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# NEWS

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### 37-YEAR RELATIONSHIP ENDS AT UNIVERSITY

MISSOULA---

A relationship at the University of Montana spanning more than 37 years--half the lifetime of the University--ends officially June 30, but the memories of that long association may last many more years for Lucile Speer. For her, those 37 years have been a labor of love.

The University, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, was founded Feb. 17, 1893, and Miss Speer has been documents librarian at the University since 1930.

She has served under every library dean since coming to the Missoula campus. And she has witnessed the extensive growth of the documents section at the Library.

"The documents we now have," Miss Speer said, "quadruple what the Library had in 1930 when I came to Missoula. The documents on hand now total well over 100,000. And in addition to the printed documents collection we have an extensive collection of items on microfilm."

But Miss Speer's feeling for her work goes beyond sheer numbers.

"Working in documents," she explains, "has been, I feel, the most interesting and rewarding library activity I could have engaged in. Through the documents your eyes are focused on the campus, the community, state and nation, and the whole world."

Miss Speer, who holds the rank of professor, received a bachelor's degree in English at the UM in 1925. A year later she was awarded a master's degree in English at the University of Chicago.

Miss Speer said she has experienced a great deal of satisfaction working with students throughout the years. And she has many fond memories of the UM Library deans she has worked with since 1930--Gertrude Buckhous, Philip Keeney, Kathleen Campbell and Earle C. Thompson, the present dean of library services.

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Miss Speer isn't the only member of the Speer family who came from a farm in Branch County, Michigan, to settle in Montana. She is a sister of the late J.B. Speer, who was UM controller for eight years and UM registrar 30 years. He retired from the University in 1953.

Miss Speer's other brother, O.D. Speer of Missoula, was superintendent of schools in Deer Lodge for many years. Both Speer brothers received bachelor's degrees at the University.

At 69, (her birthday was Jan. 7), Miss Speer has worked four years beyond the usual retirement age. She credits this fact to the great enjoyment she has gotten out of her work at the Library. Part of this satisfaction stems from the growth of the Library's documents section.

"The documents collection has grown and developed as our public interests have expanded," Miss Speer explained. "Not only are we interested now in local, state and federal documents. We are now interested in documents from the United Nations and various regional agencies."

Miss Speer said the collection of federal documents in the Library "began to expand in the 1930s, as the activities of the federal government increased under Roosevelt's New Deal."

In February of 1965 the University Library became the regional depository library in Montana, meaning that the Library furnishes federal documents to various agencies in the state. Included in these documents are those from the European Common Market, South-east Asia Treaty Organization and the Organization of American States.

Records on microfilm which belong to the UM Library are kept at Fort Missoula.

Miss Speer is associated with the American Federation of Teachers and the American Association of University Professors.

Miss Speer, who is on out-of-residence leave from the University until her retirement June 30, said she is compiling the first comprehensive bibliography of state documents for the years 1958-67 inclusive. She said the bibliography is to be published by the UM Bureau of Government Research under the supervision of Dr. Ellis Waldron, bureau director.