



## *Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library*

28 Arlington Street  
Dracut, Mass. 01826  
454-5474

Hours: Mon. & Wed. 10AM-6PM  
Tues. & Thurs. 9AM-9PM  
Fri. & Sat. 9AM-5PM

Closed Sundays & Holidays  
Closed Saturdays during summer

### LIBRARIAN'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES FOR JANUARY-DECEMBER 1979

The year 1979 marked the beginning of not only an expanded Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library, but at the same time this year marked the beginning of expanded library service to the Dracut community. After many delays in both the construction and the furnishing of the expanded library, the completed Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library opened the last week in June. With many apologies to Dracut for the inconveniences suffered during this expansion project and with many thanks for the tolerance of many interruptions in services and programs, the Parker Library is now able to offer Dracut the potential for an active and dynamic program of library service. However, with an expanded library, quadrupled in size, a reality, the obvious cost to and commitment needed from this community is also a reality. Dracut now faces the challenge of investing in itself, of providing for itself a resource dedicated to supporting this community's informational, recreational, and educational needs.

With this year's operations focused on the expanded library, a critical area remains personnel. With as little cost to the town as possible this library has had to expand its staff in order to anticipate and achieve adequate staffing to service a building quadrupled in size as well as an expanded library program. In May, Dorothy Natoli was hired, a one year position funded under the LSCA grant the library received in December 1978, as a preprofessional librarian working with young adults. The CETA program has also been supportive of the expanded library program in funding an additional library aide position, thus increasing the number of CETA funded positions from two to three. The library has also deepened its commitment to the various youth employment programs and in the course of the year participated in the YEPT program, Neighborhood Youth Corps, and two divisions of the Greater Lowell Justice Advocacy Center. Although all these positions now constitute a large portion of the library's staff and are funded at no cost to the Dracut taxpayer, these positions remain

temporary. Consequently, a continuing area of concern will remain in as much that expanded library programs and services will depend on temporary personnel, and a potential threat of the cancellation of various federal programs remains to jeopardize library staffing.

1978 saw the formation of a union in which the library's permanent employees are members. 1979 saw the development and implementation of a job and pay scale for these employees, which was incorporated into a three year negotiated contract. However, the pay scales are much below the state averages for similar library positions, and there may well be questions concerning placement of any other library employees within these scales if the permanent library staff were to be increased. Other personnel developments include the resignation of former Circulation Manager Susan Torres who left to take the Children's Librarian position in Westford. Donna Donahue filled this position in October. Assistant Director, Constance Griffin continued her coursework at Simmon's College towards a Master's Degree in Library Science, and by the end of the year, she had completed over half of the required work.

Even with the inconveniences experienced by patrons and library staff the first half of the year, the Parker Library circulated 36,660 titles. Included in this figure are 19,869 adult titles and 16,791 juvenile titles. In addition, patrons borrowed 7,910 paperback volumes; 3,829 magazines; and 2,211 records. Requests for materials which the library could not supply were provided through 604 interlibrary loan receipts, and this library was able to help patrons of other libraries by sending 98 volumes to these libraries. Book deposits to the Dracut Housing Authority and the Dracut Day Care Center were also part of this library's circulation services, totaling 965 volumes. All total this library circulated 52,277 items. However, more importantly, a comparison between the period of time when the expanded library was open and the same time the previous year indicates an increase in circulation averaging 35%.

Construction of the addition through the first half of the year, necessitated the cancellation of library programs and services except for the lending of materials, but with the opening of the expanded library, these services and programs again resumed. For the first time in the Parker Library's history, there were regularly scheduled programs and services specifically for adults and young adults as a result of the support provided for by the \$20,000 one year grant funded under the Library Services and Construction Act. These programs included: a five part series dealing with energy related issues; a three part series on self awareness; two series of drawing workshops, one for adults and one for young adults; college level courses offered through Middlesex Community College; a concert by the Dracut Chamber Chorale; and displays of local artists in the lobby area of the library. A total of 115 adults and young adults attended these programs.

Children's programs were also suspended during the first half of the year. However, Assistant Director, Constance Griffin directed a highly successful expanded program of services for children once the library had opened. Approximately 438 children visited the library from neighboring schools. Also, this past summer 372 children participated in the summer reading program; 61 children attended special film programs for preschoolers; 293 children attended preschool story hours held in the summer; 88 children participated in a summer series of workshops held in conjunction with Lowell Cityfair; and 60 children attended a puppet workshop and play. After the summer, the

Parker Library's children's programs continued with: 344 children attending the weekly film programs; 642 children attending preschool story hours; 118 children attending puppet workshops; 135 children attending the Halloween and Christmas library celebrations; and 89 children participating in a Christmas crafts program. The response of the Dracut community to the library's expanded children's services has grown to be overwhelming. Activities and story hours are overcrowded and it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet public demand with severely limited resources. Consequently, a concern in the immediate future for both the Board of Library Trustees and the Dracut community will be increased support for these activities. Funding of additional personnel and supplies will become an absolute necessity in order to meet the demands of Dracut parents for their children's library needs.

The library's collection continued to grow with the addition of 2,953 volumes to the collection, although as a result of inflation and minimum funding, this growth is unable to keep pace with an expanded library facility. Library use suffers when a collection is unable to keep up with the demands for use. For example, this fall the library was able to purchase approximately 800 paperback titles as part of the LSCA grant. The immediate result--paperback circulation has doubled, thus showing what an investment in the library is able to return. The library is also continuing to expand its record collection and the microfiche files of back issues of magazines. Registrations continued to increase with 761 new patrons registered bringing the active registration file to 11,160.

Special recognition and thanks must go to those organizations and individuals who have supported the library program throughout the year. The Theodore Edson Parker Foundation, the Demoulas Foundation, the Alexander's Markets, the George Brox Paving Company, and the Dracut High School Key Club deserve special recognition in creating an exceptional library for Dracut. Also, the support achieved through the \$20,000 LSCA grant awarded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has enabled the expanded library program to achieve an excellent beginning. Very special recognition goes to the Dracut Friends of the Library, whose core group of members continues to provide invaluable moral and financial support. And finally, a thank you to those individuals who donated materials and supported this library's activities.

While the most visible and dramatic change in the Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library this past year has been the opening of the library addition, more important is the understanding and recognition of an expanded library by the Dracut community. Through the past two years, this library and its staff have concentrated on determining the library needs of the Dracut community. A library addition was constructed reflecting the commitment to and recognition of the necessity of expanded library service for Dracut's growing population. Much of this expansion has been achieved at comparatively little cost to this community, but the time has arrived for Dracut to fulfill its commitment. In the past year the library has demonstrated an initial capacity to expand its services on a very limited basis through funding outside of this community, and based on circulation and program attendance figures, Dracut has utilized the services of such a resource. Special project funds enabled the library to begin its expanded program of services, yet in 1980 the project year will end. Consequently, this community now faces the issue of investing in its library. Dracut's responsibility now lies in recognizing and achieving the potential of the full community resource which the expanded Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library represents, the single community resource that serves the educational, informational, and recreational needs of Dracut citizens of all ages.

MICHAEL F. GRAZIER  
Library Director