

**City Librarian's Report**

**For the April 20, 1995 Meeting**

**Of The**

**Decatur Public Library Board of Trustees**

On March 14 - 16 Carol Morris of GEAC came and provided a training session to order department staff on the new Acquisitions module which was purchased as a part of the GEAC computer upgrade. Also in attendance at the training session were Grace Veach Head of Technical Division and Joann Stanbery from the administrative office. This system will automate our materials ordering process and is scheduled to be in use on May 1, 1995. Currently order department staff are entering parameters on the new system and getting it ready for the start-up date.

Library staff have been active in the past month representing the library and in attending workshops. On April 10th Karen Anderson and Shirley Edwards of the extension division set up a display at the Rolling Prairie Library System's open house for the Heart of Illinois Talking Books program. Karen Anderson also has been working with the Lexington Apartments on their in-house library. Joan Bauer organized the library's booth at the Small Business Expo and she and Cathy Ritchie represented the library at the F.R.E.E. Fair held the same day at the Civic Center. Bev Freeman and Joan Bauer attended a workshop on the Internet that provided hands on experience and a demonstration of Netscape and many adult division staff are now working on increasing their on-line searching skills. As a part of this effort Bev Freeman and Jerald Merrick attended an Illinet training workshop. Library Assistants attended an RPLS teleconference and found the information presented helpful. Dayle Merideth, Harriet Berbaum, Cathy Ritchie and Joan Bauer attended a Christian Fiction reader's advisory workshop.

My condolences go out to Arthur and Katie Gross on the recent death of Arthur's mother and to Cathy Ritchie on the death of her mother.

The Local History Room has several more volunteers, extending the hours to 10-12 every day, several afternoons, and a few evenings. Through the Green



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Thumb Program, Stewart Hawbaker has been obtained to assist staff in the local history room 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Monday through Friday. He will be working on several different tasks, including helping with our mail requests.

We have also obtained the assistance of Kim Bauer, who is in charge of the Illinois State Historical Library's Lincoln Collection to work with the library's Lincoln materials. He is currently working on a descriptive list of Lincoln materials in our collection which will be used in the process of assessing our collection and determining its future.

Our small bookmobile continues to be well received. As planning continues on the summer schedule new stops under consideration include, Brettwood Village, West Mound Apartments, Sims Manor addition, Baker Woods and the Wildwood addition.

The Children's Division reports an active month with sixteen groups visiting the department including preschool classes from Mt. Calvary, Washington Beginning, Durfee and Coppenbarger beginnings, Little People's Prep, Learning Disability Classes from Harris and Southeast and elementary classes from Oak Grove and Garfield. Eight lap-sits were attended by 142 people and 34 Baby Talk contacts were made and 50 SPARK coupons were given out.

Planning is being made on the upcoming summer reading program. The theme for this summer's program is "Reading is Treemendous". Katie Gross attended a brainstorming session at Rolling Prairie Library System on this summer' program during the month where several libraries expressed an interest in using the reward structure that DPL employed last summer. The final event for the summer program will again include the MadCap Productions puppet program that was such a hit last summer.

Much time has been spent this month working with Mike Cardinal and Linda Clark of BLDD Architects on the preparation of schematic drawings for the possible renovation of the main library facility. As a part of the process initial drawings were displayed in the board room for several days for staff



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information and input and many good suggestions were obtained from this and conveyed to the architects. At their April 19, 1995 meeting the Decatur Public Library Foundation will be meeting with the architects to receive their report. The architects will also be present at our April 20th meeting to summarize their findings. This process has generated excitement among staff as they see what might be possible in a renovated facility.

During the month 55 volunteers donated 323 hours of service to the library.

As of Thursday, April 13th 96%, of the fiscal year had been completed. At this time 95.1% of the library's budget had been expended and encumbered.



Dear Friends at Decatur Library,  
Thank you for sharing your resources and your love for stories and books with my pre-kindergarten children. The songs and fingerplays you shared have become favorites. "You Can't Make a Turtle Come Out" was part of our unit on the pond and fits in with the "tugs" we're learning about now. We used the books we borrowed to pretend about leprechauns. Silly Billy was perfect & Go, Away Big Green Monster was adapted to "Tricky Green Leprechaun." Thank you for sharing your time and these treasures with us.  
Susan Bradshaw

Karen

Thanks for getting the video tapes of Lincoln & other interesting ones. They really enjoy them at the Center.

P.S.

I think the Book Mobile is a great success.

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Jeanne  
Activity  
Coord.