# DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES Thursday, October 21, 1999 4:30 p.m. AGENDA

- I. Call to order Shirley Moore, President
- II. Approval of minutes
  - A. Regular meeting of September 16, 1999
- III. Communication from the public
  - IV. City Librarian's report
  - V. Reports of committees
    - A. Personnel, Policy, and Public Relations Committee
      - 1. Meeting of October 7, 1999
    - B. Finance and Properties Committee
      - 1. Approval of bills for September 1999
      - 3. Meeting of October 5, 1999
    - C. Rolling Prairie Library System
      - 1. Report on October 1999 system board meeting
    - E. Friends of the Library
      - 1. No meeting
    - F. Foundation
      - 1. No meeting
- VI. Old business
- VII. New business
- VIII. Adjournment

# DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES September 16, 1999

# I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Shirley Moore, President. Members present: Mrs. Moore, Sherri Arnold, Wayne Dunning, Mark Gibson, Mary Gladney, Judi Moss, Russell Reimer, and John Stengel. Absent: Patricia Greanias. Staff present: John Moorman, Susan Hemp, and Linda Humphreys.

# II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of August 19, 1999 were approved as mailed.

# III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC

No one from the public addressed the Board.

#### IV. CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The City Librarian's written report was not available because of the move.

Mr. Moorman reported that the move was accomplished in three weeks because of the extraordinary effort of a hard working and dedicated library staff. The library is operating on a temporary occupancy permit until some final work is completed. The permanent front doors have still not arrived. A plumbing issue remains to be resolved. An emergency exit needs work to meet ADA standards. The loading dock area needs a fence. The contractors will be working on a punch list for another 30 to 60 days.

Mr. Gibson made a motion to approve a resolution commending the library staff for going above and beyond the call of duty during the move to the new facility. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Arnold and unanimously approved.

Mr. Stengel made a motion to approve a resolution commending the City Librarian for exemplary project management in completing the project on time and on budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gibson and unanimously approved.

The Board also went on record thanking Susan Hemp and Carolyn Jensen for managing the library while the City Librarian was handling the project management of the new library.

#### V. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Personnel, Policy, and Public Relations Committee: The committee did not meet.

**Finance and Properties Committee:** Mr. Stengel made a motion to approve the bills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gibson and unanimously carried on roll call vote.

Mr. Moorman reported that the monthly bill from Mid-States General & Mechanical Contracting Corporation has not arrived. Mr. Stengel made a motion that he and Mr. Gibson review and approve the bill with Mr. Moorman when it arrives. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Moss and unanimously approved on roll call vote.

Mr. Stengel recommended that the 10% retainage on the project will be kept until a later date.

Mr. Stengel made a motion to approve a bill from Federal Companies for \$114,995 for moving the library. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Arnold and approved on roll call vote.

Mr. Reimer made a motion to approve authorizing Mr. Stengel and Mr. Gibson to approve building-related bills as they arrive. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Moss and unanimously approved on roll call vote.

Mr. Stengel reported that the payment on the new building is due September 30, 1999.

The committee did not meet.

Rolling Prairie Library System: Mrs. Moore attended the meeting.

Friends of the Library: The Friends did not meet this month.

**Foundation:** The Foundation Board of Directors met September 13, 1999. Mrs. Arnold made a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Tracey Jerger to the Foundation Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gibson and unanimously approved.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Moorman reported that the library sign is still on the old building. Mrs. Arnold made a motion that Mr. Moorman ask Illinois Power to remove the sign at their expense. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Moss and unanimously approved.

#### VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L. Gladney
Mary Gladney, Secretary

Decatur Public Library Board of Trustees

# City Librarian's Report

# for the October 21, 1999 meeting

#### of the

# **Decatur Public Library Board of Trustees**

On Tuesday, September 7, 1999, the ribbon was cut and the public poured into the library for opening day in the new facility. Since the gate counter was installed on September 9th or 10th, 25,968 people have visited the library. Staff in all departments report that the pace has not showed signs of slowing.

Staffing conditions at the library are critical. Not only do we have six vacant positions which the city is in various phases of filling for us, but three staff members are out for extended periods with serious illnesses and injuries. This has hit at a time when all of the items checked out at the old library are being returned. The circulation division is working diligently to reduce the huge backlog of materials to be checked in. Those items then go to the pages, who are also working very hard to put the items back on the shelves as quickly as possible. Our part-time staff are working extra hours to help. Some staff in other departments have pitched in to assist where they can. We are also relying on temporary staff from Norrell Services to help fill the gaps.

The new Shilling Local History Room was opened to the public on September 30. Additional volunteers are being sought so that the room can be open more hours.

Problems with the Illinois Communications Group (the vendor for our new telephone system) and Ameritech have caused HUGE problems for both the library staff and the public. Our new system is still set up on a temporary basis with many features still not working at all. Progress has been slow on resolving these issues.

Amy Fuller has been setting up signs and displays in the young adult area, including a display for Banned Books Week. She began visiting schools to re-establish relationships with school librarians and teens, and she has begun promoting Teen Read Week which is October 17 to 23. A reading program for teens to pledge to read 2000 pages by January 31, 2000 is underway. The Friends of the Library agreed to provide prizes.

A \$2,500 assistive technology grant application was submitted September 30, 1999. If this grant is funded, the library will purchase a Reading Edge machine, which converts printed matter into audio tapes.

Christine Stern reports that the circulation division is the recipient of high compliments on the new library as well as complaints concerning confusion generated by the move. The division strives to have three of the four workstations with terminals staffed at all times to meet patron demand. Divisional procedures are constantly changing to meet user demand and the new facility.

City Librarian's Report October 21, 1999 Page 2

Plans are underway to upgrade the GEAC computer system so that library materials will not be 100 years overdue the first day of the year 2000. Circulation staff began gearing up for the system being down for possibly two days for this upgrade. This means checks-outs will be done manually and there will be no check-ins. Registrations will also be done manually.

Extension staff were busy as the bookmobiles tried to accommodate main library users--in addition to their regular patrons--during the three weeks the library was closed. Extension staff issued a total of 616 new library cards in September. (Figures are not available for the main library.) Mechanical problems continue to plague the bookmobiles, causing missed stops.

Author Paul Juhl published an article in the magazine "Stereo World" about world-famous photographer C.L. Wasson and a collection of Wasson glass negatives which were given to the library. Karen Anderson assisted Mr. Juhl with his research for the article (copy attached).



# CITY OF DECATUR ILLINOIS

# 1 GARY K. ANDERSON PLAZA

DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62523-1196

October 7, 1999

Mr. John Moorman Decatur Public Library 130 N. Franklin St. Decatur, Illinois 62523

Dear Mr. Moorman:

As per our telephone conversations pertaining to the installation of the double detector check valve backflow preventer assembly for the fire safety system, I submit the following requirements:

Since the main building has changed use, a double detector check valve backflow preventer is required for the fire safety system in the main building. The old auto store is the same use group as before, therefore, the existing backflow prevention devices satisfies the code for that building.

It is not necessary to remove the existing backflow valve since it does protect the old auto store. A new double detector check backflow preventer may be installed inside of the main building to protect that supply. I have conferred with Thomas Fleshman, Illinois Department of Public Health Plumbing Inspector, Randy Johner, City of Decatur Plumbing Inspector and we all agree this will meet the requirements of the code. It is suggested that sometime in the future, the underground backflow preventer be replaced with another double detector check inside the auto store. This may prevent some problems with future performance of that valve.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Turner

**Building Inspections Supervisor** 

(217) 424-2787

wbt/mrb L99-216

# STATISTICAL REPORT August/September 1999

# TECHNICAL SERVICES

New book volumes added: 3,082
New book titles added: 1,673
AV titles added: 244
Volumes withdrawn: 2,097
Books mended: 528

# PERSONNEL ACTIVITY:

8/2/99 Christine Stern hired for Head of Circulation Division

8/5/99 Mark Mangold & Tony Delgado changed from Building Custodian (half-time) to Building Custodian

9/2/99 Nancy Law appointed to Information Specialist--Children's Services (new position)

9/2/99 Lenore Snyder hired for Library Assistant (half-time) in the children's division

9/16/99 Darla Donaldson hired for Library Page (half-time) position in the circulation division

9/24/99 Judy Ellison (Library Assistant in the extension division), resigned

9/27/99 Paul Miner, Building Custodian (half-time), resigned

9/27/99 Paula Abdullah, Library Page (half-time), terminated

9/30/99 Shelley Whiteside, Library Page (half-time), promoted to Library Assistant in the extension division

10/18/99 Joyce Robinson, Library Assistant (half-time) in the children's division, retired

<u>CURRENT VACANCIES</u>: Building Custodian (half-time) (2 positions), Telephone Page (half-time), Library Page (half-time) (2 positions), and Library Assistant (half-time)

NEW PATRONS REGISTERED: main + extension = total NOT AVAILABLE

PROFESSIONAL ASSISTS:	this	12	months	to	date:	79,873
<u> </u>	last	12	months	to	date:	86.897

PATRONS IN THE BUILDING: this 12 months to date: 306,585

last 12 months to date: 354,762

this 12 months to date: 19,218 VOLUMES PURCHASED:

last 12 months to date: 19,875

**VOLUNTEERS:** 11 volunteers worked 107 hours

# COMPUTER USAGE BY LIBRARY PATRONS:

Internet usage: 581 people, 1009 time slots

Word processing usage: 133 people, 206 time slots

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

CORRECTED 12 Month Circulation Statistics

September 1999

	Current	Last	
Location	Year	Year	% Change
CENTRAL LIBRARY, PRINT			
Adult	239,083	264,333	-9.6
Young Adult	11,540	13,428	-14.1
Children's	141,187	157,076	-10.1
TOTAL	391,810	434,837	-9.9
EXTENSION PRINT			
Bookmobile 548	83,644	90,358	-7.4
Bookmobile 549	28,692	31,599	-9.2
Outreach	4,070	5,422	-24.9
TOTAL	116,406	127,379	-8.6
TOTAL PRINT	508,216	562,216	-9.6
NON-PRINT			
Videocassettes	82,584	85,603	-3.5
Audiocassettes	31,771	30,924	2.7
Recordings	24,290	22,162	9.6
TOTAL	138,645	138,689	-0.0
Extension Non-print	10,694	11,618	-8.0
TOTAL NON-PRINT	149,339	150,307	-0.6
Renewals	8,101	8,051	0.6
TOTAL CIRCULATION	665,656	720,574	-7.6

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Monthly Circulation Statistics

# September 1999

	September	<del>-</del>	0 01
Location	1999	1998	% Change
CENTRAL LIBRARY, PRINT			
Adult	17,481	19,882	-12.1
Young Adult	719	879	-18.2
Children's	12,844	10,925	17.6
TOTAL	31,044	31,686	-2.0
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EXTENSION PRINT			
Bookmobile 548	9,030	10,566	-14.5
Bookmobile 549	2,225	2,294	-3.0
Outreach	230	281	-18.2
TOTAL	11,485	13,141	-12.6
TOTAL PRINT	42,529	44,827	-5.1
NON-PRINT			
Videocassettes	3,543	6,278	-43.6
Audiocassettes	1,347	2,638	-48.9
Recordings	1,085	1,814	-40.2
TOTAL	5,975	10,730	-44.3
Extension Non-print	859	1,022	-16.0
TOTAL NON-PRINT	6,834	11,752	-41.9
Renewals	116	498	-76.7
TOTAL CIRCULATION	49,479	57,077	-13.3

opened new main facility 9/7/99

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

# **CORRECTED** 12 Month Circulation Statistics

# August 1999

Location	Current Year	Last Year	% Change
CENTRAL LIBRARY, PRINT			
Adult	241,484	266,382	-9.4
Young Adult	11,700	13,572	-13.8
"Children's	139,268	157,913	-11.8
TOTAL	392,452	437,867	-10.4
as or ·			
EXTENSION PRINT			
Bookmobile 548	85,180	87,870	-3.1
Bookmobile 549	28,761	31,417	-8.5
Outreach	4,121	5,493	-25.0
TOTAL	118,062	124,780	-5.4
TOTAL PRINT	510,514	562,647	-9.3
NON-PRINT			
Videocassettes	85,319	85,236	0.1
Audiocassettes	33,062	30,508	8.4
Recordings	25,019	22,028	13.6
TOTAL	143,400	137,772	4.1
Extension Non-print	10,857	11,483	-5.5
TOTAL NON-PRINT	154,257	149,255	3.4
Renewals	8,483	8,231	3.1
TOTAL CIRCULATION	673,254	720,133	-6.5

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

CORRECTED Monthly Circulation Statistics

August 1999

Location	1999	1998	% Change
CENTRAL LIBRARY, PRINT			
Adult	11,527	21,467	-46.3
Young Adult	636	1,097	-42.0
-Children's	6,493	12,157	-46.6
TOTAL	18,656	34,721	-46.3
EXTENSION PRINT			
Bookmobile 548	3,677	3,677	0.0
Bookmobile 549	1,426	1,615	-11.7
Outreach	52	625	-91.7
TOTAL	5,155	5,917	-12.9
TOTAL PRINT	23,811	40,638	-41.4
NON-PRINT			
Videocassettes	6,800	7,163	-5.1
Audiocassettes	5,939	2,482	139.3
Recordings	2,983	1,760	69.5
TOTAL	15,722	11,405	37.9
Extension Non-print	843	1,114	-24.3
TOTAL NON-PRINT	16,565	12,519	32.3
Renewals	189	501	-62.3
TOTAL CIRCULATION	40,565	53,658	-24.4

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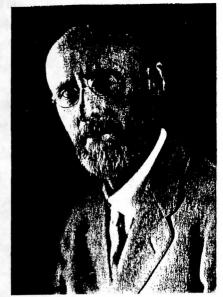


March/ April 1999 Volume 26, Number 1



# SIBBBO NORLO





This undated portrait of C.L. Wasson was probably taken in his home studio on West Eldorado Street in Decatur, ca. 1930 when Wasson was in his early 60s.

(Courtesy Decatur, IL, Public Library.)

# C.L. Wasson: International Views from the Center of Illinois

by Paul C. Juhl

The news occupied a back page of the *Decatur* (Illinois) *Herald* of April 20, 1906. Under a headline of "Leaves for San Francisco" and "C.L. Wasson Will Get Pictures of the Ruined City", it read:

C.L. Wasson of the International Stereograph Co. left yesterday for San Francisco. He goes to take pictures of the ruins for the view business which he is conducting in this city. He said that he had no idea how long he would be gone. He simply wanted to get there as quickly as possible, get home, and get his pictures on the market. It was simply a matter of business with him and he would come home as soon as possible.

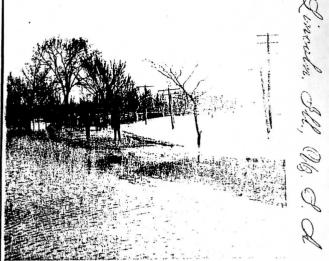
Ever the enterprising businessman, C.L. Wasson knew that the tragedy that was unfolding on America's west coast was one that thousands would want to view through their stereoscopes. News of the San Francisco earthquake was of interest to all and money was to be made by quickly getting views on the market. Leaving his home and the central Illinois agricultural town of Decatur behind

he loaded his equipment on the train and hurried off to the unknown. This was certainly not Wasson's first newsworthy excursion representing his stereograph company, nor would it be his last. Wasson was to be at the photographic forefront with many other early twentieth century events. Decatur newspapers of the time tell of similar business trips. Events such as the Roosevelt-Longworth wedding, the funeral of President McKinley, the terrible Galveston flood, the Spanish-American War, and the St. Louis Exposition (where his company boasted of being one of the official stereoscopic concessionaires) were all captured by Mr. Wasson's camera and made into stereographs to be sold to eager customers both in Illinois and throughout the United States.

The company president and chief photographer of the International Stereograph Company was Charles Lincoln Wasson, who had been born in Dewitt County, Illinois, on September 14, 1866. He was part of a family that had







120-e Scene near the Sangamon (high water, March, '97) Decatur, Ill. Series of 1899, by C. L. Wasson

International View Co. No. 129-c, "Scene near the Sangamon (high water, March, '97) Decatur, Ill." Series of 1899, by C.L. Wasson. Some early and rare cards were issued listing Lincoln, IL, as the company headquarters and using the title International View Co. rather than International Stereograph Co.

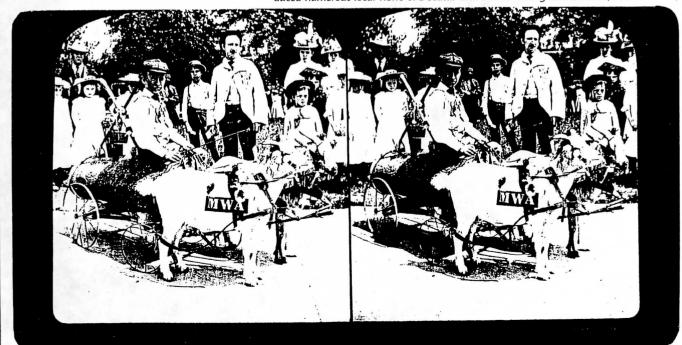
southern Indiana. He grew to adulthood in a large brick home on the family farm near Midland City. This house still stands near Highway 10 between Lincoln and Clinton, Illinois, near Decatur in the central part of the state. Often ill as a young man, he claimed that he, "began life without much of a physical chance of living. I was the middle brother, of seven. I have outlived them all because I

have taken care of myself". Born with low blood pressure and unable to do strenuous farm work, he discovered photography early in his life. He once commented that he had been taking pictures ever since he could remember.

Wasson took his first job as a traveling salesman with a New

York photographic firm. As he traveled with this firm, he also took his own camera with him. In the 1890s he went to Europe where he studied the art of photography and made many negatives for his evergrowing collection of views. He was married to Louisa Fisher in Fulton, Missouri, in April 1893. His three children were born during this decade, Charles Eugene in 1894, Louisa in 1895 (who died a month later), and Helen Louise in

International Stereograph Co. No. 21087, "The Woodmen Goats, showing emblems of Woodcraft, Decatur, Ill." Although international in scope, Wasson's company produced numerous local views of Decatur and scenes throughout Illinois. (Author's collection.)





1897. As a young father of three, he launched his new business called the International Stereograph Company (also marked as International View Company on some view cards) in 1899.

Stereo photography had moved more solidly into the hands of large companies during the 1890s. Most local and small regional producers were no longer in business, being unable to compete. Firms such as Underwood & Underwood International View Co. No. 2540 (10), "Lost! - Don't cry! Now that Fido's come he'll take us home." Wasson's daughter Helen was the subject of many of his sentimental views of family life. She is seen here on the left in the 1903 series "Two Litle Runaways in Brownieland". (Author's collection.)

and Keystone plus the lithographs distributed by Sears & Roebuck and others dominated the marketplace. Wasson knew that competition would be stiff. Using the same gray and buff curved mounts and tinting processes of the large stereograph firms, he believed that the quality and the subject matter of

his views would help him compete. He knew his views must embrace subjects of interest from every section of the globe (his ambitious title of International speaks to this) and must also include the comical, risqué and sentimental (such the Mr. and Mrs. Latelywed's new French maid, the Biddy serving tomatoes undressed, Tom the Peeper, and a wedding series) and that these must be of a

A musical Christmas stereograph made by Wasson and given to family and patrons, ca. 1905. Pictured are Wasson, his wife Louisa, and their children Helen and Eugene. (Van Wasson collection.)



high quality. He spoke of problems of air, moisture, and gases that affected photographic paper and at one point proudly described having had constructed an aromatic chemical eliminator that he felt was very advanced for the time. His negatives were stored in a fire-proof vault built especially for this purpose.

Little is known of the first years of the company. Some of the earliest views were local views of Decatur and other Illinois scenes. He was said to have greatly prized the country scenes near Decatur. There is also some question as to whether the first year of the company's existence was even in Decatur. Some of the earliest and rarest mounts (some dated March 1897) show the company (already named) being located in Lincoln, Illinois, the town near where Wasson was born and raised. In 1899, however, he appears to have been making stereographs with the firm located in Decatur, a town of about 25,000 in 1900. The building was at Thatcher Place, a short, private street that opened off North Water Street in downtown

Wasson was the photographer in nearly all views made by the firm and, contrary to the other large companies, named himself as photographer on the mounts next to the title of the view. Often he used family members and friends in the stereograph to create comical and sentimental scenes. His daughter, Helen, was one of the children appearing in a popular series he created called Two Little Runaways in Brownieland, covered in a feature article by John Waldsmith in the Nov./Dec. 1985 issue of Stereo World. Some Wasson stereographs appear to have been taken in his own home, as the same rooms appear and they probably feature other family members and friends. A few of the stereographs by the company, however, are identified as the work of A.S. Campbell. The firm may have purchased these, as it is unknown if Campbell did actually work for Wasson.

The International Stereograph Company evidently made many views. The numbers on the mounts run into the 21,000s, although it is not known if this



Reception room of the Wasson studio on North Water Street, Decatur, IL, in the early 1920s. This was taken after Wasson had ceased production of stereographs to concentrate on portrait photography. (Courtesy Decatur, IL, Public Library.)

many were actually made. Some were sets and series and some also contained educational material on the cards' reverse. It does not appear as if Wasson used backlists. He also referred to "descriptive bulletins" in explaining his views. It is known that in 1906, Wasson had twenty people employed in the stereo factory. Many were young women and some were laid off during the slow seasons. He also used male college students to travel the country selling views for the company.

A major event in the company's existence occurred in August of 1906. Mr. Wasson and his family were on a Sunday outing at the local fishing club. News came that the stereograph factory on Thatcher Place had been struck by lightning during an electrical storm. Wasson and his son hitched up their carriage and hurried to the city to find the upper level of the factory destroyed by fire. It was initially thought that the entire stock of thousands of views stored on the first floor had been water soaked, but later it was revealed that most had been in strong boxes that had saved them. A severe loss, however, were the new printing machines that had just been completed. They had some original devices that had been created by Wasson's plant foreman, Michael Briefer, and had been closely guarded from all competitors. The loss at the plant was estimated to be \$4,000 Insurance naid for the damage and the structure was rebuilt.

Despite the fire, business remained strong for the International Stereograph Company. Wasson, in a 1907 article, claimed that his price for his quality stereographs had remained the same as it was when he started the business in 1899. In 1909, the company moved to the Suffern Building in downtown Decatur on North Water Street. Improvements in this building included a skylight twenty feet high. Mr. Wasson and the stereograph business would occupy the entire fourth floor and a Mr. Wamsley would have a photographic studio on the fifth floor. Sometime after 1909, Wasson stopped making many stereographs and eventually the International Stereograph Company went out of existence. It was possibly a gradual decline and then a switch of emphasis. There were some series, such as a Domino Sugar Series, that may have been made at a later date. Postcards were also made by the company during this time. Many are of local Illinois and mid-western scenes and most are stamped with International Stereograph Co., Decatur, Ill. on the front of the card.

Around 1909 and 1910, Wasson evidently purchased a lens that allowed him to make panoramic photographs and he made numerous "yard long" images. These were of a variety of subjects and many are in collections today.



International View Co. No. 733, "Pres. Roosevelt & Gov. Yates, Governor's Mansion, Springfield, Ill." Wasson photographed at least three American presidents including this 1901 view of President Theodore Roosevelt visiting Illinois Governor Yates. (Author's collection.)

Such topics as the IOOF Orphans Home in Lincoln, Illinois; the Farmers' Grain Dealers of Illinois, March 3, 1910; and the Wreck on ICRR near Farmer City, Illinois, were produced with his wide-angle lens. All seem to be of local Illinois views and many of these can now be seen on the internet from the home page of American Memory-Library of Congress: Taking the Long View, Panoramic Photographs 1851-1991. In an interview years later, Wasson commented that stereographs went out of style by 1909 and this was the reason for his branching out into other styles of photography. Already in 1907, he had created the Wasson Studios where non-stereo pictures (usually portraits and nature scenes) were made.

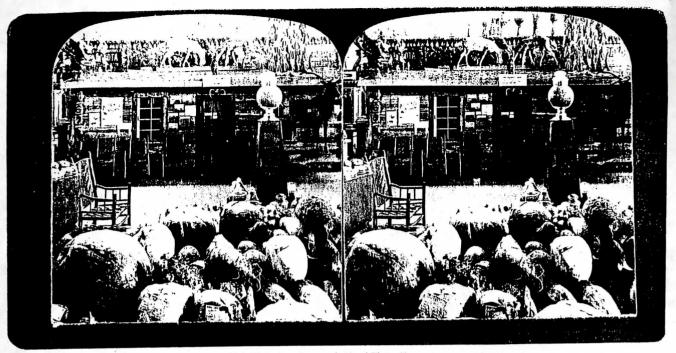
He moved from the North Water Street location in 1925 and his studio was, for the remainder of his photographic career, in his own home on West Eldorado Street in Decatur. He regretted leaving the Suffern Building, as it had an excellent skylight for portrait work. At the time of this change he said, "Now I find joy in my task of making people exceedingly good looking and yet preserving the likeness." The Wasson studio became one of the leading studios in Decatur, producing many portraits and winning awards in national photographic contests. Wasson loved to do nature studies, especially of pastoral scenes featuring sheep, birds, trees, and creeks. At one time over 100 examples of his work were on display in a special exhibition at the fine arts department of the University of Illinois. The Wasson Studios were eventually sold in 1930 to a Mr. Roberts who ran it for one year and then it too, in 1931, went out of business.

Long before the end of the photography business, however, in April of 1919, Vice President F.M. Qalrath of the Keystone View Co. of Meadville, PA, bought Wasson's entire stock of stereoscopic negatives "numbering more than 10,000". According to the Decatur newspaper, the plates had been packed and would be shipped to Keystone where, according to the newspaper, they conduct "the greatest plant of its kind in the country. Mr. Wasson's views were well chosen and having been made all over America and in Europe, will be of great educational value."

Although Wasson did not sell his Wasson Studios until 1930, he began another career in the 1920s. In 1923, Wasson bought a 24 acre tract of land near Lake Shore Drive on Lake Decatur near the city. He had a dream in which the name of this project, Sylvan Shores, came to him. It was a wooded tract on

which he planned to remove enough underbrush to make room for several homes. A nature lover, he wanted to disturb the birds as little as possible. He then became the real estate broker for the properties. Using his photographic experience, he beautiful scenic pictures of the area for use in the sales. Several of these images still exist in the Decatur, IL, Public Library. They have a quiet, restful quality them and some, with sheep in woodland and a winding brook, seem to emulate the famous New England photographer and producer of tinted parlor pictures, Wallace Nutting.

Wasson was a man of many adventures and experiences, and like all stereograph photographers, had many tales to tell. Unfortunately, most of the early stereographers worked in a time when little was written of their adventures. Their stories, probably told only to their families and friends, have long since been forgotten. Wasson, however, worked in a time when the local paper was interested in his photographic profession. Stories of his career and at least some of his interesting life experiences have been recorded and make for interesting reading nearly a century later. In an interview with the



muernational View Co. "The Cabin in Which Theodore Roosevelt Lived Three Years as a Ranchman - N. Dakota Products in Foreground, World's Fair St. Louis."

Decatur Herald in 1908, he told of his global travels, of old and new cities, of celebrities and disasters.

In his earliest days, while traveling with the New York firm as a salesman for their stereograph company, he told of riding on stages in the west, then a wild and dangerous country. The stage-coaches were guarded with shotguns and once, according to Wasson, he was even in a stage robbery but, unfortunately, did not obtain any photographs of this event.

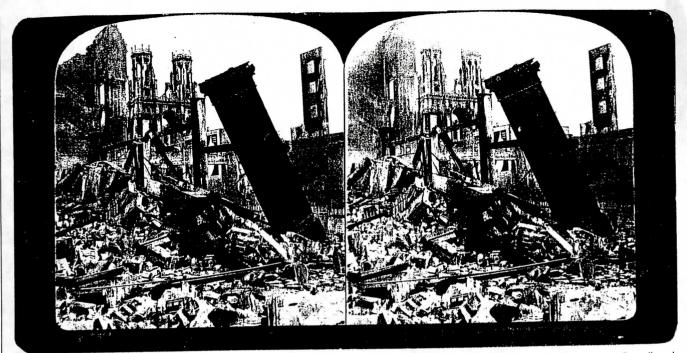
When he was making stereographs of the 1904 St. Louis Exposition, he met with an accident. He was making views of the staged Boer war spectacle, and obtained a good position on the field. This was hard work, he said, dodging the attacks. He finally went back to the quarter of the Boers. As he was setting up his camera, the enemy charged and a large spear used by

one of the Africans that had been suspended above the camera fell on the bridge of his nose, rendering him unconscious. He had to recover at the Emergency Hospital and carried a scar from this "attack" for the remainder of his life.

Wasson had the opportunity to photograph several American presidents including Roosevelt, Taft, and McKinley. He told an interesting tale of making a photograph of

International View Co. No. 20650, "Refugees preparing a meal on the rudest of ovens, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco Disaster." Arriving only days after the 1906 earthquake, Wasson's camera captured the plight of the city's citizens.





International View Co. No. 20628, "A Mass of Debris - View from corner Powell and Sutter Sts., principal Jewish Synagogue in background - San Francisco Cal. Disaster." There was constant danger as Wasson chose the best vantage points to photograph the ruins of the city.

President Taft at the White House. Mr. Taft had his desk and a chair on a White House veranda in order to enjoy the air. After taking Taft's picture, Wasson gathered his equipment together and tried to leave through a large window. Wasson accidentally bumped his bald head on the edge of the veranda and a big lump immediately began to form. The president, seeing this, was trying so hard not to laugh that his face turned red and then purple. Wasson was afraid the president would have a stroke. Taft finally Wasson if he were hurt. "No", replied Mr. Wasson, "I'm a hard nosed Baptist". Wasson said that Taft then let out a laugh that may have shaken the Washington Monument, and later jokingly said that his quick reply might have saved the president's life.

At the time of the Galveston, Texas, flood, he had to literally climb over mountains of debris and avoid the still unclaimed bodies of victims to make his views. He said the sight of this American catastrophe was sickening.

In order to obtain pictures of a life saving crew in action, Wasson was at Coney Island one summer day. He was at the end of the pier with an assistant who became excited, sending both of them and their camera and equipment into

the water.
When Wasson went to San Fran-

canned goods along with him in case food was not available. He later said that occasionally a soldier would stop him from taking photographs but after some argument would usually let him go ahead. He saw many other photographers there, including John H. Hare, the famous war correspondent for Colliers Weekly. Wasson and Hare both tried to get pictures of the blowing up of the Examiner Building but there was so much flying Debris that they could not get the effect that they wanted.

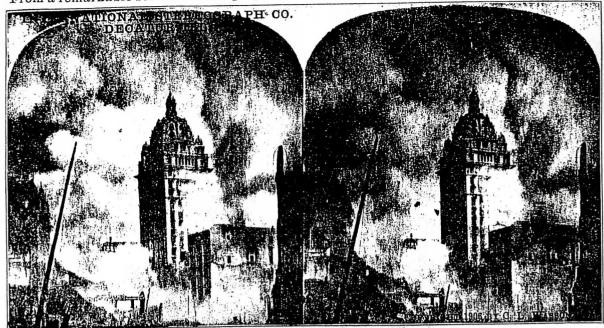
The worst trouble for a photographer in the ruined city, according to Wasson, was getting into the inside of partially destroyed buildings. There were two dangers, one from the soldiers who did not want them in there and the other from falling walls. He said he made 150 views of the city. After he left San Francisco, Wasson stopped at Palo Alto to take views of the destruction of Stanford University and also went to the observatory nearby. He learned that, during the earthquake, twelve-inch telescopes at the observatory had been turned on the city of San Francisco where they could plainly see the fires and destruction although they were twenty miles away.

In this same California excursion, Wasson also met with Joaquin Miller, the "Poet of the Sierras" and made a photograph of him. The poet was standing in front of his home on the edge of Oakland. Miller had been a scout, editor, lawyer, judge, and poet during his lifetime, He maintained a refuge for poets and would-be poets in a number of cottages on his property. On his trip home, although eager to get the earthquake stereographs marketed, Wasson stopped in Arizona to get views of a big cattle roundup for use on stereographs.

Writing about a trip to Switzerland to make views, Wasson showed his artistic sensitivities:

> When the photographer arranges the lights on his sitter, he borrows the eyes of the little god Billikin that he may see his subject the way they ought to look rather than the way he actually appears. For whether the sitter is man, woman, or child, and be he homely or handsome, always to the eyes of his loved ones he is a bit glorified. So the wise photographer idealizes his photographs and yet manages to preserve the likeness....Days of golden, October sunshine attend us as we journey by easy steps with our camera from Italy into Switzerland. To the

From a remarkable series of Stereographs photographed during the Burning of San Francisco



Call Building in Flames, San Francisco disaster. Big money to agents. Experience unnecessary. Best terms. Views all parts of the world, \$2.00 per dozen, retail.

divinely harmonious autumn colors, which blaze from the treestudded mountain slopes. Wonderful vistas of beauty open everywhere.

From these remaining newspaper accounts, it is easy to see that Wasson's story is one of an artist and a businessman, an educated, cultured man with an intense appreciation for what he was seeing through his lenses and an articulate way of describing it.

Wasson's appreciation of nature continued into the later years of his life. He continued to take photographs and often successfully entered them in competition. Wasson also valued education and other forms of the arts. He was a regular subscriber to the lecture and artist series at Decatur's Millikin University. He reviewed Chicago opera performances for the Decatur newspaper. He also predicted that the new talking and singing movies would have a successful future. He did think, however, that they should see fit to use soft focus photography and would be further enhanced when color photography was improved and combined with it. Mr. Wasson was a firm believer in temperance and was against immoderation in drinking and smoking. He was against cigarette smoking and

A rare example of a postcard advertising a stereograph company and used to solicit agents to sell views. The half-tone photo on the lithographed card is printed in maroon ink with the type in black.

already in 1942 thought that "when you smoke there is created a poison and it seems as though that poison stays there for a very long time".

On July 15, 1951, C.L. Wasson died at the age of 84. His wife, Louisa, had preceded him in death three years earlier. Years later, when West Eldorado Street, where the Wassons had lived, was being widened, workmen brought boxes of glass negatives and some of the pastoral prints to the Decatur Public Library. The glass negatives were by the Wasson studios and were mainly portraits from the 1920s and 30s. One or two stereo

negatives were also included in the group. They remain there today for use by Decatur researchers and others interested in his work. Wasson's artistic interests and business skills seem to have combined to offer him a very rewarding life. Through his numerous stereographs, he has left behind a rich legacy for all collectors of this photographic genre.

# Special Thanks to:

Van Wasson, great nephew of C.L. Wasson

Karen Anderson and the Decatur, IL, Public Library

The Decatur Herald and Review

# **Truly Deep Grass**

The American Lawn is a "coffee table" wonder. It reproduces one historic stereo view of a Victorian garden and several modern 3-D views of sample garden scenes. Found in the shop of the Cooper Hewitt National Museum of Design in New York City, it might not be essential for the gardening specialist. per for the average

Stereo collector. However, for the collector or library committed to having every publication that deals with stereo imaging in any form, this is a book worth considering.

Teyssot, George, Editor, *The American Lawn*, Princeton Architectural Press, \$ 34.95 203pp, plus enclosures and a stereoscope.

# Personnel, Policy and Public Relations Committee October 7, 1999

Judi Moss called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Members present: Mrs. Moss, Sherri Arnold, Mark Gibson, and Patricia Greanias. Absent: Shirley Moore. Staff present: Linda Humphreys and John Moorman.

Mr. Moorman reported that Susan Hemp has requested that she no longer have the responsibility of Assistant City Librarian. She has asked to work 30 hours per week as Head of the Adult Division. A job description for this position was presented and reviewed. Mr. Moorman proposed paying a division head additional money to be in charge when he is out. A tentative effective date of December 1 has been set. The consensus was to approve the proposal as presented.

Mr. Moorman presented a job description for Library Network Support Intern. He emphasized that someone is needed to troubleshoot library computers and assist library users on evenings and weekends when our Nims computer consultant is not available. Various options are being explored for filling the position and a recommendation is not ready at this time.

Review and update of schedule of policy review: Mr. Moorman said that not every policy needs to be reviewed every year. The committee determined that the disaster preparedness policy, security policy, and long range plan need to be reviewed beginning in January. The management staff personnel policy and management staff pay plan were scheduled for review in the spring.

Other business: Mr. Moorman reported that John Cardwell has requested permission for a "guard shack" for the parking lot attendant. The committee agreed with the need for the building and agreed that it should not have any names on it.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Moorman, City Librarian

# Job Description

### Head of Adult Division

#### Decatur Public Library

# Nature of Work

This is specialized professional library work involving the supervision of staff engaged in providing main library public service.

Work involves the scheduling and supervising of divisional staff, selecting and maintaining of library materials, and providing readers guidance.

# Supervision Received

Work is performed with considerable independence under the guidance of the City Librarian. Work is reviewed through periodic conferences, reports prepared, observations, and regular evaluations.

# Supervision Exercised

Exercises supervision over personnel assigned to the Adult Division.

# Examples of Work (Typical work examples, but not limited to the following)

Plans and organizes divisional work; instructs, supervises, and evaluates divisional staff.

Supervises the selection of materials for the adult collections.

Advises readers on book selections after evaluating indicated interests and assists library users in the selection of books, audiovisual materials, periodicals, and special and general publications.

Supervises and performs on-line data base searching.

Prepares material reviews and lists for programs and publications.

Develops public relations displays and news releases to promote library materials and programs relating to area of supervision.

Recommends improvements in procedures and operating policies, rules and regulations; prepares appropriate statistical and activity reports.

Represents the library to appropriate community groups and

HEAD OF ADULT DIVISION DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY Job Description Page 2

Performs related work and other duties as assigned.

# Required Knowledge, Abilities, and Skills

Considerable knowledge of the principles and practices of library science.

Considerable knowledge of books, authors, book publications, and audiovisual materials.

Knowledge of library administration.

Knowledge of and experience in on-line searching.

Ability to supervise and evaluate work of divisional staff and to correlate divisional activities to the needs of the library.

Ability to deal with the public and employees in general and difficult work situations.

Ability to work independently under general supervision.

# Desired Training and Experience

Graduation from an approved university with a Masters Degree in Library Science from an ALA-accredited university. Some public service experience in a public library.

NOTE: This is an unclassified position filled by appointment of the City Librarian.

Pay Level 5M

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# Finance and Properties Committee October 5, 1999

John Stengel called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. Present: Mr. Stengel, Mary Gladney, and Shirley Moore. Absent: Wayne Dunning and Russell Reimer. Staff present: John Moorman and Linda Humphreys.

Levy request for fiscal year 2000/2001: Mr. Moorman reported that he prepared a draft budget using a 5% increase for the levy request. After review, the consensus was to recommend the proposal as presented.

Request to compensate division heads for additional duties when City Librarian is out: Mr. Moorman reported that Susan Hemp has requested that she no longer have the responsibility of Assistant City Librarian. She has asked to work 30 hours per week as Head of the Adult Division. Mr. Moorman proposed paying a division head additional money to be in charge when he is out. The consensus was to approve the proposal as presented.

Other business: Mr. Moorman reported that John Cardwell has requested permission for a "guard shack" for the parking lot attendant. The committee agreed with the need for the building and agreed that it should not have any names on it.

Mr. Moorman reported that Gina Dingman has been on vacation, therefore, he does not have an update on the library's lease space. Mr. Moorman was asked to look into covering the windows.

Denelle Wrightson will be at the library on October 27 to decide on the placement of the library's art work.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Moorman, City Librarian

# Proposal includes:

5% increase for property tax
3% pay increase for bargaining unit staff
4% pay increase for management staff
10% estimated increase for health insurance
electricity increased to \$80,000
addition of full-time clerk for circulation
addition of 30 hr/wk PC Specialist (75% of \$27,260)
increase of \$25,000 for temporary salaries (271)
pension rate decrease estimated at .52%

# 280 - other professional services

52,500	network specialist contract
20,250	security guards (\$18 X 50 weeks X 22.5 hours)
18,200	legal servicesEd Booth
5,000	public relations
3,300	Baby TALK
1,400	physicals & drug screening for new hires
_600	Rotary dues & meals
101,250	TOTAL

# Decatur Public Library

Account	Revenue description	1999/2000	2000/2001
number		budget	proposed
30100-107	Property tax	2,405,629	2,525,910
30200-104	Replacement tax	200,000	200,000
30200-107	State grants	104,000	104,000
30500-509	Fines and fees	74,000	74,000
30500-510	Non-resident cards	500	500
30500-511	Lost and damaged	4,000	4,000
30500-514	Verifax	1,750	1,750
30500-515	Reserves & miscellaneous	8,500	8,500
30600-752	Transfer from Walmart TIF	6,000	6,000
30700-101	Investment interest	38,000	38,000
30800-805	Contributions and donations	3,500	3,500
30800-899	Miscellaneous income	3,000	3,000
	TOTAL	2,848,879	2,969,160

Account	Expenditure description	1999/2000	2000/2001
number		budget	proposed
090	Regular salaries	1,513,748	1,594,122
101	Overtime	10,900	10,900
102	Temporary salaries	22,892	22,892
104	Retirement-IMRF	234,564	238,492
111	Group life insurance	924	924
112	Hospital and medical	160,464	168,659
113	Unemployment compensation	1,100	1,100
114	Workers compensation	10,285	10,285
115	Service recognition	9,685	8,750
201	Advertising	250	250
202	Printing and binding	14,000	14,000
210	Service to maint. buildings	5,000	12,000
211	Service to maint. improvements	200	200
212	Service to maint. auto equipment	3,000	3,000
213	Service to maint. office equipment	10,000	10,000
230	MIS services	22,405	22,405
231	Electricity	65,000	80,000

232	Gas	13,500	13,500
233	Telephone	28,000	26,000
234	Water	1,250	1,250
238	Auditing services	1,500	1,500
240	Training school	8,000	8,000
241	Conferences and other travel	7,000	7,000
245	Postage	15,000	15,000
247	Computer software expense	10,000	10,000
271	Temp personnel services	25,000	50,000
272	Tuition reimbursement	3,000	3,000
273	Travel expense for interviews	1,000	1,000
280	Other professional services	101,250	101,250
284	Professional membership fee	2,600	2,600
286	Rental-D P equipment	20,000	20,000
289	Rental equipment	26,800	26,800
310	Gasoline	3,000	2,000
312	Janitorial supplies	6,000	6,000
320	Materials to maint buildings	7,000	7,000
337	Material to maint auto equipment	3,500	3,500
345	Office supplies	35,000	35,000
357	Employee recognition supplies	200	200
400	Contingencies	0	0
415	Transfer to general fund	1,200	1,200
418	Motor vehicle insurance	2,554	2,554
420	Boiler insurance	153	153
421	Property insurance	10,525	10,525
423	General liability insurance	6,435	6,435
478	Transfer to library capital	0	0
499	Small capital items	4,000	4,000
515	Office machinery and equipment	48,995	25,714
800	Books	372,000	380,000
	TOTAL	2,848,879	2,969,160