

February 13, 1990

Some interesting statistics:

- Laurens has 14% of the population of Pocahontas County.
- 33% of the circulation of Pocahontas County.
- Average retail cost of a fiction book in 1975 was \$8.31; now is \$18.18.

April 10, 1990

- Board welcomed new member Jeanette Korreect.
- A letter of accreditation was received from the State Library of Iowa. We are now one of 50 accredited libraries in Iowa.

July 10, 1990

- New stacks and rearranging of library will take place July 23.
- Touring Arts Teams will be in Laurens July 16.

September 11, 1990

- Final Budget numbers presented for July 1989-June 1990—
Income \$65,084 which includes \$42,800 from city. Expenses were \$66,177.
- New compressor still not in.

October 2, 1990

- Compressor in, but wrong filters
- Still looking for light covers so new lights can be installed.

February 12, 1991

- Board approved purchase of a new McIntosh LC computer and printer.

May 14, 1991

Excerpts from Librarian Report: (typical of “everyday” director duties):

- New desk and file for office are now in place.
- I’m working with the Mac, “learning by doing”.
- Preschool story time is now going on and going well.
- Parents Caring and Sharing will take over the summer reading activities from the Progressive Club.
- Chess tournament went well; planning a photo contest.
- Microfiche reader broke a belt. Copy machine needed repair.
- Insurance adjuster will check roof and heating units for hail damage.

August 13, 1991

- Roof to be replaced/repared at a cost of \$10,316, with a 7% rebate from Certainteed Corp. This is because of hail damage.

January 14, 1992

- Reported that a referendum will be needed to add a rural member to the library board. Since Louis Ball was elected to City Council, the new member will need to reside in Laurens.
- Budget discussion included the fact that the mayor has suggested freezing the budget.
- Minimum wage goes up to \$4.65 this month; this will affect two staff members and substitutes.

February 11 and 25, 1992

- Gift money has been accumulated to purchase a piano for the library.
- City Council proposes a total funding of \$45,615 which is down \$1,000 from last year.
- Chuck Coldren was welcomed as a new board member.
- Memorial money received in memory of board member Joe Miller.

May 12, 1992

- Mayor John Unruh suggested the library begin a fund-raising project since there is now less tax money available.
- Making progress on the new roof; need to repair landscaping since city replaced drainage tile and did not replant grass.
- Budget amendment for \$15,000 for roof repair and unexpected expenses.

June 9, 1992

- Our accreditation for 92/93 was approved. There are 525 libraries in the state of which 129 have achieved accreditation.
- Summer reading activities underway including Dinosaur Story-time; Read with Waldo, and recruiting little Waldos to walk in the Stinker Day parade.

July 14, 1992

- First mention of city clerk doing bookkeeping and payroll for the library instead of Delores.
- Mrs. Hofer will bring the gift book up to date (beautiful calligraphy).

August 11, 1992

- Presented Delores a gift of thanks for her 25 years of (bookkeeping) service to the library.
- A Laurens Public Library Foundation will be set up as a fund raising vehicle. Don Winkler helped set up the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws have been written. Members of the board will meet with City Council Monday night to present this.

September 8, 1992

- President asked for volunteers to serve on the newly created foundation: Jim Van Sickle, Connie Dallenbach, Sarah Chadwick, Kathy Hakes volunteered.

October 13, 1992

- Received a grant \$2000 of from Iowa Humanities Board for the oral history project, *Big Time Industry in Small Town Iowa*.
- Water heater will be replaced with a 20-gallon heater.
- Total circulation for September was 2611, up 309 from last September. Fines collected were \$44.41 and \$135.40 received from copies.

January 12, 1993

- Three board members were up for reappointment—Kathy Hakes, Les Milton, and Dick Hawes. Hawes resigned and only Milton was reappointed by the mayor. Mary Ann Orr and Dan Braunschweig were appointed by the mayor to replace Hawes and Hakes.
- City Council members Louis Ball and Lary Hunter indicated diminished city income will lead to a budget freeze. They both suggested the library budget committee meet with them during the year to develop a logical, cooperative approach to the 1993-94 budget.
- The Budget Committee will submit a final budget to the City Council for \$63,295.

February 9, 1993

Excerpts from Librarian's Report: (Can't find enclosures)

- You will find a number of enclosures: some of the reports that have appeared in the Fort Dodge Messenger, a letter I wrote to the mayor and the council in response to statements by the mayor; the council's request for information on library operation (much of which we already have and which the council has been receiving routinely) and a one page summary of the library budget process. I assume you all have seen the newspaper accounts in the SUN.
- The amount we will receive for next year's budget is still not firm. Lary indicated the city would make up the \$680 decrease in library

income to allow us to spend the same amount as last year, thus freezing our spending capability, rather than freezing the amount the city allocates. The mayor has expressed disagreement. As of Friday, the \$680 is still in the budget. In my opinion, the continuing unfounded and unsubstantiated charges from some members of city government and the city attorney's public declaration of illegality of the foundation have made improving relations more difficult than ever. These matters should be discussed at the board meeting.

- Eloise (City Clerk) needs clarification on handling of gift fund and community enrichment fund.
- Preschool story time will end this month. We will be having a program for elementary students in early March. Interviewing for Oral History project is proceeding.
- Rich Brugman was elected President; Les Milton, Vice-president; and Sarah Chadwick, Secretary-Treasurer.

March 9, 1993

- Dan and Rich have met with Louis Ball and Lary Hunter regarding budget. More information about libraries with similar circulation will be gathered.
- Library Foundation will design an informational brochure for the public. Lary Hunter is trying to get an attorney to negotiate with Ann Beneke (city attorney) and Don Winkler (foundation attorney).
- Librarian Pat Harms will gather materials to present to the foundation as to cost of automation, computer/software and reader printer so foundation can present specific goals.

June 8, 1993

- Don Aschennbrenner discussed the on-going heating/air conditioning problems. Seven air compressors going out in 14 years primarily because the system was too large for the size of the building. Discussion was held on options—block off central duct; replace compressor and replacing original unit. No decision made.
- Due to change of date on payroll checks (from June 30 to July 1), there will be a \$3900 surplus in 92-93 budget. Board authorized several library-enhancing items to be purchased to spend this surplus in June.
- Memo dated June 22, 1993, from director Pat Harms outlining problems and misunderstandings between the city and the library is included in the minute book.

September 14, 1993

- The library report was read and noted circulation increased by 100 over last month.
- The Library Foundation received their “tax-free” approval. The foundation will sponsor a pancake supper with the aid of the Kiwanis Club on October 28.

October 13, 1993

- 165 persons contributed \$500 to LAGBRAI—Libraries Annual Great Book Read Across Iowa. Money will be deposited in the Library Gift Fund.
- The roof is still leaking. Will contact OK Roofing about a guarantee for work done last year.

November 9, 1993

- After discussion a motion was made and approved to purchase a piano for the library at a cost of \$3800—memorial gifts \$3300 and \$500 from other sources.
- The librarian is still studying procedures for automation, Internet, and other technology before making a final recommendation.
- Foundation will hold a book sale on November 18.

January 11, 1994

- Rich Brugman is working closely with City Council members Lary Hunter and Louis Ball asking for a 5% increase in the 1994-95 budget.
- Winnebago Systems (automation) will be here January 19 for a demonstration.

February 8, 1994

- Rich reported we will get a 2.5% increase in budget from city. This won't be enough to cover increased expenses so funds will be transferred from the money market to meet budget. Acceptance of budget and possibility of raises and/or bonuses was discussed. Les motioned we accept the budget with no raises given. Mary Ann seconded. Three ayes. Two nays. Motion carried.

April 12, 1994

- Motion approved to give employees one extra week of paid vacation in lieu of no raises. Three ayes. Two nays.
- March circulation was 2495, a decrease of 408 from March last year.

June 14, 1994

- No decision made on automation; still exploring.
- Application will be made to Carver Foundation for automation grant.
- Head Start Award for Volunteers was presented to library for weekly story telling.

July 12, 1994

- State has accredited library for another three years.
- Cardmaster will be purchased for \$195 as first step in automation.
- Still having problems with leaking roof, compressor, and soffit.

November 8, 1994

- Foundation pancake supper took in \$858. Noll's book sale totaled \$1000 with foundation getting 20%.
- Received a \$13,433 grant from Carver Charitable Trust to order circulation system (Follett) for automation procedures.

December 13, 1994

- Former teacher Evelyn Remillard has left the library \$6,000. This money will be used to purchase a reader-printer for the library.
- President Brugman reported T&K Roofing will do roof repairs.

January 10, 1995

- Rich Brugman reports the soffit has been repaired—took about 4 days.
- Welcomed new board member Rod Johnson—Jan Hersom also new member, but absent.
- Statement from Pat Harms, Director: "Let me make it clear at the outset that my remarks imply no criticism of the People appointed to the library board by Mayor Unruh. However, I am again dismayed and disappointed at the way these appointments were made." This statement is in regard to Mayor Unruh's not reappointing Jeannette Korrekt to board and lack of input by other board members and library director.

February 13, 1995

- Rod and Rich will talk to Louis Ball, library representative on the city council, about getting a repair reserve for such things as the roof and heating compressor.
- Pat [Harms] officially informed the board of her resignation no later than the end of June. A search committee of Dan, Jan, and Les was appointed.

May 9, 1995

- Rich Brugman reported the City Council cannot write a statement for a yearly reserve fund for repairs to the building. Rod Johnson recommended the Council be contacted at budget time every year.
- The Librarian Search Committee reports they are interviewing applicants for the directorship position.

June 2, 1995 (Special Meeting)

- Dorothy Lamberti was hired as Library Director at a salary of \$16,000 per year. The vote was unanimous.

July 11, 1995

- Director reported that bar-coding and computer input for automation project is progressing. "Easy" fiction is almost completed. "Junior" fiction is slower.
- Final 1994-95 budget shows income of \$65,492, with \$47,452 as city appropriation. Total expenditures of \$66,805 including unexpected repairs to roof and soffit of \$1348.
- Retiring director Pat Harms gave her final End of Year Report, along with an update on additional funds needed for automation.
- Don Winkler and Sarah Chadwick were appointed to 3-year terms on the Laurens Public Library Foundation.

September 12, 1995

- Jim Van Sickle has resigned as a member of the board. Rod Johnson was appointed to replace Jim on the Foundation Board of Trustees.
- Pocahontas County Library meeting will be in Laurens on September 19.
- Agreed it was time to take decisive action on heating/cooling problems in the library.
- Rich reported the city council probably will agree to approve a referendum needed to qualify rural residents to serve on the library board.

November 14, 1995

- New board member is Brooks Anderson. He replaces Jim Van Sickle
- The referendum to add a rural member to the Laurens Library Board of Trustees was passed with a large majority.

December 12, 1995

- Director Lamberti gave an automation report to date: Spent from Carver Trust for hardware--\$4,513; Software and Miscellaneous--\$4,903; Salaries--\$917 for a total of \$10,334.

- Circulation report for November—Total circulation was 2665; programs held 9 with an attendance of 185; ILL provided 22 and ILL received 28; fines collected \$96.21; holdings acquired 76 and withdrawn 67.

January 9, 1996

- Letter of resignation from Sarah Chadwick; Kristy Mather nominated for replacement and first rural board of Trustees member. Jan Hersom elected as Secretary/Treasurer.
- Clarification was made on the handling of the gift fund and revision was suggested for City Ordinance Resolution.
- Rich suggested Gift Fund be handled by the Foundation.
- Six-month probationary review of Dorothy Lamberti.

February 13, 1996

- President welcomed new member Kristy Mather; election of officers Rich Brugman, President; Les Milton, Vice-president; Jan Hersom, Secretary; and Mary Ann Orr, Treasurer.
- Budget increase for 1996-97 for city appropriation will be 2.5% or \$49,854.

May 14, 1996

- Dorothy Lamberti met with the city's auditor and auditor suggested we do something else with the gift fund. It was moved that starting with the fiscal year July 1, 1996, all funds for the gift fund be transferred to the Laurens Library Foundation. Ayes all.
- Dorothy reported 70 people attended the 20th birthday party for the library in the "new" building.

August 6, 1996

- President Brugman read Dorothy Lamberti's letter of resignation. She will be teaching at the Laurens Community Preschool starting September. Joyce Rigby, Assistant Director, will be responsible until a new director is hired. Carol Hoffman would move up to second in command.
- Nominations were made and approved for Foundation Board members—Connie Dallenbach and Dorothy Runneberg.

August 28, 1996 (Special Meeting)

- Les Milton made a motion we hire Sandra Neary for the position of Library Director. Kristy Mather seconded. Ayes all.

September 10, 1996

- The new library director, Sandra Neary, will begin full time September 16, 1996.
- Farm committee suggested that farm rent be increased to \$120 per acre. Motion made and approved.

October 8, 1996

- Sandra Neary reported that First Search and SILO (interlibrary loan) are now on-line. Also Enrich Iowa is a State Library of Iowa program to give state monies to Iowa libraries based on the library's service and accreditation status.
- The Children's Activity Center has been ordered from Charlie Ahlrich.

December 9, 1996

- The terms of Rich Brugman, Brooks and Kristy expire January 1, 1997. Rich will retire from the board and the foundation at that time. Brooks and Kristy agreed to serve another term if appointed by the mayor.
- Will table Overdue Policy revisions until automation is up and running. Some books did come back when the patrons were actually billed for them
- Library Report indicated the new automation hardware is up and running. Goal is to have conversion completed by January 1, 1997.

January 14, 1997

- Library Report: We scanned our first book on January 2, 1997. So much preliminary work was perfected by Pat and Dorothy. We are running a double system (manual and automated) until we feel sure reports, fines, and overdues are functioning properly. The staff is doing great on the computers; we all learn something every day.
- Long-range plan for July 1997-June 1999 was approved.

April 8, 1997

- Six month review for library director. Employment shall be continued.
- Welcome new board member Jeanette Korrekt.

April 28, 1997 (Special Meeting)

- Discussion was held on new heating and air conditioning units. Only one bid was received—Laurens Plumbing and Heating, \$11,500. Motion to accept was approved.

May 13, 1997

- Resignation from Dan Braunschweig was read. Pat Boughey was suggested to fill term until 1-1-99.
- Plans are to start installing new heating/cooling system after Memorial Day.

July 8, 1997

- It was reported that new air conditioning units are working. The shed is still in the process of being built.
- Children's Activity Center has been popular. It includes a VCR, computer, lounging spot, tape player, and stuffed animals.
- Les Milton was approved for a 3-year term on the Foundation board to replace Rich Brugman.

August 12, 1997

- On the budget report, salaries will now be reported as a gross amount, not net amount as in previous budgets.
- Rod Johnson stated the Mayor has asked him to replace a city council member who resigned. Rod will need to resign from the library board.

September 9, 1997

- Welcomed new board member Pat Boughey to replace Dan Braunschweig.
- August circulation report—Total circulation 2369; 119 new materials acquired; 93 withdrawn; 6 library programs, attendance 170; fines collected \$86.70; copies \$88.05.

October 14, 1997

- Welcomed new board member Mike Wright to replace Rod Johnson.
- Discussed the Resolution on the Use of Filtering Software at Libraries. A revised computer policy was adopted removing the note on the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association with reference to Internet use in the library.

January 13, 1998

- Board approved the City of Laurens Personnel Policy which includes the library staff.
- Discussion was held on 98-99 budget. An added item will be \$2,000 set aside each year for a capital reserve fund. Budget committee will talk to council members to see if this is possible.

February 10, 1998

- Budget for 98-99 was approved; library-generated income, \$26,940; City of Laurens appropriation, \$52,130; total, 79,070. This does include a \$2,000 Capital Equipment Transfer line item.
- Sandi reported that KWAALS (Kids Working and Assisting Library Staff—8th grade TAG students) will have a lock-in at the school in March. Proceeds from a bean bag toss will benefit the library—purchasing young adult books.

July 14, 1998

- Sandi reported the summer reading program “Book a Trip Around the World is going well. Eighty passports (readers) have been posted on the bulletin boards. The Quilt Bed Turning program drew about 130 people in two days and Junior Naturalists will begin today.

October 18, 1998

- Jim Hoben plans to start work right away on the leak between the main building and air conditioning shed.
- Discussion on allowing patrons to use e-mail from the library computers. It is not allowed at this time. No decision was made.

December 8, 1998

- Les Milton announced his resignation from the board effective January 1, 1999. Mary Ann Orr and Pat Boughey agreed to be reappointed to a six-year term.
- Discussion on book sale for “very old books” that have been sitting on top shelves since the move from the Carnegie building in 1976.
- Stats from November—total circulation 2793; added materials, 88; withdrawn materials 24; 6 library programs were held with an attendance of 113.

February 9, 1999

- T. Russell Thumma was welcomed as a new member of the board.
- Board was asked for suggestions for long-range goals for 1999-2001 to be compiled and presented to board for approval in March.
- South soffit needs repair again.

March 9, 1999

Excerpts from librarian’s report:

- New slide projector is here; cost is \$350
- Pocahontas County Supervisors expect to increase their support by 5% for next year.
- Soffit repair will be between \$200-300.
- Board approved long-term goals for 1999-2001. (See Appendices)

May 11, 1999

- Damaged soffit has been repaired; insurance will pay all above our deductible.
- Enrich Iowa program has been approved by the state legislature. Our share should be between \$500-2000.
- Bills approved amounted to \$3,587.78 which includes a new computer, \$1,548 and \$944.99 in collection additions.

September 14, 1999

- Excerpts from librarian's report:
- "Very Old Book Sale" will be later this month.
- Landscaping design from Del's Garden Center suggested 4" of limestone should be removed from front and sides of building. Hopefully City of Laurens will do the work.
- 85 kids involved in summer reading program; 40 read 20 books or more and were treated to a pizza party.
- Dorothy Lamberti will be asked to be new foundation board member to replace Dorothy Runneberg who resigned last month.

December 14, 1999

- City Manager Quentin Mayberry gave a brief presentation on changes to the personnel policy regarding vacation time and private use of the Internet by employees.
- Board approved Technology Plan which must be in place in order to receive federal Universal Service discount (e-rate) on phone and Internet Service.