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The Bradenton Herald, Thursday, April 11, 1985

PEOPLE

SECTION **C**

Big pride in a small town

As a community service project, the Mighty 4-H'ers of remote Duette are refurbishing Duette School's small library with up-to-date books and will open it one night a week as a public library.



Bradenton Herald photos: RICK KELLEY

4-H members Tina Keen, 11; Roni Keen, 15; Aaron Keen, 7; James Keen, 13 and Tammy Glassburn, 12; take time out in the library

4-H brings Duette a book break

Special to The Herald

For residents of Duette, a tiny community in northeast Manatee County, checking out a library book is not as easy as flashing a library card.

The closest public library to Duette is 30 miles away in Palmetto. The library in Duette School



4-H agent in Hindman, Ky.

"Through the help of his 4-H'ers, these books will be given to Appalachian children who have probably never had a book for their very own," she said.

Phil Place, director of the Manatee County Library, is working



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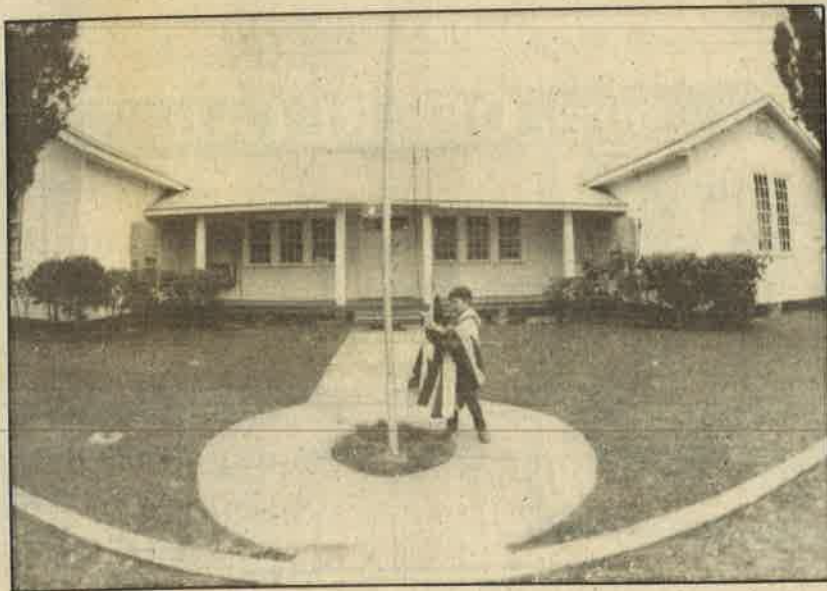
The closest public library to Duette is 30 miles away in Palmetto. The library in Duette School, the only remaining one-teacher school in the state, has never had a librarian. Its shelves were full of old and damaged books.

The Mighty 4-H'ers of Duette decided to tackle the problem.

The 4-Hers enlisted the help of Nancy Kurina and Cecilla Becket, librarians from Blackburn and Palm View elementary schools, in their project.

Together, they removed almost 400 outdated and damaged books, cleaned and rearranged the shelves, and solicited donations of books to refurbish the library.

"We couldn't see just throwing the old books away," said Betty



Raising the flag over one-teacher Duette School

Glassburn, organizational leader of the 37-member club. Through the Manatee County Extension Office the club contact James Phelps,

4-H agent in Hindman, Ky.

"Through the help of his 4-H'ers, these books will be given to Appalachian children who have probably never had a book for their very own," she said.

Phil Place, director of the Manatee County Library, is working with the 4-H'ers to arrange a revolving book exchange. The county library system would loan Duette books for a three-month period, for example, then exchange them for another set.

Upon completion, the school library will be open one night a week to the public. Adults will be allowed to check out books and students can use it as a reference center.

This is Duette 4-H's fifth Community Pride project, a contest sponsored by Chevron U.S.A. In 1983 the club won first place in the state for establishing Duette's first



Bradenton Herald photo: RICK KELLEY

Although Lincoln might have questioned Tina Keen's pose, he would certainly appreciate the Duette 4-H'er's pastime

All Duette grads for last 53 years invited to school reunion April 20

Fifty-three years of Duette School students will have a school reunion beginning at 9 a.m. April 20 at the school, 19 miles east of Parrish on Hwy. 62.

Duette School, the only remaining one-teacher school in Florida, was built in 1913. At that time the area schools of Albritton and Bunker Hill were consolidated into Duette.

The PTA will provide barbecue chicken, pork, tea and coffee for the 12:30 p.m. dinner. Those attending are asked to bring side dishes and table service. Leon Poindexter bluegrass band will provide entertainment.

To attend, call Duette School, 776-1411, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. daily or Silas Keen, 776-1138.

Duette 4-H Club will provide free babysitting at the event.

4-H From C-1

volunteer fire department and acquiring a fire truck.

In past projects, club members have taught youngsters to swim; provided an instructor and arranged for a first aid and CPR classes; compiled, published and sold a Community Heritage Cookbook; built and erected welcome signs to Duette and sold bumper stickers.

After submitting a proposal for this year's library project, the club received \$100 from Chevron to get the project rolling.

To donate books or money to the 4-H library project, contact Glassburn, 776-1022 after 5 p.m. or the Manatee County Extension Office, 722-4524.