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Grant supervisor hopes to leave 'em laughing when she goes

Carol Flint has always been quick with a smile, ready to laugh. That's the last thing she wants people to see when she steps down as Grant Township Supervisor next week.

"I like to keep my emotions inside," she said. "I want to walk out that door with a smile on my face."

Walking out the door after newly-elected supervisor Bill Boose is sworn in May 7 won't be easy for the woman who has spent most of the last 19 years overseeing Grant Township's government.

Flint was appointed to the job on Aug. 15, 1972, to replace Helen LaBounty who was moving from Hoopeston. A newcomer to Hoopeston, she was employed at Citizens Federal Savings & Loan at the time, township assessor Art Richoz encouraged her to throw her hat into the ring. "That dear, old neighbor said I'd work Monday to Friday, 8:30-4 and be home nights, weekends and holidays with my family," Flint said. "Sometime during the first year, I asked myself 'who was he kidding?'"

From that beginning, Flint ran for supervisor four times. "It's political but you forget it's political until it's election time," she said.

One of her first tasks was to write rules and regulations covering the township general assistance program. She spent two days in Bloomington township learning the ropes from Maxine Schultz, president of the supervisors' board. Schultz later tapped Flint's knowledge to be an instructor to other supervisors and put her on the supervisors' board.

During her tenure, Flint has seen many changes in township government at the state and local levels. She helped write a new supervisor's manual, Work Fair manual and emergency procedures manual. Locally, she has been a driving force behind the ambulance and fire protection districts and was instrumen-

tal in moving the township building from its previous location at 200 E. Penn to its current home at 525 S. Market.

While she has accomplished much as supervisor, it is the memories of people that Flint will cherish most. "One of the things I'm going to do is write a book about the people who've touched my life," she said.

One of those was Louise Gall, a woman who walked Hoopeston's streets with a shopping cart. "She wasn't someone a lot of people paid any attention to," Flint said. One day, Gall stopped into the township office to have Flint examine a bank statement. That was the beginning of a friendship that lasted until Gall's death several years ago.

Most, but not all, the people Flint has met as supervisor have been kind. "I only had somebody threaten to hit me twice," she said, laughing. "I didn't think that was too bad for almost 19 years."

Looking back, Flint said it's hard to believe it has been nearly 19 years since she took over the reins. "When you say 19 years, it doesn't seem like it's been that long but when I look at pictures, I know it's been a while," she said.

Township clients have said the office won't be the same without her, but Flint, waxing philosophical, said that's all right. "It's not going to be the same," she said. "It's not meant to be the same. Bill needs to make his own footprints."

Retirement will mean spending time with grandchildren, finding new ways of connecting with people and acting as Hoopeston's newest first lady.

First, though, Flint has to leave her office without getting too emotional. "I'll just go out the door laughing like an idiot like I always do," she said.

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Thursday is
**Beer for a
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at the
Hoopeston VFW
Fourth Ave. & West Orange

Steak Fry
 Friday, May 4
 5:30-8 p.m.
American Legion
 502 E. Penn, Hoopeston
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IronHouse members set records in weightlifting competition

The 2001 Son Light Power Powerhouse Open Bench Press/Deadlift Classic was held March 31 at Powerhouse Gym in Richmond, Ind. The competition was a huge success with 59 competitors and almost as many spectators. The following is a summary of the competitors from IronHouse Gym, Hoopeston, IL.

In the submaster division was 132 winner, Susie Blackwell. Blackwell got all three of her attempts to finish with a personal best and state record 135. Blackwell's mother-in-law, Barb Blackwell also got a new state record with her 110 bench to win the master 45-49/148 class. The club's final women's competitor was 123 master 50-54 winner Donna Catron who made all three of her attempts to finish with a personal best and state record 145.

In the teenage men's 13-15 age group at 181 it was Andrew Crabtree with 160. This was Crabtree's first competition. In the 18-19 group at 165 it was Robert Catron with 270. In the master 40-44 division Rick Espinoza was the winner at 181, finishing with a record 265. In the master 45-49 it was Ed Teran at 181 with a record 315. Gary Catron started with his win at 50-54/220. He finished with a personal best and new Indiana state record 380, followed by a fourth lift of 385 for the title.

In the deadlift competition Susie Blackwell won her

second title of the day with her win at submaster 132, going 245 and 255 for her fourth, both new state records. Barb Blackwell did the same with her win at master 45-49/148; new state records with 245 and 255. Donna Catron got her state record 250 pull, lifting in the master 50-54/123 class. She is now ranked as one of the top 20 master competitors in the nation.

Andrew Crabtree became double winner in the 13-15 age group. He finished with a 320 fourth attempt in the 181 class. In the 18-19 division Robert Catron pulled a record 405 for the win. Gary Catron captured his second title of the day with his win at 50-54/220, pulling his first official 500 deadlift. This was also a state record for Catron, his second of the day.

In the open class, Craig Blackwell set a record at 181, pulling a personal best 445.

New Books at the Library

Children's Books:

Fiction:

My "A" Book by Jane Belk Moncure
 Odysseus in the Serpent Maze by Jane Yolen
 When Winter Comes by Nancy Van Laan.

Police News

A 37-year-old woman reported Wednesday that someone broke the passenger side front window of a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of East Thompson.

In the Hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital May 1

Admitted: Kim Cremeans, Milford; Garnetta Blankenship, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Miguel Zamarripa.

Weather

Partly sunny today. High 81. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 59. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 72, low 50.

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HOMES FOR RENT

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1989 Dodge Spirit ES. Rebuilt 3.0 V-6, many new parts. Clean. \$2,500 OBO. 24' round Doughboy pool. Newer pump & DE filter, solar cover. \$400. (217) 283-7907.

RUMMAGE SALES

Wellington, IL. Annual Maxwell Street Sale. Saturday, May 5, 8 a.m.-???. Town wide sale!!! Food, refreshments, restrooms & specialty items available at the Methodist Church.

Baby extravaganza. Clothes, toys, everything!! Name brands, new/like new. Women's. Saturday, May 5, 7-? 1202 S. Second Ave., Hoopeston

WANTED TO RENT

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Obituaries

DANCEY—Richard H. Dancey, 34, of Urbana, died at 9:50 a.m. Thursday, April 26, 2001, at home. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Burial will be in Rossville Cemetery. Visitation will be 1:30-3 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

TYLER—Tara Ann "Taz" Tyler, 19, of Hoopeston, died at 8:13 p.m. Monday, April 30, 2001, at home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation was 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Memorials are suggested to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 332 N. Lauderdale, Memphis, TN 38105.