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"99-year-old archives news articles of Norfolk area historical events"



Ninety-nine-year-old Lillian Marquardt is occasionally up until midnight clipping news articles from the Norfolk Daily News and the Omaha World-Herald. She was recently recognized by the Norfolk Public Library for her efforts in cataloging important area news events.

For years, Marquardt has collected the news articles, cutting them out carefully, slipping them into plastic sleeves and putting them in 3 ring binders. Once completed (sometimes it may take years) she presents them to the library.

Ninety-nine-year-old Lillian Marquardt accepts a library volunteer award from Norfolk Public Library Director Jessica Chamberlain.

It took four three-inch-thick binders to contain all of the articles she

found and cut out on the Norfolk bank robberies. There's another thick binder on the Norfolk flood in 2010 and other binders on the Lambrecht car auction in Pierce in 2013 and on the Pilger tornado.

On Thursday morning Library Director Jessica Chamberlain and Reference Librarians Judy Hilkemann and Amy Fuxa presented Marquardt with an award certificate signed by Mayor Fuchtmann along with a congratulatory cake.

"The binders are very helpful. We have people come in to do research and use them as a resource. The books really are a gift to us," Chamberlain said.

Marquardt said she collects news articles because she remembers growing up as one of ten children on a ranch in Atkinson not knowing what the current news was. At the time her family only spoke German until the kids learned to speak English in school.

“I’m interested in what’s going on...Once (the articles) are there, it’s there. No one can deny it,” Marquardt said. She reads the news each day and continues to clip the latest articles to update the binders.

Marquardt’s husband, Allen, and she would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on the day she was presented with the award. He passed away at age 100 last December.

In 1941, 24-year-old Lillian Frickel came to Norfolk to take bookkeeping classes at what was then Norfolk Junior College. She met Allen at Grace Lutheran Church and has attended the church ever since. She and her husband operated a Grade A dairy farm north of Norfolk and adopted three sons who all went on to serve in the military. They built a home in Norfolk in 1985 where Marquardt still resides and keeps track of the latest Norfolk area news.