

Basigkow, Mary 183

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When Mary L. Basigkow found an overdue library book under her son's bed, the discovery sparked a chain of events that led to her role as a librarian.

Mary, who retired in 1980 after 20 years as the Lake Orion librarian, died April 22, 1993 at the age of 77.

The Orion Township resident was library director from 1964 until 1980.

When Mary returned her overdue book to the library, she asked the librarian why her son hadn't received an overdue notice. She was told the library was backlogged with work.

Mary volunteered to work on the overdue notices, but instead was offered the position of assistant.

"I could see it was going to involve more than I knew about a library so I went to University of Detroit and got a master's degree in Library Science," Mary said in a 1988 Orion Review interview.

"It was fun in those days. It was like a lending library out of a living room. The library was different then; I was more of a librarian than an administrator."

Mary was also active in Orion's bicentennial activities and served six years on the Orion Township Planning Commission after her retirement.

She was past president of Lake Orion Women's Club and was a member of AAUW.

She and her husband James enjoyed raising golden retrievers, which they presented at dog shows throughout the area.

In addition to her husband, survivors include three sons, Karl of Oxford, Paul of Lake Orion and Dan of Pontiac; her nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were April 26 at Lake Orion Chapel, Sparks-Griffin Funeral Home.