

1994 Publicity Scrapbook Summary

System News:

In January Robert Rohlf retired as director after 25 years of service. The Sun.Sailor (2/16/94) published a Q and A covering his career past, present and future. During his 25 years Director Rohlf directed the planning and construction of 15 new libraries and the expansion of others. Under his direction, circulation grew from 2.3 million in 1969 to 9 million last year. (Star Trib 2/3/94)

Charles Brown was appointed as the new director. He joined the Hennepin County Library staff in May. Mr. Brown was previously the director of the Arlington County Public Library. (Hennepin Family 3/94)

The new Hennepin County Library Director, Charles Brown appeared at an open house at Long Lake Library to discuss the library facility and services offered in the community as well as the new Dynix circulation system (no source 11/10/94)

The Hennepin County Board approved a \$2.4 million expansion program for Hennepin County's community libraries. The system is expanding Ridgedale and building new facilities at Plymouth and Champlin. (Eden Prairie Sun.Sailor 2/9/94)

The 1995 county budget included money to re-open suburban libraries for three holidays--Veteran's Day, the day after Thanksgiving and Presidents' Day--when they are now closed. Also included was an addition to the Ridgedale Library. (Star Trib 12/2/94)

The Hennepin County Library Board had three vacancies for non-Minneapolis county residents. (Sun Current 12/14/94) County Commissioners waited more than a month for applicants to fill seats on the library board. (Sun. Sailor 2/9/94)

Theresa Bonner was appointed to the newly created position of Marketing/Development Division manager for Hennepin County Library, directing a staff of 11, including the audiovisual, public information, programming, volunteer and Friends of the Library offices. She also served as executive director of the Library Foundation of Hennepin County. (Library Hotline 12/12/94)

The Bloomington Fund Drive Campaign raised more than \$28,000 to enrich library services books and materials at the two libraries in Bloomington, Penn Lake and Oxboro. The campaign provided support for business, particularly small businesses at Penn Lake and Oxboro. The focus was on funding for computer software, additional reference materials, audio and video cassettes as well as circulating business books. (Bloomington Chamber of Commerce 40th Anniversary 9/14/94)

Government documents, previously printed items, are now only available electronically. (Bloomington Sun Current 3/30/94)

September, 1994 was designated Library Card Sign-up Month--a time when the American Library Association and libraries across the country remind parents that a library card is the most important school supply of all. (The Bulletin 9/21/94)

In December 1993, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners voted against a proposal to close four of the county's smaller libraries in St. Anthony, Osseo, Long Lake and St. Bonifacius. The measure was part of the library board's effort to deal with severe budget restrictions. (St. Anthony Bulletin 10/12/94)

As a result of open meetings the county commissioners voted to keep the four libraries with threatened closures, open. (Northeaster 1/12/94)

The Sun. Sailor for April 20, 1994 did a feature article on homebound volunteers. They spotlighted three volunteers who came to enjoy their time of selecting books and delivering them to homebound patrons. One volunteer and her homebound patron became close friends, took outings and celebrated their birthdays together.

Scott Benton, president of the Library Foundation, wrote a "Viewpoint" piece on the importance of public understanding of the financial plight of libraries with the exponential growth of technology. He encouraged private support for public libraries. (The Bulletin 2/2/94)

Lois Anderson was the featured "WCCO Good Neighbor" on 4/9/94. Lois retired in March after 25 years of service at various Hennepin County Libraries. (WCCO transcript 4/9/94)

In an article in the Star Trib (10/19/94) Deb Price follows Sandy Berman's career of "Rooting prejudice out of the Library of Congress".

A "Born to Read" T-shirt was awarded to the first baby born at HCMC during National Library Week to help promote literacy. (Hennepin Family 5/94)

The Metropolitan Council proposed that the Legislature establish a regional library organization called MetroLINC to coordinate services among the regions' libraries and encourage greater collaboration among them. (The Bulletin 9/7/94)

Individual Libraries:

Brookdale:

At the end of the year assistive listening devices were available for hearing impaired persons. People who need sound amplification can borrow the compact headset devices which are wireless and operate through an infrared system. The headsets may be borrowed for library and public programs or for group meetings in the meeting room where the infrared system is located. Brookdale Library also offers other services to accommodate people with disabilities, including a TTY number, an electronic print

to accommodate people with disabilities, including a TTY number, an electronic print magnifier and interpreted programs. (NorthWest News 12/5/94)

Brooklyn Park:

Joanne Frankena was spotlighted in the local Sun Post (5/4/94) for her recent appointment as senior librarian at Brooklyn Park Library.

Champlin:

Former Hennepin County Children's Librarian, Maryann Weidt spoke at Champlin Library on December 1 about her recently published book, Oh, the Places He Went: A Story About Dr. Seuss. (Champlin Dayton Press 11/22/94)

Special Dedication Week activities were planned for October 14-17 at the new Champlin Library. Following welcoming remarks and introductions by Library Director Charles Brown, Library Board President Milt Goldstein, Hennepin County Commissioners Mike Opat and Emily Anne Staples, Champlin Mayor Steven Boynton and Champlin Community Librarian Melissa Sibley, Tom Hegg spoke about his life as a writer, teacher and actor. (Champlin Dayton Press 10/11/94) Members of the South Minneapolis Bassoon Quartet entertained Champlin Library dedication attendees on October 16. (Champlin Dayton Press 10/25/94) The new Champlin Library will be almost four times larger than the current building at 8905 square feet compared to about 2300 square feet. The new library was built by Hennepin County at a construction cost of \$1.2 million as part of the total project cost of \$1.99 million. (Champlin Dayton Press 8/23/94)

Eden Prairie:

Hennepin County moved one step closer to beginning the long awaited renovation of the Eden Prairie Center Library when it approved a budget of \$994,312 for the project last month. The renovation called for an expansion of the current facility from 10,000 to 15,000 square feet and would include the creation of a young adults' section, enlargement and addition of shelving to the children's section and remodeling of the staff area for increased efficiency. (Eden Prairie Progress 4/7/94) The Hennepin County Board allocated more money for the expansion of Eden Prairie's library, expected to begin early next summer. Approved unanimously was a \$1,167,967 budget that is almost \$174,000 higher than was set by county officials last spring. (Eden Prairie News 11/24/94)

Eden Prairie Library was honored for three collaborative community programs. The honor came from Metronet, a metro area organization of libraries. One of the two programs working with low income residents was sponsored by the library and the

Eden Prairie School District's Family Center; that program established book collections in both the Briarhill and Prairie Meadows residential areas in the city. The library was also involved in another program serving low income residents. That program works to assist students in the Briarhill and Prairie Meadows complexes. The library also earned praise for its program to help adult learners in the SHAPE program by providing special hours for students, many of whom have never been able to use libraries before. (Eden Prairie News 7/7/94)

Edina:

Mary Wilson Swatosh began her new job as principal librarian at Edina Library. (no source, n.d.)

Edina Library was closed for renovation in August. It was scheduled to reopen September 19. (Edina Sun.Sailor.Current 8/10/94) A problem with defective, mismatched carpeting set back renovation work on Edina Library by one week. September 26 was the new reopening date. (no source, n.d.)

"Libraries Change Lives' a traveling exhibit sponsored by the American Library Association and Friends of the Libraries USA, was at Edina Library from July 22 to August 19. It featured prominent Americans' comments about libraries and offered a computer system so patrons could look up information and add their comments about how libraries influenced their lives. (Edina Sun.Current/ 4/20/94)

Golden Valley:

Helen Halverson was appointed senior librarian at Golden Valley Library. She was previously head librarian at St. Louis Park Library. (Sun-Post 3/30/94)

Hopkins:

A celebration to dedicate the new library parking lot will be held from 11 AM to noon on May 14. Festivities included a ribbon-cutting ceremony, brief remarks by officials, balloon sculptures for kids by Jingle Bell the Clown, and refreshments. The library's new parking lot has more than triple the number of parking spaces as its old lot and other aesthetics such as landscaping, new trees, a privacy fence along the alley and a lawn irrigation system. (Mainstreet Days, 5/13/94)

Minnetonka:

The new senior librarian, David Lane, planned to reach out to the community. Minnetonka Library has a special focus on children and youth services. About half their business comes from children. (Hopkins/Minnetonka/St. Louis Park Sun.Sailor 4/6/94)

Minnetonka Library celebrated "Banned Books Week--Celebrating the Freedom to Read" sponsored by the American Library Association. The yearly event will be celebrated at the Minnetonka Library between September 24 and October 1 with a display of about 50 books. (Hopkins/Minnetonka/St. Louis Park Sun.Sailor 9/21/94)

Library Friends donated three framed art prints to the library and posters to a Hennepin County shelter for battered women. Funds from the 1993 book sale were used to purchase the art prints and posters. (Weekly News 7/7/94)

Oxboro:

Sandra Davidson became the new librarian at Oxboro after 11 years at Southdale Library. In her first year she saw the transition from microfiche to computerized catalog listing. (Bloomington Sun Current 3/30/94)

Family Read To Me received a \$1,000 award from Cargill Corp. for excellence in programming. The award went to the Library Foundation of Hennepin County, fund-raiser for the program. The final Family Read To Me session was at Oxboro or Penn Lake library so parents could have time with the librarians for an orientation to the resources, a tour, do a little research or just talk about books. (Sun.Current 12/7/94)

Plymouth:

On September 29 the ground was broken for the new Plymouth Library scheduled to open sometime late in 1995. (Weekly News 10/6/94) The City of Plymouth first approached the county for a library in 1969. The County Board finally agreed 21 years later, but only if Plymouth supplied the site. The library continued to be plagued with delays. First the city had problems acquiring the site from a reluctant landowner. City officials eventually bought another site for \$485,000. The library was further delayed last year when city official rejected the county's landscaping plans. New plans were approved in January. (Sun.Sailor 2/9/94)

Rockford Road:

Security videocameras were installed in the hallway leading to the restrooms after two sexual assaults were reported, one in February and the second in July. (Sun.Post 2/16/94)

St. Louis Park:

Eileen Hansen returned as Senior Librarian to St. Louis Park after working there from 1973-1983. (St. Louis Park Sun. Sailor 4/5/94)

Southdale:

After more than two years of renovation, Southdale Library reopened March 14 as a full service library. The library is bigger by about 15,000 square feet and brighter, with additional lighting throughout. The 82,447 square foot 20 year old library has a new exterior and roof and improved mechanical and insulation systems. Asbestos was removed as part of the renovation. Total cost of the project was \$4.6 million, including \$260,000 for additional books and other library materials. (Eden Prairie News 3/10/94)

The Hennepin County Library Book Store, temporarily located at the Ridgedale Library, will close on February 24 and reopen March 14 at Southdale Library. The book store was temporarily relocated at Ridgedale during the two year building renovation at Southdale, which is expected to be completed in mid-March. (Eden Prairie News 2/17/94)

Patrons who wanted to renew their acquaintance with Southdale Library or wanted to see it for the first time could join a 30 minute tour of the renovated building on Tuesday September 13. Library staff conducted a workshop on "How to use your library effectively" on October 27th. (Southwest Digest 9/94)

Libraries that picked up much of Southdale's business returned to normal hours of opening when Southdale reopened. (Sun.Sailor 2/23/94)

Wayzata:

Carolyn Muchow was hired as principal librarian to oversee libraries in Excelsior, Long Lake, Westonka, Maple Plain, St. Bonifacius and Wayzata. (Sun.Sailor 5/18/94)

Westonka:

Bill Erickson took over as senior librarian in March after working at Westonka as a shelver/clerk from February 1978 to October 1979. (The Laker 7/4/94)

compiled by Eileen Cavanagh 9/2/2013