

# Elmhurst Public Library



1912 - 2003

# Beginnings



## City establishes a library

In 1912, the Elmhurst City Council passed an ordinance that established a public library and an annual tax levy to support the library. The mayor appointed the first nine-member Library Board. Over the next few years the Board wrote bylaws and looked for a suitable place to open the library.

## An Ordinance

An ordinance establishing and maintaining a Public Library and Reading Room for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the City of Elmhurst.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Elmhurst:

Section 1:

That a Public Library and Reading Room for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the City of Elmhurst be established and maintained.

Section 2:

That all ordinances and parts of the ordinances in conflict herewith be hereby repealed.

Section 3:

That this ordinance be in force from and after its passage.

Approved:

July 8, 1912

Passed:

July 8, 1912

(signed)

F.W.M. Hammerschmidt,  
Mayor of the City of Elmhurst

(signed)

Thomas Hawkins,  
City Clerk

## *Library opens*

On March 22, 1916, despite a snow storm, the Elmhurst Public Library opened to a crowd of 100 in a small room in the rear of the old Glos Building at York and Park Avenue. The room was rented for \$15 per month. Katharine Breitenbach, the first librarian, was paid a salary of \$15 per month, and \$5 a month was paid for janitor services. The Board spent \$400 to buy books and magazines. The Elmhurst Woman's Club donated \$75 for the purchase of children's books.

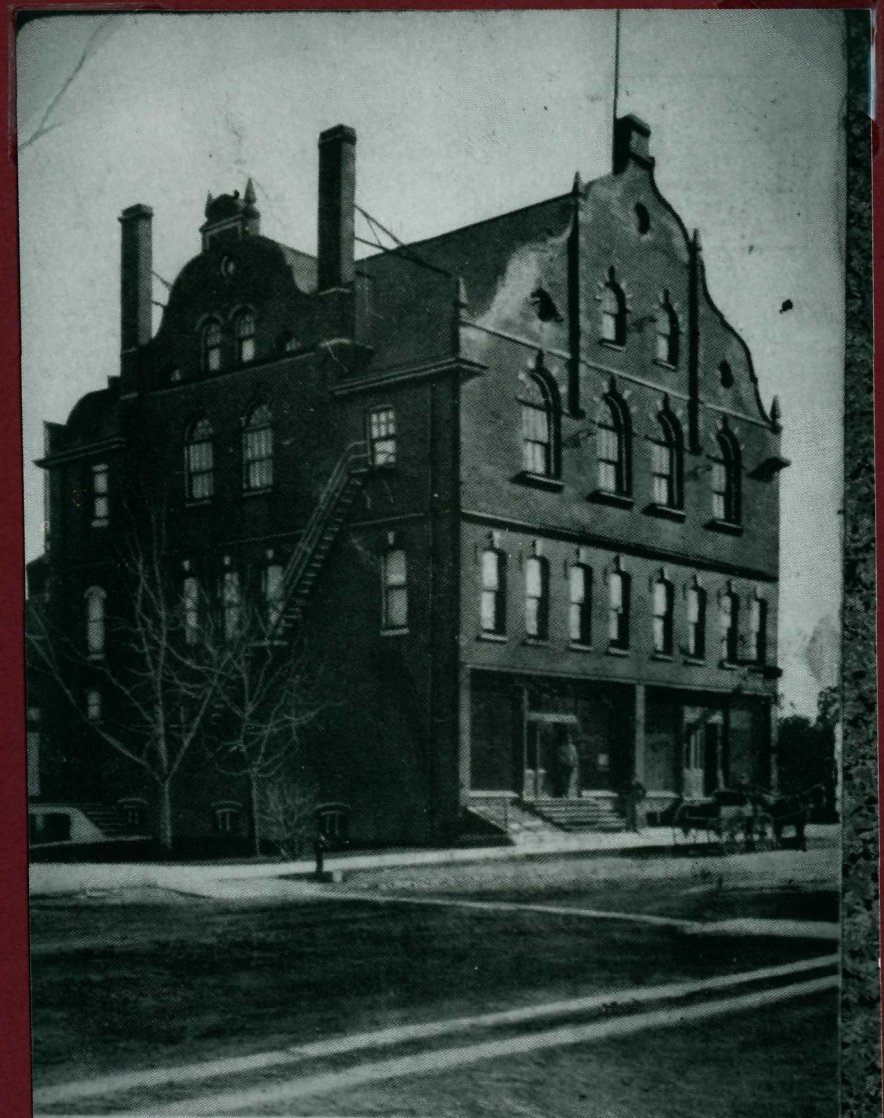
The library began with 830 books and was open only ten hours a week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. The library's equipment included a new typewriter.

In the first annual report published in the *Elmhurst Press* in 1917, the library's collection had grown to 1,507 volumes, 12 magazine subscriptions and 643 registered borrowers. That first year library books circulated 10,400 times.

A volunteer from the community offered all children in third and fourth grades a story hour on Saturday afternoons during the summer vacation.

During World War I, the library distributed food pamphlets, government bulletins and collected, with the help of school children, over 1,000 books for soldiers' camps.

1916



Elmhurst, Ill.

1372 Glos Block.

get all my letters at this building  
Best regards to you all.

*The Glos Building, first site of  
the Elmhurst Public Library*

## FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Wonderful Progress Made During the First Twelve Months

The Elmhurst Public Library has just completed its first fiscal year ending July 1st.

Although a mere infant compared with the libraries of the state, it has made a most creditable showing, having a circulation of 10,409 volumes. When we consider that the library is open only ten hours a week, this circulation is exceedingly good. Some interesting statistics are given here.

#### BOOK ACCOUNT.

Number of volumes at the beginning of the year.....	1116
Number of volumes added by purchase.....	340
Number of volumes added by gift.....	63
Total additions during the year.....	403
Number of volumes lost or withdrawn.....	12
Number of volumes now in the library.....	1507

#### REGISTRATION.

Number of borrowers at the beginning of the year.....	435
New borrowers.....	272
Borrower's cards cancelled.....	64
Borrower's cards in force.....	643

#### CIRCULATION.

Adult books.....	4473
Juvenile books.....	5936
Total circulation.....	10,409
Largest daily circulation.....	158
Smallest.....	60
Average.....	101
Hours open each week.....	10

It will be seen from the above figures that only a small part of the population of Elmhurst have availed themselves of the library privileges. The library is supported by taxation and is free to every resident. Why not give the library a trial?

#### NEW BOOKS.

New books are added monthly. Requests for books to be purchased will always be given consideration by the committees and if possible will be added.

#### MAGAZINES.

at the library stories will be told to the children in the third and fourth grades. This will be for the summer months only. Announcements regarding the Story Hour will appear from time to time in these columns.

*The First Annual Report  
in the Elmhurst Press*

## SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

### 2039 Books Now In Circulation for Use of the Public

The second annual report of the Library for the year ending July 1st, 1918, shows excellent progress along many lines. The circulation alone has increased this year from 10,409 to 13,084, a gain of 2,675 over that of 1917.

Although handicapped in room space and in the number of hours open for service the library has increased its patronage and is serving the community in ways that many older and larger institutions of the kind might envy. Just walk in some night after school hours and see the eager little youngsters crowding the room selecting books or reading at the table. Later in the evening the older boys and girls and men and women find their way to our one free club room. Have you availed yourself of the privilege of the library? If not, at least visit the library and show your interest.

Early in the year the library joined the ranks of all others in the country in various lines of war work. In the million dollar drive for books for soldiers the Elmhurst Library exceeded its quota of \$250. Later when libraries were asked to collect books in their communities for the soldiers' and sailors' libraries, the Elmhurst Library through the efforts of the school children secured over 1000 volumes which were sorted and sent to soldiers' camps.

In furthering the work of the food administration our library has distributed widely food leaflets and government bulletins on the substitutes for wheat, meat and sugar and also on canning and drying. Copies of these leaflets and bulletins may be had at any time on request.

The statistics given below show some of the progress made during the year.

#### BOOK ACCOUNT

Number of volumes added during year.....	510
Total number of volumes now in library.....	2,039
Number of magazines currently received.....	13

#### BORROWERS

Numbers of borrowers registered during year.....	270
Total number of borrowers.....	977

#### CIRCULATION

Adult books.....	6,254
Juvenile books.....	6,830
Total circulation.....	13,084
Largest daily circulation.....	210

#### LIBRARY HOURS

The library is open every Wednesday and Saturday from 2 to 5 in the afternoon and from 7 to 9 in the evening.

*The Second Annual Report  
in the Elmhurst Press*

*Katharine Breitenbach*  
*The First Librarian*



Mrs. Breitenbach was a cultured, well-read, well-traveled, intelligent woman. She attended Library Training Class at Scoville Institute in Oak Park in 1900, and the Wisconsin Library School in 1903. She worked in the Wisconsin State Library as a cataloguer from 1901–1903. At the time, her job was considered a comparatively new profession.

She came to Elmhurst in 1908 with her husband Henry Breitenbach, who was a member of the faculty at Elmhurst College (then called Elmhurst Proseminary.) At the time the village of Elmhurst had a population of about 2,000.

Katharine Breitenbach became a charter member of the newly formed Elmhurst Woman's Club, a member of the College Faculty Wives group, and a charter member of both the Elmhurst Garden Club and the Monday French Club. She was hesitant to take the position as Librarian in 1916. According to Librarian Ruth Strand, Mrs. Breitenbach had never planned to work after her marriage but she could not turn down the challenge to try to develop a first-class, small library.

To the casual observer, Katharine Breitenbach may have seemed formal and austere. Many loved her for her gracious manner and her sense of humor. Her appearance was often described as "lady-like." In the early days of the library, often when the library was closed, she and her pages roasted marshmallows at the big fireplace and told or read stories.

She set professional standards, inaugurated story hours, book reviews, school class visits, book lists and cooperation with civic organizations. In 1926 Katharine Breitenbach was presented with a silver tea service in commemoration of her ten years of service as Head Librarian.

While a resident of Elmhurst, Katharine served as a Library Board member as well as a loyal patron of the library. She eventually moved to California where she died at the age of ninety-one.

Elmhurst owes here a debt of gratitude to Katharine Breitenbach for her vision and dedication to the Elmhurst Public Library. Katharine belonged to a rare group of visionary, pioneer librarians who believed that good books are the "treasured wealth of the world."

—from *The First Ladies of Elmhurst:  
Prominent Women of the Twentieth Century*  
written by Ruth Strand



"White Birch" was built in 1868.



## Library moves to the Wilder Mansion

In 1919, the Library Board appointed a committee to look for land suitable for a public library building. In 1922 the library moved to the first floor of the former Wilder home which was purchased along with an acre of land from the Park District for \$14,000.

The library was now open to the public on Mondays, and story hours were given throughout the year. According to a report in the *Elmhurst Press*, during the 1923-24 school year over 1,200 children from first to sixth grade attended storytimes. Folk and fairy tales were told to the younger children while older kids heard the stories of such operas as *The Flying Dutchman* and *Hansel and Gretel*.

In 1923, the second floor of the library was opened for community groups, such as the Elmhurst Woman's Club and the Girl Scouts, to meet at a fee of \$10 a month. At this time many of the library books were purchased from Marshall Field and Company.

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## History of the Wilder Mansion

In 1868, Seth Wadhams, who founded a large ice company in Chicago, built a home for his family which he called "White Birch."

Later, the Henry W. King family used the house as a summer home. In 1888, Mr. King built a large, two-story addition on the north side with a vast porch.

In 1905, Thomas E. Wilder, who made a fortune in leather tanning, bought the house and called it "Lancaster Lodge."

In 1888 a large two-story addition and vast porch was added



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## Library open daily

1926 was a watershed year for the new library. Ten years after the library opened, a new head librarian, Miss Grace Murray was hired, and the library extended its hours to all day Monday through Saturday, except at lunch and dinner time. That same year the library purchased a telephone, and residents were encouraged to call "Elmhurst 1245" for information about books and library services.

Also in 1926, the first summer reading program began. In the "vacation reading" program, children entering fifth grade had their name displayed in the library for reading 10 books.

According to the annual report of 1927, over 2,100 people were registered borrowers and the library held 6,431 volumes. The new hours caused the library's circulation to jump to 50,019 that year. During the 1926-27 school year 1,668 books were sent to Elmhurst classrooms.



### CHANGE OF HOURS AT LIBRARY ADDS MUCH TO "BOOK ACTIVITY"

3/12/26  
Since the change of hours has taken place at the public library, the staff on duty there have noticed a large increase in the number of books being drawn from the library by the citizens of Elmhurst, according to Miss Grace M. Murray, Librarian.

She states that the new hours have caused a greater division in circulation, the grown ups taking advantage of the morning hours to draw books while the children use the afternoon and evening when they are released from school.

The new hours are from nine to twelve in the morning, one thirty to six in the afternoon and from seven to nine in the evening.

The telephone has now been installed and the number is Elmhurst 1245. Those desiring information regarding any books or service will find Miss Murray anxious to help them if they will but call her.

The Chicago Daily Tribune has been added to the news room files for the benefit of those desiring to consult its pages and Miss Murray also announces the addition of the following books to the collection.

Author	Title
Benson	The Little World
Brush	Glitters
Fletcher	Secret of the Barbicans
Foster	Tropical tramp with the Tourist
Gibbs	Unchanging Guest
House	Memoirs of Wilson
James	Three Kingdoms
Norris	Black Flemings
Wells	The Bronze Hand

### Open House at the Public Library

Wednesday, March 3, will be open house at the Public Library. The Public Library board extends an invitation to all citizens of Elmhurst and particularly to the patrons to visit the Library on Wednesday evening to meet Miss Murray, the new librarian and to get acquainted with the new plans for the Library.

Beginning Monday, March 1, the Library will be open all day every day but Sunday from 9 in the morning to 9 in the evening, except for lunch and dinner (or supper) periods, when the library will be closed. The exact schedule of hours will be published next week, when Miss Murray assumes charge of the library.

This is one of the most significant changes in the history of the library. Thanks to Mrs. Breitenbach more than anyone else, the Library has grown from a small collection of books in a single room back of the State Bank to an institution that belongs among the most vital cultural assets of Elmhurst. Particularly in its service to the children in the grammar and high schools, the Public Library is among the best in the state. Open daily from March 1 it will have increased opportunities of service.

Miss Murray will be assisted by Miss Strand and a corps of high school boys and girls.



Fire

# The Suburban Press

VOL. II. No. 4.

ELMHURST, ILLINOIS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1930

## FLAMES CAUSE \$12,000 DAMAGE TO WILDER LIBRARY

### STUDENTS RESCUE BOOKS; ELMHURST LIBRARY BURNS

(Picture on back page.)

When students at Elmhurst college early yesterday saw flames coming from the roof of the Wilder Memorial library—Elmhurst's public library—in Wilder park across the street from their dormitories, they set up a shout, gathered in a crowd of 150 and ran to the rescue of the 7,000 volumes in the burning building.

While the firemen worked to halt the blaze the students managed to carry most of the books outside so that few were damaged either by the fire, smoke, or water.

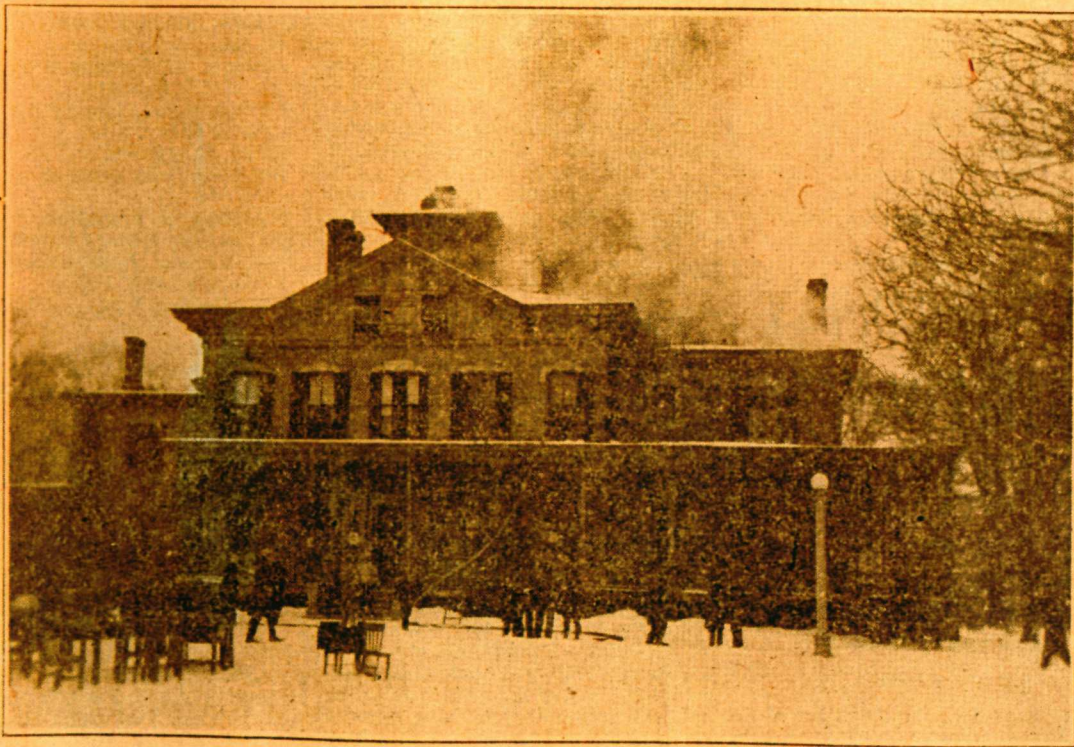
The damage to the building was estimated at \$5,000 to \$15,000. The fire was believed to have started from a defective chimney.

Wilder Memorial library is a sixty year old building. It formerly was the residence of E. T. Wilder, pioneer citizen of the suburb.

### Fire damages the library

In 1930 fire damaged the library. Students from Elmhurst College saw the fire and helped rescue the books. The building was rewired and redecorated, and for the first time part of the second floor was used for an adult fiction collection. The original drawing room of the home, now the Wilder Room, was used as a children's room. The adult nonfiction collection was kept on the first floor. An extension phone was installed to talk between floors.

### WHEN ELMHURST 70 YEAR OLD LIBRARY BURNED



—Foto by Daviz.

The second and third floors of the north wing suffered more seriously from the effect of the flames than can be seen from the exterior. The children's room and the lobby on the main floor were damaged by water in the Sunday morning fire. Furniture, records and books were carried from the building.

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# Remodeling



In 1930, to meet increasing space needs, the Library Board established a building fund. By 1931, the collection had grown to 10,500 volumes and 5,200 people had library cards.

In 1936 an intensive remodeling project began which would increase the gross size of the building to 10,750 square feet. The remodeling project took eight months to complete and temporary quarters on East First Street were set up for a few months.

In June 1936, as part of Elmhurst's Centennial celebrations, the cornerstone of a library addition was laid. At the time of the ceremony, the library had over 17,000 volumes. Library books circulated 122,000 times.



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*Temporary quarters on First Street during the remodeling*

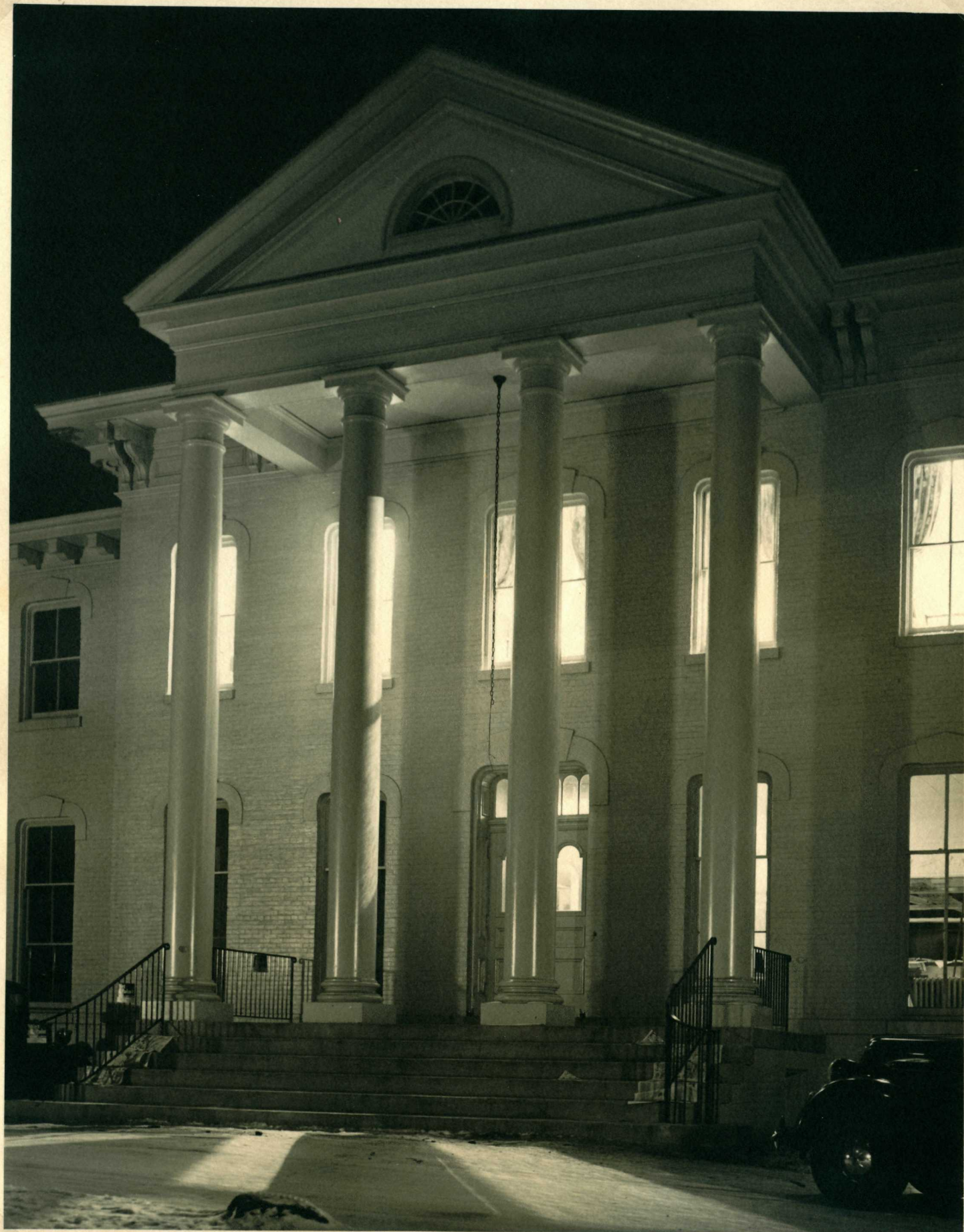
On January 31, 1937, about 1,000 people attended a special open house to see the renovations.

The exterior of the building had been completely changed. The outside porches were removed. Pillars and a south wing for a new children's room were added. A fireplace near the entrance was removed to make room for a checkout desk. The project's cost, paid from the building fund started in 1930, was \$36,000.

On February 1, 1937, when the library reopened for regular business, 954 books were checked out that day alone.

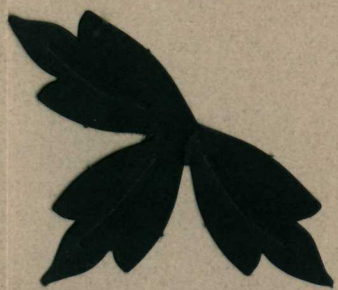
More than 8,000 people, over half the population, now had library cards and the library was open every day except Sundays including the meal hours.







*New Children's Room*

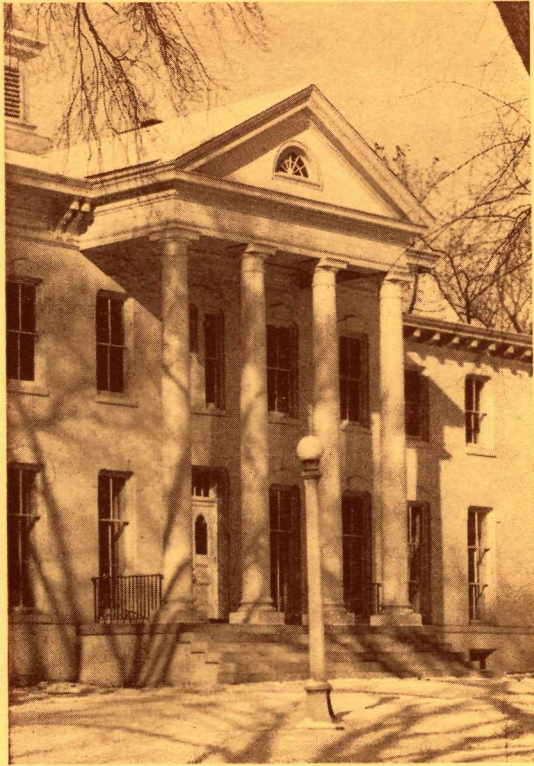


*New Checkout Desk*









*ELMHURST  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY*

*A Souvenir of the Re-opening*

*January Thirty-One  
Nineteen Hundred Thirty-Seven*

# Elmhurst Public Library

## Board of Directors

MRS. H. A. BERENS.....*President*  
N. H. KENDALL.....*Vice-President*  
PAUL N. CRUSIUS.....*Secretary*  
HENRY C. SCHUMACHER.....*Treasurer*  
LELAND EATON  
W. F. ENTORF  
MRS. PAUL J. MCGARY  
H. L. OLSSON  
A. J. STRAND

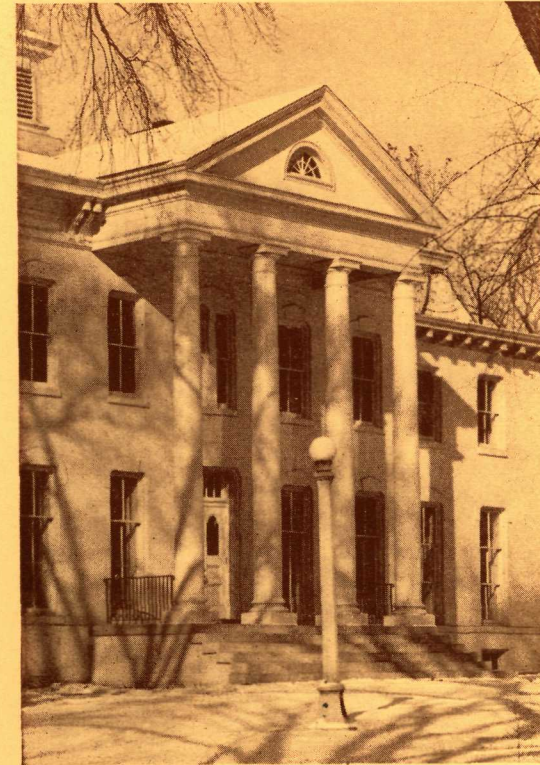
## Library Staff

GRACE M. MURRAY.....*Librarian*  
RUTH STRAND.....*Assistant Librarian*  
JEAN BIRKIN.....*Assistant Librarian*



## YOURS TO USE AND ENJOY

The Elmhurst Public Library has the latest books of travel, biography, economics, fiction, science, and literature and the best magazines, all of which are yours to read and enjoy.



# ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY

A Souvenir of the Re-opening

January Thirty-One  
Nineteen Hundred Thirty-Seven

# TODAY~

*one of Elmhurst's notable old buildings begins a new and exciting chapter in its long career.*

Built in 1868 by Seth Wadhams, who had the grounds beautifully landscaped and who lived in "White Birches," as he called his home, for nearly twenty years, the house in 1887 became the property of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. King of Chicago, who lived in the Elmhurst home during the summer months. Between 1887 and 1891 a large addition was built and the porches added.

In 1905, Mr. and Mrs. T. Edward Wilder, who had resided in Elmhurst for ten or twelve years, purchased the property from Mrs. Harry Gordon Selfridge of London, England, who had bought it a short time before from the King estate but had never lived in it. In 1922 "Lancaster Lodge," as the Wilder home was called, became the Elmhurst Public Library when the Library Board purchased the house and an acre of ground from the Park Board.

The present remodeling project was begun in May, 1936, and the cornerstone of the new portion was laid June 6 as part of the Elmhurst Centennial program in Wilder Park. Probably every visitor will be surprised to see how much of the old interior has been

retained and at the same time how much improvement has been made. The aim of the Library Board and of the architect has been to keep the friendly, informal atmosphere of the old building, to maintain the homelike, uninstitutional surroundings, and yet to evolve a modern and efficient Library.

For the first time in its history the Library is adequately and appropriately furnished. In keeping with the colonial architecture, early American maple furniture is used throughout the building with the exception of the Wilder room, the more formal character of which requires more formal furnishings and which is done in eighteenth century English.

Work rooms and shelves for storage of books and periodicals are in the basement. An apartment for the caretakers is on the second floor above the children's room.

The cost of remodeling, including new shelving throughout, is approximately \$29,000. The generosity of a number of friends has made possible the complete furnishing of the building.

## *Facts . . . Historial and otherwise*

On March 22, 1916, the Elmhurst Public Library was opened with Mrs. H. L. Breitenbach as librarian. One room in the old Glos building, on the site of which the State Bank now stands, held the 830 volumes that comprised the entire library. About one hundred patrons drew books on the opening day. For five years library service was available only ten hours a week, Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and evenings.

In 1922 the Library was moved to the first floor of the former Wilder home in Wilder Park and was open for business three afternoons and evenings. Increased interest followed, and the number of borrowers grew steadily.

After ten years of devoted and successful service, Mrs. Breitenbach resigned, and in March, 1926, Miss Grace M. Murray became librarian. Since that time the Library has been open six days a week.

On January 26, 1930, fire damaged the roof of the north part of the building and brought about needed improvements and expansion. The building was rewired and redecorated at that time, and part of the second floor was then made available for the growing Library. By 1931 the number of volumes had increased to over 10,000 and the number of borrowers to over 5,200. Before the end of 1931 the entire second floor north of the stair-case was being used for library purposes.

In 1935 the Library was again crowded for room, and early in 1936 the Library Board commissioned E. Norman Brydges, well-known Elmhurst architect, to draw plans for enlarging and modernizing the building. The exterior has been greatly changed and improved, the south wing added, partitions removed on both the north and the south sides of the second floor.

Over 8,000 borrowers are now registered, and 17,000 volumes are cataloged, including over 300 new books. Beginning February first, the Library will be open continuously and not closed during the noon and dinner hour as heretofore.

Friendly and efficient service and a cordial welcome await all guests and patrons as the Library reopens, and it is the earnest wish of the Board that usefulness of the Library may be extended to all homes in the community.

# Gaining Some "Friends"

1941

Elm. Leader 3/25/41

## Elms Friends of Library Association Is Launched; 3,000 Members Is Goal Set

Setting a goal of 3,000 members (at least) and Sunday afternoon, April 20, as next meeting time, the 150 or more Elmhurst residents who gathered at the Elmhurst public library Sunday afternoon to celebrate the library's 25th birthday, launched the Elmhurst Friends of the Library association on its career.

Robert D. Gregg, 400 South York st., was chosen temporary chairman of the organization, and Mrs. G. E. Orsech, secretary. Before the April meeting is held, Mr. Gregg will name a steering committee, composed of townspeople representing various groups and churches. The committee will outline suggested plans of procedure for the Friends and will present a draft of a constitution and by-laws.

Besides serving as a strong "moral support" for their local library of which they are justly proud, the Friends will supplement the work of the board and act as "left hand of the librarian" (as Mrs. Paul G. Burt so aptly explained it). Among other objectives, they aim to assist financially where needed, educate the general public as to the aims of the library and "back" with enthusiasm the projects of the library.

### Projects of Friends

Mrs. H. A. Berens, president of the board, who has contributed so much towards making the Elmhurst public library the outstanding one it is today, briefly sketched a picture of the Friends of the Library movement in the United States, explaining that an organization of its kind was "an effective way of helping citizens and helping the library". She introduced Mrs. Paul G. Burt of Hinsdale and Mrs. J. D. Filson of Glen Ellyn, both of whom are leaders in the Friends of the Library groups in their towns.

Pointing out how the "friends" had made the Hinsdale library more and more of a community center, Mrs. Burt described how three women "started something" when they sought out "something to do" for the library. She told how the fast-growing friends group contribute financial gifts, help supply the library with need-

ed modern devices and equipment, started a local history campaign, sponsored a public forum based on the Town Meeting of the Air, aid in publicizing the library and are now represented in the village caucus.

Mrs. Filson told of the projects sponsored by the Friends of the Library group in Glen Ellyn — which ones "worked" and which ones didn't. After sponsoring a Sunday Evening club series for three years, with an immense amount of work, time and money expended, she explained that in the last year only a little more than \$200 was realized. Putting their heads together, the board members of the Glen Ellyn Friends group decided to sponsor a membership drive as a more effective fund-raising money. That it was effective was proven in the \$814 total realized. "Faith in your project and enthusiasm", she labeled as the two attributes for success in the venture.

### Librarian Sketches Needs

Ruth Strand, librarian of the Elmhurst public library, paid high tribute to Mrs. H. L. Breitenbach, first librarian, and to Librarian Grace Murray, who resigned in 1932, and to members of the library board who had played such an important part in "making the library what it is today". Mrs. Breitenbach's aim, from the time before the library opened, was a "first class library", Miss Strand explained, and it is for the furthering of this aim that the library today would appreciate a strong friends' organization.

"Money is secondary, as far as the friends are concerned," Miss Strand explained. "We want you to know our problems and our plans so that we can work them out together." She paid tribute, too, in her talk to her staff members. They are Jean Birkin, Ruth Brieschke, Lois Fluegge, and Pages Richard Hanscom and Fred Steinhelbel.

### Mayor Endorses Move

Mayor Claude L. Van Auken en-

thusiastically endorsed the plans for a Friends of the Library association, pointing out that "Here's a chance to do something!" He explained that in setting up a \$60,000 building fund, as outlined in last week's Elmhurst Press, the support of the community is needed and that the Friends could help by making the community cognizant of the needs. Robert Hale, Mrs. E. E. Graham, Mrs. Oakley V. Morgan, Mrs. T. A. Hartman and others spoke briefly commending the plan.

After the informal business meeting, when between 75 and 100 signed as first members of the Friends of the Library association, tea was served in the King room with Mrs. Lee Sturges and Mrs. W. W. Birkin pouring. The table was centered with a bouquet of 25 American Beauty roses, the gift of the Hehn and Hoth Bindery company, Chicago. The lovely big birthday cake (made of plaster of Paris), with its 25 gleaming white candles was designed and made by Jean Birkin, assistant librarian.

### Visit Exhibits

Guests during their tour of the library, which was shining from its spring cleaning, stopped in the Emery room to view the exhibits. One, a permanent addition, included three models of the Elmhurst library in its various stages of development. First was the Seth Wadhams home, second the home as it was when owned by the Kings and later the T. E. Wilders, and the present attractive building. Effective photos, inside and out, were displayed by Ray Willis, professional photographer. The models were made by workers in the Illinois Museum project.

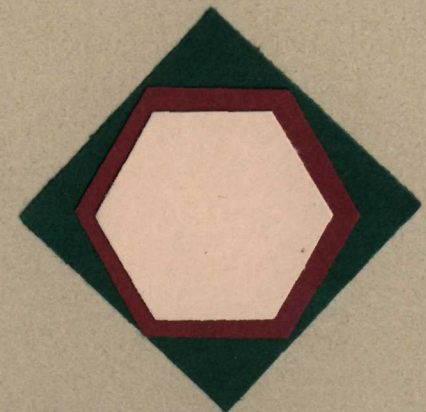
Another exhibit that captured much attention offered 10 Royal Doulton figurines of famous characters from Dickens' books, loaned through the courtesy of Hazel Rylander of Oak Park and H. A. Berens. Included in the group were Samuel Pickwick, Sam Weller, Tony Weller, Buzfuz, Fat Boy, Mrs. Gamp, Micawber, Little Nell, Bill Sikes and Tiny Tim.


Acknowledgments for helping towards the success of the day are given the Jewel Tea company of Elmhurst, the Hehn and Hoth Bindery, Elmhurst college, those who contributed china for the tea, and Mrs. Irion, caretaker, who had done so much towards getting the library ready for the affair.

Members of the board who were hostesses with the staff include Mrs. Berens, president; Paul N. Crusius, secretary; Mrs. Paul J. McGary, H. H. Kendall, W. F. Entorf, L. E. Eaton, E. A. Whitney, H. N. Hammond and M. C. Kolling.



Beginning in 1999, the Friends gave these premiums for people who joined at a Special Friend (\$30) or Best Friend (\$50) level. Later, York Theatre tickets were given to Best Friends.





On March 23, 1941, in celebration of the library's 25th anniversary, the Friends of the Elmhurst Public Library was formed. In April 1947, the Friends helped the library start a circulating record collection by contributing 380 classical records.

Throughout the years the Friends of the Library has continued to support library projects, establishing a framed picture rental, purchasing Lyric Opera CDs, supporting the annual storytelling festival and purchasing paperback books and other prizes for the Summer Reading Program for children and adults. They have marched in Elmhurst's St. Patrick's Day Parade since 2000. In 2002, the Friends donated over \$7,800 to the library.

On October 2, 2003 they hosted a fundraiser at the new library entitled, "Toast the New Library with Friends."

# World War II Victory Book Drive

During World War II, the Elmhurst Public Library, with the help of the Friends, joined the Elmhurst College and York High School libraries in the nation-wide Victory Book Drive. Elmhurst citizens collected thousands of books for soldiers at USO centers, military camps and training stations.

Elm. Press 2/26/42

Elm. Press 1/15/42

*There's Good Reading in This Big Stack of Books for Buddies!*



—Press Publications Photo

Some of the younger patrons at the Elmhurst public library Saturday morning had a preview of new additions to the libraries in U. S. O. centers, army camps and naval training stations when they saw the 1,500 volumes collected through the Victory Book campaign. This stack is only a portion of the books which were sent in to the Chicago area headquarters Saturday.

In this picture, from left to right, are: back row—Richard Soderholm, Roosevelt school; Barbara Ann Williams, Hawthorne; Maxine Lane, Lincoln; front row—Ralph Lane, Lincoln; Jerry Niemann, Hawthorne.

The Victory Book campaign is still continuing in Elmhurst, with boxes for contributions placed at the public and college libraries, the Elmhurst National Bank building, York State bank building, Elmhurst Press office, and Red Cross production unit center, Elks gymnasium.

## Elmhurst to Participate in National Victory Book Drive

Elmhurst people will be given opportunity to take part in the nation-wide Victory Book campaign, goal of which is to collect at least 10,000,000 books to supplement the government's library service to Army and Navy, in forts, camps, posts, stations and on ships, for the Elmhurst public, Elmhurst college, and York Community high school libraries will be cooperating in the generous project.

Under the joint sponsorship of the American Library association, American Red Cross and the United Service Organizations Inc., the campaign officially opened Monday morning. However, local libraries are awaiting further instructions before officially launching the drive for books as gifts here.

### Complete Information Soon

"We expect to have complete information within a few days," Ruth Strand, librarian of the Elmhurst public library said Wednesday. In the meantime, residents are asked to set aside any worthwhile books for gifts that they may be willing to give.

A. Kroch of Kroch's bookstores in Chicago, has been named chairman of the committee for this area, which embraces Cook, DuPage, Kane and Will counties.

Main purpose of the campaign is "to provide reading matter for the USO centers outside the camps

and for the American Merchant Marine Library association."

If the supply collected is more than sufficient for these needs, the campaign will provide books for men, women and children in areas where industrial activities have so increased population that library resources are inadequate.

### Will Finance Campaign

The campaign will be financed by the American Red Cross and the U. S. O.; the American Library association and librarians of the country are asked to contribute their professional skill.

Nine national organizations, it is pointed out, will assist in spreading publicity and contributing workers on local committees. These include the American Merchant Marine Library association, Boy Scouts of America, Camp Fire Girls Inc., Catholic Library association, Girl Scouts Inc., National Congress of Parents and Teachers, National Recreation association, Special Libraries association and Work Projects administration — Library Service division.

### Chicago Area Goal—1,000,000

The Chicago area committee has set its mark at 1,000,000 books.

Frederic G. Melcher, editor of The Publishers' Weekly, in an editorial on the campaign writes: "The men want books for both diversion and information. As has been discovered by the British, the demands for serious and light reading are equal . . . This is a notable chance for all around cooperation in a grand cause, a well-conceived project."

Erna Stech, librarian of Elmhurst college, and Myrtle Ellis, York high librarian, are asking students to cooperate in the campaign.

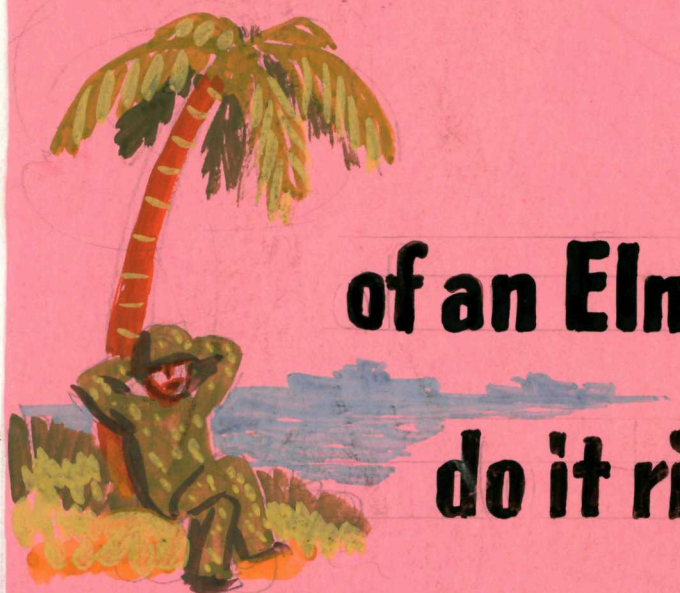
**Write the latest OVERSEAS address**

**HERE**

**of an Elmhurst man or woman**

**do it right**

**NOW**



**The Friends of the Library**

**Elmhurst**

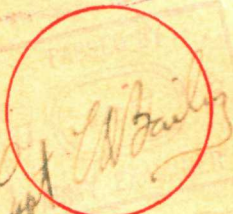
**will write for their choice and**

**SEND THEM THE**

**BOOKS THEY WANT**



Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To: ELMHURST PUBLIC  
LIBRARY  
ELMHURST, ILL.

See Instruction No. 2

From: 16171224  
Pvt. L.W. DOBBERSTEIN  
Co B 1st Sig BN  
APO 758 To Postmaster  
New York, N.Y.

(Sender's complete address above)



Dear Friends,

I was quite surprised to receive a letter from you the other day. Thank you very much. It would please me very much if you would send me a book. I don't know exactly how to express the type I would like to have. Please send me a book that contains something about the fundamentals of Plastics. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours  
Ralph.

FOLD TOP AND BOTTOM, THEN FOLD IN CENTER AND SEAL.  
NO OTHER FOLDING SHOULD BE USED.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE  
ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY  
V...-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE  
ADDRESS AT TOP?



Designed by Pfc. Farrell S. Benson,  
Squadron Insignia 7-16-44 (Proposed)

Netherlands East Indies  
1 - 9 - 44

67 TCSq - 433 TCGP  
APO 920  
c/o PM, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Eschmumt Public Library;  
Eschmumt Illinois.

This is to thank you for  
the books that arrived today. I especially  
liked the historical, "Stars on the Sea".

I'm not conveying my thanks  
alone but also those of quite a few friends. A  
book is like fruit cake. The original receiver  
gets first whack at it, but from then on it's  
public property to the rest.

Thanks again for your  
kindness.

Sincerely,

Stanley Chynoweth

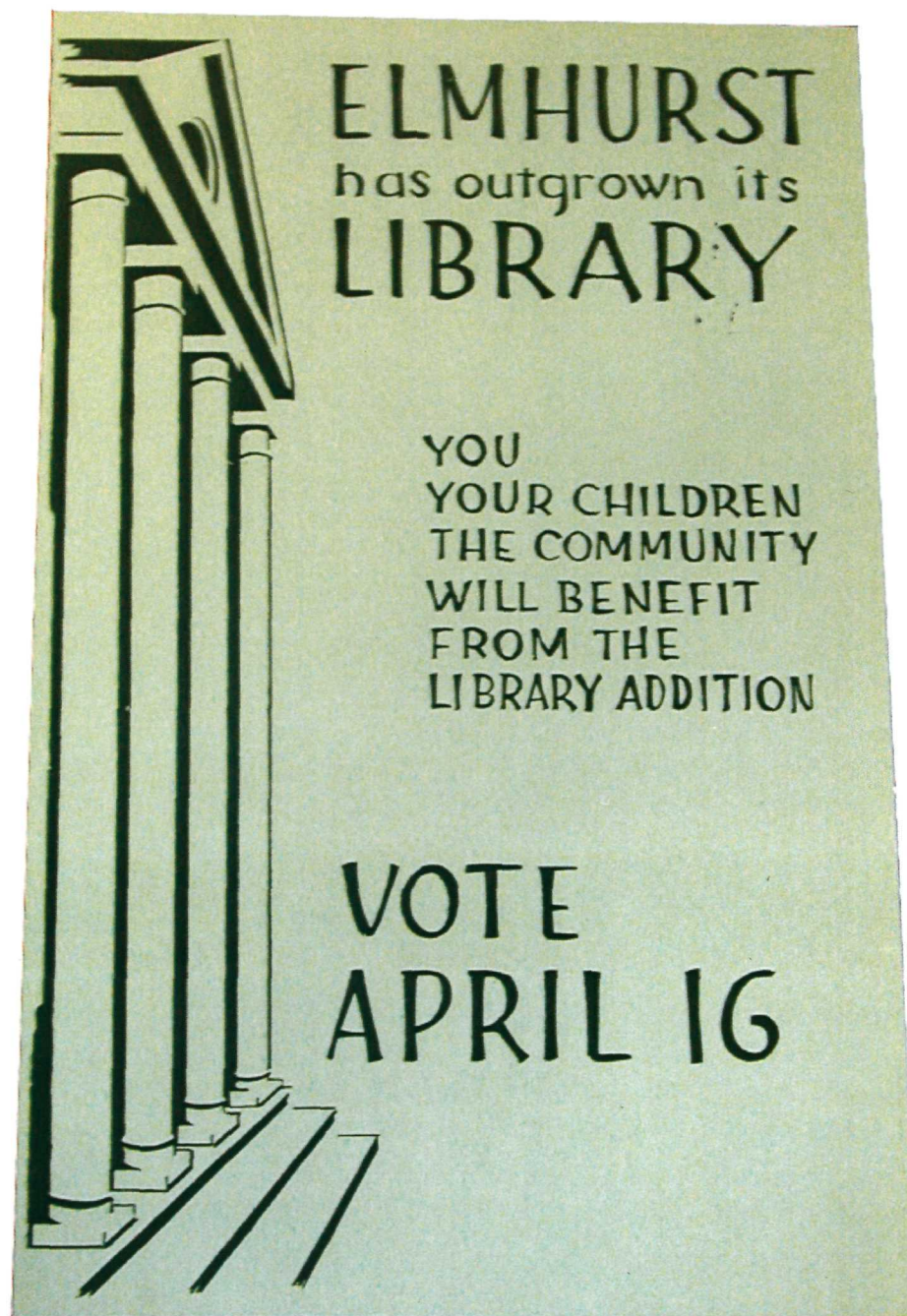
# Addition

In 1960 the Library Board commissioned a building study which concluded that a substantial amount of additional space was needed for library services. A new building was preferred, but building an addition was another option. In 1963, the citizens of Elmhurst voted to approve a \$500,000 bond issue to build an addition to the library. At the time of the referendum the library served over 19,000 library cardholders and owned over 40,000 volumes.

The addition increased the size of the building to 42,750 square feet. A dedication ceremony was held on October 17, 1965. The collection grew that year to 51,200 volumes. From 1965-75, before moving to the Glos Mansion, the Elmhurst Historical Museum was located on the top floor of the library, where the Periodicals Room is now.

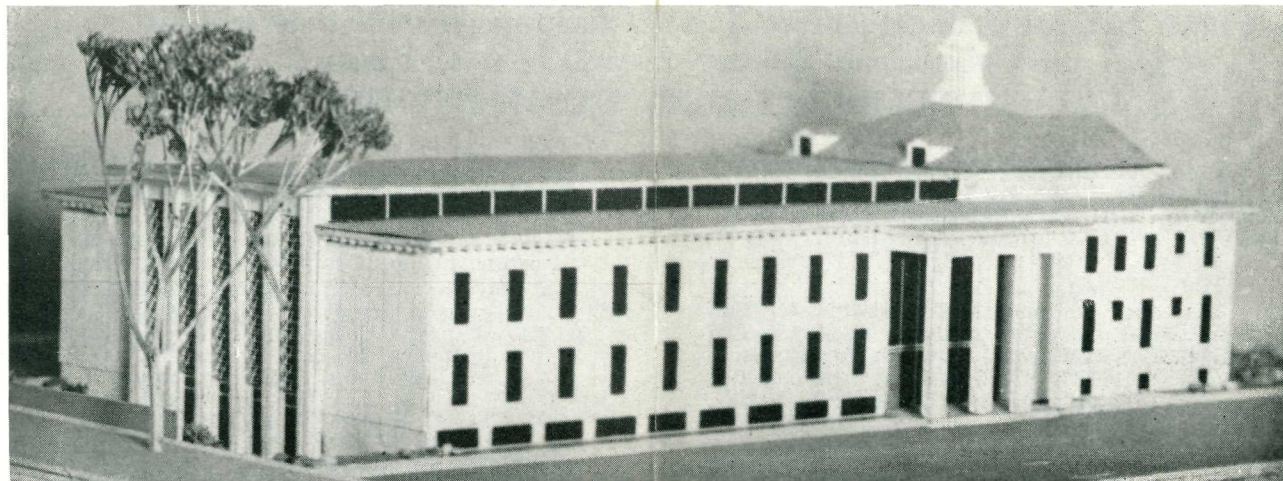
The new children's room was named after Librarian Ruth Strand who had worked at the library since the 1920s, first as a page and then as Assistant Librarian and Head Librarian.

# Referendum 1963



*1963 Referendum Poster*

*This model of Elmhurst's Public Library and the proposed expansion shows the exterior as viewed from the southwest.*



from the BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY

### To all ELMHURST CITIZENS:

*Purpose of this brochure is to acquaint you with the facts which have led the Board of Directors to plan a Program of Building Expansion and ask your approval of a*

## **\$500,000 BOND ISSUE REFERENDUM**

(\$2.30 per \$10,000 valuation is estimated average taxpayer's cost)

to be held April 16, 1963

at the same voting places and time (6 A.M. - 6 P.M.)  
as the GENERAL ALDERMANIC CITY ELECTION

Your Library Board began planning for the Building Expansion 8 years ago when it became evident that our present quarters would soon become inadequate due to the increasing population being served by the Library and the increasing use of our facilities by the public and parochial schools. This increased use is further intensified by the growing interest and participation in ADULT EDUCATION programs by our Citizens. The Library welcomes these increasing opportunities for service. This is what the Library is established for and organized to do . . . and to do it even more effectively in the days to come is the aim guiding our new BUILDING EXPANSION PROGRAM.

We ask your careful reading of this FACTS BROCHURE . . . and then your enthusiastic support of our program on April 16th, by voting for the Bond Issue that will make it possible. With the cooperation of the Librarian and Staff, your Board has worked diligently on this program with one objective in mind: namely, to provide Library Facilities for Elmhurst in keeping with the cultural and educational needs of the community, for the present and the years to come, yet to do so with a minimum of expenditure in new building. To do this, working with our architect, Charles T. Cedarholm, and our Library Staff, we have successfully evolved the

efficient integration of our present building into our new one. We have thus conserved the taxpayer's money without sacrificing any important over-all American Library Association Standards.

For the furnishing of the new building, we have accumulated in a new building fund over the past eight years over \$100,000 so that by this frugal planning, our citizens bond tax cost for a completely furnished new building has been reduced by this amount.

Lastly, but important, we have endeavored to do all this and yet retain the charm of our present building whose dignity and beauty has so endeared itself to our citizens and made it a landmark to which our citizens take pride in bringing visitors. We are confident that this pride will be increased when our new BUILDING EXPANSION PROGRAM is complete. Your efforts in helping it come to pass will win you the appreciation of all who are truly interested in the advancement of educational and cultural facilities in Elmhurst.

BYRON F. STEVENS, President

Bruce G. Packard, Vice President; Mrs. Francis V. Koval, Secretary; Roger Dickinson, Eugene Jarvis, Peter Ernst, Mrs. George McGregor, Paul Vaupel, Walter Knudson.

# Groundbreaking Climaxes Ten-Year Library Dream

The new addition to the Elmhurst public library will come a long step closer to reality when the first spadeful of earth is turned at 2 p.m. Saturday, Apr. 11.

The ground-breaking ceremony climaxes a ten-year dream of the library board, with five of those years spent in actual planning.

Dignitaries who will participate in the ceremony include Mayor Charles Weigel Jr.; Royal Burtis, president of the friends of the Library; Byron Stevens, president of the library board; A. Eugene Jarvis, chairman of the li-

brary board's building committee; Charles Cedarholm, architect; Ruth Strand, head librarian; A. H. Viren, president of the contracting firm, and Dr. William D. White of the Elmhurst Methodist church.

officials, organization and service club representatives and members of the library board will also be present.

"An invitation is also extended to Elmhurst residents and all library users," said Stevens. "We hope that many will join us at the ceremony and afterward in the Wilder room of the library where coffee will be served by the library staff."

\* \* \*  
The library addition, which will take ten months

to complete, will increase the useable floor space from 9,000 square feet to 39,500 square feet. It will permit the present book collection of 48,000 volumes to expand for today's population and tomorrow's growth to an ultimate 120,000 books.

The building program has been planned so that the library will continue to operate during the construction period. The addition was designed to preserve the architectural beauty of the present building and at the same time improve and enlarge the library services.

\* \* \*  
COSTS OF constructing the addition and renovating the present building will total \$530,000. It is estimated that an additional 20 per cent of that figure will be needed for furnishings. Part of this amount has been set aside in past years for this purpose.

A committee is also being formed for the purpose of accepting special gifts for the new building. Appointed co-chairmen of this special gifts committee by Stevens were Peter Ernst and John Gretter, both members of the library board.

Special care has been taken to provide separate and adequate facilities for children, young adults and adults. A greatly enlarged

Press Publications  
TF-4/9-4/10, 64

reference area and reference collection will be outstanding features.

A meeting room for local organizations, a reading and browsing area and historical society rooms will encourage public use of the present building, which has long been a DuPage county landmark.

\* \* \*  
THE BUILDING was built as the home of Seth Wadhams in 1868, enlarged as a summer home by Henry W. King in 1888 and again enlarged to its present size and design in 1936.

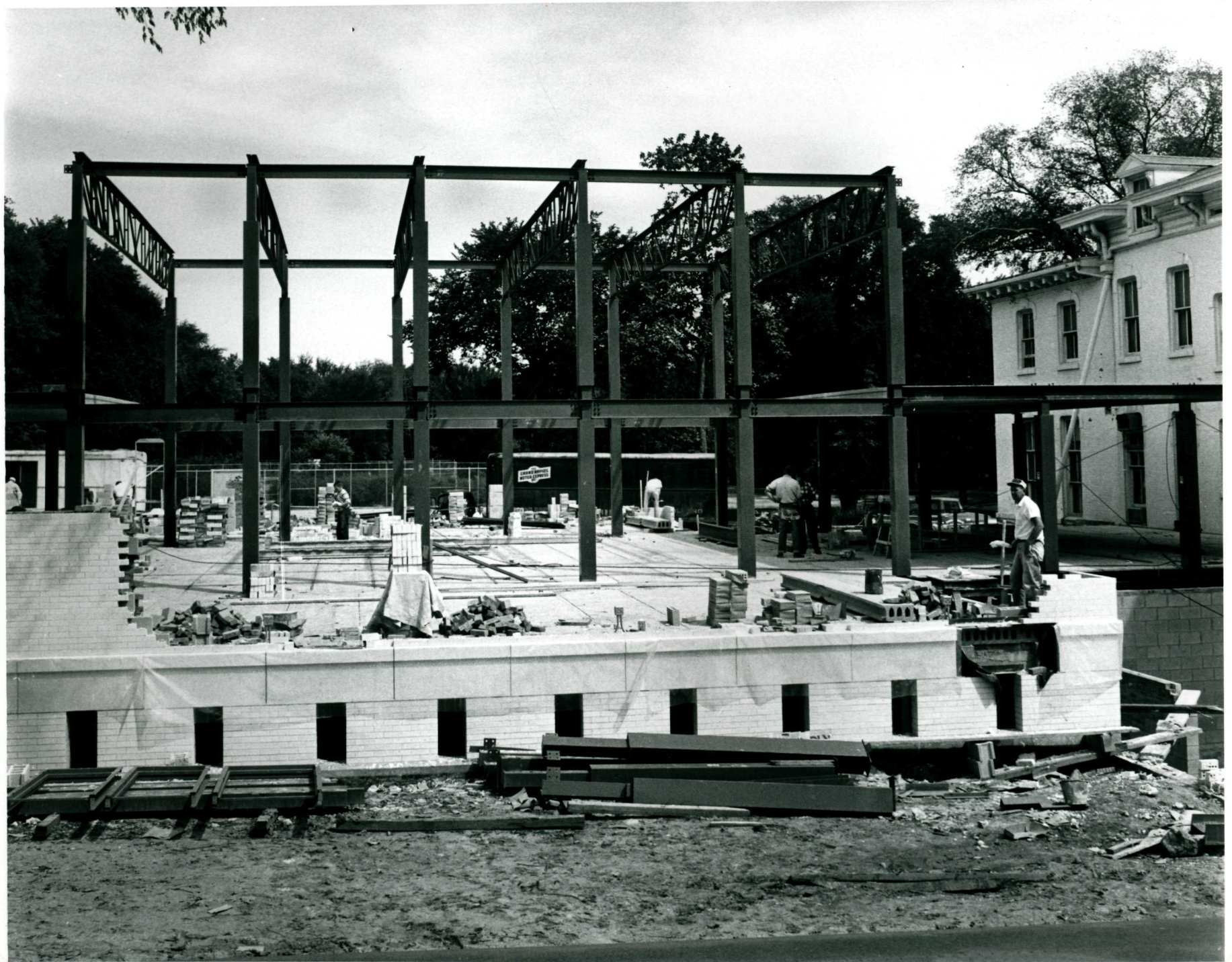
In addition to Stevens, Ernst and Gretter, the present library board includes Mrs. George McGregor, Mrs. Francis V. Koval, Walter Knudson, Roger Dickinson, A. Eugene Jarvis and Paul Vaupel. All of them, as well as the librarian, Ruth Strand, the library staff and building committee of the city council have worked closely with the architect to plan a library which will meet the needs of the community and the standards of the American Library Assn.



SATURDAY, Apr. 11, was the "day a vision began to come true" as ground was broken for a \$530,000 addition to the Elmhurst public library. Participating in the ceremony were, standing from left: Byron F. Stevens, president of the library board; Ruth Strand, head librarian; A. Eugene Jarvis, chairman of the library board's building committee; Royal V. Burtis, president of the Friends of the Library; Charles Cedarholm, architect, and Elmhurst Mayor Charles Weigel Jr. Kneeling in the foreground is Louis Viren, president of the contracting firm.









X 3040

No.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
COUNTY OF DU PAGE

# CITY OF ELMHURST

**5000**

**3¼%**  
**LIBRARY BOND**

DATED SEPTEMBER 1, 1963

PRINCIPAL DUE MARCH 1,

INTEREST PAYABLE  
MARCH 1 and SEPTEMBER 1

PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST PAYABLE AT  
**ELMHURST NATIONAL BANK**  
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS  
OR, AT THE OPTION OF THE HOLDER, AT  
**HALSEY, STUART & CO. INC.**  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

SECURITY-COLUMBIAN BANKNOTE COMPANY

An Advance Towards Excellence

Dedication and Open House  
The New  
ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS

★  
October Seventeen  
Nineteen Hundred Sixty Five

★  
2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

1

9

6

5





UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF DU PAGE

# CITY OF ELMHURST

## LIBRARY BOND

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that the **CITY OF ELMHURST**, DuPage County, Illinois, hereby acknowledges itself to owe, and for value received hereby promises to pay to bearer, or if registered to the registered owner hereof, the sum of

**FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000.00)**

in lawful money of the United States of America

ON THE FIRST DAY OF MARCH,

\_\_\_\_\_ together with interest on said sum from the date hereof until paid, at the rate of Three and One-fourth Per Cent (3¼%) per annum, payable March 1, 1964, and semi-annually thereafter on the first day of September and March in each year, which such interest until the maturity of this bond is payable upon presentation and surrender of the interest coupons hereto attached as they severally become due and payable. Both principal hereof and interest hereon are payable at Elmhurst National Bank, Elmhurst, Illinois, or at the option of the holder at Halsey, Stuart & Co. Inc., Chicago, Illinois. For the prompt payment of this bond, both principal and interest, as aforesaid, at maturity, the full faith, credit and resources of said City are hereby irrevocably pledged.

This bond is issued by said City for the purpose of paying the cost of constructing and equipping an addition to the Library building in and for said City, pursuant to and in all respects in compliance with the Illinois Municipal Code (1961), and all laws amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, and pursuant to the approval of the proposition to issue said bonds by a majority of the legal voters of said City voting upon said proposition at an election duly called, noticed, held and canvassed for that purpose, and an ordinance duly adopted by the City Council of said City and published, in all respects as by law required.

And it is hereby certified and recited that all acts, conditions and things required by the Constitution and laws of the State of Illinois to exist, or to be done, precedent to and in the issuance of this bond, have existed and have been properly done, happened and been performed in regular and due form and time as required by law; that the indebtedness of said City, including this bond, does not exceed any constitutional or statutory limitation; and that provision has been made for the collection of a direct annual tax, in addition to all other taxes, on all the taxable property in the City to pay the interest hereon as the same falls due, and also to pay and discharge the principal hereof at maturity.

This bond is subject to registration as to principal in the name of the holder upon the books of the Treasurer of said City, such registration being noted hereon by said Treasurer, after which no transfer hereof, except upon such books and similarly noted hereon, shall be valid unless the last registration shall have been to bearer. Registration of this bond shall not affect the negotiability of the interest coupons hereto attached, which coupons shall continue negotiable by delivery merely, notwithstanding registration hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said **City of Elmhurst**, DuPage County, Illinois, by its City Council, has caused the Corporate Seal of said City to be hereto affixed, and this bond to be signed by the Mayor and attested by its City Clerk, and the coupons hereto attached to be signed and attested by said officials, respectively, by their facsimile signatures, and said officials do by the execution hereof adopt as and for their respective proper signatures their respective facsimile signatures appearing on said coupons, all as of the first day of September, 1963.

ATTEST:

SPECIMEN

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

SPECIMEN

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor



An Advance Towards Excellence

Dedication and Open House  
The New  
ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS



October Seventeen  
Nineteen Hundred Sixty Five



2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

*In Tribute . . .*

*To the People of Elmhurst  
for their understanding of the needs of  
the community for a Modern Day Library  
and for their generosity in making possible  
these steps toward EXCELLENCE*

Elmhurst's citizens have been satisfied with nothing less than the best . . . for their children and their educational needs. The measure has always been one of excellence. And so it is with our new library. Through the generosity of all the citizens in authorizing the financing and the taxes required for operation . . . through the additional support of many gifts made to the library . . . we have now come to this point in time . . . the attainment of goals once thought impossible . . . now to find . . . ahead . . . new challenges for their efficient employment . . . and new opportunities in our

QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE



The ELMHURST HISTORICAL MUSEUM now located in the library, upper level, east wing, symbolizes community cooperation of the Library Board and the Elmhurst Historical Commission to the benefit of the people. That the Museum provides an important contribution to our cultural need, there can be no doubt . . . that it may serve to provide a localized reminder of our heritage . . . is the hope of both Boards.

DEDICATION CEREMONIES

*on the south portico at 2:30*

POSTING OF THE COLORS

*The American Legion T.H.B. Post 187  
The Veterans of Foreign Wars,  
Walter A. Glos Post 2048*

INVOCATION ----- The Reverend James N. Moore  
*Christ Methodist Church*

INTRODUCTIONS

LAYING OF CORNERSTONE

*Presentation of receptacle with historical documents by Mr. Herbert E. Sinn, President  
Elmhurst Historical Commission*

AN ADVANCE TOWARDS EXCELLENCE -----

Byron F. Stevens  
*President Board of Directors  
Elmhurst Public Library*

RESPONSE ----- Charles Weigel, Jr., Mayor  
*City of Elmhurst*

THE RIBBON CUTTING ----- Ruth Strand, Librarian  
*Assisted by the Library's  
youngest patrons*

BENEDICTION ----- The Right Reverend Monsignor  
William J. Plunkett  
*Immaculate Conception Church*

OPEN HOUSE

*The entire library is yours to inspect and get to know on this proud day  
for Elmhurst . . . ask questions . . . stay long.*

## THE ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BYRON F. STEVENS .....	<i>President</i>
PAUL E. VAUPEL .....	<i>Vice President</i>
MRS. FRANCIS V. KOVAL .....	<i>Secretary</i>
MRS. GEORGE MCGREGOR .....	<i>Director</i>
A. EUGENE JARVIS .....	<i>Director</i>
PETER W. ERNST .....	<i>Director</i>
WALTER A. KNUDSON .....	<i>Director</i>
JOHN G. GRETTER .....	<i>Director</i>
ROGER F. DICKINSON .....	<i>Director</i>

### STAFF

Ruth Strand .....

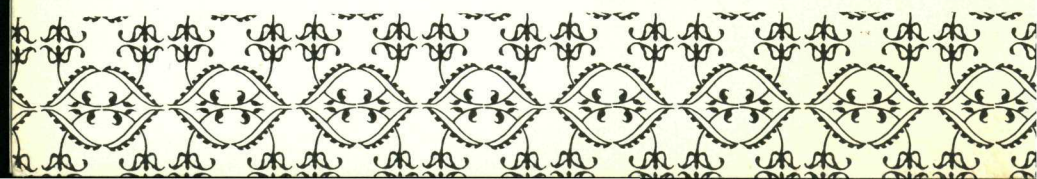
*Librarian*

Ruth Brown	Ruth Smith
Lucille Campeggio	Mildred Turek
Lawrence Knudsen	Ruth Vann
Jaroslav Lewycky	Florence Weiser
Lorraine Naperala	Margaret Weith
Berenice Roberts	Carol Wirkus
Bailia Rosenkranz	Lois Zimmerman
Florence Roselli	Stanley Yee

★ ★ ★

*Thanks for Coming*

★ ★ ★



# Thanks for your Help Towards Excellence

The Library Board wishes to thank all those whose gifts have contributed so importantly to the excellence of our new library.

The Glos Room  
The Clara Glos Bates Room  
The Wilder Room  
The Genevieve Gavin Room  
The Cruger Room  
The May Reed Wilson Center  
The Library Garden  
The paintings

Mrs. Albert H. Glos  
Mr. Alben F. Bates  
Mrs. W. H. Emery  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Gavin  
Mrs. Harold J. Cruger  
Mr. Ervin F. Wilson, Sr.  
The Elmhurst Garden Club  
Members of the  
Elmhurst Artists Guild

## The Ruth Strand Room

Mr. & Mrs. J. Ackerman  
Miss Lena Ahrens  
Mr. & Mrs. Art Alexander  
Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Andres  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Aschmann  
Mr. & Mrs. Zed Atlee  
Mrs. Bert H. Aust  
Mr. & Mrs. R. F. Barber  
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. F. Bauer  
Mr. & Mrs. Zenas H. Beers  
Mrs. Helmut Berens  
Mrs. E. Bernardo  
Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Bertram  
Mr. Mrs. George Billett  
Mr. Robert K. Birks  
Mrs. Eunice Willis Bodine  
Mrs. Rudolph Boller  
Mr. & Mrs. Earl R. Borg  
Mrs. Melva Boughton  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Bowman  
Mrs. K. Breitenbach  
Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Bryan  
Mr. & Mrs. E. S. Burtis  
Mr. & Mrs. R. V. Burtis  
Dr. & Mrs. D. P. Butcher  
Mr. & Mrs. John Carroll  
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. G.  
Cathcart  
Mr. & Mrs. K. Cavins  
Mrs. S. V. Chaplan  
Mr. & Mrs. Delbert L.  
Christensen  
Mrs. Joseph E. Clermont  
Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Cobner  
Mr. & Mrs. Jas. Cooper  
Miss Phyllis Crosley  
Mr. & Mrs. Robt. Crowl  
Mrs. Arthur Czercowy  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry L. Dale  
Mr. & Mrs. James Dame  
Mr. & Mrs. A. Daniels  
Mrs. Lee Daniels  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Davenport  
Mr. & Mrs. A. D. Davis

Miss Eleanor A. Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. James Day  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy DeShane  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred A.  
Dewsberry  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger F.  
Dickinson  
Mr. & Mrs. B. O. Dixon  
Mr. & Mrs. F. P. Drew  
Dr. & Mrs. Edmond  
Droegemueller  
Mr. & Mrs. T. W. Eastman  
Mrs. Mary C. Egan  
Mr. & Mrs. E. O. Ehrhardt  
Miss Myrtle Ellis  
Mrs. Robert Elworthy  
Mrs. William F. Entorf  
Dr. & Mrs. C. O. Evanson  
Fellowship Couples Club,  
First Cong. Church  
Mr. & Mrs. H. Follstad  
Mr. Ulrik E. Forsmark  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Foster  
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Frank  
Mr. & Mrs. C. From, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Chas. J.  
Gallagher  
Mr. Gene J. Gallo  
Mr. & Mrs. Chas. V. Gary  
Mr. Robert V. Gnapp  
Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Gore  
Mr. & Mrs. L. J.  
Gottschalk, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Gray  
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. S. Gray  
Mrs. Kenneth W. Graybill  
Mr. & Mrs. D. C. Green  
Mr. Robert D. Gregg  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D.  
Gregg, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Hans Gruder  
Mr. John P. Gudelis  
Dr. & Mrs. H. G. Hardt

## The Friends of the Library

Mr. Thomas L. Harrigan  
Mr. & Mrs. E. G. Harris  
Dr. & Mrs. J. B. Hartney  
Mr. & Mrs. Jos. A. Hatz  
Mr. & Mrs. B. Henderson  
Mr. & Mrs. H. Herder  
Mrs. James Hudson  
Dr. & Mrs. John H. Huss  
Mr. & Mrs. H. P.  
Iskenderian  
Mrs. Ernest Jacobi  
Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Johnson  
Miss Esther Johnson  
Miss Marcella Johnson  
Dr. & Mrs. Roy Kegerreis  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Kellman  
Dr. & Mrs. J. E. Kempf  
Miss Ruth Kinney  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Kirk  
Mrs. Norman F. Kloker  
Mr. B. C. Krause  
Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Kroepflin  
Mr. Theodore H. Kross  
Mr. & Mrs. V. Kuellmer  
Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Langelier  
Miss Lillian L. Langston  
Mr. & Mrs. W. Larson  
Dr. & Mrs. A. LaVelle  
Miss Carol J. Lee  
Mr. & Mrs. E. M. Lewis  
Joseph Lizzadro  
Family Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. B. A. Mahon  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Mahon  
Miss Margaret Marshall  
Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Maxson  
Mr. & Mrs. N. Mayer  
Mrs. Otto Mayer  
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. McColly  
Mr. & Mrs. W. McCormac  
Mr. C. W. McCullough  
Mr. & Mrs. Arch McKean  
Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Melville  
Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Miessler

Mr. Ronald W. Mohr  
 Mr. & Mrs. Roy Mohr  
 Monday Book Club  
 Mr. & Mrs. A. E.  
 Montgomery  
 Mr. & Mrs. O. K. Moore  
 Mrs. Edith M. Morgan  
 Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Moser  
 Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Nicoll  
 Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Nielsen  
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Norlie  
 Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Pearce  
 Mr. & Mrs. V. Pederson  
 P E O—Chaper FZ  
 P E O—Chapter HY  
 P E O—Chapter JU  
 Miss Dorothea Peterson  
 Mr. & Mrs. F. Petterson  
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Piech  
 Dr. & Mrs. I. R. Post  
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Protine  
 Mr. & Mrs. B. M. Ransom  
 Mr. & Mrs. E. C.  
 Rautenberg

Mr. A. H. Reese  
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Rhode  
 Mr. & Mrs. E. Rhodes  
 Mr. & Mrs. H. B. Rice  
 Mr. F. E. Riggs  
 Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Rowe  
 Mrs. Viola Rowe  
 Mr. & Mrs. F. O. Ryberg  
 Dr. & Mrs. A. L. Sawyer  
 Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Schaefer  
 Mr. & Mrs. M. Schiffman  
 Mrs. S. C. Schmitt  
 Mr. & Mrs. E. Schuttler  
 Mrs. R. A. Seiple  
 Miss Ida Lane Settle  
 Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Sheehan  
 Miss Beulah Shehan  
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Simpson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Smale  
 Mr. Norman P. Smalley  
 Mr. & Mrs. Anton A.  
 Sobolik, Jr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Philip Soukup  
 Dr. & Mrs. Robt. Stanger  
 Mr. & Mrs. B. F. Stevens

Miss Ruth S. Stickle  
 Mr. E. C. Stoever  
 Mr. & Mrs. Earl Strand  
 Mr. & Mrs. T. M. Strane  
 Mr. & Mrs. W. Stumpe  
 Mr. James Teason  
 Mrs. Adolph Thal  
 Dr. & Mrs. David J.  
 Thompson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Timmer  
 Mr. & Mrs. W. Tingley  
 Mr. & Mrs. Wm. A.  
 Toombs, Jr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. L. C. Traeger  
 Mr. & Mrs. Lester Tripp  
 Mr. & Mrs. L. A. Varga  
 Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Watkins  
 Mr. & Mrs. M. W. Watts  
 Mrs. Florence D. Weiser  
 Mr. & Mrs. D. E. Western  
 Mr. & Mrs. E. D. Wharton  
 Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Whitney  
 Women's Fellowship,  
 First Congr. Church

Many hundreds of youth of Elmhurst from the following schools made contributions to the Ruth Strand Room.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Edison Grade School  
 Eldridge  
 Emerson  
 Field  
 Hawthorne

Immaculate  
 Conception Grades  
 Immanuel Lutheran  
 Jackson  
 Jefferson  
 Lincoln

Madison  
 Mary Queen of Heaven  
 Roosevelt  
 Visitation  
 Washington

### JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Bryan Junior High School

Carl Sandburg Junior High School

### HIGH SCHOOLS

Immaculate Conception High School

York High School

### *Other Individual Gifts to the Library*

AAUW—Elmhurst Branch  
 Mrs. Inga Allbright  
 American Legion T.H.B.  
 Post 187  
 Mrs. George Arnold  
 Mr. Walter Barney  
 Mrs. Jack H. Bell  
 Mr. Harry A. Burmeister  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Carroll  
 Mrs. Bert M. Cohn  
 Mrs. John A. Cooper  
 D.A.R. Martha  
 Ibbetson Chapter  
 East Central  
 Improvement Assn.  
 Mrs. P. W. Eckwall  
 Elmhurst Elementary  
 School Council  
 Elmhurst Woman's Club  
 Elmhurst Youth Council  
 Mrs. William H. Emery

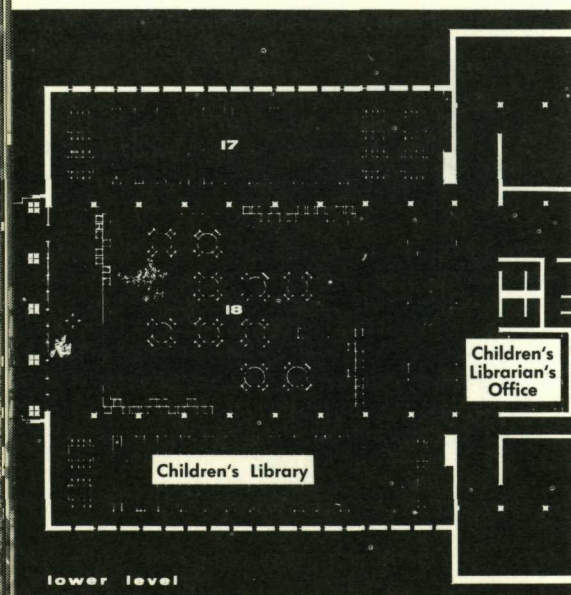
Mrs. John H. Finch  
 Mrs. Cynthia Burtis Fjord  
 Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Gretter  
 Mrs. Robert E. Hookham  
 Mrs. William Horn  
 Mrs. P. Moore Kalinick  
 Mrs. Dewitt Kelley  
 Mrs. John Kessler  
 Mr. & Mrs. F. V. Koval  
 Kiwanis Club of Elmhurst  
 Kiwanis Club of  
 Greater Elmhurst  
 Dorothy Krejci Memorial  
 Mrs. George W. Larkin  
 Members, League of  
 Women Voters  
 Mrs. Walter F. Lecture  
 Mr. & Mrs. H. M. Licht  
 Mrs. E. W. Marquardt  
 Mrs. J. W. Marshall, Jr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. G. McGregor  
 Monday Book Club  
 of Elmhurst

Mr. Richard D. Moore  
 Mrs. Lawrence Newsome  
 Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Norlie  
 Mrs. Joseph R. Palmer  
 Mrs. William Peretti  
 Mr. Earl H. Peterson  
 Ritter Book Company  
 Rosarian Council of Imm.  
 Conception Church  
 Rotary Club of Elmhurst  
 Mrs. T. M. Strane  
 Mr. Ray F. Suchomal  
 Mrs. A. J. Tangalos  
 Mrs. Harry Thoen  
 Mrs. M. R. Thorneycroft  
 Mrs. Paul Tyler  
 Mrs. Vincent Tinaglia  
 V.F.W. Walter A. Glos  
 Post 2048  
 Mrs. T. Arthur Walsh  
 Mrs. Forrest F. Williams



Lower Level

**The Ruth Strand Room  
The Children's  
Library Facilities**



**The Ruth Strand Room**

*Furnishings in this room were given by the Friends of the Library through some 200 individual and organization gifts. They were given to honor Miss Ruth Strand and to recognize her long years of devoted and outstanding service as Librarian of The Elmhurst Public Library.*

**The Library Garden**

*Looking through the decorative grill is to be seen the lovely Library Garden, gift of the Elmhurst Garden Club . . . gift that brings the beauty of nature to the eye of the child to add to their delight with the Children's Room.*

As one descends to the lower level from either the north or south entrances to the Children's Library, a lovely vista of color meets the eye. Here is an invitation to children whose message cannot be mistaken

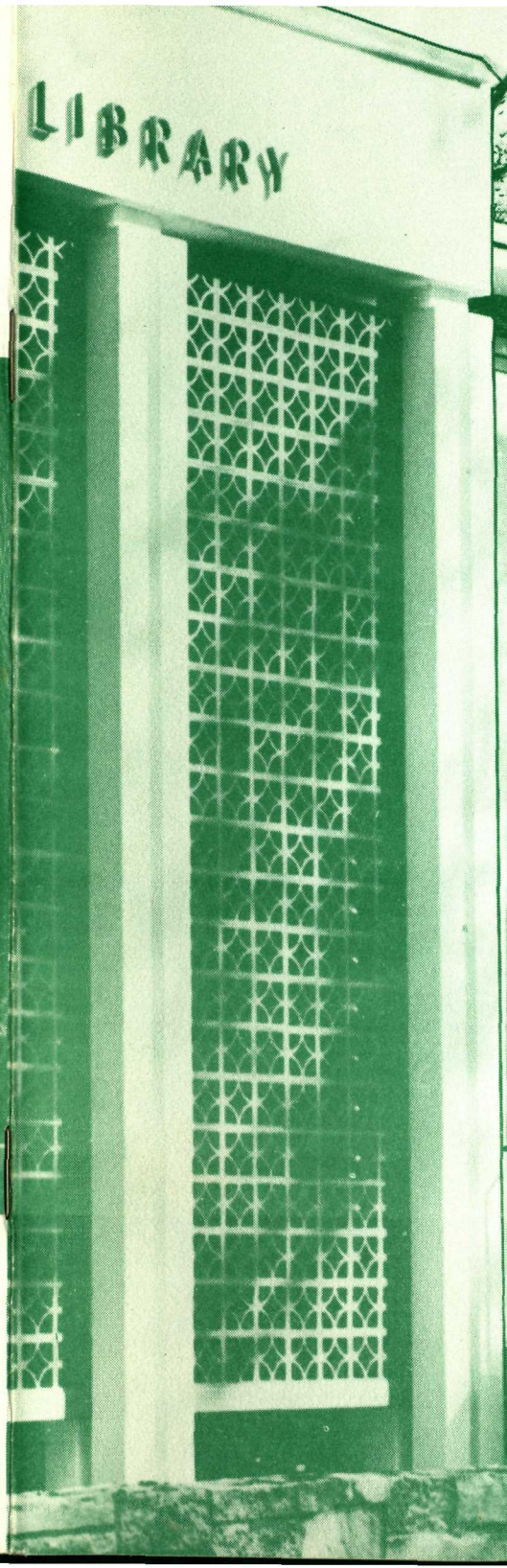
*"Here is an area especially designed with you, the children, in mind."*

Here on either side, are the stacks . . . containing the children's book collections . . . with an ultimate capacity of 30,000 volumes. In this collection are books for study and pleasure. The collection includes the great classics, excellent modern children's books in attractive format, encyclopedias and other reference materials needed to answer the uncountable and unaccountable questions of the inquiring young mind.

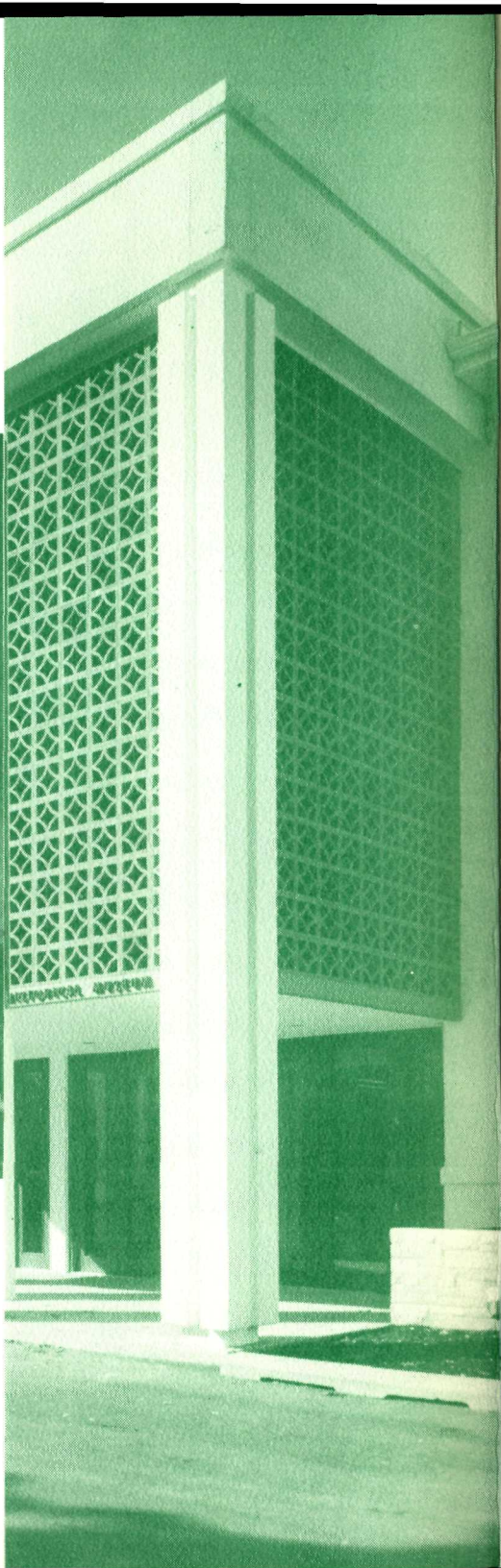
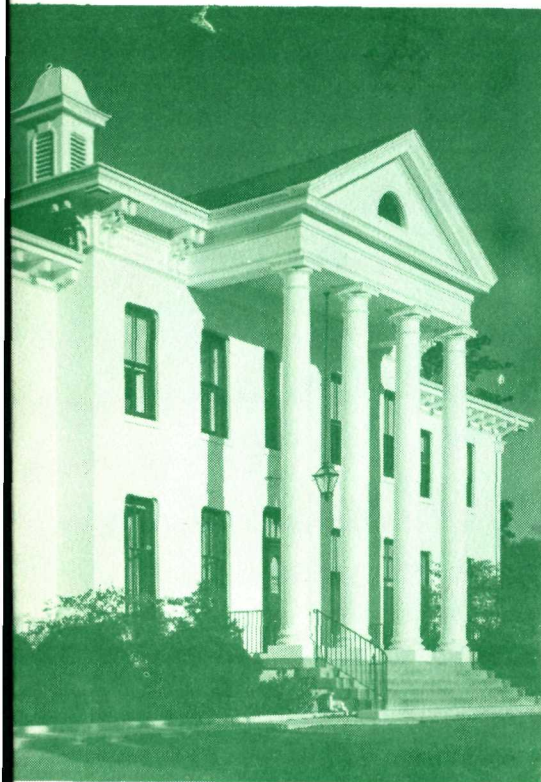
Here the CIRCULATION DESK is ideally located and equipped with all the appurtenances required for modern library service to children. Here too, is their CATALOG FILE which every child soon learns to use so as to enjoy to the full their library's treasures.

Adjacent and conveniently close at hand at the east end is the Children's Librarian's office with its open door . . . its complete visibility from every point in the children's area.

In this room are housed, also, the picture collection of some 10,000 subjects . . . a work of dedication by Mrs. Steve Gavin who has given years of effort to this project without compensation of any kind, save that . . . the satisfaction of having served well, one's fellowman.



*the  
Elmhurst  
Public  
Library*



The public library is your treasure-house of knowledge . . . of entertainment . . . of spiritual refreshment. Gathered within its walls are the accumulated wisdom and lore of the ages.

In this point of the twentieth century, the public library is taking on new, important added functions. In the new philosophy, the public library must be much more than a repository of materials . . . it must, be also, an aggressive, outgoing educational institution. It must serve as an important arm of our schools . . . providing them with the supplementary book collections required for serving education's accelerated pace . . . with reading lists . . . with consultation opportunities . . . and with the environment for after-school-hour study. It seeks to equip for cooperation with all groups seeking adult education . . . cultural development . . . civic planning and social orientation.

So it has been well said that the excellence of a community's public library is the measure of that community's educational and cultural attainments and ambitions.

**Dedicated  
to the  
Achievement of  
Excellence**

**To Better Serve TODAY  
The Citizens and Youth  
of Elmhurst  
and to prepare them  
for tomorrow's challenges**

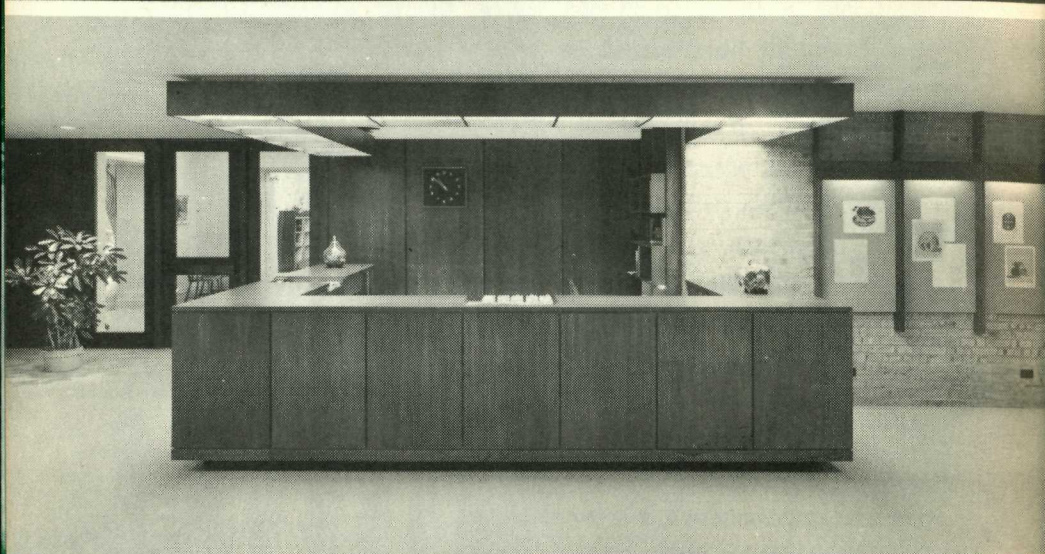
## The Main Lobby

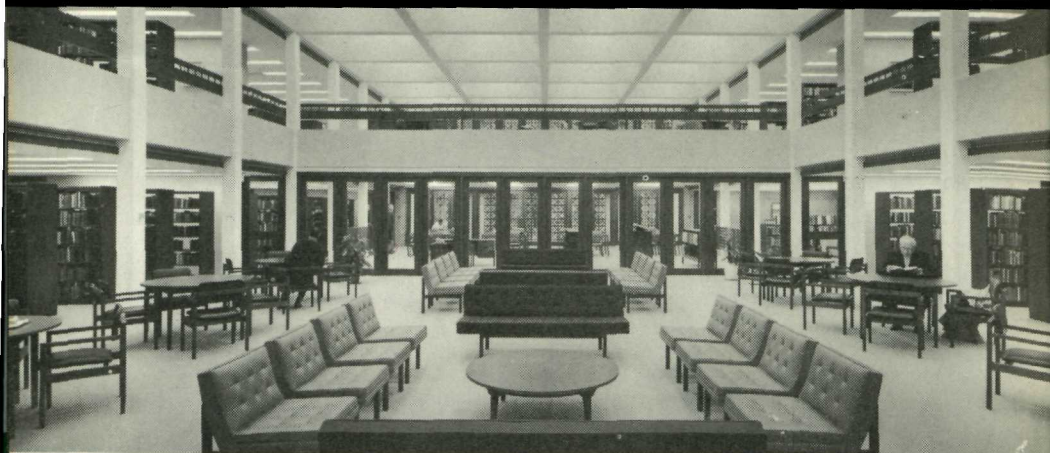
As you enter the Library from either the north or south entrances . . . you ascend the stairway into the MAIN LOBBY.

Here AT THE CIRCULATION DESK you find a warm welcome . . . the friendly help of the librarians. This is a center equipped with the newest instruments of library science to make your use of the library . . . pleasurable . . . effective . . . efficient. Here, your requested materials are checked out and your returns checked in . . . your registration card issued or renewed . . . information cheerfully given.

The CARD CATALOG INDEX is found close to the Circulation Desk, where ready assistance is quickly available to you when required. These Card Catalog Indexes put the entire library at your fingertips.

Here, too, you will find located our shelves of CURRENT FICTION . . . the BULLETIN BOARD . . . the EXHIBIT CASES . . . all scientifically illuminated for easy, effortless viewing . . . with an acoustical tile ceiling and carpeted floor creating an atmosphere of quiet, a freedom from distracting sound.





**The Gloss Room  
The Adult Library  
Center**

Here in the ADULT LIBRARY CENTER everything has been designed to provide an atmosphere conducive to the pursuit of knowledge . . . or reading for pleasure.

On both sides of the room are the stacks which house the adult non-fiction books . . . for easy access by the library patron.

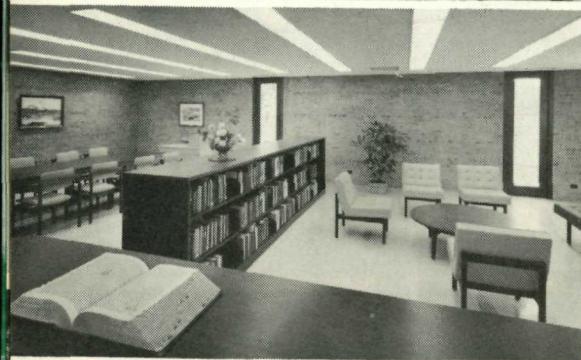
To the west is the glass wall partition through which may be seen the REFERENCE ROOM area.



**The Clara Glos Bates  
Reference Room**

The ADULT REFERENCE ROOM is the information center of the library. Here is the Reference Librarian's desk . . . the shelving area for the reference book collection and the back issues of periodicals.

An aid to the efficient use of this collection is the shelving, especially designed and built to hold the large indexes and guides . . . the custom-built filing cabinets and atlas drawers.



*The GLOS Room furnishings are a gift of Mrs. Iona Glos in memory of her husband Albert H. Glos.*

*The BATES Room furnishings are the gift of Mr. Alben Bates in honor of his wife Clara Glos Bates.*

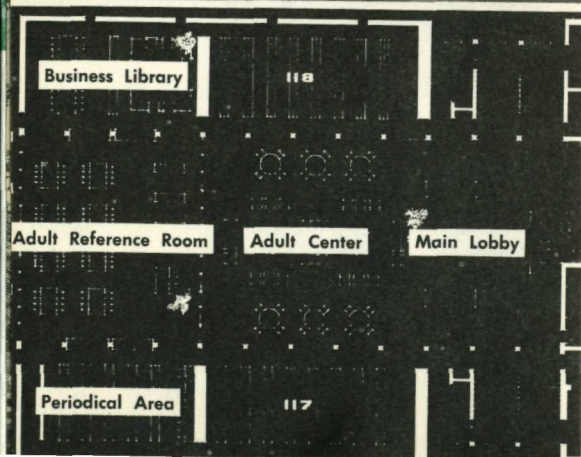
*In the Business Area is also provided complete XEROX Service. Patrons may use this machine to copy any of the library material . . . or the user's own notes or copy.*

*At the south end of the Reference Room is the Periodical Area . . . its racks house a complete selection of magazines and publications required for reference use.*

**The Business Library**

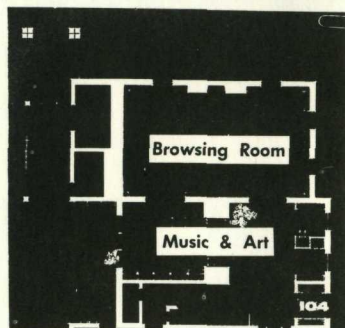
To the north of the Reference Room is an area devoted to the service of those interested in Commerce and Industry. Here is to be found a collection of books for the businessman and the investor. Included are materials on economics, business methods, personnel, banking, insurance, advertising and investments.

This rapidly growing business collection contains business services such as Moody's, Thomas Register, Manufacturing Directories, Telephone Directories of all major cities, Commerce Clearing House Services, etc.



### The Wilder Room for Browsing

Keeping to the tradition that was "Old Elmhurst," this lovely room reminds us of the past, while providing the most modern of facilities required by book lovers who would find joy and satisfaction in browsing through book and magazine collections. The room is a delight to the eye with its decor of gold damask draperies, carpeting in Wedgewood blue and Chippendale furniture upholstered in gold and rose. Here are the current issues of periodicals and books on art, painting, sculpture, music and photography.



*The Wilder Room furnishings are the gift of Mrs. W. H. Emery in memory of her parents Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Wilder.*

*The Genevieve Gavin Room furnishings are the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Gavin in memory of their daughter Genevieve.*

### The Genevieve Gavin Room for Music and Art

To the south of the Wilder Room is the music and art center of our library . . . a room epitomizing the new concepts in library service . . . containing much to delight the music and art lover. In this room are collections of recordings of music, recordings of plays and poetry, foreign languages, folk songs, etc.—all housed on shelves and in beautiful cabinets. There is a listening booth — special cabinets with books on art.



## The Librarian's Office

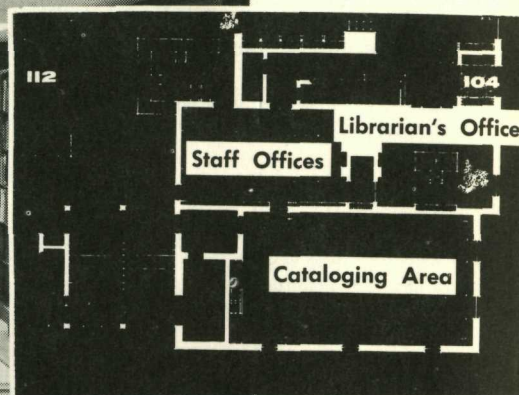
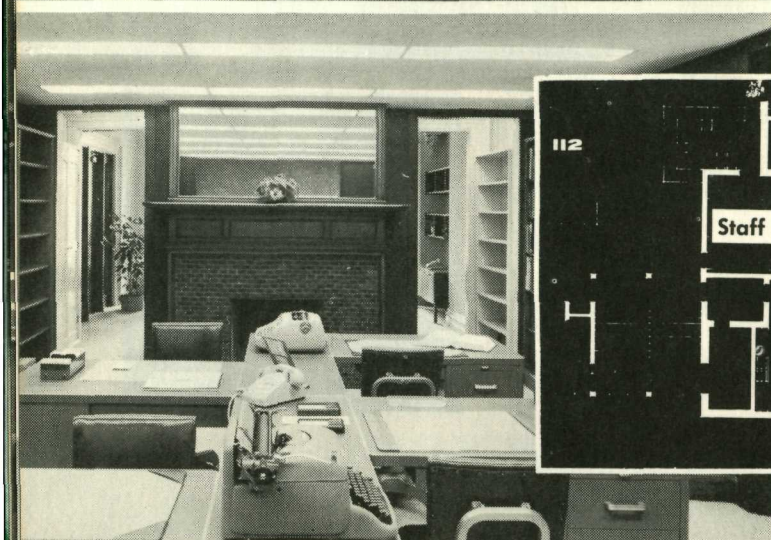
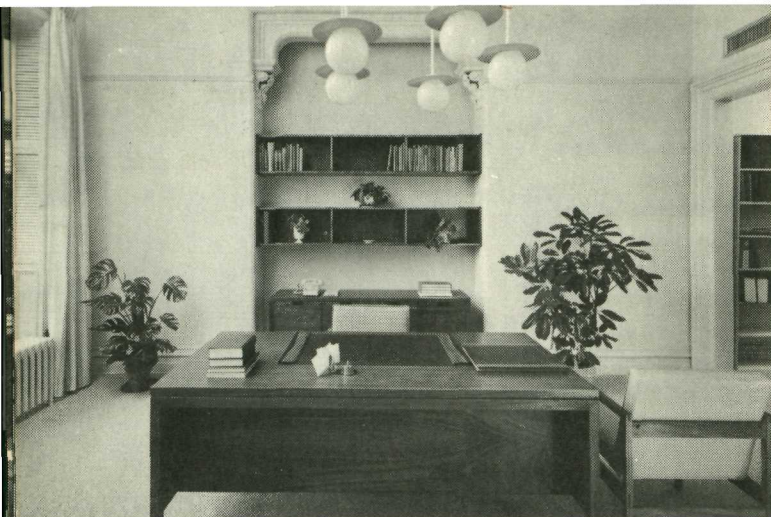
The efficient operation of any library centers on its Librarian and staff, and the tools and environment with which they are provided. Beginning with the **Office of the Librarian** through the **Staff Administrative Offices** (the Sturges Room) and through to the **Work Areas** located in many parts of the building, no effort has been spared to make them fully adequate for the tasks at hand and those to come.

Here in this office . . . the patrons of our library will ever find a warm and friendly welcome . . . an eagerness to serve . . . to answer your questions . . . attend your requests. The open doorway is symbolic of the open door policy of our library . . . for this is your library.

## The Cataloging Area

This pine panelled room that for so many years served as our children's library . . . is now devoted to the cataloging of newly received books, and preparation of them for placement on the library's shelves. In a steady stream these books come to the library each month . . . to enrich the collection . . . to keep it up-to-date . . . to replace the books beyond repair.

Here are specially built-in cabinets . . . tables and chairs for use of the staff . . . a complete stainless steel sink required in book preparation.



**The Ruth Strand Room  
The Children's  
Library Facilities**



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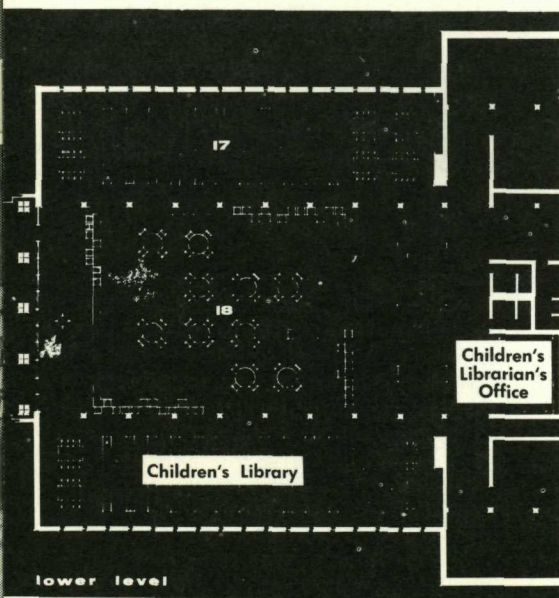
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### The Alice Seton Berens Room

Through the passageway from the Children's Room one goes to the Meeting Room of the library. This pine panelled room, seating fifty comfortable, is equipped with picture projection equipment, chairs and tables. A modern kitchen is adjacent. These facilities are intended for the use of outside cultural and civic organizations, as well as meetings for library purposes.



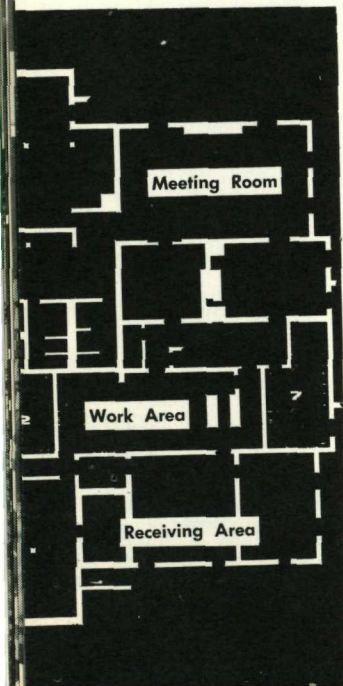
**Alice Seton Berens Room**  
*So named by action of the Board of Directors in recognition of her 35 years of outstanding service as a Board Member and President.*

### The Work Areas

Important to every library are the rooms back of the scenes . . . the areas where the books are prepared for the shelves . . . where you, as our patrons, see them displayed as finished products of hours of work.

It is the genius of our planning that the new building areas could be devoted exclusively to public use . . . that much space ordinarily required of a new building for work areas . . . in our new building was not required because some of the rooms in the original building, lent themselves perfectly to this purpose.

In this area are . . . the work room for repairing books . . . for preparing collections for school loan . . . the storeroom for supplies . . . the receiving rooms for the delivery of materials.



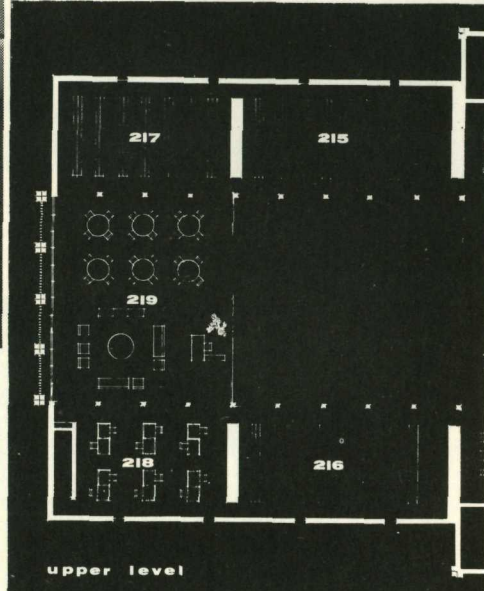
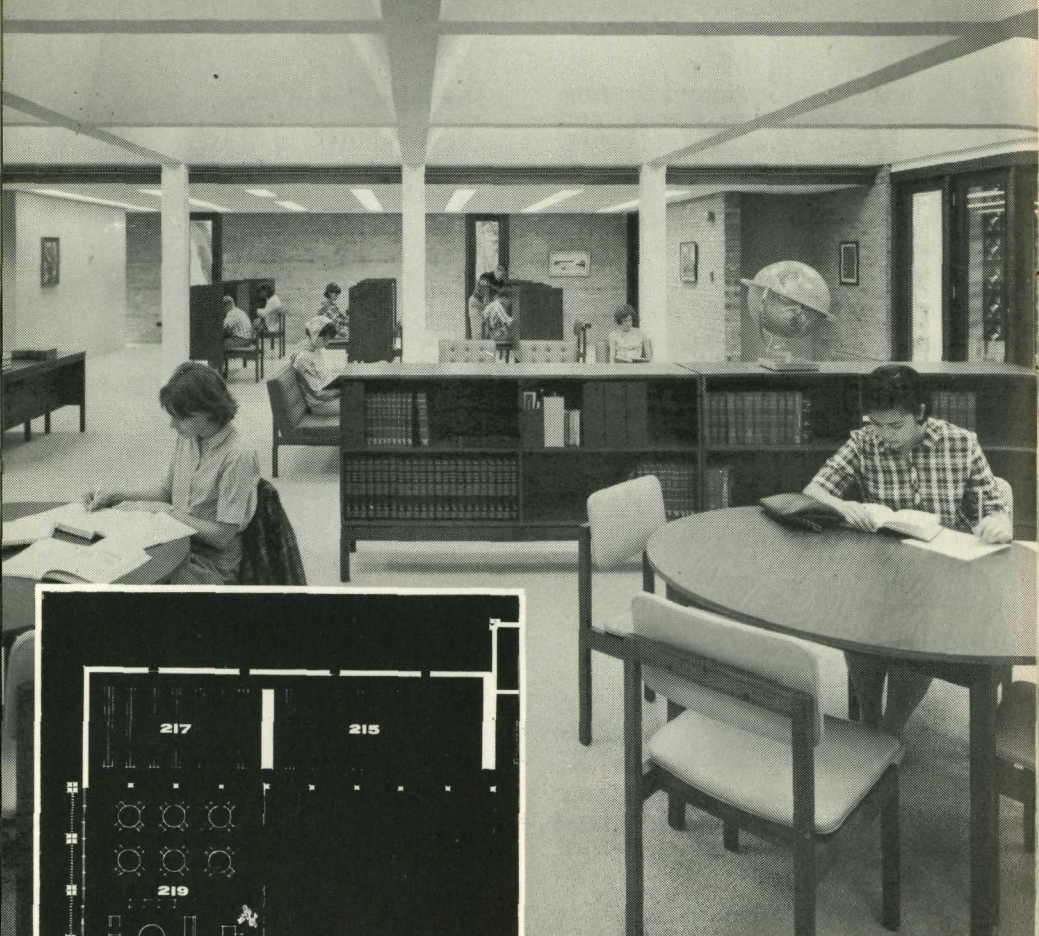
### The Student Study Center

On the west section of the mezzanine floor is situated an area designated for student study purposes. This center is intended to encourage study . . . provide a quiet, comfortable atmosphere with lighting of highest quality for easy seeing.

The Student Study Center represents the utmost in planning and equipment for we, with our late President, J. F. Kennedy, believe: "Our young people constitute the greatest resource our country has . . . and books are the nurishment essential to their intellectual growth into thoughtful and informed citizens."

The collection is intended for young people of 18 years or under. In the stacks will be space for forty-five hundred books of reference, recreational and supplementary school material.

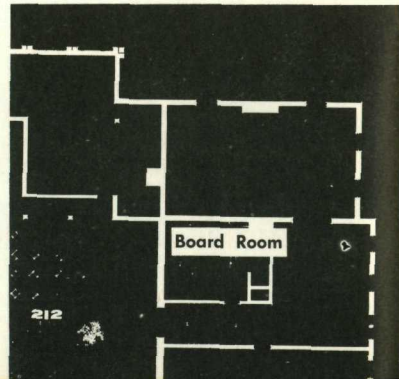
The Study Carrels are designed to facilitate the use of the area for study purposes . . . the typewriter equipment . . . the chairs, study tables and other furniture are all designed with the comfort and convenience of our young people in mind.



*The MAY REED WILSON CENTER for student study in the southwest area and is the gift of Mr. Ervin Wilson, Sr. in memory of his wife.*

### The Board Room

The Meeting Room of the Board of Directors of the Elmhurst Public Library, named the Ullman Room in honor of the Elmhurst library's first President, A. I. Ullman, is, also, the meeting place for the Elmhurst Historical Commission and other civic bodies. Its shelves house the duplicate collections of reference books, biographies, etc.



## The Elmhurst Historical Museum

Two rooms of the original library building have been given over to the Elmhurst Historical Commission for use as museum areas. These rooms were originally furnished in honor of two of Elmhurst's pioneer families . . . the Emery Room by Edward Emery . . . and the Cruger Room by Mrs. Harold J. Cruger. It seems fitting, therefore, that they now be given over to the housing of the historical artifacts of our early history as a village and city.

The Historical Commission was established in 1952 by the City Council of the City of Elmhurst, and until now, the Elmhurst Historical Museum has been quartered in the Elmhurst City Hall. It now comes to the library where it will serve to advance further the modern day concepts of expanded library service.

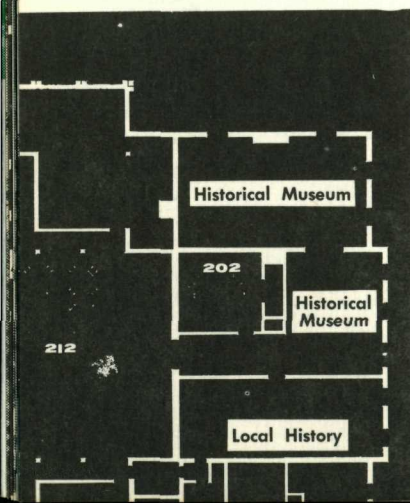
Through the support of the Mayor and City Council, these rooms have been completely remodeled, air conditioned and furnished in harmonious manner. The display and preservation of items of historical interest to Elmhurst will attract much interest and serve to remind all of us of our priceless heritage.

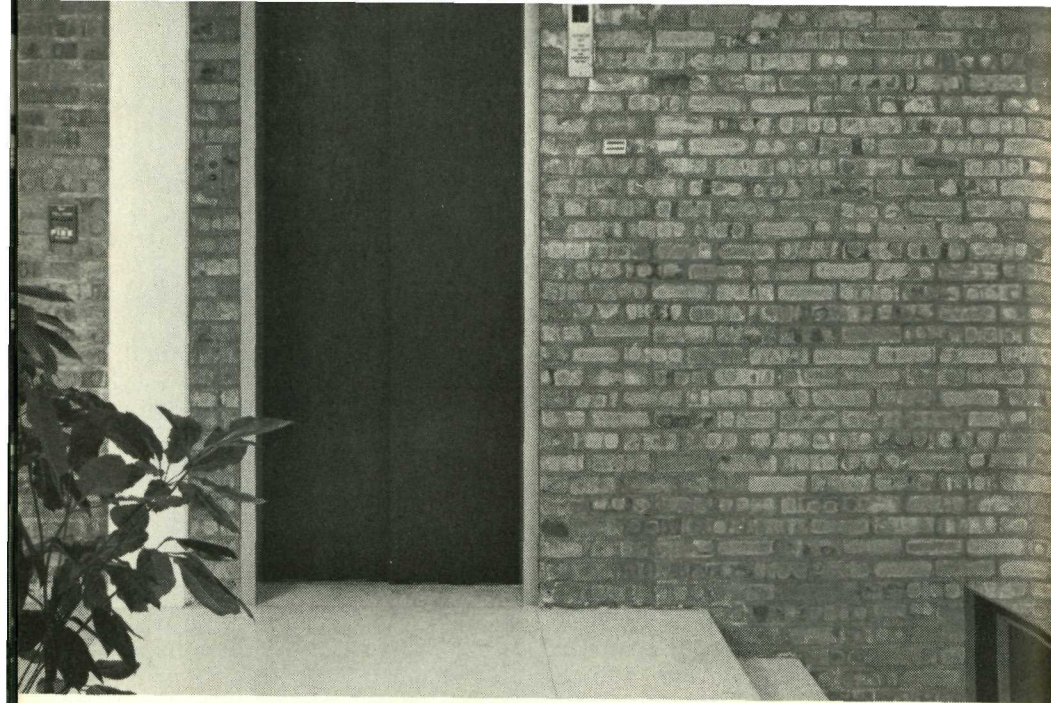
Appropriately adjacent to the quarters of the Elmhurst Historical Museum is the King Room of Local History. Designed for study and display of such items as books, clippings, biographies and photographs relating to Elmhurst and this immediate area. These materials are not for circulation but are available on request to interested patrons. Included in the collection are microfilm copies of the Elmhurst Press since 1948.

## The Local History Room

### The Cruger Room

*Through this entrance to the Historical Museum one enters The Cruger Room now completely refurnished in honor of her husband, Mr. Harold J. Cruger, by Mrs. Harold J. Cruger.*





### The Elevator for the Handicapped and our Senior Citizens

*provides easy access to all floors . . . conforms to the best accepted standards for public buildings for the comfort of those to whom stairs might deprive them of the benefits of our library . . . and while serving these needs, serves also to increase the efficiency . . . and reduces the cost of our library operation—doubling in service as a work-saving instrument for the staff.*



## Quick Facts About The Elmhurst Public Library

Since 1916, the Elmhurst Public Library has been serving the people of Elmhurst. Housed originally in a small room in the rear of the old Glos Building (on the site of the present Elmhurst National Bank), the Library was opened to the public on March 22, 1916. Mrs. H. L. Breitenbach, as the first librarian, aimed at Excellence . . . and that tradition has been our goal in every development since that time.

\* \* \* \*

The original section of the Elmhurst Public Library was built by Seth Wadhams, a Chicago merchant, in 1868. Since that time, the building has had an interesting history:

1887-1902 Owned by Henry W. King  
 1906-21 Owned by T. E. Wilder  
 1922 Elmhurst Public Library moves to building  
 1936 Extensive remodeling completed  
 1965 New Building Expansion completed

\* \* \* \*

#### NEW BUILDING Statistics

New Building is 120 ft x 88 ft.; has original section 40 ft. x 88 ft.; overall 160 ft. x 88 ft.; has three levels with a total floor area of 42,750 sq. ft., made up as follows:

Existing Area .... 10,750 sq. ft.  
 New Area ..... 32,000 sq. ft.

Total Area ..... 42,750 sq. ft.  
 Existing Volume 144,000 cu. ft.  
 New Volume ... 372,000 cu. ft.

Total Volume .. 516,000 cu. ft.

\* \* \* \*

**IMMEDIATE SEATING 180**

**IMMEDIATE VOLUMES 60,000**

**ULTIMATE SEATING 360**

**ULTIMATE VOLUMES 120,000**

\* \* \* \*

#### TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION

Glazed brick and pre-cast concrete exterior. Style—modified colonial.

#### FURNISHINGS

\$65,000.00 immediate  
 \$105,000.00 ultimate

#### CONSTRUCTION COST

\$546,275.70 — including renovation, parking, etc.

#### TOTAL UNIT COST (New Area)

\$20.00/sq. ft. (Combined Area)  
 \$15.00/sq. ft.

#### ARCHITECTS & INTERIOR DESIGN

Charles T. Cedarholm

#### CONSULTANTS

Donald C. Ward and Associates

#### LIBRARY CONSULTANTS

Dr. Harold Lancour & Dr. Harold Goldstein University of Illinois Library School

#### UNIT COST (new area only)

\$17.00/sq. ft. \$1.46/cu. ft.

#### UNIT COST (Combined area)

\$12.80/sq. ft. \$ .94/cu. ft.

#### LIGHTING LEVEL

75 foot candles maintained

#### GENERAL CONTRACTOR

A. H. Viren and Sons

## GIFTS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Elmhurst Public Library is grateful for gifts and its collection has been enriched by many fine donations of books, prints, paintings, periodicals, phonograph records, and other materials which it would otherwise not have been able to afford or acquire.

However, in accepting gifts, the library reserves the privilege of deciding whether the material should be added to its collection. Acceptance depends on the following considerations: library standards of selection, the physical condition, and the library need of the title or added copies of titles in its collection.

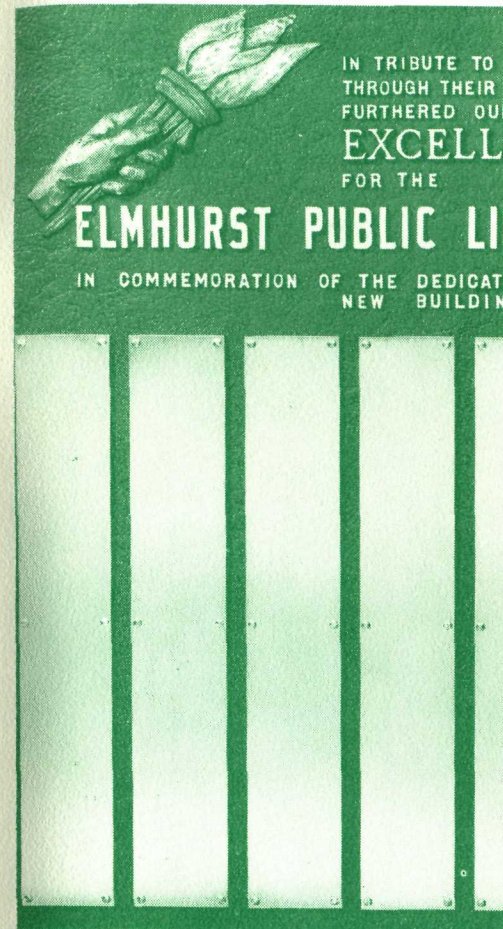
The library makes every effort to dispose of all gift material that it does not add to its collection by offering it as gifts, to the very best advantage, to other libraries and institutions.

Some items are accepted as gifts although they would not ordinarily be purchased. These include: denominational literature, privately printed poetry, highly technical materials, or very expensive items of limited interest.

When the library receives a cash gift for purchase of a memorial or tribute, the selection will be made by the librarian, with the approval of the donor. The general nature of the books or its subject area will be based upon the interests of the deceased, the wishes of the donor, and the needs of the library.

It is the policy of the library not to accept special collections of books to be kept together as a separate physical entity. Gift collections may be accepted with the understanding that they be integrated into the general collection, the only form of donor identification being a bookplate.

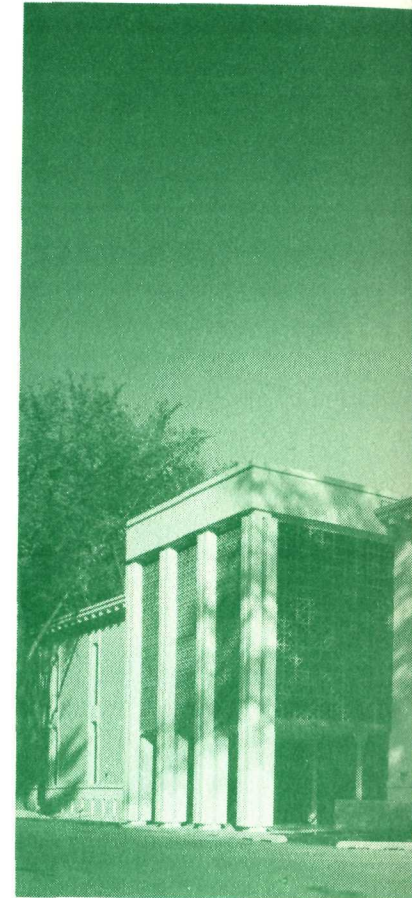
The library cannot accept as a gift any printed or manuscript items if the condition of acceptance requires permanent exhibit of the item, since the library believes all exhibits should be changed from time to time to maintain interest.



*This plaque in the main lobby honors the more than 800 citizens children and groups whose free will contributions gave such important support to our quest for excellence.*

*The paintings throughout the buildings are gifts of the members of the Elmhurst Artist Guild.*

*Maps, globes and much other equipment and furnishings are gifts of our community's citizens.*





FILE PRINT NO. 85240-2  
**ORLANDO R. CABANBAN**  
PHOTOGRAPHY OF ARCHITECTURE









# Close to the Library

from Phyllis Carroll

When my husband, John, and I first came to Elmhurst in 1959 we lived in an older apartment building on Virginia Street. Praising our new location to friends we said, "It's close to the library." And through the years that I have lived in Elmhurst, my life has always been close to the library.

We often walked to the library, moving under Wilder Park's weeping willow trees to the front entrance behind the white pillars. The first time I entered the library a petite woman, radiating energy, warmth and intelligence, strode quickly towards me saying, "Welcome to the Elmhurst Library. I don't believe I've seen you before. What kind of books are you interested in?" This was my introduction to Ruth Strand, the beloved librarian who led the library to expansion of the building with the addition as well as expansion of many services and additions to the collection.

Because I loved the library so I asked Ruth what I could do to help. She suggested I become active in Friends of the Library. So I started off as secretary, working with Steve French, treasurer, Ralph Maxson, vice president, and Ruth Soukup, president. I vividly recall the meeting when Ruth Strand suggested that Friends finance an art rental collection. There were those on the board who thought no one would want to rent a picture because they would already have all the pictures they needed. Ruth Soukup and I toured other libraries that had such collections and received glowing reports of their success. And so the Elmhurst Public Library's art rental section was started. In those days the Friends finance letters were addressed by hand. I became president and Mary Ann Fick joined the board as publicity chairman. Due to her efforts attendance at the annual meetings blossomed.

The picture rental became very popular. My family, John, a son, Jim, aged 5, and a daughter Mary Alice, aged 4, rented a different picture each month. We each got to take turns choosing the picture. The picture of the month hung on the wall behind the kitchen table where we looked at it and discussed it daily. One of the favorites was a reproduction of a Rousseau painting, *The Waterfall*, showing vibrant jungle growth, two human figures and two alert deer. When the collection was auctioned because there was no longer space for it, we bid as high as we could on that one to make sure we got it.

Another project suggested by Ruth involved stocking a bookcase in the train station with paperback books clearly marked with the Elmhurst Library stamp. The sign on the shelves explained that these books were supplied by the Friends of the Library with the hope that train riders would read them, enjoy them, replace them, and come to the library. After two days all the books were gone and none were returned.

When our first child arrived, as soon as he could walk he clambered up those front steps holding my hand. He would pick out books and look at them while I searched for my books. When our daughter learned to walk, she joined the group library expeditions. Ruth Strand's doll collection, featuring dolls in costumes of many countries, particularly fascinated her.

Meanwhile we had moved to a house a little farther away from the library but within walking distance for pushing a child in a stroller. We were still close to the library. I used to hire a baby sitter, walk to the library, and luxuriate in browsing and reading.

When the addition was built on the present building we were thrilled with the spaciousness of it and the beautiful carpentry and wood used in the circulation desk and stacks. The new part rapidly became as close to us as the old part.

John was serving on the City Council at a time when a council member was appointed to serve on the library board. There were a few board members who were in favor of tearing down the library and building a new one on the same site. The community went into a rage at the thought. The council member who had been on the library board moved. John came home from a council meeting one night and told me this. I said, "Please ask Ab (Ganet, the mayor then) to appoint you." John was puzzled as to why I would want him to be gone from home and child care

duties even more than he already was. My answer, "The library is the most important building in town and it's in danger." And so he was appointed to the library board and served until his death August 31, 2003. Through his service, the library became even closer to us than it had been. He often said that the most valuable thing he had done on the board was to help appoint Marilyn Boria librarian. He admired her leadership that resulted in a dynamic library that serves the community superbly in so many ways.

Whenever we needed to know how to do something or wanted information, we went to the library and found a book that told us how to do it or gave us the information. This took in a wide scope of subjects, from John's computer work to my cooking for a Gourmet club to Mary Alice writing a term paper on a Shakespeare comedy in high school to Jim writing on a report on mammals in the first grade. When I taught music at Sandburg Middle School, I often had difficulty finding music for a song students wanted to sing. Reader Service came to the rescue. The library was close to every facet of our lives.

When my daughter started her freshman year at college she asked for pictures of the most important things in Elmhurst to take with her. One of her requests was a picture of the library.

Whenever I have contact with library staff people, I am met with sparkling attitudes of friendliness, helpfulness and an extremely high level of competence. This is a constant source of happiness to my life. When a young friend was getting married, I borrowed a copy of *The Joy of Sex* from the library for her to read. At the time I was teaching at Sandburg Middle School. I had an armful of books, including the *Joy of Sex* as I left the library. Three Sandburg students ran up to me enthusiastically, saying, "Hi, Mrs. Carroll. What are you reading?" I thought that this could be tense. Fortunately they never got beyond the first couple of books.

John began coming home from board meetings reporting problems of crowding in the library, of a chronic need for more space. Gradually it became apparent to many that we needed a new library. The board voted to go for a referendum and the Elmhurst League of Women Voters voted to study the need for a new library. I served on that committee, visiting libraries in the Chicago area that had recently built additions or new buildings, touring the Elmhurst library to see what the problems were, researching all possibilities for location for a new library. After intense study over a long period of time, the committee brought its findings to the membership. Consensus was reached that Elmhurst did need a new library and that the best site would be the area to the north of Wilder Park.

And so the referendum campaign started. The first referendum committee meetings were held in my home with a just a few people contributing. The committee expanded and Steve Hillsman, a council member, volunteered to be chairman. We met every Wednesday night from January to the referendum and worked hard in between meetings. We marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade, created brochures and took them door to door, gave talks at coffees, put together newspaper ads, organized fund raisers and spread the gospel of the need for a new library every way we could. To our great joy the referendum passed.

When I wanted to become friends with the little girl who had just moved across the street, I made regular library visits with her. On the first visit she received her first library card. She strutted proudly with her "I Got My Library Card Today" sticker stuck to her chest. She is still my good friend.

The library was close to one of the most important events of my life, the presence of a cherished granddaughter. As soon as she was old enough I held her hand and took her to the library to choose books, play with puzzles and look at the fish.

The last three years of his life John was weakened from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. When I drove him to the hospital in late August we both knew he was dying. I drove slowly past the new library, the gold and white stones glowing softly in the sunlight. He drank in the sight with deep joy.

Now the new library is almost finished. It is a little farther away from my house than the old building. But it will be as close to my heart as the Elmhurst Public Library has always been and will always be.

## Early Memories of the Elmhurst Public Library

It was tremendously exciting for a seven-year old from the Austin area in Chicago to be moving to Elmhurst. It meant a lovely new home, a different school and church, and about to be discovered - the Elmhurst Public Library. Always loving to read, the spacious, lovely building, in a great, beautiful park with an entire room, (now the Wilder Room), devoted to children's books, was heavenly. And I could check out five books for two entire weeks - how marvelous!

Memories recall head librarian, Grace Murray, rather austere in her sensible flat-heeled oxfords, who really kept us in line, and sweet soft-spoken Ruth Strand - always ready to answer questions about my book selections.

As there was practically no activity during the summer in Elmhurst in the early 1930's, a few friends and I formed a book club. We would meet at a designated location and walk to the library together because in those days we walked or rode our bikes everywhere. Choosing our five books each, we would spend the long, warm afternoons reading our carefully selected choices. At times we had rather heated discussions of the pros and cons of the books that we had read in common. Pure joy! When we finished our five books during the next few days, we would meet again and repeat the same procedure. What happy, carefree days and such precious memories!

When I entered high school, I was enrolled in a required Latin class with the strongly-suggested,

reading of *The Last Days of Pompeii*, *Quo Vadis*, and *Ben Hur* to name a few. Who provided the books for me? The Elmhurst Public Library, of course. As I attended college, the college library provided my required reading material and visits to the library became less frequent.

After marrying and remaining in Elmhurst (how could I leave my beloved town?), the demands of family seemed to involve much of my time. However, my husband and our four children continued to enjoy our library. Now with children married and husband gone, I intend, once again, to resume frequent visits to this great, public institution.

One continuing regret - I did not take the time to write a note of thanks to Ruth Strand when she retired, expressing my appreciation to her as head of the Elmhurst Public Library for playing such an important role in my life as I was growing up in Elmhurst.

Katharine Bunnan Rodn

# In Memoriam

## **Betty Jean Peronto**

Passed away August 8, 2003 after a lengthy battle with lung cancer.

Betty retired from EPL as the Head of Circulation in 1999. She was a mentor to many of the students who worked in the Circulation Department, always having time to listen and to offer words of encouragement. Betty loved working at the library and since she was a "crafter," she started the circulation department tradition of making handmade Christmas ornaments for her staff each year, enlisting the help of her department supervisors. Staff came to look forward to each year's Christmas treat!

Traveling was Betty's other passion and she readily took advantage of any reasonable airfare to Europe. She also traveled to more exotic places and proudly displayed a photo of herself astride a camel on her desk at the library. She instilled the joy of traveling in her family, taking additional trips after retirement

Betty was in on the very early stages of planning for the new building, looking down the road to the time when the referendum would be scheduled. We deeply regret that she will not be here with us in person to celebrate our Grand Opening, but she will be here in spirit.

## **Joan Augustyne**

Joan served EPL as a shelver from 1981–1993. She took great pride in her section who books were always in perfect order. Joan was always smiling and ready to share words of wisdom and faith. She was a proud mother and grandmother.

Besides her shelves, Joan's other passion was crafting. Those of us who were privileged to work with her have a wonderful legacy of beautiful handmade Christmas ornaments and decorations as well as a crocheted peter pan collar.

Joan passed away in August of 2001. Her gentle spirit is will missed, but memories of her kindness and friendship live on at EPL.

## **Ann Reinecke**

Ann worked at EPL for almost 26 years. She is best remembered as a very elegant phone console information specialist. Ann was a voracious reader. Fiction patrons knew to ask her for recommendations. Many left the information desk with a written list of books reflecting his or her favorite genre. Ann was the forerunner of today's Readers' Advisory Librarian.

Preceding Ann's assignment as a phone consul receptionist, she performed a unique lesser-known service. Ann called patrons who had overdue library items and gently requested their return. Many a grateful patron told her that they had forgotten about the books and appreciated her gentle reminder.

Ann was the epitome of elegance and professionalism and has been truly missed. She passed away unexpectedly after complications from surgery in June 1999.

— Carol Jamieson

I was born in Elmhurst in the forties, and lived on Willow Road till we moved far away when I was seven.

Some Fridays in the summer my mother would pack a picnic and our library books in the wagon. We would take turns pulling the wagon to the train station and wait for my father's train to come in. Then it was only a block to Wilder Park. We could explore the park while Mother set out the meal. To a little girl it was a wild place, much wilder than East End Park. I was sure that accounted for the name.

After sandwiches, hardboiled eggs, and fruit, we walked over to the library--the old part of the library now--and up the steps of the mansion. The checkout desk was in the central hallway, and I would go to the children's room on the left. My parents would go upstairs to the adult section, where the magazines are now.

What wonders would I find this week? A fairy tale? Perhaps a Dr. Seuss book, or a harder book like Winnie the Pooh and Mary Poppins. After I had picked my books I could take a stereo-opticon. My brother showed me how to insert the double pictures that looked 3-D. There were hundreds of different pictures.

Soon my parents would be ready to check out the books. "No, you can't look at more pictures; it's already past your bedtime, young lady."

Because I was the youngest, I would ride in the wagon, holding the books in my lap, all the way home.

Twenty five years later, in 1975, I moved back to Elmhurst. My children and I spent many happy hours at the library. Sometimes the old stereo-opticon would be on display in a glass case, to remind us of the library's history.

I will miss the old library, but a library is not a building, really; a library is the books, the materials, and the programs. Wherever you put it, if I have access to those, I will be happy.

Frances Cole

I have been an Adult Services Reference librarian at the Elmhurst Public Library for more than seven years now. The position was my first "professional job" in the library and information science field. I came to the career late in life but it was definitely worth the wait!

In the course of these seven years, Elmhurst has spoiled me. I suppose it was beginner's luck to find such a wonderful place to work. The residents who use the library are really great people to work for. Elmhurst library patrons are well educated, open to innovation, interesting, and friendly. They were patient with me while I was learning. They as frequently recommend books to me as I do to them. Nothing is more gratifying than to receive a "thank you" whether in person or in a note. Elmhurst residents are liberal with their praise of the staff and our services. Their kindness and friendliness make the work environment a pleasant one. I only hope that I have earned their trust. I sincerely thank each person that I've had the honor to serve.

The Library is both innovative and sensitive to its roles within the community. A wide variety of materials in various formats are available for residents. It is a pleasure to be able to select quality materials for our patrons. Our online resources are quite remarkable. Patrons are astonished that so many databases are available to them, both in the Library and from home. It is a joy to introduce people to the wonderful "tools" this library has had the foresight to plan for over the years. I would estimate that in the area of both traditional library materials and the electronic resources of our modern Internet world the Elmhurst Public Library offers its residents resources that are cutting edge, in demand, and useful in their personal and professional lives. These "tools" make my job a pleasure and I truly appreciate the fact that the residents of Elmhurst have provided me with such marvelous resources with which I can do my job to the best of my ability.

The Staff members I have been fortunate to work with are extraordinary! When I started as a reference librarian all I had to work with was the theory learned in library school and the desire to be a good librarian. I could not have even come close without the incredible people I've worked with and learned from. The librarians on staff are "librarian's librarians!" They are resourceful, thorough, and totally professional. Their skills are of the highest quality. It is amazing to know the lengths an Elmhurst librarian will go to to get an answer to your questions. They've brought their own materials from home, gone to other libraries on their own time, made all sorts of phone calls. They never give up! Staff members are caring and supportive of one another. They are there for you when life's deepest tragedies occur. They celebrate your joys and successes. They are ready with a helping hand when circumstances require assistance. My seven years have flown by, due in large part to my friendly and helpful co-workers. They are very special extended family. I cherish them.

My memories of the Elmhurst Public Library are warm and appreciative. I am very grateful to have been a small part of the library's past. I am eager to become part of its future.

*Sheila M. Barrett*



## *Staff make every day a good day at the library*

**ELMHURST** ... Your article about the old Elmhurst library closing and the new one opening in October moves me to mention an incident relevant to the outstanding staff we have enjoyed here.

As a regular patron I had come to be known there in my retirement years as a curious, dogged researcher and cheerful, avid reader. One day that persona slipped.

An adult services librarian had asked me with her usual smile "How are you?"

Unexpectedly, I burst into tears. I had been under so much pressure seeing to an even more elderly sibling that I was at the breaking point. I had come to seek solace in two things: a well-reviewed book-on-tape to help me with the hour-long commute to my sister's Chicago home and a mystery for a bedtime story when I came home weary. I couldn't speak. I blubbered.

After hustling me into a private area and hearing my tale of woe, she offered me a ride home, which I declined since I had regained some composure. She told me she would take care of my requests.

Still, imagine my surprise when just before dinnertime the doorbell rang and it was she. Handing over the precious cargo she said "I had reserved these for myself but you need them more. Enjoy!"

This is not a pitch for a swoon room in the new premises. Such a staff would make that redundant. I've never had a bad day at Elmhurst Public Library. ... **Sally Leighton**

MEMORIES 7/23/03

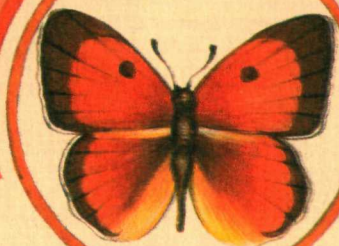
THE ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY WAS A PART OF MY EARLY LIFE. MY COUSIN AND I WOULD RIDE OUR BIKES TO THE LIBRARY TO TAKE OUT NOVELS AND BOOKS TO HELP WITH OUR HOMEWORK. THOSE YEARS WERE DURING OUR ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL DAYS. WE WOULD BORROW THE SCOTT'S STAMP CATALOG AND THESE LADS WOULD HUNT THE PAGES FOR LISTING OF STAMPS FROM FAR AWAY PLACES.

MY GREATEST THRILL AND REMEMBRANCE WAS IN 1946 WHEN I WENT TO RENEW MY LIBRARY CARD AFTER WWII. RUTH STRAND WAS AT THE DESK, AND AS I NEARED SHE SAID "GLAD TO SEE YOU BACK RALPH". WHAT A GREETING! SHE KNEW ALL OF US AND ANOTHER OF HER BOYS AND GIRLS WAS BACK HOME. THIS SMALL INCIDENT HAS BEEN IN MY MEMORY SINCE THAT TIME.

TODAY, WELL INTO RETIREMENT, MY WIFE AND I ENJOY THE BOOKS, MAGAZINES, CASSETTES, CD'S, AND VIDEOS THAT ARE AVAILABLE.

THANKS ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR BEING PART OF MY LIFE FOR OVER 65 YEARS.

RALPH DOBBERSTEIN



## Memories

As a resident of Elmhurst for many years, I look back on the many programs, volunteering in young Peoples Department and summer reading programs. These reading programs led me to many topics I may not have otherwise looked for and enjoyed.

Also in the past, we planned many trips using travel books and books on our great country.

Many thanks to a great staff (whose some expanded work space) and the monthly Book Page.

Wishing you continued success in the years to come.

Mrs. Ralph (Evelyn) Sabberstein

# Memories of the Elmhurst Public Library

In 1953, my husband and I and a new baby moved to Elmhurst. Early on I was impressed with the beauty of the Wilder Mansion and its park surroundings. My first memorable visit to the library was in 1958 to the children's section. My five year old son, Bob, and his two year old brother, Tom, were with me as we entered the front (east) door, one cold snowy day. The adult desk was right ahead and adult fiction selections were to the right in the Gavin Room.

To the left in the front of the house was the children's library. The room had the usual stacks of books running north and south with the children's check-out desk on the west end of the room. The stacks had long low benches between them for very little people to perch on. They were probably twelve inches high and looked very much like kneeling church benches. The other memorable sight was some sort of wooden structures along the floor to catch the snow and water from children's boots.

Now my oldest son, Bob, is now 50 years old and remembers with pleasure the library but none of these details. Does anyone else share these memories? After 50 years, perhaps my memory is faulty.

Our whole family (especially my third son, Chris) loved the library, with Christopher using it most of all. Ruth Strand in particular was very special. She was absolutely the final word on what could be researched and found. Miss Strand phoned our house after she and my husband had been looking for some obscure art figure. You guessed it. After Jim left, she found what he needed.

All my children were horrified when they heard I was working and hoping for a new library in a new building. The Wilder house was their main concern.

Nonetheless, as non Elmhurst residents and non library users for over twenty years, they do not appreciate how much Elmhurst has changed and how large a reading, library-using population we now have.

Memories are wonderful, but a better, larger, more efficient library is far more important.

— Jeanne Stuart

KATHALEEN  
SHARON  
BESTY  
ARE NICE  
AND HELPFUL

JONATHAN  
LAMP

The Elmhurst Public Library has been an important part of my life since before I can remember. According to family legend, my grandmother first took me to the Elmhurst Public Library when I was two years old. The Wilder mansion steps up to the library's entrance were very high to climb, but the effort was worth it because I could pick out books and sit on the high couch in the big room which must have been the parlor, and my grandmother would read to me.

As I got older, trips to the public library were important events as I worked my way through the "E" books, learned to read, and graduated to the "J" books. Summer vacation started every year when the new books for summer were put on the shelves on the afternoon of the day we went to pick up our final report cards. My mother, brother, and I always had a picnic in Wilder Park after getting our report cards so that we could be at the library when the new summer books were released for circulation and the summer reading program officially began.

A big event in my childhood was when we moved from Yorkfield (where I could not have my own library card) into Elmhurst, and I not only got my own library card but actually lived close enough to ride my bike to the library by myself. When the much needed addition was built, my Girl Scout troop helped move the children's collection into its new home and we collected service hours by laminating the picture collection and making bags for books for shut-ins.

In junior high and high school, I researched and wrote many papers there, and in college, I visited the public library often when I was home for summer vacations. Even now I visit the public library when I need a friendly place where I can count on finding something interesting to read or watch or listen to.

For the last seven years I have been the Director of the Library at Elmhurst College and have worked with the Elmhurst Public Library in new and equally important ways. Every fall I bring my children's literature students to the young people's collection to rekindle their love of reading and children's books. The librarians of both libraries work together "across the street," and the collections of the public library are a really important resource for Elmhurst College students and faculty.

We look forward to the opening of the new library and for many more years bringing the love of books and reading to the citizens of Elmhurst.

— Susan Swords Steffen  
Director of the Library  
Elmhurst College

## My Library Lie

Would you believe that my most special memory of the library involves a lie I told my daughter? That's right - a lie.

From the time she was able to sit in my lap I read to my oldest daughter, Jennifer. Whatever the weather, the library was often one of our favorite destinations. As most children do, Jennifer had her favorite books. One was Willaby, a story of a little girl who loved to draw, a child much like Jennifer. My daughter definitely felt a connection. Even after selecting an armload of other books during our library visits, Jennifer often searched until she found Willaby, sometimes after I had hidden it on the wrong shelf.

Once we reached home, I would read the book over and over and over. Needless to say, we both had it memorized. I read it in my sleep. Yes, it was a cute story, but how often can you read the same book without going mad???? I was fast approaching my limit. I questioned if I could read it one more time, thus the lie.

Unfortunately, one day I snapped. As Jennifer reached for Willaby, I told her that the library had a new rule that children could not take out the same book more than 19 times, and we had reached our limit. As she sadly returned the book to the shelf, I felt badly, but my sanity was at stake. We left without the book.

Years later I confessed my terrible deed to Judy Ekblad, our magnificent children's librarian. Knowing every story in the collection and every child who is a regular on the library scene, Judy smiled and said, "That book really fits Jennifer." She was right. Jennifer is now an architect.

Amazingly, twenty years later Judy remembered Jennifer's attachment to Willaby. A week before Christmas 2002 I came home to find a lovely card and package at my door. In preparing for the library move, worn, well-loved books were being withdrawn, and Willoby was selected as one not destined for the new library. Luckily, Judy rescued the book and now it has become Jennifer's treasure. As ecstatic as I was to be able to give Jennifer her own copy of her favorite childhood book, I was even more touched that Judy remembered us in such a loving way.

Just last week Jennifer attended a baby shower for a college friend. In search of the right gift she fondly told me about how she went to a bookstore and surrounded herself with piles of her favorite childhood books. Evidently, she spent some time making her selections, especially since so many were like old friends. Along with the little library she prepared as a gift, she wrote to her friend about her love of books and the Willaby lie I had told. She ended her story with the moral, "So never lie to your child."

The Elmhurst Library has meant so much to my daughters and me, especially when they were young. I feel blessed not only to live in a community with such a magnificent library, but to have had the opportunity to become friends with a beautiful person like Judy Ekblad who cares so much about children, their parents, and the books they love. She is priceless! Old building, new building, people like Judy are the mortar that holds the structure together. And I'm not lying!

Carolyn Heiney  
Summer 2003

## Is It a Square or Much More?

While some might say it's only squares, it's really a keystone, even the heart of the children's room. What is it? Of course, it is that wonderful, warm quilt that hangs cheerfully welcoming all who enter the children's library.

Although my daughters are now in their twenties, I never walk down those stairs without glancing at our square and remembering with great fondness my days visiting the library with them. For me the quilt and The Snowy Day square that I appliquéd represents more than a collection of terrific children's stories. It is a lasting symbol of the joy of reading that children experience every day at the library.

Carolyn Heiney  
Summer 2003

August 7, 2003

Elmhurst Public Library  
211 Prospect Street  
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126

My family moved to Elmhurst in the late fall of 1941 when I was eight years old. We had the good fortune to locate within walking distance of Wilder Park and the Library and by the summer of 1942, I was a frequent visitor to the Children's Room of the Library. It was there that I first encountered Ruth Strand.

Miss Strand had the ability to speak seriously with the young, without a hint of patronizing or lecturing them, which was an immediate encouragement to me. We had many conversations, not always about books, that I remember to this day. She particularly liked to talk about her travel to Europe before the war and hoped that I would be able to visit Florence which she described as the most beautiful city in the world.

She made a great effort to find books that might interest me and it was through her that I read the Dr. Doolittle and Laura Ingalls Wilder's books that first awoke my life-long love of books.

I happily was able to tell Miss Strand personally of my appreciation of taking the time (when she was, after all, the head librarian) with a young boy when I returned to Elmhurst many years later with children of my own.

I am sure that my experience was not unique and that there are generations of young people who also profited by her thoughtfulness and help.

I hope that the new library will include some recognition of her service to readers of all ages and devotion to the great world of books.

*James G. Bauer*

James G. Bauer  
298 Chandler  
Elmhurst, IL



## FOR THE ELMHURST LIBRARY MEMORY BOOK

### HISTORICAL:

We remember the slim figure of gracious Head Librarian Ruth Strand in the late '50s, always moving actively about. She seemed to know everyone by name with warm greetings and help to all. Our two children always felt at ease to ask for her help even when they were quite young.

Ruth took her well-deserved retirement before the 1964-'65 addition was built, and the Children's Room in the lower level was named in her honor to universal acclaim. Ruth moved out to The Holmstad retirement community located in Batavia. Some years later, we went there to attend a funeral for a friend who had been living there. Being right there, we looked her up. She invited us into her apartment and seemed pleased to have us visit. To our total amazement, she remembered Sue by name and asked about our long-grown children. We thought that quite astounding as she was then well into her 80's, and had helped and known many thousands of children and parents in her almost 40 years of service in our library, rising from Page to Head Librarian.

### BUILDING ADDITION:

We have long admired the wonderful architectural design of that 1965 addition. It carefully added much-needed, well-planned additional space with many new features, yet blended gracefully with the majestic look of the already modified Wadhams/Wilder mansion. We hope that lovely building can be saved and used in another capacity

### APPRECIATION OF EPL FACILITIES AND STAFF

We've learned to use and rely on the ample resources of our city's library more and more over the years. It might be data for our kids' school work, helpful financial data, or specialized information on just all kinds of topics. Gardening, flowers, world and local history, music, literature - you name it, we rely on our Elmhurst Public Library for accurate information. And that is supplemented by the larger resources of the Suburban Library System. We enjoy and amply use your collections of music, and movie videos.

We especially appreciate the personal help of your reference librarians. Many of have come and gone during our 45 years in Elmhurst, but they have been unfailingly helpful, often solving or finding and transmitting needed data directly over the telephone.

There's been too many reference librarians over the years to even try to remember them all by name. But some names come more readily to mind such as Rita Vilnins (now retired) and Sarah Caltvedt, both moved up to Asst. Head Librarian; Mary Goulding and of course, the present Reference head Kathleen DeYoung.

We salute all of them - from over the years as well as the present staff - for their continuing capable and helpful assistance for "matters great and small."

With sincere thanks,

Sue and Mike Golding

# Elmhurst Library Memory

Walt and I had moved to Elmhurst in 1957 with two little boys, and I remember the first time we came to this library, about 1959. I knew this would be a wonderful place to get stories and picture books to read to my family. Each child could check out ten books, so then I went home to write up my list (no print outs), as I didn't want to lose any books.

You entered the library by walking up the main steps of the old Wilder Mansion, through the tall pillars (now closed), and once inside, the children's room was off to the left. It was lined with dark wooden shelves full of books, waiting for eager hands to grab them. There were tables and chairs and a rug to sit on to read. I believe this room is now used for administrative offices.

I can still vision the huge counter for returning and checking out books. It was in the center of the room that now holds books on tape. There at the desk moved the most dynamic, charming, and gracious librarian, Ruth Strand. Always with a smile on her face, asking if you found the books you wanted - so sweet and caring. I often gaze on her portrait downstairs in the Children's department, and think of the many years of devotion she gave to Elmhurst and the library.

When the new addition was built we all got new cards and numbers. I've never lost my card (a nice low number), and how I treasure it!

Donna Larson

"Mom, Laura Jane and I are going to the library."

It was almost a Saturday afternoon ritual for my grade school friend and me in the early 1930's. We walked the twelve blocks in all kinds of weather. We walked up the steps in the front of the beautiful Wilder mansion. Our aim was to read all the fiction in the large room to the north.

Miss Ruth Strand was my favorite librarian. She helped me many times with projects in grade school, high school and even college. She was a friend indeed. As an adult I visited her in her apartment in the Holmstead, the retirement home in Geneva, where she lived from about 1987 until her death.

Now, I am a senior citizen, still living in Elmhurst, and the Elmhurst Public Library is still an important part of my life.

Dorothy Patterson Shiner

August 2003

274 Oak Street, Elmhurst

# Elmhurst Public Library Memories

By Brian Andrusyk

I have grown up at the Elmhurst Public Library. As a child, my parents brought me to the library to check out books and to attend a variety of programs like Rockets. Every year I participated in the summer reading program. When I turned 15, I was hired as a "Junior Page." I didn't realize back then that it would end up as a career, (I am now the library media specialist at Immaculate Conception High School and the current director of EPL's Puppets on the Wilder Side). I have so many great memories that it is difficult to pick out just one. So, I would like to share two memories about the Elmhurst Public Library: one as a patron and one as an employee.

One of the programs I participated in was Puppets on the Wilder Side, which at the time was run by Waltie Incopero and Christine Ciesla. There's one particular meeting that continues to stick with me. I was in high school at the time. We were rehearsing The Lion and the Mouse for an upcoming show. I had done my own version of the show for a project in French class earlier in the year. I decided to play a little joke on Mrs. Ciesla. She wasn't at the meeting, so I rehearsed the French version with the troupe showing them where they should laugh. Mrs. Incopero went to get Mrs. Ciesla to get her opinion on the "new skit." I performed the skit with one other co-conspirator and the rest of the troupe pretending to understand every word and laughing at the right spots. At one point she whispered to one of the troupe members, "Do you understand this?" "Sure," came the reply. She didn't know that the girl she asked was also taking French in school! Once the skit was over, we asked Mrs. Ciesla what she thought of it. She laughed and replied, "It looked good." She continued to laugh as she returned to the Ask Me Desk.

In 1994, the library converted from the card catalog to the online catalog. This created some concern over those who were used to the old card catalog and were a bit apprehensive to the computers. One day I was working in the Adult Services Department when this older woman came up to me. "Do you work here?" she asked. I replied that I did. She said, "Well, I just wanted to let someone know that this is the last time I am coming here. I know I will never be able to find anything with those computers!" I asked if I could show her how to use it. She hesitated but I was able to convince her to watch over my shoulder. I did a search for her favorite author and showed her how she could see which ones were on shelf and which were checked out. I did another search with her looking over my shoulder before I suggested her trying it out. She hesitated again, but I assured her that I would stand by her and tell her what to press. Together we did a third search, and when it was successful, I told her that I didn't think she needed me anymore and that she wasn't going to "break the computer." She nodded and I went back to my work. Some time later, I found her at the same computer. She saw me and smiled. "I think I have the hang of this thing!" she told me. A couple weeks later she approached me and thanked me for convincing her that those computers weren't so bad after all!

"I cannot live without books." Thomas Jefferson

# A TRIP THROUGH TIME

Recently when I returned from a family reunion in California I got the bright idea to write my memoirs. So how to begin? Where to turn for help? Where else but good old Elmhurst Public Library. And of course I found it right away. An audio disc called "How to Write Your Own Life Story."

Typical for the library to supply what I need in a form that is appropriate. (I listen to the tapes as I drive into Chicago to work.) Already it has turned my world topsy-turvy trying to remember things, events from my childhood, thinking of who to turn to in my family for help. At the reunion a nephew who had been interested in our family genealogy showed pictures of my grandmother. That was enough for me! I hadn't thought about her in so many years and I realized I was one of the few people in the room who had actually known her. And it was indeed a different world, a world I will attempt to describe and to impart the customs and psychology of the time.

My heartfelt thanks to the library for always being there when I need help!

— Vivian Harris

## ODE TO THE ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fantasy, science, poetry, novels  
All sent out signals to my brain,  
All enmeshed in the spirit of my soul  
As I sought the place, the center of  
That world. Can you believe I found  
It at the Elmhurst library?

For over 30 years I've been drawn to  
The beauty of all those books,  
The total enclave  
The people who shared my love of books  
My intrigue with mystery  
My writing, everything  
The conferences, the classes,  
The personal help, the computers  
Are all lit with starlight

It was over thirty years ago that I discovered the library  
And I knew Elmhurst was the place for me.

— Vivian Harris