

MOSES GREELEY PARKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

28 ARLINGTON STREET
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS 01826

To: Mrs. Ellen Blackwell, Mrs. Shirley Kenney, Mr. John Katin

From: Joan F. Noonan

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Re: Librarian's Report to the Trustees for January-December, 1975⁷⁶

An increase in the size of the staff through federally-funded programs was the most notable feature of 1975. The Comprehensive Education and Training Act (CETA) provided us with three additional full-time employees, one of whom is still with us. During the summer three high-school-age aides joined us under the sponsorship of the Neighborhood Youth Corps program. Having the additional help has meant that a greater degree of efficiency in both behind-the-scenes processing and public service has been possible.

This year has been one of evaluation and reorganization as far as the library collection is concerned. Both the adult and children's non-fiction collections have been assessed, weak points noted and strengthened, as funds allowed. Obsolete or little-used materials have been discarded since space limitations do not permit their retention. The periodical and record collections were weeded for the same reason. A local history collection and picture file have been started.

The number of library-sponsored programs has increased markedly. For the first time, National Library Week was noted with much festivity, including films, a concert, a poster contest, quiz games, and a puppet workshop and performance. Several of these programs proved so successful that they have been repeated

through the year. A summer reading program was initiated for children between the ages of 7 and 14. With funds furnished by the Lowell Housing Authority, a "Walt Disney Film Festival" and a "Day with the Artist", were also held during the summer. Story Time continues to be popular with the fifty-two children who participate in the three weekly sessions. A new service for adults is two memberships for the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, which may be borrowed to gain free admittance to the museum. The library continues to supply books for the elderly at the Phineas Street Housing Project.

Because of severe space limitations physical plant continues to be a high-priority item. Last January a proposal for an addition to the present building was submitted to the town's Priority Committee for inclusion in an application for Community Development funds. The librarian is also investigating other means of financial support for this project.

In the meantime, however, concern for efficiency, safety and attractiveness of the present facility has resulted in several improvements. Reorganization of the basement staff-stack area created enough space to include two desks and several storage cabinets. Built-in shelving in the reading room has been reinforced to prevent their falling under their heavy load and possibly injuring someone. The large rug in the reading room had to be discarded since the damage it sustained while it was in the basement caused it to become a safety hazard. It will be replaced by wall-to-wall carpeting in the near future to prevent

the same problem from recurring. Several CETA workers employed by the town have painted several areas in the library that had become dingy and installed formica on the Children's Room tables. Three lights were installed on the outside of the building to provide illumination of the driveway and, hopefully, to discourage further vandalism to library property or another robbery. Finally, a sign with the library's name and hours has been erected on the front lawn.

The statistical profile of the library's activities for the year is as follows:

As of December 31, 1975

No. of registered borrowers	9,457
No. of volumes	26,512
Periodical subscriptions	86
Records	297
Circulation of Books	45,452
" " Periodicals	3,894
" " Records	<u>1,001</u>
Total Circulation	50,347