

# The Bookmark Bulletin

## SPRING 1999



Welcome daffodils, robins, new grass and sunshine! It is spring and we are sprucing up and spring cleaning at the library! In response to the results of our recent survey we will be expanding our hours of operation beginning May 1st...please let us know if the new hours are convenient!

Happy Reading!

### **Help:Help:Help:Help**

**Are you interested in newsletter publication? We need your help! The library is looking for volunteers to help with the publication of our newsletter...interest is the only requirement. Call and volunteer today!**

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Beginning May 1st  
Mynderse Library  
will be open :  
Monday- 9AM-5PM  
Tuesday- 2-9PM  
Wednesday- 2-9PM  
Thursday- 2-9PM  
Friday- 9AM-5PM  
Saturday- 2-5PM

### A Spring Sampling Of Children's Books At The Mynderse Library

"All things renew  
All things begin.  
At church, they bring  
The lilies in."

From "April" by John Updike

The Easy section has many picture books and Easy Readers appropriate for spring. Two of my favorites are:

Five Little Ducks By Raffi (Songs to Read) is a rollicking counting book featuring curious little ducklings who stray from their mother but are happily reunited with her safe and sound.

And try Mary Lyn Ray's brightly illustrated Mud, where one early spring night the earth thaws and gleeful children wake up the next morning to mud, mud everywhere.....

Happy Springtime!

## Grisham's Newest *The Testament*

John Grisham fans should be happy with his recent novel, The Testament.

Technically adept, it is the tenth in a line of legal thrillers. Rich in complex characterization, it may not be as suspenseful as some of Grisham's earlier works, but it hooks the reader from the opening chapter.

Set in Washington, D.C., and the Brazilian jungle, the story begins with the suicide of eccentric and reclusive Troy Phelan and continues with a study of his heirs-- six children, three wives and their lawyers. Before the will is read the heirs are conniving and fighting among themselves. When not fighting, they are shopping-- for luxury cars, mansions and jet planes. The reader is privy to this ugly infighting and show of human frailty where dollars are the all-consuming theme.

The adventure continues with Attorney Nate O'Riley, a prominent trial lawyer, recovering from his own demons of drug and alcohol abuse and failed marriages. He needs money and work and agrees to find the seventh heir of Troy Phelan. She is Rachel Lane, conceived out of wedlock, and not seen by her father for 20 years. She is serving as a missionary-physician in a remote jungle in Brazil.

Riley finds her living a simple life among an Indian tribe. She has a profound effect on the attorney who finds peace at last and decides he no longer wants to litigate.

When he returns to Washington, his friend and law partner, convinces him he must win one more case-to protect Rachel's inheritance. During an exhausting week of grilling heirs and attorneys, O'Riley discredits them all.

He returns to the jungle where life-changing events await him.

The Testament, is available at Mynderse Library, but there is a waiting list.

## Stuck Between The Pages by Jean Rademacher

Love letters, money and a partially-cooked slice of bacon are among items found marking pages of books returned to Mynderse Library. However, the usual run of bookmarks found at the library more often range from scraps of paper, a note from a lovestruck teen or a discarded lottery ticket, according to Michael Caraher, librarian and director for the past 16 years.

More exciting was the discovery of a \$5 bill tucked into the inside date pocket. It was left to pay a fine, and the extra, "Their way of supporting the library," Caraher said. (Fines run .05 a day for books, \$1 for videos.) Topping the list of excuses for missing books is, "We returned it." Caraher's tongue-in-check answer is, "We lose more things in that locked book drop." The most original excuse was attributed to the patron who claimed he couldn't return a book because he was in jail, serving time for non-support. "He never did pay the fine," Caraher said.

There are more than 4,000 card holders (some inactive) at Mynderse Library, and other than death or re-location, patrons remain faithful. Caraher remembers losing only one. But as later proved, the gentleman wasn't interested in literature. It seems staff would store Pepsi for personal use in a small refrigerator in the basement. They became suspicious when the soda was missing and they found empty cans hidden behind wastebaskets in the lavatories. When the librarians stopped buying soda, the person suspected, no longer visited the library.

The "Bacon Caper" happened years ago when Ethel Bishop was librarian. Imagine her surprise when she opened a book and out fell a piece of bacon cooked sufficiently so there was no juice leaking onto the page. Nor did it crumble.

Mrs. Bishop also recalled anxious students pleading for help in finding "a little book, needed for a report due tomorrow."  
"If they knew, they would have asked for a Ethan Fromme, it's a thin volume," Mrs. Bishop said.

The retired librarian also recalled a young girl, tearfully explaining she returned a book with the page marked with a \$5 bill she earned babysitting. She didn't remember the title or author, only that the book was red, but Mrs. Bishop found it. "It had been taken out two or three times, but the money was still there."

Ann Lawyer, assistant librarian, has found many books not part of the Mynderse collection. These are mostly misdirected from public school or privately owned libraries. School books are returned to their respective buildings, those without markings are kept for a period of time, then donated to the booksale-fundraiser sponsored by the Myndwich Book Club. (Check the hundreds of good used materials for sale on the lower level. Profits benefit the library.)

Mrs. Lawyer recalled a visitor stopping at the desk to ask, "Where is Mark Twain?" "Michael always a ready wit an answer, quipped, 'In a graveyard in Elmira.'"

Next time you check out a book, carefully peruse the pages. No telling what you may find--may be more than a biography, history or mystery--between those pages.

*Think about this: "Behold the turtle: He only makes progress when he sticks his neck out" James Bryant Conant*



Mynderse Library, 31 Fall St., Seneca Falls, N. Y. 13148

