



Isabelle Hunt,

during her many years as a teacher at the Pine Elementary School, nurtured the dream of getting a library for the Pine area. By the time of her death in 1971 she had persuaded many area residents that the dream could become a reality.

In January 1974, her friend Beryl Francis called a meeting of interested townspeople. Support came from the Pine-Strawberry Homemakers, headed by Opal Follin, and the Pine-Strawberry Chamber of Commerce led by Grant Hatch.

At an organizational meeting in May 1974, a board of trustees was elected: Robert Rigger as President; Carol Lee as Vice-President; Judy Sturm as Secretary-Treasurer. Beryl Francis was elected as Chairperson of the Library Friends. It was agreed that the library would be named in honor of Isabelle Hunt.

Ralph and Velma Fuller donated a cabin for use as a temporary site for the library. Sharon Womack, Gila County Librarian, arranged for an initial shipment of books, plus funds for book purchases. The Library Friends and the Homemakers assisted greatly in such fundraising efforts as ice-cream socials, bake sales and quilt raffles.

The library opened for use August 12, 1974, with about 3000 books. Almost immediately a drive started to raise funds for a larger building. Mr. Ritter traveled over 13,000 miles visiting government agencies in search of funds; Dorothy Ferguson, secretary of the Library Board, wrote countless letters concerning grants. Nancy Busch, new county librarian, drew up a grant proposal.

Page 2

Finally, with the assistance of Congressman Eldon Rudd and the Gila County Board of Supervisors, a building grant of \$42,000 was secured.


Alma Hunt, husband of Isabelle, donated land on Randall Drive across from Pine School for the new site. Clayton Construction Company of Payson was the contractor.

The library opened at its new location on March 24, 1978 with about 7000 books. Also included in the building was a museum room to house the collection administered by the Pine-Strawberry Archaeological and Historical Society. An important part of this consists of artifacts unearthed in Strawberry by local residents under the auspices of the Museum of Northern Arizona.

The library, along with the Pine School, serves as a community center. Many organizations meet here. Special programs, such as story hours, teenage grooming sessions, book reviews, and lecture series are sponsored by the library.

Through such referral services as inter-library loan, it provides a broad range of service to citizens of the area.

When the Ritters moved away in 1980, Charles Meister became President of the Library Board of Trustees. Carol Wendt continues her long and efficient tenure as Board Treasurer. The Library Friends continue to donate many hours of work. Librarians who have served since Wilma Ritter left include Gladys Wallace, Ruth Krauss, and the present librarian, Eulalie Chilson. In 1981 the library owns approximately 9000 books and 3000 magazines.



Page 3

Thus has the seed planted by Isabelle Hunt borne rich fruit for this community. It is impossible to list all of the individuals and organizations whose cooperation and work has made her dream become a reality.

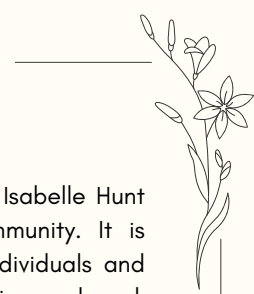
History of the Isabelle Hunt Memorial Library - continues

Written by Ruth Neigh

Dr. Charles Meister's account of the history of Isabelle Hunt Memorial Library ends with the year 1981. I shall try to continue that record to October 23, 2006 - summarizing some of the events during this time period to the best of my knowledge.

Valentine's Day of 1982 was celebrated by a party for the Library Volunteers, commemorated by a delightful poem written by Dr. Meister.

In 1986 the old Library building was moved to a place across the street from the Library, and it served from then on for many years as a storing facility of books for periodic book sales. These were conducted in and around the building by Library Friends, under the leadership of Mary Lou Duseberg. My husband Charles and I joined Library Friends around 1988, when Bev Snidecor was president for the first time. We found some of our dearest friends in this group. We met people who shared our love of nature and hiking, and some of us still get together, while many others have joined us over the years.



There was at that time already talk of building an addition to the library, as it was getting too cramped. We got involved in many fundraising activities, such as the famous "Chocolate Night" and quilt raffles. Pat Sogan and Sherby Tolefson taught some of us beginners the art of quilt making, and we raised quite a bit of money with these combined efforts. Carol Wendt wrote many letters on behalf of the Library Board, soliciting a grant and 20 years after the opening of the original library, the addition became a reality. An Open House was held August 26, 1994 with many Old Timers, including Alva Hunt, the late Isabelle's husband, Eulalie Chilson, Dorothy Longbon, Mary Hunt, Gladys Bosier and Fran Murphy in attendance. Opal Follin and Dorothy Keller sent greetings.

The new addition became a great place for meetings. Library Friends were able to present fine programs, such as impersonations of famous writers by the actress Betty Jean Steinshower.

The Library continued to expand to include videos, DVDs and talking books. The addition became crowded and could no longer be used for meetings. Fortunately we were able to lease one of the old school buildings from CERCA, now known as the Library Activity Room. Library Friends has again a place to meet and conduct periodic book sales to benefit the library.

The Children's Room Addition

Written by Ann Pendleton

In 2009, under the leadership of Director Becky Waer, the community came together to help raise funds for the construction of a 444-square-foot Children's Room on the east side of the building. Construction began in 2010. (The previous addition was built on the west side)

(Many people assume the library is fully funded by the county, but it actually operates independently of Gila County jurisdiction. Since 1988, each year, the Gila County Library District and the Library Board of Trustees enter into an agreement that includes a grant to help cover basic operating costs—funded through local property taxes. As a result, the library depends heavily on fundraisers and community donations to support its expanding range of programs and services.)

The Children's Room expansion freed up the remaining library space for additional activities, upgrades, programs, and services. In addition, the library's electrical service was upgraded from 100 amps to 400 amps to meet the growing demands of modern technology, including computers, laptops, and other electronic devices.

Federal Tax ID 86-0308811
501(c)3

www.pinepubliclibrary.com

FACEBOOK: Pine Public Library
928-476-3678
FAX: 928-476-2914



THE ISABELLE HUNT MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY *and how it came to be in* PINE, ARIZONA

AKA The Pine Library
6124 N Randall Pl
PO Box 229
Pine, Arizona 85544-0229



ISABELLE HUNT