

To Selectman
1-12-64

Again the question comes up -- is there any justification for continuing the Etna Library?

Most families come in to use Howe Library. The school libraries are expanding. The high school students even use Baker Library -- one of the finest college libraries in the country. None of these would note the change if the Etna Library doors never opened again.

What are the alternatives to the present situation?

1.) It has been suggested that the Etna Library become an adjunct of Howe Library. This would undoubtedly increase the quality of library service. But the expense of these improvements might be more than the present use of the building could justify.

Now we have a young woman for librarian who works four hours a week for \$1.25 an hour because she enjoys the work and because she has young children to keep her at home. She is doing a good job but has no training as a librarian. Hardly any books have been bought over the past few years because of the visits of the Bookmobile.

Besides the librarian the main expenses are cleaning and heating the building. It all amounts to under \$1,000. Is it worth this to the town to serve the few families who depend on the library? The school library and Howe Library are not handy for children in the village who must ride home on the bus directly after school.

2.) Or, perhaps, the library should be closed entirely turning over any books they might want to the school libraries or Howe Library, selling any others at public sale and giving any left to the Womens' Colleges Book Sale. What would be done with the building built with such pride by the Etna citizens fifty years ago? New Trumbull Hall is much better suited for 4-H or scouts. Perhaps it could be sold for a dwelling. To some of those

living in Etna distressed over losing the identity of their community this would be one more blow.

So the trustees always circle around to much the same conclusion. The library is there, the books are there, there are a few borrowers who depend on it actually and sentimentally -- let us leave things as they are for now.