

**BOOK STOP STORE AND BUS STATION
301 MITCHELL STREET
{OPEN 35 YEARS}**

CLOSED SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2013

BOOKSTOP

Melissa Frugé
Saturday staff writer

Controlled chaos is a pretty accurate description of The Book Stop in Petoskey.

On a Saturday afternoon there is a steady stream of patrons browsing the thousands of books, games, CDs and movies neatly crammed onto hundreds of shelves. But owner Diane Halford, 76, said it wasn't always like this — it used to be much more chaotic.

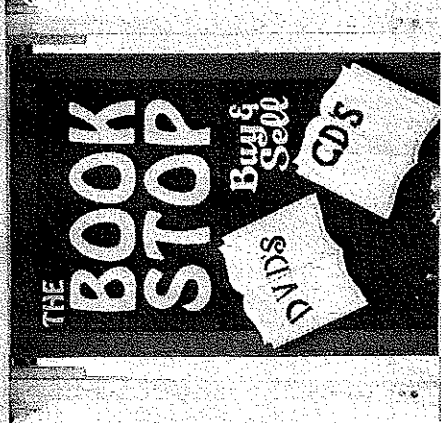
The Book Stop also serves as the bus station in Petoskey. In the early '70s and '80s it was a key stop for Greyhound and North Star Line buses.

"In those days we didn't have computers, we had these big ticket books," said Halford. "I just loved looking up all the schedules and figuring out how to get people where they wanted to go."

Today, The Book Stop is serviced only by Indian Trails. Halford said now they are lucky to see three buses a day. Also gone are the massive ticket books and schedules; everything is done through a computer.

"It's a good thing I started the books because the buses

USED BOOKS



have disappeared," Halford said.

She began with a single bookshelf and used paperbacks for which she paid 10 cents apiece. It was then the business name became Bus Plus.

"One day a man came in and said 'Oh, so you don't have any real books, do you?' He meant hard covers. So I added hard covers," Halford explained.

She noted she got the

idea to start stocking records after visiting a used record store downtown with her uncle.

"Of course, now people don't listen to records so I added CDs, then movies and video games," she said.

In 1988 Halford moved the store to its current location on West Mitchell Street and changed the name from Bus Plus to The Book Stop.

But still there isn't enough room for the entire inventory. According to Halford, there are so many books in her garage she doesn't have room to park her car.

The Book Stop has a variety of offerings. There are recent releases in the movie section, video games for multiple different gaming systems, and the music selection includes everything from pop to classical. Search the stacks of books and you will find sections for science fiction, romance, history, murder, nonfiction, children's and any other genre there might be, including current best sellers. There is also a section of books about

Michigan and works by local authors.

There are so many used books, movies, games and CDs in the collection that Halford devised her own tracking system, which allows her to know which titles are available and how many copies they have.

Sometimes Halford does get her hands on something special, such as "The Crabs of Saginai Bay" with hand illustrations of rare crabs by the Emperor of Japan. But Halford said there isn't much of a demand for rare books.

"Once in a while I'll get a book worth lots, like \$1,000. I can't sell that, but I have two dealers in New York I work with," she explained.

Halford said she also finds interesting things inside some of the books and boxes she receives, such as money stuck between the pages, old photos, dead mice and cockroaches.

"You'd be surprised at the condition of the books we get," said Jason Tharp, 37, of Wolverine, who has been working at The Book Stop for 18 years.

He was 7 years old the first time his mom brought him to the shop. Halford said she knew she had to hire him a few years later when she caught him straightening and alphabetizing the inventory.

Halford employs four other people, including Sharrrie Tippet, 47, who lives north of Harbor Springs. She has been at The Book Stop for nearly 21 years.

"Sharrrie is my engineer," said Halford.

"I just don't like starting new jobs," chuckled Tippet.

But the employees agree this is more than just a job. Even though none of them are related they get questioned about it all the time because they are so close.

Celia Keehn, 25, of Boyne City and Tabitha Soullier, 23, of Charlevoix, said the best part of the job is the people.

But the demands of owning a prosperous and busy business for 33 years is starting to take its toll on Halford, who said she still does all the banking, pays all the bills and tracks all of the inventory. The difference now is

she just does it from home. "Things change. When you're young you don't think you'll get older, but you do," she reflected. "I don't know what will happen when I get too old for all of this. ... I'm just grateful, I love it."

The Book Stop, located at 301 W. Mitchell St., is open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. seven days a week. They buy, sell or trade for used books, CDs, video games and movies on DVD or Blu-ray.

For more information, call (231) 847-4400 or visit www.bookstoppetoskey.com.

Petoskey News-Review
Friday, January 4, 2013
By Ryan Bentley

SHUTDOWN APPROACHES – PETOSKEY BOOK STOP

PETOSKEY – The end is near for a Petoskey business which has offered used books for about 35 years "(Saturday, Jan. 12) will be our last day open, officially," said Diane Halford, owner of The Book Stop on West Mitchell Street.

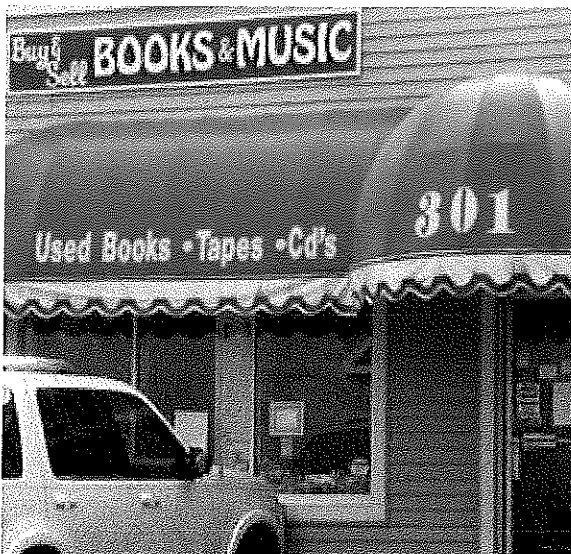
Diane is wrapping up a going-out-of-business sale that began last summer, with limited stock of books and CDs remaining. The shop also is in the process of selling its book cases and fixtures. "It's looking kind of empty and sad," Halford said.

Halford had hoped to sell the business and discussed that possibility with a prospective buyer, but she said the purchase didn't work out. She's continuing to seek a buyer for the store's building. "I'd still like to see someone come in with another used bookstore, because I'd hate to see Petoskey without one," Halford said.

Two employees remain with Halford at The Book Stop as the closing approaches. The store's roots extend back to the 1970s, when Halford offered a shelf of paperbacks for sale at a bus station she then operated in downtown Petoskey. She said her decision to retire wasn't easy after seeing the business grow, but "it's something that had to be done considering my age – I'm 78." Halford said she preferred to wind down the business while still in relatively good health, and added that she plans to spend more time traveling and spending time with family.

Bus traffic through the area has decreased in recent decades, but The Book Stop continues to serve as a bus stop for the Indian Trails line. For the near future, at least, Indian Trails will continue to offer its daily schedule of stops at the Mitchell Street site even as The Book Stop closes. "Their buses are still going to stop here," Halford said. "People can get on if they've got cash or a ticket."

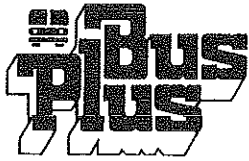
Indian Trails ticket outlets can be found in other Northern Michigan communities such as Traverse City, Gaylord and Grayling, Halford noted. Tickets also can be ordered by calling the bus line directly at (800) 292-3831.



Book Stop Store
301 W. Mitchell Street, Petoskey, Mi.

1984

**Folies Benefit Booklet for
Northern Michigan Hospital**



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