

City Librarian's Report

For the January 21, 1999 Meeting

of the

Decatur Public Library Board of Trustees

On December 30, 1998 the Library closed the sale of our current facility to Illinois Power. As a part of this sale, they are getting immediate possession of 8,500 sq.ft. of the facility while we lease the remainder for our operations until our new facility is ready for occupancy. Our maintenance staff under the direction of Larry Harris is to be commended for the expeditious manner in which the 8,500 sq.ft. were cleaned of library materials and items stored in various locations. We are currently leasing space in the old Kelley chip building and in the former Mike's barbershop on State street for the storage of items as well as in a trailer on our new site loaned to us from ADM.

The sale of the building has also meant the loss of both our auditorium and board room. Thus there will be no public meeting room space available until we move into the new building. The space formerly housing Linda Humphreys has been converted into an area for board and staff meetings.

Progress continues on the new building. While the weather of the past few weeks has curtailed any outside masonry work, inside the work continues at full speed. Holes for the main staircase and an emergency staircase have been cut and the hole where the escalator had been is in the process of being filled. On the upper level, walls are going up and on the lower level floor cutting is being done in conjunction with plumbing and electrical work. HVAC ductwork is being installed throughout the building as well as electrical conduit and boxes. Sawcutting is being done for new windows and an emergency door. Plans are being drawn for the re-roofing of the building and the tentative schedule calls for this project going out to bid in mid February. There are currently 19 requests for changes to the project in the proposal stage. Change orders approved so far have been in the amount of \$118,815 and relate to changes in our asbestos abatement program.

I continue to work with John Cardwell and Gina Dingman in the leasing of space in our new building and the tire building. Considerable time has been spent this past month in dealing with environmental concerns with the tire building as a part of the leasing process.

The extension division report two new home service patrons during the month. However, six patrons died during November and December. December and January does see a drop in this service area as several patrons travel to warmer climates during this period.

The bookmobiles continue to have mechanical problems. Bookmobile 548 was off the road due to mechanical difficulty on three days during the month. Since the beginning of the fiscal year