

1956-1957-1958 Publicity Scrapbook Summary

Note: Significant newspaper articles and other items from this scrapbook covering the years 1956, 1957, and 1958 are filed by subject in the archive files.

HCL-MPL Use Agreement

1957: In a letter to the editor, Dorothy Rood, president of the Minneapolis (and Hennepin County) Library Board, defended a proposed increase in county tax levy for library purposes. She stated that the Citizens League helped facilitate independent meetings of rural Hennepin County leaders, headed by Wayzata Mayor H.O. Kallestad. “The library board is not seeking to impose a tax on rural Hennepin. Rather, it is seeking with the representatives of rural Hennepin to find a means for providing the best library service to both city and county based on just and equitable financial support.” (*Minneapolis Tribune, Feb. 10, 1957*). The Minneapolis Public Library Board adjourned and reconvened as the Hennepin County Library Board. The Board recommended that Hennepin County increase county library taxes from two to three mills (one-half mill more in 1958 and an additional one-half mill more in 1959) because the extra tax funds would more adequately reimburse MPL for services furnished rural and suburban residents. It was estimated the increase would produce \$126,000 more under the 1957 assessment, compared to the \$7,000 raised by charging non-resident users an annual fee of \$2. [City residents were paying more than four mills in taxes for library service.] The proposed increase needed Legislature approval. (*Minneapolis Star, Feb. 15, 1957*). The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners endorsed the proposed legislative bill that would increase county library taxes. (*Minneapolis Tribune, Feb. 20, 1957*). The Hennepin County League of Towns and Municipalities (an organization of elected rural and suburban officials) “stalled” the proposed library bill. “The sentiment against the library bill resulted in the league shelving its endorsement of the library bill in the legislature.” (*North Hennepin Post, April 4, 1957*). The Hennepin County Library mill-levy increase bill was passed by House and Senate legislators and almost signed by Governor Orville Freeman, but the bill’s author, Rep. Leonard Lindquist of Brooklyn Center, pulled the bill back due to mixed feelings about the bill by the League of Towns and Municipalities. (*Minneapolis Star, April 11, 1957*). The Minneapolis Library Board approved a new proposal that called for no increase beyond the one-half mill increase in 1958. The Board agreed to try out the new plan for two years. The Board also passed a resolution to develop a plan that would allow for county representation when the Board discusses county library matters. (*Minneapolis Tribune, April 12, 1957*). The State Legislature passed the revised legislation; beginning in January 1958, there would no longer be a \$2 non-resident fee for suburban/ rural county library users of the Minneapolis public libraries. (*Minneapolis Star, May 10, 1957*).

1958: MPL circulation was boosted by doing away with the annual \$2 non-resident fee, which was replaced by the new higher library levy in suburban/rural Hennepin County (except in Hopkins, which had its own library). MPL issued 2,000 more library cards in January, 45 percent of them to suburban residents. The \$2 non-resident fee had been in effect since 1942. (*Minneapolis Tribune, February 1958*).

HCL Systemwide News

Summer Reading Program – 1957: Theme was “Passport to Adventure;” the program was designed to encourage summer reading for children in grades 1-6. Orono teachers and

librarians at Long Lake (Mrs. Floyd Burkhardt) and Maple Plain (Amanda Johnson) teamed up to promote the program. (*Orono School District newsletter, June 1957*).

1958: The theme was “Wake Up and Read” and an editorial noted a joint statement by Harry Truman and Herbert Hoover supported NLW. (*Minneapolis Tribune, March 17, 1958*).

Librarians Mena Dyste, Richfield, and Joy Grogan, Robbinsdale, were interviewed about their reading habits. (*Minneapolis Tribune, March 18, 1958*).

Thelma Jones Columns: Wayzata librarian Thelma Jones wrote library news features that regularly appeared in suburban newspapers. (*various newspapers, 1957-1958*).

HCL Service – 1957: The county library system consisted of 23 branches and two bookmobiles; the bookmobiles served some 3,000 families plus 40 public and parochial schools and eight institutional deposit stations, such as the “Glen Lake San.” Branch libraries were in Bloomington, Champlin, Dayton, Eden Prairie, Edina, Excelsior, Glen Lake San, Groveland, Hamel, Long Lake, Maple Plain, Minnetonka Mills, Minnewashta, Morningside, Mound, Orono, Osseo, Richfield, Robbinsdale, Rogers, St. Bonifacius, St. Louis Park and Wayzata. (*St. Louis Park Dispatch, Sept. 19, 1957*).

New Film Service – 1958: HCL joined the Minnesota Library Film Circuit which provided every six weeks a new package of nine or ten 16-millimeter films “with sound – some in color – for your club or organization to borrow.” (*Bloomington Sun, Oct. 30, 1958*).

Individual Library News

Bloomington – 1957: A Friends of the Library organization was formed in Bloomington, with the goal of getting a library for the community. Library Director Helen Young attended the group’s organizational meeting. (*Bloomington Sun, Feb. 28, 1957*). The village council authorized \$2,000 for rent and maintenance of a library in 1958, with “the Hennepin county library expected to remodel quarters suitable for library purposes, furnish 15,000 books to equip and provide a trained staff.” The village was looking at the James Moir house, 2215 W. Old Shakopee Road, as a possible location for the library. (*Bloomington Sun, Sept. 26, 1957*).

1958: Bloomington’s library was scheduled to move from the high school, where it was staffed by a school librarian, to the Moir house. The move “has been criticized by those who feel the switch to Moir house will deprive the school of library facilities. Supporters of the Moir house project, on the other hand, contend that school and branch libraries should be maintained independently.” (*Minneapolis Star, April 3, 1958*).

Bookmobile – 1957: In 1956, another bookmobile was acquired. “Librarians have tagged the six-month old bookmobile ‘Parker’ to distinguish it from the old bookmobile. ‘Parker’ spends an hour or more at each suburban stop, and ‘Rambler,’ the first bookmobile, rambles over the county.” (*Bloomington Sun, Jan. 31, 1957*). Note: news clippings of specific bookmobile schedules have been retained in the archive files.

Edina – 1958: Elinor Heath, Edina librarian, accepted a contribution from the Village Newcomers Club that she would use for historical reference books. (*Edina-Morningside Courier, Dec. 18, 1958*).

Glen Lake: “On Jan. 25, 1925, the president of the Glen Lake PTA appointed a committee to meet with the board of education to see what could be done to secure a branch of the Hennepin county library system for the village. The Women’s Community club joined them, and a library was opened to the public May 4, 1925. This library was housed in the old school on Excelsior Blvd. Miss Blanche Dominick was appointed librarian and served until Oct. 1 of that year. Mrs. Frank Dominick became librarian in 1925 and for 25 years gave faithfully of her time and her talent to the building of a fine library for the entire community. Someone has said that the county library system ‘born in adversity, had three essentials: faith, hope and love. Faith that the project would be of lasting benefit to the community and that it filled a basic need; hope, that our arguments were convincing; and love, to give service to the people.’ These three things, faith, hope and love, Mrs. Frank Dominick gave in full measure through 25 years of her work in the Glen Lake library.” (*undated article, Hennepin County Review*).

Glen Lake/Groveland/Minnetonka Mills – 1958: A newspaper article called attention to these three libraries as available for area residents who did not live in Hopkins and could not use that library. Glen Lake was located at Glen Lake Elementary School, 4801 Woodridge Road; Groveland at Groveland School, 17300 Minnetonka Blvd.; and Minnetonka Mills at Burwell School, 131, McGinty Road. W. (*Hennepin County Review, April 4, 1958*).

Golden Valley – 1957: Library Director Helen Young spoke on “What a Library Can Do for Golden Valley” at an open house sponsored by the Friends of the Library. (*Minneapolis Star, May 6, 1957*). Helen Young was preparing for the mid-November opening of a new library in Golden Valley located at the Waldron Drug Store site. The collection was to be based on bookmobile usage by community residents, including “modern fiction, nonfiction, reference books, pamphlets and periodicals.” Miss Young was looking to hire a full-time librarian, preferably “someone from the locality who has a degree or commensurate education.” (*Golden Valley Suburban Press, Oct. 17, 1957*). Golden Valley residents voted on a \$450,000 bond issue for a new civic center-library. (*North Hennepin Post, May 2, 1957*).

1958: Architects were approved to design the village’s new \$300,000 civic center, including a library, municipal offices and police. (*Golden Valley Suburban Press, Jan. 23, 1958*). Mrs. B.J. McClennan, Golden Valley librarian, reported use of the new library (in its temporary location) during its first week was “most satisfying.” (*Suburban Press, Feb. 20, 1958*). “Golden Valley’s first library” was dedicated March 16, 1958 as National Library Week started. The library was “the 25th branch of the Hennepin county library system. It began operating Feb. 17 and ... issued more than 500 library cards.” (*Minneapolis Tribune, March 16, 1958*). Two teen girls on horseback were photographed visiting the “Golden Valley Branch of the Hennepin County Library.” (*Minneapolis Star, June 26, 1958*).

Long Lake – 1958: An open house took place Nov. 12, 1958 for the opening of the Long Lake Library in its new location, the former State Bank building. The article included this history of the library: “[T]he library which is a big county institution now, was originally the village’s own poor, little orphan kid... The first Long Lake Library was organized before World War I. Two civic minded residents, the late Mrs. Frank T. Heffelfinger, Wayzata, and Mrs. C.R. Brackett, Long Lake, provided the nucleus of the library, with books and magazines. The community stepped in and gave a book shower that netted a tidy sum, besides books. That was in 1913. A Library association was formed following the county library commission suggestions. The Hennepin county headquarters under the direction of

Miss Baldwin, sent out a member of the staff to classify and catalogue the collection, and teach the new librarians as much as possible in a very brief course. In true 'this-is-where-we-came-in' routine, the first library was located in a little room in the back of the Long Lake bank, and the books on the shelves numbered around 400. Now the library takes up the entire first floor of the building, with the former vault a children's reading nook, and the directors pine-paneled room, now a place for committee meetings. Librarians were hired by the association at a salary of eight cents an hour. Two worked the day shift, with one spelling the other off. Hours were every day, all day with the exception of Sunday, when the librarian was off duty only four hours. Early librarians were Mrs. George Blain, who still lives in Long Lake, Mrs. Bess Neilson Crowell, Minneapolis, and Mrs. Emma Filetreau, now of Merrill, Wis. The latter gave out books, stamped cards, and kept the library under her eye for 20 years. Mrs. Burkhardt, the present librarian, took over from her in 1941. In the meantime, while books were circulating through the village, members of the association were on the bake sale bazaar belt line, raising money to keep the library going. In 1917 a small library building was put up with labor and materials donated by the villagers. It was situated on the Main street, but was moved later to a plot behind the Long Lake Presbyterian church. In 1922 the Long Lake Library joined the county system, and bake sale sponsors heaved sighs of relief. Next important move was when the village signed a three year lease with Dr. Calvin R. Elrod (he brought the building when the Bank moved to its new location on Highway 12) for \$90 a month. The village also pays maintenance, light and heat, and the Hennepin county library pays the librarian's salary and provides the books, which now number 2,500. There are still remnants of the first library however, in the bright new quarters. Several volumes with the book mark 'Heffelfinger Library' are still on the shelves, and every year at Christmas the library is the recipient of several magazine subscriptions from Frank T. Heffelfinger, Maplewoods, among them such 'luxury' publications, not on the Library's regular list, as Vogue magazine. Also the Minneapolis daily newspapers. The Long Lake library, however, with all its modern improvements, still keeps the homespun touch in many respects. As for instance, every class in the Long Lake school (first and second graders) takes turns in visiting the library once a week. With their teachers, groups of children every day walk down the two short blocks to the library, browse, pick out books, ask questions, and sometimes get treats. It's Mrs. Burkhardt's annual custom to welcome all first graders with a party in the library in September. When such civic programs as Fire Prevention Week and the like, are scheduled, there's usually an exhibit in the Library and Mrs. Burkhardt tells the children a little about it. Or sometimes the kids themselves put on the show and drop in to sing a song they learned in school that day." (*Minnetonka Herald*, Nov. 6, 1958). Some additional historical information: After the 1914 formation of the Long Lake library association, Mrs. Frank T. Heffelfinger assured the rental of space for the library in the back room of the bank. In honor of the benefactor, the library was named the Heffelfinger public library. Under Mrs. George Blain, the first librarian, the library was open 9:30 a.m.-noon, 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. six days a week. Sunday hours, 1-6 p.m., were later added. (*Minneapolis Star*, Dec. 4, 1958).

Minnewashta – 1958: Minnewashta Library, Excelsior, announced the start of a Great Books discussion group. (*Minnetonka Herald*, Sept. 11, 1958). In an undated article, the hours of the library were stated as: 3-5 p.m., Monday through Friday and 7-9 p.m., Tuesday. (*Minnetonka Herald*).

Morningside (Edina) – 1956: A feature in the community paper noted several Edina women who worked in Hennepin County or Minneapolis public libraries, including Helen

Young, Dorothy and Sarah Wallace, Mrs. E. H. Vinson, Elinor Heath, Mrs. Bertha Hathaway, Mrs. C.W. Laughlin, Dorothy Nickells, and Mary Owen. (*Edina Morningside Courier*, Dec. 6, 1956).

1958: Mrs. H. E. Vinson, a librarian since 1922, served at the old Edina-Morningside library when it was located in the Wooddale school. When the school became too cramped in 1937, Mrs. Vinson moved with the library to Morningside. The current building was at 3903 Sunnyside Ave. and library hours were: 2-6 p.m., Monday through Friday and 6:45-8:45 p.m., Monday and Thursday. (*Edina-Morningside Courier*, Dec. 11, 1958).

Mound – 1958: Library Director Helen Young spoke to the Women’s Club of Mound about improving library service, especially by separating school and village library facilities. (*Minnetonka Record*, Oct. 16, 1958).

Orono – 1957: The Orono Village Council voted to fund the maintenance cost for a library in the old Hill school at Crystal Bay. Orono had been without a library for two years because the library room in the new Hill school was taken over for a classroom. (*Minnetonka Herald*, Sept. 12, 1957). Mrs. Roy J. Gerber was the librarian. Hours were 1:30-4:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, plus 7-9 p.m., Monday and Wednesday. (*Minnetonka Pilot*, March 27, 1958).

Osseo – 1957: The Osseo council voted 5-0 to authorize \$110-a-month rent for the library in the Masonic building on main street, formerly used by Amadore’s appliance. The new space would be able to accommodate 6,000 books, compared to the 1,000 books in the old library space in the rear of village hall. (*North Hennepin Post*, Jan. 17, 1957). Osseo moved Feb. 4, 1957 to the new quarters. In the first three months, 336 new library patrons were registered and for the first four months circulation was 2,681 more compared to the same period in 1956; total circulation for the four months was 5,312 in 1957. (*Osseo Press*, May 30, 1957).

Richfield – 1957: On Aug. 22, 1957, the library issued library card 10,000 to Christopher Katayama, an eight-year-old boy who was making his first visit to the library. On hand to watch was Mrs. Selma Andersen, a 23-year resident of Richfield, who held the first library card, numbered 100, issued in the community by the county bookmobile. “Richfield residents have had access to library books since 1922 when the Hennepin County Bookmobile began coming to the village. First Richfield librarian was Adrian Stoutenburg, who began her service when the library was first located at 64th and Lyndale at the rear of the lot at the location of the Baptist church. The Richfield Friends of the Library were actively working for permanent quarters for the books and in February, 1951 the branch library was opened at 67th and Portland with about 3,000 volumes on the shelves. Mrs. Kermit Haugan had been president of the Friends of the Library during the time of finding quarters for it. Present president of the group is Mrs. Forrest Carpenter. Today the Richfield library has nearly 10,000 volumes on its shelves. Many are permanent Richfield books. Patrons may draw books from the Hennepin County library of 200,000 books and through an inter-library arrangement, may also borrow from the Minneapolis Public Library which has close to a million books.” Note: In 1952, the library was moved into the old village hall. (*Richfield News*, Aug. 1, 1957).

1958: Richfield had the largest circulation of the 17 “independent” branches of Hennepin county library (independent libraries are those not in school buildings) – even though at 900 square feet, the building was one of the smallest. More than 12,000 Richfield residents had library cards and in 1956, they borrowed 79,839 books. According to Mrs. Paul Dyste, “chief librarian,” books on child care, handyman topics, home improvement, and gardening were in high demand. Other staff were Mrs. Charles Welliver and Mrs. Stuart Swanson. “The library had only 350 card-holders when it first opened in February 1951. Until then the only library service in Richfield was by bookmobile, which still visits the western part of the village. The library’s first home was a tiny building behind the old Baptist church on 64th and Lyndale. In 1952 the move was made into the old village hall quarters when the village built new quarters. There’s talk now about a new library for Richfield, which would please most everybody.” (*Minneapolis Star, Aug. 21, 1958*).

Robbinsdale – 1957: In observance of 50 years of existence, The Robbinsdale Library Club prepared a history of the club. On April 4, 1906, a “group of public spirited citizens” met to discuss a library for Robbinsdale. The Grenell Minstrel show as planned and produced to make money -- \$57.80 was raised. Books were donated purchased and placed in the Hotel Columbia, “which was where the Henney Drug store is now.” In late May 1904, the newspaper announced that “The public library will be open to one and all, on and after June 1 in the Hotel Columbia.” In 1906, the books were moved to the bank building. Despite fundraising efforts, the club had problems meeting the cost of paying the librarian’s \$4-a-month salary. The village gave permission to put the books in the village hall. “The village hall was such a public place, however, the books disappeared faster than they could be replaced, so they were stored for a while.” Finally two lots were purchased and another half lot donated, and in Nov. 1917, the club was able to purchase the Morse building for \$223.96 and have it re-stuccoed. It was opened to the public June 28, 1920. Mrs. E. N. Russ and Mrs. Forsaith worked in the library and donated their salaries to buy books. In 1921, Miss Frances Pollard became librarian and continued until 1954 when she resigned due to ill health. Gratia Countryman, Minneapolis Library director, advocated for rural libraries and convinced the Hennepin County Commissioners to levy a one mill tax for the libraries. Robbinsdale was one of 105 such libraries. On Jan. 7, 1922, the Library Club turned over the 1,500 volumes to the county, but retained the building and grounds at 4915 42nd Ave. N.. As the community grew, a larger library was needed. On Jan. 5, 1926, a new building – made possible through citizens’ donations and county funds – was dedicated. Mrs. Joy Grogan succeeded Frances Pollard in September 1954. (*North Hennepin Post, Jan. 17, 1957*).

1958: According to this historical article, A.B. Robbins, for whom the city was named, donated some of the land for the library site at 4915 42nd Ave. N. The article also stated that Robbinsdale Library became part of the Hennepin County system in 1923. (*North Hennepin Post, Feb. 27, 1958*).

St. Louis Park – 1956: The library was located in the junior high. (*St. Louis Park Dispatch, Dec. 20, 1956*).

1958: The library was busy with people looking for books on landscaping and home improvement. President Nixon’s trip to South America piqued interest in foreign affairs. Mrs. Liljensors, librarian, believed people were more interested in fact books than fiction. (*St. Louis Park Dispatch, May 29, 1958*). SLP library hours were 1-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, 7-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Because the library was in the junior high, it was closed on school holidays. (*St. Louis Park Dispatch, Aug. 28, 1958*).

Wayzata – 1956: Friends of the Library launched a campaign to raise \$1,200 for furniture for the new library to be located in the new village hall under construction. The Friends group was formed in 1950 when Thelma Jones was named head librarian. (*Minnetonka Herald, Dec. 6, 1956*). **1957:** Wayzata city officials met in their new village hall, even though the building was not totally completed. Plans were that the library would move in when finishing details were completed. “Since fire destroyed the old city hall March 17, 1955, the library has been operating in the Kallestad building on Lake street.” (*Minneapolis Star, June 7, 1957*). After some delay, the new library opened July 17. (*Minnetonka Herald, July 18, 1957*). The book “Once Upon a Lake: The Story of Minnetonka and Its People” by Wayzata librarian Thelma Jones received a favorable review in the Minneapolis Tribune. The reviewer said, “Mrs. Jones’ colorful chronicle is as near complete as any we’ve had, and it is one to renew our pride and interest in a suburban feature of our landscape we’ve long taken for granted.” Note: In addition to the review, many photos and excerpts from the book were featured in the Tribune’s Sunday picture magazine. (*Minneapolis Tribune, Nov. 3, 1957*). **1958:** Wayzata residents were readers, noted Thelma Jones. They borrowed an average of two books a month in July 1958. “The Wayzata library is one of the oldest in the area. It was started in the early 1890s by a group of residents who called themselves the Wayzata Reading society. Miles Dickey, a leading citizen, was instrumental in getting the library launched and served as librarian for \$50 a year. The society sent out cards asking donations of books.” (*Minneapolis Star, Sept. 4, 1958*).

Construction of the New Minneapolis Public Library

1956: The Minneapolis Library Board instructed its architects to shave \$1 million off the cost of the proposed new downtown library to replace the Minneapolis Public Library at Hennepin Ave. and 10th St. The Board was aiming for a cost of \$4.5 to 5 million dollars, compared to the original estimate of \$6 million. The Board also approved an architect fee of \$25,000, in addition to the contract fee of 6 percent of the building cost; the additional fee was added since the architects – Lang and Raugland, McEnary and Krafft – would lose \$60,000 when the project was cut by \$1 million. The new building would be bounded by Hennepin and Nicollet Avenues and Third and Fourth Streets. Robert Rohlf was appointed administrative assistant to Glenn Lewis, city librarian, to coordinate the work of the architects and building committee. (*Minneapolis Star, Dec. 14, 1956*). The need to reduce the cost of the proposed new downtown library came from rising expenses for items not included in the cost of the building, including such items as land acquisition, insurance and equipment. The City Attorney said land for the new building may be acquired by April 1957 – condemnation proceedings were sought against the land owners who refused to sell. (*Minneapolis Tribune, Dec. 19, 1956*).

1957: The Library Board heard that the new library would have much less space for books than most new libraries in other major cities. Building coordinator Robert Rohlf told the Board that there would not be enough space to even double the present number of materials. J.L. Morrill, U of M president, told the Board of the University’s storage warehouse, where materials can be retrieved as needed. City Librarian Glenn Lewis said “a public library does not stock the quantity of little-used material that a university library does” and therefore the city is facing a different problem. (*Minneapolis Star, Jan. 11, 1957*). MPL Board president Dorothy Rood responded to a letter that expressed concern about the long delay in construction of the new library. She noted that while the site had long been established, funds to purchase were not available until 1955. Building plans begun in 1947

were completed and sent to the federal government for approval in 1950 since the federal government had provided for the financing of the blueprint stage. By 1956, building costs had increased so much that the cost had grown from \$6.5 million to \$9 million – hence the need for revised architectural plans. (*Minneapolis Tribune, Feb. 24, 1957*). Appraisers were named as part of the condemnation process for the library site. (*Minneapolis Star, Nov. 11, 1957*). The City's Capital Long-range Improvement Committee (CLIC) approved preliminary plans for a new downtown library costing an estimated \$8.5 million and urged that the building be constructed "as fast as practicable." The timetable called for acquisition of the property by February 1958, with demolition to begin then and the library ready for use at the end of 1959 or early in 1960. CLIC was told that design of the building should take care of Minneapolis library needs for the next 25 to 40 years. "The CLIC library plans session" took place on head librarian Glenn Lewis's 65th birthday and his last day on the job. (*Minneapolis Star, Nov. 13, 1957*). Minneapolis City Council approved issuance of \$6,867,000 in bonds to construct the new library. (*Minneapolis Star, Dec. 17, 1957*).

1958: The Minneapolis Library Board hired sculptor John Rood for an unspecified sum to create a sculpture for the new library. Rood was a U of M art professor and the husband of Library Board president Dorothy Rood. Library Board members moved that the sculpture be subject to Board review and approval. (*Minneapolis Tribune, March 14, 1958*). Demolition was proceeding on the library site. An exterior rendering of the building showed a combination of glass walls and Minnesota Rockville granite walls with extruded gold anodized aluminum trim. (*Minneapolis Star, July 1, 1958*). Apparent low bid for the construction of the new library was \$4,733,179, about one million dollars below estimates. Bids were expected to be approved by the Library Board on Nov. 24. (*Minneapolis Tribune, Nov. 15, 1958*). The new library was expected to be completed in 22 months. It was to have 270,500 square feet of space, with a capacity for 1.5 million volumes and 600 library patrons. (*Minneapolis Star, Nov. 15, 1958*). Librarian Raymond Williams and his staff set up new procedures and efficient methods "to ready a modern library for a modern building." Separate departments were established for history, literature and languages, to go with the art, music and technical departments previously established – all would have their own card file catalog. They also were considering one checkout counter near the main entrance instead of nine separate checkouts. Williams was looking to increase the materials budget, which comprised 8.9 percent of the total \$1.859 million operating budget in 1958. (*Minneapolis Star, Nov. 17, 1958*). Robert H. Rohlf resigned as new buildings officer for Minneapolis Public Library to become director of the new Dakota-Scott regional library. (*Minneapolis Argus, Nov. 20, 1958*). "In a cold, but festive ceremony, ground was broken Thursday (Dec. 4??) for the new Minneapolis public library." The South High School band performed, including the bare-legged baton twirlers. (*Minneapolis Star, Dec. 5, 1958*).

New Library Director: Raymond E. Williams, 41, became the sixth head of the Minneapolis Public Library system on Nov. 12, 1957, succeeding Glenn Lewis, who retired. Immediately prior to his appointment, he was assistant director of the Enoch Pratt public library in Baltimore. (*Minneapolis Star, Sept. 16, 1957*).

Other Library News

Rural Library Service Expansion: Hannis Smith, Minnesota Dept. of Education, offered a proposal for statewide rural library service that would be submitted for federal approval and funding. For the first year, \$40,000 of the federal money would be matched by the state to

buy two bookmobiles for rural service and provide for staff and books. After three or four years of federal/state funding, rural libraries and library service, Smith hoped, would be funded locally. (*Minneapolis Tribune*, Nov. 13, 1956). A program with the ultimate goal of bringing public library service within a mile of every Minnesota resident was presented by the Minnesota Dept. of Education. The Department sought \$150,000 from the state legislature to match the \$173,000 available from the federal government. The plan recommended multi-county units as most effective and economical. (*Minneapolis Tribune*, Jan. 11, 1957). Minnesota was one of the first states to receive funds (\$40,000) under a new federal program to support public library service to rural areas. (*Minneapolis Tribune*, Feb. 7, 1957). A *Minneapolis Tribune* editorial noted that Minnesota ranked only 31st in the list of 48 states for library service. About 25 percent of state residents had no public library service and only 36 percent were served adequately. The editorial called for strong consideration of \$400,000 (which would be matched by the federal government) for the next biennium for rural libraries. (*Minneapolis Tribune*, Feb. 10, 1957). Congress authorized \$6 million for rural libraries, exactly twice as much as President Eisenhower had proposed; nevertheless he was expected to approve the bill. (*Minneapolis Star*, Aug. 8, 1958). Rural library operations in Scott and Dakota counties were combined into a regional library system. (*Minneapolis Star*, Oct. 15, 1958).

Hopkins – 1957: The Hopkins League of Women Voters chose to study whether the Hopkins Library should remain independent or join the Hennepin County Library system. Hopkins was the only municipality in the rural/suburban part of the county that operated its own library. Its 1957 budget (covering staff, books, supplies and building costs) was \$17,500. If Hopkins were to join the county system, Hopkins residents would be subject to the 2.5 mill county library tax (amounting to about \$25,000) and for financing building costs. “In return, Hopkins residents would be able to draw from the county system’s 200,000 book collection and starting in 1958 would have free use of the Minneapolis Library system and its 1 million books and all its special services.” (*Citizens League News*, May 17, 1957). “A desire for longer hours, more space and more reference material in the Hopkins library has been expressed by Hopkins residents polled by the local League of Women Voters.” One hundred adults and 137 Hopkins high seniors were surveyed. Survey showed that 72 percent of adults wanted more books and more than half wanted more information about the benefits of joining the county library system. Fifty-four percent of students were interested in the county library system because of their need for more reference materials. (*Hennepin County Review*, Jan. 30, 1958). In another article from the same newspaper, the Hopkins League of Women Voters, Unit 3 met and decided that there was no advantage to joining the county library system. It was noted that the Hopkins Library had 19,000+ volumes and was open 22 hours a week. It was financed at a tax rate of 1.67 mills. The library served a population of 12,000, with 5,824 registered borrowers. Two hundred forty families outside Hopkins purchased library cards in 1957. (*Hennepin County Review*, Jan. 30, 1958)

Hennepin County News

Rural Hennepin vs. Minneapolis: Minneapolis Mayor Hoyer said he was looking to expand the city by 32 square miles (in addition to its 59 square miles). Specifically he was looking to “all unorganized or unincorporated territory” still in township status as far north as Champlin village, but not including incorporated villages such as Osseo, Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park. Hoyer hinted that Minneapolis might go to the Legislature for approval

for authorization and that in the future, he was looking to Maple Grove, Plymouth and Dayton townships. "A city can't be static," he said. Township and village leaders in rural Hennepin didn't like the mayor's idea and began to talk about creating a separate county of "rural Hennepin." (*Minneapolis Star, Jan. 23, 1957*). A separate "rural Hennepin County" would cost about half as much as the present county, but the cost to rural residents would be twice the \$2.97 million they now contribute to Hennepin County government. Morningside city clerk Dan Nelson pointed out four of the five County Commissioners were from Minneapolis and could not be counted on "to look out for the interests of rural Hennepin." State Rep. Leonard Lindquist called on constituents to organize and pressure the 1959 legislature to re-apportion the seats on the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, with the goal of having at least two commissioners representing rural Hennepin. (*Minneapolis Star, July 12, 1957*).

Suburban Valuation Gain Tops City's: Assessed valuation of Hennepin County was \$532,589,665, an increase of four percent over 1956. In the suburban area, the new figures were 9.88 percent higher, compared to an increase of 1.79 percent in the city of Minneapolis. (*St. Louis Park Dispatch, Oct. 10, 1957*).

Suburban Joint Planning: Eight suburbs – Richfield, Edina, St. Louis Park, Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Morningside, Minnetonka, and Hopkins – initiated plans for joint planning – "the first such move since the creation of the Metropolitan Planning commission." One suggestion by a state advisor was that the suburbs consider hiring joint full-time planning directors. (*Minneapolis Star, Dec. 12, 1957*).

Compiled by Linda Jennings, November 2009