

Margaret Fulk to retire

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MARGARET FULK is stepping down as director of learning resources at Western Piedmont Community College July 1, but she will leave proof of her approximately 14 years of work: the library.

The library is a popular place at WPCC largely as a result of her direction.

"We don't try to keep a quiet library," she said. "Occasionally a table gets loud and I have to go cover and say 'cool it.'"

But Mrs. Fulk remembers even more hectic times, when the library—and the entire school—was somewhere else.

"We started in old Central Elementary School, which is where the new courthouse is now," she said. "When I came (in January 1967) we had four or five rooms cleaned up."

"We took several rooms and by making archways made one big one," she remembers.

Mrs. Fulk also was in on the plans for the new library at WPCC, which has expanded again on the second floor of the Moore Building.

"We didn't have a single book to start with but a few professional books from the faculty," she said. "We really started from scratch."

Mrs. Fulk herself started a librarian's career from scratch several years ago, following the death of her husband Forrest, who was an accountant.

"I had a friend in Fort Myers (Florida) and I told this friend if I had any sense when I was 18, I would have gone into library work," she said from "her" library years later.

Instead, Mrs. Fulk majored in



Photo by Chuck Liddy

Peg Fulk assists student David Greenway.

home economics at Purdue University, because "that was the only field that would give me a job."

She taught home economics, enjoying the work but not the classroom experience, then quit to have three children.

The same friend who heard of Mrs. Fulk's library interest hap-

pened to be sister-in-law to the chairman of the Fort Myers library board.

"It happened she had to fire the librarian," said Mrs. Fulk. "She called and said, 'Peg, how would you like to be a librarian?'"

"It was a subscription library," said Mrs. Fulk, "but I really wasn't qualified." Four or five

years later, after the death of her husband, Mrs. Fulk returned to college and received her master's degree in library science at Florida State — the same year her daughter Susie was awarded the same degree at Simmons College in Boston.

The dean of the library school at Florida State happened to be a friend of WPCC's first president, but seeing Burke County cinched the decision for Mrs. Fulk.

"When I came and saw the place and met the people I decided to take the job," she said.

Since January 1967, the library has grown tremendously to its present 31,195 volumes and requires a lot of help to run.

"One of my best helpers was my very first work-study student," said Mrs. Fulk. "She has her bachelor's in library science now." Interns from Appalachian State University regularly study under Mrs. Fulk at WPCC.

Also involved with the library are the faculty at WPCC. Mrs. Fulk said 90 percent of the library's books are faculty-suggested.

Her own recreational reading tastes are wide but lean to detective stories. After her retirement, she plans to use the library's research areas herself, when she begins to write what may be childhood remembrances and what may turn out to be a novel.

"I'll miss the people the most," she said. "Sometimes the paperwork gets a little tiresome but really I've enjoyed what I do."

In addition to writing, Mrs. Fulk plans to develop her wildflower garden, travel, and "dabble in arts and crafts" as befits the home economics teacher more than the librarian.