

January 13, 1970

- Mrs. Cook gave her annual report.
- Adult Circulation: 20,911
- Children's circulation 13,463
- 59 less than last year. There were 967 circulations more for adults and 1,026 less circulation for children.
- 3,744 visitors in library
- 581 reference questions
- 49 county registrations
- 556 books purchased
- 78 books donated
- \$24.50 registration fees
- \$250.96 fines
- 46.80 general expenses
- 27.08 postage
- 1,271 books mended
- 336 books withdrawn
- Mr. Hitchcock met with members of city council and with Fred Eaton and was informed it was impossible to build a new library with the new town hall building.

April 13, 1970

- Glen Kees talked to C. I. Hersom regarding the building improvement. Mr. Hersom will check on it and report to Glen. He thought the cost would be around \$15.00 a square foot for the actual cost of the new work.

May 12, 1970

- Glenn Kees reported that he talked with Mr. Hersom regarding enlargement of the library. He thought the idea of a balcony was impractical and will make a preliminary drawing for suggestions.

June 16, 1970

- Plans for library addition drawn by Hersom Construction were discussed. A study committee of Dwyer, Hitchcock, Kees and Harms was appointed.
- Discussion on writing and storing Laurens historical material was held. It was decided to "free up" library drawer space and talk to Neil Maurer [about] the cost of printing a history of Laurens.
- Mrs. Cook stated that Mrs. Gordon Crew may help in the library to replace Elene Alstott.

February 9, 1971

- Harold Hitchcock and Glenn Kees reviewed the various plans for needed space in the library.
- Mrs. Dwight Oleson is helping in the library while Mrs. Cook is absent due to a broken arm.

October 12, 1971

- Librarian's report showed a circulation of 2,298, decrease of 178.
- Motion carried to send an inquiry to Robert McIntosh, architect, concerning consultation on plan for a library.

December 14, 1971

- Mr. McIntosh telephoned expressing interest in meeting with the board.
- Board is sponsoring the writing of Laurens history. The "Sun" will be brought to the Methodist Church. Ladies will help go through the papers.

March 14, 1972

- In discussion of building needs, the consensus of opinion was that a new, rather than remodeled building is needed. Projected need is 5,000 square feet.

May 9, 1972

- During Library Week there were about 30 visitors a day. Coffee and cookies were served each afternoon.
- The Board decided to have the librarians keep a book of items and books given to the library as memorials.
- It was suggested that Board tour Marcus, Orange City and Sheldon libraries on the next regular meeting day.
- Mrs. Cook reported that Anna Bartley will stop working in the library on June 1, 1972.

June 20, 1972

- Budget for coming year approved at \$9,400.
- Architect firm of Smith, Voorhies & Jensen are to be contacted about the new library building.

July 19, 1972

- Special meeting with Smith, Voorhies & Jensen was held. The fee for a \$125,000 building is \$10,000. The preliminary charges of the architect are \$1500.
- It was moved and seconded to hire this firm to do the preliminary plans at a cost not to exceed \$1,500.

September 13, 1972

- A letter was received from State Auditor Smith telling us all books were in order.
- Evelyn Pitluck was elected to serve as secretary to fill out the term of Bertha Olson who resigned from the Board.

November 15, 1972

- Regretfully the Board accepted the letter of resignation received from Harold Hitchcock.
- Lon Bruggeman led the discussion about pros and cons of our new anticipated library. Some of the things mentioned were indoor-outdoor carpet; smaller windows to work in with windows in the new town hall; vent in work room; vinyl flooring; plenty of plug-ins; tinted glass.

January 9, 1973

- Circulation for 1972 was 28,971, an increase of 751 over last year.
- Joe Halterman was elected president and Evelyn Pitluck secretary-treasurer.
- It was voted to raise Mrs. Cook's salary to \$2100 since Social Security allows this amount.
- Darrel Oleson's name is to be submitted to Council as a member of the library board to fill unexpired term of Harold Hitchcock.

May 8, 1972

- A letter will be sent to the public regarding plans for building a new library in Laurens. (See copy)
- Mrs. Cook recommended we pay the staff \$1.75 an hour. This motion was made and approved.

June 12, 1972

- Letter read regarding obtaining funds for new library through the Kinney-Lindstrom Fund.
- Due to change from calendar year to fiscal year, the board worked on the budget for the next 18 months.

November 13, 1972

- Reports were given by various board members on meeting with social and civic groups about the new library.
- Jeanne Cowan and Pat Harms got material together to send to the national Register of Historic Places to see if they will give us help to maintain the old library.

December 11, 1973

- Mrs. Cook requested the library close on Friday nights during the winter because of low attendance. Also the library will close the day before Christmas and the day before New Years. Mrs. Cook is thinking of retiring next summer. She has been librarian since 1958.
- Mr. Halterman contacted the architect, who now estimates the cost of the new library to be \$155,000 (increase of \$13,800) due to inflation.

February 12, 1974

- Letter of resignation from Darrell Oleson. Now that he is mayor, he cannot serve on the board.
- Letter of resignation from staff member Theone Harris.

May 14, 1974

- The amount of \$1,716.11 was turned over to the library building fund by Mrs. Dick Rigby and Mrs. Bob Ziegler.
- Library report: 30 books were purchased, five new borrowers in the city and one from the county. The circulation was 1877, 296 less than the previous year.

September 3, 1974 City Council Meeting

- It was moved by Thomas Hakes and seconded by Lester Janssen that the council inform the Library Board, the council is prepared to proceed with the procedure for election for the issuance of bonds for the construction of a new public library. Ayes: Hakes, Halder, Janssen and Pannkuk; Nays: None. The mayor declared the motion duly passed and adopted.

November 12, 1974

- The following notice was given to the Laurens SUN on behalf of the Laurens Library Board. "The overwhelming support of the Laurens Community in the recent vote towards the building of a new Library is greatly appreciated by the members of the Library Board. Our sincere thanks to all of you."

December 4, 1974

- After approval of minutes and bills, the Board met with architects and Mayor Oleson. The discussion centered around the site, trees needed to be removed, and some changes were made both on the exterior and the interior. Everyone was so pleased that we have progressed thus far re the building of our new library.
- We also were very happy to learn that Fred Ekstam was voted in as a new member of our Library Board.

January 15, 1975

- Notes from a letter written to Kinney-Lindstrom Foundation: “Our bond issue for \$150,000 was passed; had several fund raising affairs and a family (Blomgren) donated \$33,000. We would appreciate meeting with you and the members of the foundation in regard to acquiring help in furnishing our library.”

February 15, 1975

- Portion of a letter sent to Mr. Lowell Hall, Kinney-Lindstrom Foundation, Inc.: We were so very pleased to learn that your Board of Trustees granted the Town of Laurens \$15,000 to be used for furnishings and equipment for our new library.”

May 13, 1975

- Ground breaking for new library building was held May 7, 1975. See Appendices for picture and description of events.

June-July, 1975

- Many special meetings held for discussion of building project, especially new furnishings and carpeting. A note was added to the minutes of July 1, 1975: Compliment Pat Harms and Jeanne Cowan on the terrific job they did in selecting the furnishings to present to the Board for their final decision.

October 14, 1975

- Monthly payroll was \$383.41.
- “Laurens Sun” is being microfilmed at a cost [of] between \$500-600; paintings can be rented from the Des Moines Art Center on a monthly basis.
- The Board regrets the passing of Mattie Krueel, who served as a member of the Laurens Library Board for 43 years, from July 11, 1931 until October 1, 1975.

November 10, 1975

- Mrs. Eloise (C.B.) Stewart is present and is now a member of the Laurens Library Board to replace Mattie Krueel.
- Library report: 33 books purchased; 3 donated; 4 worn-out; total circulation 1958, decrease of 306 same month preceding year.

January 13, 1976

- Governor Ray sent word he would be unable to speak at the dedication ceremony. The Bicentennial Commission may present colors at the ceremony.
- Pat Harms reported that LB Compach moveable shelving has been ordered in rust, \$2953.

- Glenn Kees moved we pay \$32,677.22 to General Business Equipment for furniture less 10% retainee. That will be due when everything is here and unpacked.
- Eloise Stewart will chair a moving committee with Jeanne Cowan, Pat Harms and Earl Dwyer.

February 10, 1976

- This meeting today is the first meeting held in our new Laurens Public Library. And we are all so proud and happy to be here and to view our beautiful surroundings.
- Eloise reported on the moving from the old to the new library. (See Appendices Pages) Eloise thanked the school children over the intercom at school for all the help they extended the day of moving. She also sent in an editorial to the Laurens Sun expressing thanks to everyone that helped. It was suggested that a thank you letter to Lon Bruggeman from the Board be sent to him. (See Appendices Section)
- Library Report: Books loaned--2778, 897 more than a year ago. (New library does a booming book business.)

May 11, 1976

- Dedication of new Laurens Public Library Building was May 2, 1976. (See Appendices)
- Furnishings from the old library were either sold to other libraries, the school, or left for Pocahontas County Historical Society.
- It was suggested that the secretary write thank you notes to Barbara Hartsock for the very lovely sketch she made of the library for our (dedication) program; to David Liljedahl for the fine band music and to the VFW and the Legion for their presentation of the flags.

June 6, 1976

- A letter of resignation was submitted by Evelyn Pitluck. It was accepted by the Board. It was moved that Eloise Stewart be appointed secretary-treasurer to replace Evelyn. The motion was unanimous.
- Pat Harms turned in her letter of resignation from the board. It was accepted by the board.
- It was suggested we send a letter to Leonard Wright, Scoutmaster, thanking him and the scouts for moving the magazines to the new library and trimming the trees around the old library.

July 13, 1976

- Mr. Halterman, Chairman, welcomed Mrs. Chadwick (Sarah) as a new member as of this date.

- August 10, 1976
- Mr. Halterman opened the meeting and welcomed Rev. Sondrol as a new member of the board as of July 1976.

September 14, 1976

- Mr. Halterman was asked to read the resignation of Mrs. Hakes (Frances). He then read her bequest of \$3,000 to the library stating her wish the money be deposited in the Laurens State Bank, and all interest be used at the discretion of the board for books, periodicals, etc. Mr. Halterman accepted Mrs. Hakes' resignation with regret. He thanked her for her 50 years of service as of August 1, 1976.
- The secretary was instructed to enter Mrs. Hakes' thinking as to the amount of money she donated. "50 years amounted to 12 meeting yearly at \$5.00 per meeting, thus \$3,000."
- The motion was made to purchase the leather bound book given for Anna and Cecil Bartley be purchased from Monastery Hill Book binders with the words LAURENS PUBLIC LIBRARY GIFTS (on the cover)

October 12, 1976

- Mr. Halterman read Lulu Cook's resignation as librarian as of October 31, 1976. He thanked her for her years of service beginning in 1954.
- After some discussion Rev. Sondrol moved and Earl Dwyer seconded the motion the board hire Mrs. Patricia Harms as librarian at a salary of \$5,500 per year until June 30, 1977 at which time the salary would be reviewed. Motion carried.
- The secretary was instructed to write a thank you to Mrs. Virginia Allen Jensen and her parents for the new picture in the children's division. (A painting by Danish author Ib Spang Olsen in memory of her mother, Elsa Erickson Allen (Miss Elsie).

November 9, 1976

- Pat Harms gave the librarian's report as follows:
- Nonfiction 310
- Fiction 998
- Juvenile nonfiction 73
- Juvenile fiction 412
- Periodicals 97
- Art Prints 2
- Films 2
- Records 22
- Cassettes 13

- Total 1929 (28 fewer than October '75)
- Board discussed the plans for the open house, Sunday, November 14, to honor Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Hakes. (See Appendices Pages)

February 8, 1977

- Mr. Halterman read the final statement from the Library Fund Committee Chairman, Joyce Rigby, which is placed with these minutes. Their final contribution was \$724.31, and closes the account.
- Mr. Halterman reported seeing Mr. Unruh (mayor) concerning the budget (\$19,992) we presented to the city council on Monday, February 7.

March 8, 1977

- The lighting does not seem to be right. Mrs. Harms has called the architect, and has contacted the Keystone Company to have these checked and repaired.
- The City Council cut \$92 from our proposed budget; it now stands at \$19,900.

August 9, 1977

- The vacuum cleaner needs some work. The third table was returned to Bell & Howell. The reader printer is malfunctioning.
- Vacation times were discussed. The motion was made and carried to give Mrs. Harms two weeks paid vacation yearly.

September 13, 1977

- The lighting problem is not solved yet. The vacuum cleaner was repaired. The reader is working, but not the printer.
- Pat asked the members for ideas on Great Books study and to write book reviews for the newspaper.

February 14, 1978

- The budget was discussed due to the City asking we lower it to \$18,000 for 1978-79. It was agreed we go along with the City on this request.
- Still no reply to the lighting problem from the architect firm.

March 14, 1978

- The secretary was instructed to record the death of Earl Dwyer, March 13, 1978. He was a valued member of this Board for 25 years, and contributed greatly to its progress.
- Rev. Sondrol moved and Sara Chadwick seconded a motion to purchase some tools for library use. Cost not to exceed \$25. Motion carried.

June 13, 1978

- Board members are Joe Halterman, Glenn Kees, Rev. Sondrol, Sara Chadwick, Phyliss Hutchinson, Jeanne Cowan, Eloise Stewart and Margaret George.
- Bids from Howard Kaufman and Gerald McDaniel to lower the lights in the building were requested.
- Mrs. Harms explained the offer from the Guthrie Theater of Minneapolis to the Board, asking us to sponsor the group in Laurens in connecting with the school.

July 11, 1978

- Resolution to establish "Miss Elsie's Endowed Books."
- Mrs. Harms reported the Guthrie Theater offering has been booked for January 31, 1979. The "Snoopy" book club has done well. The pre-school story hour attendance has been small. They will meet one more time. Five adults are attending the Beginning Writer's group. She is debating "Saturday Night at the Movies".
- Bid of \$617.50 from Gerald McDaniel was accepted to lower the lights, move a row, and install another row.

August 8, 1978

- The 36 (total will be 50) shares of American Telephone and Telegraph Co. were received from Mr. and Mrs. Byron G. Allen (for Miss Elsie's Endowed Books). Childrens books were received from Virginia Allen Jensen to be place on Miss Elsie's Endowed Book Shelf."
- Mrs. Harms stated Leota Oleson has resigned. June Hopkins also resigned. Leigh and Brenda (high school aides) will soon leave for school. She has hired Bonnie Heetland and Joyce Rigby to replace adults, and Nancy Jeffers as school help.
- On display are Amana photographs and antique banks belonging to Donn Phillips.

October 10, 1978

- Mr. Halterman welcomed James Runneberg as the new member of this Board to finish the term of Earl Dwyer.
- There has been good response to story hour and the movies.

December 12, 1978

- Glenn Kees stated he had enjoyed his years serving on this Board. He tendered his resignation effective January 1, 1979, due to election to county board of supervisors.

- The bookplate for Miss Elsie's bookshelves was shown. The design was by Miss Jane Shuttleworth of Cedar Rapids. She is a cousin of Byron Allen.

February 13, 1979

- The program given by the Guthrie Theatre....included two performances of "Americana" and one workshop. There were 106 at the Library performance, approximately 300 at the school performance, and 37 in the workshop.
- Pat Harms reported the heating was now functioning. She is still checking the movie projectors. There will be a tour of the Regional Library in Sioux City March 8.

June 12, 1979

- Mr. E. J. (Eb) Kees was appointed to the Library Board by the mayor.
- Ann Sernett asked the permission of the Board to display plastic models of the nine months of a child's growth before birth. There would be no Right to Life literature with the exhibit. Permission was granted.

October 10, 1979

- After complete discussion, the Board voted to sign the contract with Honeywell for \$1304 to begin October 12, 1979 (to service heat pumps). (There have been many problems with the system.)
- It was decided to pay \$.20 per mile expenses for approved travel on library business.

November 3, 1979

- The members of the County Library Association met and will recommend a change to the County Board of Supervisors asking for 15% of the tax levy to be allocated for each of the two largest libraries, Pocahontas and Laurens; Rolfe would receive 12.7% of the levy and all others 10%.
- The puppet workshop did not meet due to so few signing up. Story hour is doing well with 25 to 30 children each time.