

**City Librarian's Report**  
**For the May 26, 1994 Meeting**

**Of The**  
**Decatur Public Library Board of Trustees**

The Library's staff have had many special activities in the past month. Katie Gross, Head of the Children's Division spoke at a school assembly at Adams school for the read-a-thon kick off, to three child care classes at MacArthur High School on using picture books with preschoolers, and attended a school librarian's meeting at Roosevelt to give out samples of summer reading program materials. Mary Lou Dwyer, Library Assistant in the Children's Division put together a folding bulletin board on the Summer Reading Program for the "healthy kids day" display at the YMCA. Bev Freeman, Joan Bauer, Jerald Merrick, and Arthur Gross attended a DIALOG training session at the University of Illinois. Joan Bauer read from Kipling's Just So Stories for a group at McKinley Court. Bev Freeman met at the Library with Thomas F. Schwartz, Curator of the Lincoln Collection at the Illinois State Historical Library concerning items in storage which are of historical value. Leta Burch, Staff Artist worked with the Seniorama program at the Civic Center. John A. Moorman attended several meetings of the Life-Long Learning Committee of Decatur Vision 20/20.

As the fiscal year closed, statistics showed a continued decline in attendance at the main library facility. The attendance count for April 1994 was 28,888 as compared to 32,157 in April of 1993 or a decline of 10.2%. Circulation of Library Materials was down 3.7% over April of 1993. However, the Extension Division, Young Adult and Audiocassette areas did record increased usage over April of 1993. As in past months, Professional Assists were up 8.5% over April of a year ago, with the Reference area recording a 16% increase and the Children's Division a 12.8% increase. I am concerned about the decreasing attendance figures for the main library. I feel that one factor in this decrease is the increasing perception on the behalf of many potential library users that our facility is not a safe place to visit during after dark hours. We need to look at ways to address this concern.

Library staff continue to do an excellent job of promoting library resources and programs. Attached to this report are two bibliographies highlighting young adult material available in the Library. Prepared by Cathy Ritchie the Library's Young Adult Information Specialist, these items list best books for young authors for 1993 as well as fiction by Hispanic Authors. Children's Division staff are preparing materials for the upcoming summer reading program and Extension Division staff are assisting by distributing these materials to private schools in Decatur.

The week of May 9th saw the Barn Colony Artists, Inc. Annual Spring Show being held in the Library's Auditorium. The Friends of the Decatur Public Library provided a

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purchase award for the show which will result in a picture by a local artist being available for display in the Library. Thanks go the Friends for their participation with the Barn Colony Artists in their show.

The month, as mentioned earlier, saw the completion of the 1994 fiscal year. The year saw the Library exceed its revenue estimate by 2% and finish the year with an expenditure of 98.6% of its budget. As authorized by the Board of Library Trustees \$ 74,850.92 was transferred from the general fund to the capital fund.

The HVAC system remains an area of concern. During the month an air conditioning compressor burned out while under warranty. At the Board Finance Committee meeting there was a discussion of the situation and of possible ways to improve the system. Further research is being done and a request has been made for an engineering consultant from the company which supplies our air conditioning compressors to come in and examine our system.

The Library has received good publicity in the Decatur Herald and Review in the past month. I thank the newspaper for its continued interest in the Library and its programs. The article concerning the negative project in Local History has resulted in five individuals expressing an interest in volunteering to assist in the project.

During the month of April 62 volunteers gave 275 hours of service to the Library.