

1973 Publicity Scrapbook Summary

System News

HCL and MPL reached agreement on a contract to assure suburban residents use of the city library during 1973. (1972 annual report)

County Library Headquarters Moved

Headquarters offices were being moved out of the Minneapolis Public Library and into the new Southdale Hennepin Area Library. Relocation was expected to be completed by the end of May. The move involved technical services, administrative and reference divisions and the 70,000 volume headquarters collection. Relocation became necessary because of the city library's increasing space needs and its request three years ago that the county vacate the fourth floor by the end of 1973. A 27,000 square foot addition to house those offices will be built on the south side of Southdale-Hennepin. (*St. Louis Park/Edina Sun, 5/17,73.*)

Population:

The April 1, 1973 population estimate for the seven county metropolitan area was 2,005,198. The estimate which was prepared by the Metropolitan Council staff, is an increase of 33,563 persons, or 1.7% over the 1972 figure. (*Mound Sun/Westonka 7/5/73*) The population estimate for Hennepin County for 1973 was 997,290. (*Star/Trib 7/2/73*)

City County Merger

State Representative O.J. Heinitz stated in a recent news release, "It is imperative that a citizens committee proposal for increasing state aid to libraries, restructuring the Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA) and merging the Minneapolis and Hennepin County Library Boards becomes law." (*Mtka Sun, 4/12/73*)

A bill introduced in the Minnesota House Monday would merge the county and city library systems with the county picking up present and future obligations of the Minneapolis library and taking possession of the city's library buildings and books. (*Richfield Sun 2/22/73*)

The Hennepin County Library Board passed a resolution Tuesday aimed at starting negotiations on the 1974 contract with the Minneapolis Public Library. The contract is a financial agreement based on the number of suburban residents who use city library facilities. It is a three party agreement between the two library systems and the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. (*Star/Trib 10/25/73.*)

Hennepin County Government Center

Newest eye-catcher on the downtown Minneapolis skyline was the 23 story County Government center which underwent the usual “topping-off” ceremony. (*New Hope/Brooklyn Center Post, 1/4/73*) Completion of the twin tower facility was expected around Labor Day of '74. The center will cost \$45 million and will house county administrative offices in the north tower and courts in the south tower. (*Post 12/20/73*)

Hennepin County Board

State Representative John Salchert of Minneapolis said he will introduce legislation to increase the size of the Hennepin County Board by two, from five to seven members. (*Star/Trib 12/1/73*) Enlargement of the board wouldn't necessarily eliminate the problem, but it would certainly alleviate it. We would prefer to see the board increased to nine members as proposed by another legislative bill introduced last session. (*Star/Trib 11/27/73*) the Hennepin County Board voted 3 to 2 yesterday to increase the annual salary of board members from \$16,400 to \$23,500—an increase of slightly more than 40%. (*Star/Trib 2/7/73*)

Hennepin County Library Board

The Hennepin County Library Board has given preliminary approval for a \$915,000 addition to the Southdale-Hennepin Area Library. The addition would house the county library headquarters. It would include office space, a garage, several workrooms, a staff lounge and a first aid room. (*Star/Trib 1/29/73*)

Mrs. Raeder Larson was elected to a one-year term as president of the six member Hennepin County Library Board. She succeeds Alan L. MacLean. (*Star/Trib?, 1973*) Mrs Barbara Amram was appointed to a three year term to the Hennepin County Library Board. (*Star Trib? 1973*)

Fines:

The Hennepin County Library Board voted in January to eliminate all fines for overdue materials for users 62 or over. (*Hennepin Reporter 3/73*)

Programs:

Two multi media presentations—one on the environment and one on human relations—were available from the Hennepin County Library for showings to community organizations. Produced under a grant from the Minnesota Humanities commission and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the presentations were shown free of charge. The Hennepin County Library provided the equipment required as well as a projectionist for each showing. (*GV Sun 12/13/73*)

Minneapolis Public Library

Northeast Community Library was used for the first time the week of 1/26/73 (*Star/Trib 1/26/73*) as the library was dedicated and opened.

Pierre Bottineau Children's Library was an experimental library where children could use tape cassettes, filmstrips, records, puppets and view master reels. (*Star/Trib 7/5/73*)

Margaret Mull is retiring after 42 years with the Minneapolis Public Library system. She was acting head of the library, chief of the central library and chief of community library services. She received the first Librarian of the Year award by the Minnesota Library Association in 1964. (*Star/Trib 2/16/73*)

In 1973 Minneapolis Public Library had an estimated 250,000 borrowers. (*Star/Trib 12/4/73*)

A rare first edition of the book, Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol was on display through mid January at the Minneapolis Public Library. (*Star/Trib 12/24/73*)

Federal Aid to Libraries:

The demonstration of (darkened libraries) was part of nationwide actions called by the American Library Association to dramatize the financial plight of libraries and to keep the symbol of darkened libraries from becoming a reality. The Nixon administration's proposal to cut back library subsidies from \$140 million to zero nationally will result in the closing of some libraries and major service reductions in others said Luouida Vinson, executive secretary of the American Association of School libraries. Robert Rohlf, director of the Hennepin County Library system termed the protest "an insult to the taxpayers" and a "rather juvenile approach to a rather severe problem." (*Star/Trib 5/8/73*)

Individual library news:

Augsburg Park:

The Richfield City Council approved unanimously the location for a new Hennepin County Library to be situated in Augsburg Park. Main objections to the site came from homeowners around the park. They feared that the park was going to lose its beauty and that the presence of the library would add extra traffic and noise. (*Richfield Sun 3/1/73*) Some Richfield resident opposed the library plan, citing loss of the ball field and ice rink and the parking area for Wooddale Baptist Church. (*Richfield Sun 6/14/73*) Hennepin County library board approved, July 5, the final plans of the proposed new Hennepin County Library to be located in the southeast corner of Augsburg Park in Richfield. (*Richfield Sun 7/12/73*) Plans for the proposed new library hit a snag as the result of soil

tests indicated that the ground on the corner of Nicollet and 72nd might be unsuitable. The soil study indicated that approximately \$35,000 would be added to the construction costs. The added costs are necessary because the alluvial soil must be removed before construction can begin. (*Richfield Sun 7/26/73*) Terms of the purchase agreement of the library land state: Richfield will convey the land to Hennepin County at a price of \$99,500; closing date is November 1, 1973. (*Richfield Sun 9/13/73*) Hennepin County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the purchase of 2.8 acres of land at the southeast corner of Augsburg Park for the site of a new library. (*Richfield Sun 10/3/73*) Another snag was encountered when questions about the bid arose, prompting the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners to delay the award of a construction contract for the Richfield community Library. The contract was to be awarded to the Henry O. Mikkelson Co, the second lowest bidder. County architect William Schroeder said research indicated the Neff Companies (lowest bidder) had not had experience in the construction of projects as large as the library. He added that the Neff Companies indicated in its bid that it would take 75 days longer to complete the project than Mikkelson. (*Golden Valley Sun 12/13/73*) The Mikkelson bid was accepted and ground was broken in late December for the new Augsburg Park Community Library. (*Richfield Sun 12/24/73*)

Bookmobile:

Third, fourth and fifth graders at seven schools served by the county bookmobiles have been contributing artwork to decorate the vehicles for over a year. New pictures were put up every month and a half and rotated during that time. Kids benefit because they feel they are participating in the bookmobile in some other way than just taking out books. Besides, it allows them to have their artwork displayed and they like that. (*...Post, 1/11/73*)

Brooklyn Park

Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of a 4.7 acre site in the 85th and Zane area. Architect for the project, Setter, Leach and Lindstrom, Inc., began drawing plans for the 15,000 square foot building. (no source 8/73) Brooklyn Park was the county's first entirely new library. Ordinarily the county replaces pre-existing facilities. (*no source 8/1973*)

Brooklyn Center/Brookdale

Hennepin County agreed to purchase the Brooklyn Center Library, clearing the way for a \$2 million regional library at the site. (*Suburban Sun, 8/29/73*)

Construction on the Brookdale Area Library was expected to begin in 1974 according to Robert H. Rohlf, director of the Hennepin county library system. Rohlf said the county

was dickering for the final piece of land near the library and whether the present library (Brooklyn Center) will be expanded or a new building (Brookdale) will be constructed was to be decided. (*Suburban Sun 3/1/73*)

Champlin Reading Center

Champlin Reading Center was dedicated April 29, 1973. The new 1600 square foot reading center was patterned after a double mobile home and could accommodate 8000 volumes as well as periodicals, films and recordings. (*Champlin dedication brochure.*)

Eden Prairie Reading Center

The Eden Prairie Reading Center was dedicated April 15, 1973. The new 1600 square foot reading center is the first library in Eden Prairie which was formerly served by the Hennepin County Library Bookmobile. It is similar in design and style to the Champlin reading Center, dedicated April 29, 1973. (*Eden Prairie dedication brochure*)

Edina

Edina saluted its Scottish heritage on January 21, 1973 with a program of bagpipe music, folk dancing and reminiscing about Edina's Scottish settlers. When the village was incorporated in 1888, founders debated whether to call the new town Edina or Killarney Lakes, as urged by the Irish. According to legend, the presiding officer adjourned the meeting early and the Irish went home. Later the Scots returned to the meeting hall, reconvened the meeting and named the village Edina. (*Star/Trib 1/22/73*)

Maple Plain

Maple Plain library moved to a new location on Main Street from its former home in the old State Bank of Maple Plain. The expanded space included a larger children's area, an adult reading area and a larger collection. (*Sun 11/29/73*) The new library is in an old village stand called Miller's General Store in Maple Plain back in 1905. When the library first opened on Main street in 1922 it occupied a little frame building that had been the official post office. (*no source, 12/73*)

Oxboro

A new community library in east Bloomington took another step toward becoming reality Thursday when ground for the 15,000 square foot building was broken Target date for completion was August 15, 1974, with opening to the public in October 1974. (*no source, 1973*)

Rockford Road

Rockford Road, designed by Parker Klein Associates, was honored by the Minnesota Society of Architects as one of the most creative new buildings in the state in 1973. *(no source, 1973 scrapbook)* Named after one of the most historic roads in Hennepin County the Rockford Road Library is thoroughly modern. The burnished masonry building opened in June, 1972 replacing crowded library quarters in the Crystal Shopping Center. *(RR opening brochure)* State Sen. Skip Humphrey arranged to be in Rockford Road's meeting room every Tuesday evening to meet with constituents. *(1973 Publicity Scrapbook)*

St. Louis Park

The Hennepin County Board of commissioners deferred action on a proposal to pay the balance of a deed, \$64,683, for the St. Louis Park Library to the City of St. Louis Park. The action marked the second time the board has delayed action on the proposal. "It's to the county's advantage to pay on the existing contract of 15 years" assistant county administrator Dale Ackmann told the commissioners. In 1968 the board agreed to purchase the library and property on which it is located from the city for a total price of \$190,405. Terms outlined an initial payment of \$98,000 followed by 15 equal annual payments plus an interest rate of 5% per year. The principal balance in 1973 was \$61,603 plus accumulated interest of \$3080. *(1973 library scrapbook)*

Southdale Area Library

Dedication ceremonies were held for the new \$2.5 million Southdale-Hennepin Area Library on November 18. Speakers included Robert H. Rohlf, director, James Stageberg of Hodne-Stageberg Partners, Inc., design architect for the building, Mrs. Raeder Larson, president of the Hennepin County Library board and Thomas L. Olson, chairman of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. Newton Minow, former FCC chairman gave the dedication address. The 59,000 square foot regional library had 120,000 volumes with a goal of 200,000. In addition to the book collection the library had the most sophisticated range of audio-visual facilities and resources of any public library in the country. Key areas for non-print materials were the media lab facilities, including a darkroom and a community slide file, the media console (five rear-screen projections units for slides, film strips, reel-to-reel film, super 8 and 16mm film and three television monitors) and the projection room of the meeting room. Southdale-Hennepin was the first of three area libraries in the Hennepin County library system. It was built under a \$20 million, 17 building construction program authorized by the 1969 State Legislature and implemented by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. *(Richfield Sun 11/22/73)* Future plans included the construction of a 27,000 square foot addition on the building's south side to house the headquarters staff and the technical services operations. *(Hennepin Reporter 3/73)*

Westonka

At Westonka Library the card catalog was replaced with the new book catalogs. These consisted of five volumes: red volumes for authors, white for subject and blue for titles. Patrons also learned that a book could be reserved by means of this catalog even if they did not have the author's name. (*Sun 1/11/73*)