

## 1997 Publicity Scrapbook summary

### System News:

Jeff Spartz was named county administrator by unanimous vote on January 23. He had been acting administrator since April 1996. (Eden Prairie News 1/30/97)

The Hennepin County Library System's home page (<http://www.hennepin.lib.mn.us>) opened in December. (Sun.Sailor 1/8/97)

Non-supervising librarians voted overwhelmingly to affiliate with the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME). The 73-9 vote culminated a six month organizing campaign, the first by professional staff in HCL's 75 year history. (Library Hotline 12/8/97)

During National Library Week Hennepin County Library celebrated its 75th anniversary at Southdale on April 19th. A brief program included remarks by past library directors, Helen Young and Robert Rohlf and current library director Charles Brown. ( Osseo Maple Grove 4/2/97) From its origins in 1922 as a library system largely comprised of book stations in general stores and other community locations and Model-T-type delivery vans that provided books to homes and schools in such then rural areas as Brooklyn Center and Bloomington, yet today stands as one of the leading public libraries in the nation. (Bloomington Sun-Current 4/16/97)

Hennepin County Libraries reached a milestone in mid-December when circulation figures exceeded an annual circulation of 10 million. The borrowing rate per person was nearly twice the national average for similar library systems. It is equivalent to every suburban resident borrowing 14.9 items annually, compared with the national average of 7.6 items. ( Bloomington Sun Current 1/8/97)

A Star Tribune editorial called the Hennepin Job and Career Center a remarkable new resource for job seekers of every type...in a comfortable, even encouraging environment. The Job Center was the first resource of its kind in the Twin Cities. It was developed based on research about existing job services and organizations and through work with community focus groups. The center offers more than 2000 job-related materials plus electronic resources available from five workstations. (Library Hotline 6/16/97)

Hundreds of books, games and compact discs were stolen from various libraries in the Hennepin County Library system. A 24 year old man, already incarcerated, lengthened his stay after admitting to stealing more than \$500 in materials. (Sun. Post 12/17/97)

In 1997 the Twins did their part to celebrate and promote reading. Together with the Minnesota Library Association and Lerner Publishing Group the Twins sponsored "Read Every Chance You Get", a program that encourages kids--and the adults in their lives--to discover the joy of reading. (Twins Magazine 4/97)

Hennepin County Library officials planned to enter the library system's 75th anniversary with ever increasing services, including public internet access and a complete job information center. The libraries added internet access to more than 800 terminals at 26 locations. (Sun Current 1/8/97)

First Search was touted as a remarkable reference tool that enables staff at smaller libraries to answer complex patron questions without needing to call the patron back or refer the question to a larger library. (OCLC Newsletter September/October 1996)

## Volunteers:

Volunteers contributed 2000 hours of service to the library (in 1996). Volunteer opportunities grew with the addition of new services such as the addition of the Internet. (Bloomington Sun.Current 1/8/97)

## Cataloging:

Sanford Berman received the Robert B Downs Intellectual Freedom award in February. The award is given "to those who have resisted censorship or efforts to abridge the freedom of individuals to read or view materials of their choice" (Hopkins St. Louis Park Sun.Sailor 2/19/97)

## Library Foundation:

Amy Tan was featured as the first author on the new "Pen Pals" series. Frank McCourt and Pat Conroy were also speakers for Pen Pals first year. . (Star Trib 9/28/97)

Doris Kearns Goodwin, Pulitzer Prize winning historian was in the Twin Cities in November as part of the Library Foundation's "Pen Pals" lecture series. (Star Tribune Variety 11/11/97)

The Library Foundation of Hennepin County recently approved grants totaling \$15,631 for four projects to connect children with books in non-traditional settings and ways:

1. Working with Osseo School Family Liaison teacher and workers, library staff used the Children's Readmobile to provide specialized resources to at-risk children and their parents.

2. The library will select a core collection of books to be used with infants, toddlers and preschoolers at the Minneapolis Crisis Nursery in Golden Valley.

3. The third project was the Gift book/read-to-me service for children of dads in prison.

4. The fourth project was a provision of Readmobile Service to Interfaith Outreach. (Osseo/Maple Grove Press 11/19/97)

## Children's Readmobile:

The Children's Readmobile provided monthly library service and storytimes for home-based, licensed, preschool child care providers in the northwest suburbs. (Lifelines 9/97)

## Individual libraries:

### Brookdale:

Beginning in April Brookdale's new Job and Career Information Center provided job seekers with help finding work. The center was the only one of its kind in the system and there is no charge for its use. The newly remodeled 1400 square foot area pulls information at the library together in one place and provides improved access to additional information through the use of computers and other technology. (Crystal Golden Valley Sun Post 4/2/97)

### Champlin:

"Create a vision for our future" was a community discussion on May 22 at Champlin Library. Librarian Margaret Gillespie and former Champlin Mayor Josephine Nunn moderated the discussion of what Champlin should look like 10 or 20 years from now. (Champlin Dayton Press 5/13/97) Part 2 of the Creating the Vision took place on September 30. One of the proposals to keep traditions alive in the city was to start a volunteer community effort to replace the Corner Gateway Christmas Tree near the intersection of River Road and 169 across from the old library. It was decorated for many years but fell victim to the storms of July, 1997. The residents are asking help in locating a replacement tree. (Champlin Dayton Press 10/14/97)

With the installation of the final stained glass window, representing the fall season, the Champlin Library hosted a dedication ceremony May 17. Ruth Stephens spoke at the dedication. She began the stained glass window project when she wanted to create a memorial for her mother and former Champlin Librarian Gertrude Leathers. Names of donors are listed on a plaque in the entryway near the four windows. (Champlin Dayton Press 5/27/97)

Members of the DeJarlais family donated a painting by Minnesota artist Art Headley to the Champlin Library. The gift was a memorial to Abbie DeJarlais and Evelyn Dejarlais, members of a pioneer Champlin family who originally settled in Dayton Township in 1853. (Champlin Dayton Press 6/24/97) The painting was dedicated at a tea on September 13. (Champlin Dayton Press 9/9/97)

Sharyll Smith was appointed librarian at Champlin Library in April. Before that she worked for 14 years at Ridgedale as a reference librarian. (Champlin Dayton Press 4/15/97)

A cooperative project between Oxbow Creek School and Champlin library allowed students to select supplemental materials from Hennepin County Library's collection and have them delivered to their school by a courier. This project enabled children who may not have had access to the public library to have it through their school. (Champlin Dayton Press 5/27/97)

### Edina:

Edina author, Judith Guest is known mostly for her first novel, Ordinary People. Born in Detroit, she has lived in Edina since 1975. She wrote all but the first novel in that house. Edgar Guest was her great uncle

who wrote daily poems for the Detroit newspaper. Judith Guest read from and signed her book, Errands, at Edina Library on January 16. Copies of the book were for sale at the library. (Eden Prairie Sun 1/15/97)

Pamela Holt, Ed, compiled a bibliography of books on leadership for the Reflective Leadership Center at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. (St. Paul Pioneer Press 2/23/97)

#### Maple Grove:

Max Haynes and Ron Handberg were the speakers at Maple Grove's 10th anniversary. (Osseo maple grove press 11/15/97)

#### Osseo:

"Reflections of Osseo's History," three evenings of coffee, conversation and reminiscences was part of the library's year long celebration of its 75th anniversary. (Article includes 1949 photo of Osseo Library.) (Osseo Maple Grove Press 10/1/97) On February 1, 1922, the Osseo branch of the Hennepin County Library was established in the commercial clubroom on the upper level floor of the Hovorka Drugstore with Mrs. Rosalie Killmer as librarian. (Partial reprint of an original article from the Bulletin of the Hennepin County Library, 4/1950. (Osseo Maple Grove Press 4/9/97)

#### Plymouth:

Plymouth Library Friends voted to donate the proceeds of their fall booksale to the victims of last Spring's flood in the East Grand Forks area. (Plymouth Sun.Sailor 8/27/97)

Syl Jones discussed his book, Rescuing Little Roundhead, on August 12. (Shorewood Sun. Sailor 8/20/97)

#### Ridgedale:

Ridgedale Library was scheduled to close in September for two years as part of a \$22 million expansion and renovation. Improvements include a technology center, about 50,000 more materials, a children's room twice the size of the old one, a used book store and a coffee shop. During the project most of the library's (reference) collection will be available at Golden Valley. (Star Trib 9/2/97) Ridgedale's telephone and in person information services were relocated to the Golden Valley Library (St. Louis Park Sun.Sailor 9/3/97) While Ridgedale was closed, hours at nearby libraries were expanded to handle extra patrons. (Finance and Commerce 9/5/97) Community meetings about the expansion were scheduled at Golden Valley City Hall, Plymouth Community Library and Wayzata City Council chambers. (Excelsior/Shorewood Sun.Sailor 5/28/97)

#### Rockford Road:

A refurbished Rockford Road (library) opened on April 26. The renovation added 1335 square feet to the library, bringing it to about 20,000 square feet--one of the largest in the library system. Changes include:

- automated, self checkout computer
- large meeting room
- book drop
- a renovated, updated children's area
- a room with four computer work stations (can also be used as a small meeting room)
- new checkout and service counters
- new reference desk
- two new two person study carrels with computers
- study room with computers
- enlarged staff areas
- automated conveyor system

(Sun Post 5/144/97)

Sunday, June 8 marked the reopening and 25th anniversary of the Rockford Road Library. Faith Sullivan, author of Cape Ann will read selections from her recent book, Empress of One. Fire Chief Kevin McGinty will cut the ribbon on the new fire truck for the children's area in the library. (Sun Post 6/4/97)

In 1907 20 civic minded women formed the Robbinsdale Library Club. The dues were 10 cents per month and membership was limited to 35; at times women waited years to get in. With fund-raisers and cookbook sales the women raised nearly \$9000 over the years and in 1926 the new Robbinsdale Library opened debt free at 4915 42 Av N. On September 18 the Robbinsdale Library Club celebrated its 90th anniversary at Rockford Road Library. (Sun.Post 9/10/97)

#### St. Anthony:

Rachel Plude-Santos, St. Anthony's recent librarian planned "Internet volunteers night" and an open mike night to attract new library users. The staff are currently working on expanding the young adults section. (The Bulletin 4/26/97)

#### St. Louis Park:

Mary Monica Pulver, mystery author, offered a workshop at the St. Louis Park Library on October 16. At the time she was writing a mystery that takes place in Excelsior. (St. Louis Park Sun. Sailor 10/1/97)

#### Southdale:

A materials handling system was installed in the book return area. The robot will be able to automatically presort the million plus items that are returned to Southdale annually. (Hennepin Family 9/97)

Wayzata:

Wayzata Library celebrated its 100th birthday. At one time it was housed in the city hall. The building fell into disarray over the years and in 1955 a fire started in the back of the building where tar was being heated for street repair. Kids were sent to the site to get out the books. With the help of school children and other citizens every book in the library was salvaged. The books were carried to Rettinger Motors, a Ford dealer, next to the city hall. Some were piled into a convertible in the showroom window. When the new city hall was built in 1956 the library moved there. (Lakeshore Weekly News 4/24/97) The Wayzata Historical Society provided a photo of the colonial building housing the Wayzata Library. (Lakeshore Weekly News 4/17/97)

compiled by Eileen Cavanagh 10/2013