

City Librarian's Report
For the June 16, 1994 Meeting
Of The
Decatur Public Library Board of Trustees

On May 31, 1994 the library's summer reading program began. This year's theme is "Celebrate Reading". Katie Gross and her staff are trying a new approach with this year's program in which participants set their reading goals on a weekly basis by either drawing a goal from special boxes or making up their personal goal with the help of a librarian, parent, or teacher. The initial response has been phenomenal. Registration for the program had reached 291 individuals by the end of the first day, a record. By Friday, June 10, 1994 1,205 individuals had been registered.

The Children's Department also had 26 group visits for the month from schools, pre-schools, and nurseries. This was a 44% increase over May of 1993. Other departmental programs included 7 lap-sits, 31 Baby TALK contacts, and 17 SPARK contacts.

The summer schedule for the bookmobiles includes two new stops. One stop is at the K-Mart at the corner of Pershing and Jasper and the second stop is a community stop located at Woodrow Wilson school. The K-Mart stop is intended to better serve the residents of this part of Decatur, while the Woodrow Wilson stop is the result of the expressed desire by community members for a stop. Since the closing of Lost Bridge Road to repair the bridge over Lake Decatur, the bookmobile stop at Maryland and Linwood has seen a substantial increase in patronage. For the month of May its circulation was up 7.8% over a year ago.

During the month, Karen Anderson, Head of the Extension Division attended a bookmobile roundup in Gurnee, Illinois. She came back with some ideas about ways that the Bookmobiles can be redecorated to make them more visible to the public. We are also going to be exploring better signs at bookmobile stop locations.

New informational brochures were developed this month. The library now owns a selected collection of bi-focal kits which are excellent multi-media, multi-sensory program materials designed to encourage reminiscing and recalling former events to share with others. Designed primarily for older adults they can be adjusted for use by groups of all ages. Adult Services staff have developed a mini-display at the end of the 940 shelves emphasizing World War II books, especially the years 1944 - 1945. This mini-display will change periodically and end next year with the 50th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day. Along with the display, Dayle Merideth compiled a bibliography of books dealing with D-Day and Normandy.

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As of June 10, 1994 11.53 per cent of the fiscal year has passed. The library has expended or encumbered 19% of its budget. The figure for encumbrances includes substantial encumbrances of the book budget as we issue purchase orders with our major book suppliers on an annual basis.

The maintenance division had a busy month. Major items included installing electrical service at the Woodrow Wilson bookmobile stop, washing the bookmobiles, main library area painting, hooking up telephone service at K-Mart, Durfee, and Woodrow Wilson bookmobile stops, and repairing 47 video tapes. In addition considerable time was spent working with the contractor on the installation of a new air conditioning compressor and putting in phase protectors on the air conditioning units. We are still working with King-Lar to get an engineer to inspect our air conditioning system.

During the month of May 64 volunteers provided 241 hours of service to the Library.

We are working on ways to access the Internet. During the month Beverly Freeman and Arthur Gross attended an Internet workshop at Millikin and Jerald Merrick and Joan Bauer attended a small business workshop at the University of Illinois. Both workshops provided important information about access to the Internet, with the University of Illinois workshop providing hands-on demonstrations. I am working with staff from Millikin University, Richland Community College, Rolling Prairie Library System, and several special libraries in Decatur to see if there are cooperative ways of providing Internet access to all our user communities.

The installation of the new phone system is planned for July 11, 1994. The first phase of the installation will be the new phones with the automated attendant system. Several weeks after this is complete and staff have become accustomed to the system the voice mail part of the system will be installed.



To: Decatur Public Library,
It's a pleasure to be
a patron of the library.
The books I've borrowed
through the inter-library
loan has enhanced my
school social work counseling.
The reference desk assistants
have been my link
to this information source.
My gratitude goes

also to Katie Gross
in the children's section.
She secured a list
of books to help orientate
Kindergarten kids to the
new school experience.
Also she gathered 13
books I displayed for
parents to read with
the kids this summer.
Thanks so much for making
my job a little easier!
Ann Eaton