

1966 Publicity Scrapbook Summary

Note: Significant newspaper articles, brochures, photos, and other items from the scrapbook are filed by subject in the archives.

System News

Automation:

New Circulating Materials:

National Library Week:

Summer Program:

No Juvenile Fines: City-County Library Relations

Legislation for Unified System: At a legislative hearing, Minneapolis library director Ervin J. Gaines proposed enabling legislation to allow local communities to join a unified single library system in Hennepin County. But Hennepin County Library Board member Alan MacLean said he agrees with a Citizens League report that says coordination and unified standardization can be worked out between the city and county library systems without merger. Gaines and MacLean were speaking before a Hennepin legislative subcommittee. (*Sunday Suburban Life, March 30, 1966*). At the same hearing, William Frenzel, legislator from Golden Valley, was irate when he learned that the Minneapolis Public Library Board was treating the Hennepin County Library Board as advisory to the city board on questions relating to county library operations – including no final vote on financial matters relating to the county. (Frenzel was the author of the 1965 legislation that created the six-member county library board and was vice chair of the legislative subcommittee on libraries and parks.) Gaines cited the city attorney ruling that it was appropriate for the county library board to meet first and take advisory votes for consideration by the city library board. Frenzel argued that the 1965 bill was thoroughly discussed and its intent made clear. Hennepin County was paying one mill of its five-mill library levy for administrative space and free use of city libraries by county residents. MPL was asking for an additional half mill. Frenzel charged that the MPL board had taken actions outside its jurisdiction by contracting to provide bookmobile service to Waverly in Wright County and in accepting land from the Dayton Company for a library to be built in the Southdale area. MacLean and Gaines agreed a legal opinion was needed on the status of the county library board members. (*Sunday Suburban Life, March 20, 1966*).

Goldhor Metro Library Plan: Dr. Herbert Goldhor, University of Illinois professor of library science, developed a plan for library service in the seven-county metro area. Included in the plan were as many as 15 new regional libraries. Currently there are 77 libraries in the metro area, in 19 unrelated systems of which 13 have only one branch. Minneapolis and St. Paul would have central resource libraries. Borrowing privileges would be reciprocal throughout the metro. (*St. Louis Park Dispatch, April 7, 1966*). In an Edina community newspaper, columnist Jim Kosmo argues that Edina should keep control of its library – although a cooperative venture that would pool the resources of all libraries should not be ruled out. (*Lake Harriet newspaper, Nov. 24, 1966*).

Jacobs Study--County Needs Separate Libraries: Consultant Walter Jacobs concluded to the Hennepin County Board that “Hennepin County needs its own independent library system now, but a future merger with the Minneapolis system is ‘inevitable.’” Jacobs urged the board to “break away from the Minneapolis library system, to spend more than \$11.8

million on new library construction over the next 24 years and then to merge with the city system on an equal footing.” He argues that “the present county system is ‘inadequate’ large because is is caught in ‘fuzzy administrative relationships’ which ‘divorce responsibility for providing facilities from responsibility for servicing them.’” He recommended that the Hennepin County Commissioners keep control for the suburban libraries. His plan called for four large regional libraries and 26 smaller libraries building by the county in five-year stateges until 19090. The larger libraries with 150,000-volume collections would be in the Southdale area, St. Louis Park, Brooklyn Center, and the Orono-Wayzata area, with administrative offices in St. Louis Park. Throughout the report, Jacobs stresses cooperation between the city and county for library borrowers and to provide cost-effective services where possible. (*Minneapolis Star, Oct. 25, 1966*). Suburban mayors and managers met with Walter Jacobs and recommended a bond issue, such as a yearly one-mill levy that would raise \$4 million. He said it was impossible at this time to know what the operating costs would be for the new libraries. Hennepin County Library officials told the group that they wished they did not have the three-acre site that was donated by the Dayton Co. for a regional library because the site is too close to Minneapolis and should be farther out in the county. (*Richfield News, Nov. 17, 1966*). Based on the Jacobs report, the Hennepin County Library Board voted to seek legislation authorizing its withdrawal from the Minneapolis library system to establish an independent suburban library system under a new board. The board also favored a legislative proposal that would permit the Minneapolis Library Board to eventually vote itself out of existence and merge with the suburban board. (*Minneapolis Star, Dec. 16, 1966*).

Individual Library News

Bloomington: The Bloomington Library Study Committee, appointed in March, 1966, heard Hannis Smith, director of libraries at the Minnesota Department of Education, explain how federal funds are allocated through his office for building new libraries. He said Edina and St. Louis Park are first and second, respectively, for receiving funds in Hennepin County. (*Bloomington Sun Suburbanite, July 26, 1966*). Bloomington immediately needs two branch libraries and a county regional library, according to Dr. Robert Rainey, library study committee chair. Priorities are a branch in north central Bloomington, a branch in east Bloomington, and a regional library in central Bloomington. Mayor Donald Hasselberg suggested that libraries be built in new schools, but Dr. Rainey and a study committee member explained why school and public libraries shouldn’t be combined. Bloomington City Council praised the committee’s work and asked members to develop cost figures. (*Bloomington Sun Suburbanite, Sept. 9, 1966*). Speaking at a Jaycee meeting, Mayor Donald Hasselberg said Bloomington should have its own library system separate from Hennepin County Library. He said he could buy 50,000 books at \$5 each for two branch libraries and then add 10,000 more books each year. He estimated that for six years it would cost Bloomington \$1.24 million, compared to \$1.717 million as part of the county system. He suggested that the school libraries could serve the students, eliminating the need for school-age books in the public libraries and that residents could donate books and magazines. It was pointed out that the average price of book was \$7.61, plus \$1.85 for processing. (*Bloomington Sun Suburbanite, Nov. 3, 1966*). A Jaycee survey of community residents showed that the number 1 priority was a public library or libraries, followed by a public outdoor swimming pool and an ice arena. (*Bloomington Sun Suburbanite, Nov. 23, 1966*). The Bloomington Library Study Committee in its preliminary final report recommended that Bloomington remain part of the county library system because of the tremendous financial advantage in buying books

in large numbers at a great discount, along with consolidating administrative services and specialized personnel. The report stated that the public library must be separate and distinct from the school libraries. Library buildings should be at least 10,000 square feet, plus space for a community meeting room. (*Bloomington Sun Suburbanite*, Dec. 8, 1966).

Brooklyn Center: The new library at Osseo Road and 56th Ave. N opened Dec. 29, 1965, but the opening celebratory events didn't take place until Saturday, Feb. 5 (open house) and Sunday, Feb. 6 (dedication). The library grew from an idea in 1962 by members of the Brooklyn Center Junior Chamber of Commerce to a study commission in 1963 to a citywide referendum in May 1964 asking residents to approve \$260,000 to construct a new library. The bond issue passed by a resounding 72 percent approval. Brooklyn Center would provide the building, custodial services, utilities, and building insurance, while Hennepin County Library would provide the staff, library equipment, books and other library materials (initially 21,000 volumes to be increased to 30,000). (*North Hennepin Post*, Feb. 2, 1966). U.S. Representative Don Fraser and Lt. Governor A.M. "Sandy" Keith were featured speakers at the dedication. Under the Library Services Act of 1964, the library received \$60,000 for construction costs and \$30,000 for equipment. The library was the first in the county to receive a federal grant. Total cost for the building was \$249,500. During its first month of operation, the Brooklyn Center Library circulated 11, 336 books and handled more than 4,000 applications for library cards. (*The Hennepin Reporter*, March 1966). Congratulatory messages and telegrams poured into the Brooklyn Center city offices during dedication week, including messages from Vice President Hubert Humphrey, U.S. Senator Walter Mondale, U.S. Representative Clark MacGregor, U.S. Senator Eugene McCarthy, Governor Karl Rolvaag, and State Representative William Frenzel. (*Brooklyn Center Post*, Feb. 9, 1966). U.S. Representative Fraser spoke to the House of Representatives about the impact of the Library Services and Construction Act in Brooklyn Center. (*Brooklyn Center Post*, Feb. 16, 1966). Alice Johnson was head librarian and Linda Jones was children's librarian.

Edina: An editorial in the Sun newspapers recommended that the Edina sell its library building (at 4701 W. 50th St.) to the county – thus remaining in the HCL system and retaining "access to books from anywhere in the world...Even Edina isn't an island." (*Sun Newspapers*, March 12, 1970). The Friends of the Edina Library expressed strong support for the Edina Library remaining in the county system. (*Edina Sun*, Oct. 22, 1970). The fate of the old Edina library site – on W. 50th St., about a block west of France Ave. – had been under discussion for two years, with a citizens group advocating that the site be turned into a park. Edina National Bank, just east of the site, had offered the village \$50,000 for the 150-by-14-foot site for use as a parking lot or possible future expansion. Mayor Art Bredesen said "\$50,000 is one mill" and noted that the location might attract an "undesirable element" to Edina. (*Minneapolis Star*, July 23, 1970). The Village of Edina voted to go ahead and sell a portion of the old library site to Edina National Bank. (*Edina Sun*, Oct. 8, 1970). Thirty-two new framed art prints were added to the Edina circulating collection, bringing the total to about 300. (*Edina Sun*, Jan. 8, 1970). Famed wildlife photographer Les Blacklock presented a program April 2. (*Edina Sun*, April 1, 1970). Bradley Benn displayed his handmade harpsichord at the Edina Library. (*Minneapolis Star*, July 8, 1970).

Excelsior: The new Excelsior Library was dedicated Feb. 20. Mayors of Deephaven, Excelsior, Greenwood, Shorewood, and Tonka Bay – the five surrounding communities – participated in the dedication. All five communities helped pay for the \$73,000 library, which is adjacent to the Excelsior Village Hall. About 200 people attended the dedication. Staff were David Waldemar, head librarian, and Fern Michael. (*Excelsior South Shore Herald*, Feb. 17, 1966). Thanks to the generosity of a library patron and her sister, Excelsior became the first

library outside of Minneapolis and St. Paul to have a microfilm reader. (*Minnetonka Herald, October 1966*).

Minnetonka: The Village Council agreed to seek 3,000 square feet of space in a planned addition to Wright's Super Valu, 17523 Minnetonka Blvd., for the Minnetonka Library. The facility would replace branches at Burwell and Groveland elementary schools that will be closed in August. The committee recommended leasing the space for three years at a cost of \$2.15 per square foot or \$6,450 annually. (*Minneapolis Star, June 24, 1966*). A new bookmobile stop has been established (Hwy. 101 and Minnetonka Blvd. parking lot) and will operate until the new Minnetonka Library is open. (*Minnetonka Herald, Sept. 29, 1966*).

Richfield: Richfield celebrated its fifth anniversary in 70th and Nicollet location.

St. Louis Park: The St. Louis Park mayor said a seven-member citizen's committee would be established to study the need for a new library. Endorsing a new library was Mrs. Raeder Larson, who recently had been appointed to the Hennepin County Library Board. She suggested the committee consider the need for more library space than at the current rental space at 6509 Walker and suggested sites of 32nd and Louisiana and 4800 Minnetonka Blvd. (*St. Louis Park Dispatch, Feb. 2, 1966*). Mrs. Raeder Larson said St. Louis Park should proceed with a new library even if location of a regional library is a possibility in the city (Goldhor and Jacob recommendations). She said library needs are too pressing. (*St. Louis Park Dispatch, March 3, 1966*). The St. Louis Park City Council moved forward with plans to build a new library at the Freedom Park site (corner of Gorham and Louisiana), by instructing the city manager to recommend architects for the project. The building would be at least 10,000 square feet and the site would accommodate 90 cars. Total cost was expected to be \$213,000. The citizen's committee said the city was not getting its money's worth of library services from Hennepin County Library because of the current inadequate space. (*St. Louis Park Dispatch, Aug. 18, 1966*). Two architects were selected for consideration to design the new library: S.C. Smiley and Associates and Carl Graffunder. (*St. Louis Park Dispatch, Oct. 27, 1966*). City Council set the budget for the new library at \$257,000, with \$150,000 expected to come from bonds, \$102,000 from a federal grant, and \$5,500 from current revenues. The city pays \$705 in monthly rent for its current library space. S.C. Smiley and Associates will design the new library. (*Minneapolis Star, Dec. 12, 1966*).

Hennepin County News

Personnel Plan: A unified plan covering most Hennepin County employees (about 2,600 employees) and replacing six current plans was presented to the County Personnel Board. The "new system, estimated to cost Hennepin County \$400,000 in added salaries and fringe benefits, would anchor hiring to a uniform merit system by setting up formal job qualifications and by requiring competitive examinations whenever possible." All employees would receive at least a three percent wage increase, but the county's 35 professional librarians would have their vacation time cut from 22 days to 12 days a year. (*Minneapolis Star, Oct. 13, 1977*). (*Minneapolis Star, Nov. 1, 1966*). "All county workers, including the librarians, will get 15 to 19-1/2 vacations days, depending on the length of service" under the new unified personnel system. On average, the vacation days are increased 10 percent for employees, but the lost work days will be "made up in the introduction of computers for data processing." (*Minneapolis Star Dec. 2, 1966*).

1967 Budget: The 1967 budget does not include any new transfers of functions from city to county (such as the transfer of General Hospital and the courts, as happened in the past),

but some shifts of welfare activities from city to county goes on due to state and federal actions. "The Hennepin Budget reflects, especially in the increasing highway and court items, the growing population and urbanization of the county. Financially, the county seems to be 'sitting pretty.' The city may not be as badly off as it once seemed." (*Minneapolis Star editorial, Aug. 21, 1966*). Some projects under discussion: whether more county money should be spent on arterial roads and not so much on Crosstown and Highway 18 and a countywide radio frequency system. Budget director Stanley Cowle commented that county branch libraries should be standardized and local libraries "now run from adequate to poor." (*Sunday Suburban Life, Aug. 28, 1966*). Property taxes to be collected in 1967 will total \$185 million, about \$8 million more than in 1966. The total includes levies by the state, county, school districts, municipal governments, and special districts. (*Minneapolis Tribune, Dec. 7, 1966*).

Compiled by Linda Jennings, February 2009