

# Sweet Home Library

We have come a long way from the kitchen through the basement over to this building — from a few donated books to over 30,000 volumes and nearly 300 readers — but I want to talk to you about the people who made all of this happen.

In the fall of 1941 the P.T.A. President, Mrs. Luan Hay appointed a committee to explore the possibility of sponsoring a City Library. Pearl Hay is with us today. She lives in Albany.

That committee of Mrs. Clyde Scott, Mrs. Jack Ware and Mrs. Jess Jones with Mrs. John T. Russell and Mrs. Luan Martin became the First Sweet Home Library Board. Esther Jones of this board is here today. Esther lives in Albany. She acted as the first librarian.

We have had many librarians after Esther Jones. Alice Storey was the first paid one — she was followed by Ethel Towers, Alta Hermers, and Mrs. Kneal. Then

in 1953 Ethel Gould was hired - she held that position until 1970. Was librarian during the planning and building of this building - helped engineer the moving and stock the shelves. Ethel Gould (she lives in Sweet Home.

Joan Browning, our first professional librarians came in 1970. With the new facilities, added city money, a federal grant and a gift of books from the State Library - we were growing rapidly - time to hire an assistant. Arlene Emerson was hired. She was a "wiz". We have never really forgiven her for leaving. Arlene

In 1973 Joan decided to leave the field of books and pursue that of medicine. She now practices in Portland - Joan.

Joan's position was filled by Nikki Hines. Nikki was here during the best of times and the worst of times. She had three paid assistants and a grant aid student - then the City

Nikki is now  
the Librarian for  
the Curry County Senior District  
at Red Beach.

ran into budget problems. The library was closed for over a month - then opened with a skeletal budget with just enough to pay Nikki and the ~~utilities~~ utility bills. In May 1986 Nikki left. Velma Cook, Pat Statman and Leona McCann - all former assistants were hired to run the library until the serial levy was passed. After the levy passed these three continued with their jobs. Later Leona McCann was hired as Director. She has a wonderful staff - Velma Cook, Rufus Brown and Dallas Morris.

That is the story of the Librarians from Esther to Leona.

There have been 46 board members, 41 women - 5 men.

The board we remember the most with the exception of the first one is the one between 1966-1969. These women planned and sold the bond issues for the new library to



4

the voters. (Some company should have hired them they did such a good job.) The largest per centage of registered voters voted than ever before - it passed by a large majority. They were Lee Dudley, Betty Henthorne, Janet Wise, Vangie Davidson (She lives at the Twin Oaks Nursing Home). - but the Chairman Frances Edwards is here today. (She lives in Monmouth.)

When the library was closed in 19~~64~~<sup>65</sup> - some Fairy Godmothers and their magic wands rode into the library - we know them as the Friends of the Library - They raise their money by selling used books and crafts - which ~~this~~ they pay for all craft materials and refreshments for the children's programs. They have bought the typewriter which is rented to the patrons, the portable telephone and answering machine, the safe the video camera, the library brochures and staff conferences

5

and work shops. They are paying for this party.

Many books have been given to the library in memory or honor of someone.

A gift of \$5,000 was left to the library by William Meidinger's estate, Mr. Meidinger was a farmer Dist #55 School Superintendent. The money was used to start a video library.

Last year Carol Gossett's family and friends gave the library over \$1,000 in her memory. This was used to start the Children's Classical Video Collection.

The Sweet Home Library Council, one of the best in the state, is sponsored by the library and the Friends. Shirley Eddy is the director and Norma Peters the Chairman.

Many Sinnar from the State Library is here. She has been a good friend to the Sweet Home Library.

4

I should like to close by reading something I found ~~among~~<sup>in</sup> the first board's by-laws

"Public support of a library is justified on grounds.

"It is the only educational influence which is exerted through out life and has the entire public as its clientele"