendliness in the dimly lit building.

But you won't find computers, a microfiche collection or a security system (except for Ceola's dog).

Even if township replaces the library, said Betty White, an employee and one-time volunteer, the experience will be different for patrons.

"It will lose its one-to-one context," she said. "It will be more institutional. This is more informal. This is what the people like, the homey atmosphere, the laid back" feeling.

Ceola Trinity has mixed feelings. "I don't know what will happen" to the library. "I feel like I'm letting people down. But I want to get closer to my family."

Then she added, from her seat behind the wooden counter, "I've spent a lot of time out here."