Lakewood Public Library

LOOKS FORWARD

to a second half-century of service

1916

1966
Lesson in Growing

For boys and girls, the Library furnishes their own room with every book carefully chosen to introduce young readers to all the marvelous heroes, villains, princes and princesses, as well as the latest in astronauts, moon flights, missiles, and molecules. There are librarians skilled in interpreting books to children and in advising parents about the best in children's literature. There are story hours, book talks, films, instruction in the best use of the Library for public and parochial school children, and summer reading and discussion programs. The resources of the Children's Department are designed to serve most of the student's needs through the eighth grade. When a particular need can not be filled, the student is referred to the proper Adult Department.

"There is no magic like a book to keep children quiet and parents in their right minds."

The Library's Place in the Community

By MARY B. BLOOM
Director, Lakewood Public Library

What is the library's place in the life of the community? Briefly, it is to fill the book and information needs of all of the people. The public library serves the individual for as many years of his life as any other institution except the church. As seen in these pages, pictures of the people of Lakewood using it, the Library has something for everyone from the small children enjoying the picture books or the story hour, to the retired man with time to read the current magazines, or attend a display lecture. In between for each one are the student years when the public library serves as a supplement to the school library, and the adult years, when the library is the means of continuing education, a source of practical information and help in a variety of undertakings, and always a place for enrichment and entertainment.

To provide these services, the Library system, including Madison Branch and twelve public school libraries, is staffed by just over a hundred people, full and part time, each trained for his or her particular position. There are assistants who operate the circulation desk, where books are borrowed and returned, pages who shelve books and magazines, typists who type and file cards, secretaries in departments and in the business office, and many others.

The positions, however, which are unique to a library are those of the professional librarians. These positions require a college degree, plus a graduate year of library science, with specialization in some particular area, for example, in work with children. It is the professional librarians who, working on different age levels and in various fields of interest, face the challenging and fascinating job of building a book collection that is sound, comprehensive and up-to-date that it meets, if possible even exceeds, the demands of the fast moving age in which we live.

From among the more than 25,000 books published in the United States each year and from some published abroad, the librarians must select the books most important for the Lakewood Library. Either because a book is currently interesting and relevant, or because it will be a permanently useful and valuable book to have in the collection. This last factor weighs heavily in selection for all age levels and given the Library's book collection the depth which makes it so helpful to a wide range of Lakewoodites as they pursue their individual interests in their careers, or their hobbies. It is the professional librarians too who catalog the books and other materials, so that the particular title or the information it contains may be found quickly. The librarians are also on schedule for the long hours the Library is open to serve the needs of the individual reader with help or advice.

Unseen by the general public but essential to the success of the Library is the financial support received from the Trustees, and the creative planning and leadership displayed in their policy-making.

Pony tales and picture books.

Third and fourth graders from St. Hedwig School visit the Library and listen to a book talk in the Madison Branch children's room.
Lakewood Library is Now 18 Times Original Size

BY MARY REED

A half century ago today, on May 19, 1916, a brief ceremony marked the opening of the Lakewood Public Library.

It had a brand new Carnegie building.

It had a collection of 10,069 books.

But its most valuable asset was the hearty backing of the Lakewood people acting through their Board of Education—and a lady with the romantic name of Roena Ingham, its dynamic first librarian.

Members of the Board of Education stood in the receiving line with Miss Ingham that Sunday afternoon, greeting some of the leading citizens of Lakewood and friends and neighbors. The Library was festive with displays of new books and spring flowers.

MANY PEOPLE had worked and planned for this day: David G. Jaeger, well known lawyer and President of the Board of Education, Mrs. A. N. Dawson, Mrs. Bulls T. Graber, Mrs. Steverson Pyke, Mayor Clayton Tyler, and others too numerous to mention were involved. The Board of Education bought land at Detroit and Arthur Avenue, where the library now stands. They secured a real estate tax levy to operate the Library and a building grant of $45,000 from Andrew Carnegie. Two members went to New York to consult and hire a leading architect, Edward L. Tilden, to design the first building. They employed Miss Ingham, who had 10 years of experience with the Cleveland Public Library and came highly recommended by William Brett, the Librarian of that institution, to take charge of it.

Actually, the Library started in the back of Mr. Jensen’s bakery nearby on Detroit Avenue. It was there that Miss Ingham bought and cataloged the first 10,000 books during 1916, while the building was going up.

She opened the doors of Cleveland, Philadelphia, and New York for this first basic collection.

The record shows that Lakewood readers liked what she had done. In the first year, 5,240 registered borrowings made 5,252 withdrawals of books.

Lakewood’s Madison Branch Library, now housed in its own attractive colonial building at Madison and Clarence, also had an unconventional start. It opened in 2001 in rented quarters, a farmer’s second floor dance and meeting hall.

THAT SAME YEAR the Board of Education, which had been taking care of Library affairs, merged with the employment of teachers, legal bills and building contracts, to incorporate a new library into the elementary schools and a new million-dollar high school, appointed seven outstanding Lakewood citizens to serve as an independent Board of Library Trustees.

At the first meeting of the Trustees, Clara C. Dilbe was elected President. The other six Board members were Mrs. H. A. Byers, Mrs. L. A. Conlee, Mrs. A. N. Dawson, H. T. Beckman, David G. Jaeger, and Judge Willis Vickers. The growth of the Library and its services to Lakewood people under the public spirited leadership of these Trustees and the men and women who succeeded them is well known.

Mr. Dilbe held office for 12 years. Just three other presidents have followed him: Isaac S. Mecaff, Anthony Post, and now Mrs. Robert S. Chehoy, the first woman elected to this responsible post.

Miss Ingham guided the Library’s growth and development for 22 years. There have been just three other administrators: George W. Grill, Rev. Mary F. Parsons, and Mrs. Mary B. Bloom. Mrs. Bloom has been director for the last 18 years. The beautiful new wing on Detroit Avenue was built during her administration and the whole Library system is being continuously modernized and expanded.

Last year the number of books that had been in circulation reached an all time high of 600,000.

The Library is now four times the size of the original structure. It has seven times as many borrowers as it had in 1916. But its greatest “growth and development” is in the richness of its book collection. That is eighteen times the size of the first collection, so that each reader now may choose from among 185,992 volumes. Today it starts on its second half century of service to the people of Lakewood.

ROENA A. INGHAM

Roena A. Ingham, Librarian of the Lakewood Public Library, 10-6-1038, influenced it profoundly during the 22 years she presided over it. This is the impression she made on a young reporter who interviewed her for the LAKEMOUD POST in 1922:

“Miss Ingham’s personality fairly radiates as the signs about the Lakewood library, helping here and suggesting there. The instant a reader approaches her, she is on her feet, listening to his request. In the next few seconds she is hurrying to some corner of the Library to fill his need. Volumes come from all parts of the library and are laid before him with pages marked in them. The table is literally jammed with every book in the library which may carry some point on his subject. Many days she has kept her eyes open but mentally alert. Her streaming white hair is finely cut with a ruddy complexion. Her eyes sparkle...”

“One sensed something of the gracious lady about her,” a staff member recalls. “Night after night, when Lakewood people used their Library most and the place was busiest, Miss Ingham would stand at the desk nearest the main entrance, greeting everyone who came, as a hostess greets her guests. Most of them were her friends or neighbors. She took a personal interest in them and what they wanted, helping them to find it, or sharing with them her knowledge and enthusiasm for a great range of books and reading.”

Madison Branch Library, conveniently located on Madison at Clarence, has 15,000 books for adults, young adults, and children.

Do you want a magazine article on any subject under the sun? These indexes will help you find what you want and the library keeps more than 6,000 years of current and back issues conveniently on file for you.
There Is Something For Everyone At Lakewood Public Library

1. More than 800,000 books cross this desk every year as people borrow and return books at Lakewood's Main Library.

2. A quiet place to study.

3. Discovering wonderful new worlds.

4. Four-year-olds cluster around a children's librarian.

5. A librarian helps a patient at Lakewood Hospital pick some entertaining reading. She visits the hospital two afternoons every week.

6. You drop a dime in the new copying machine to have a black-and-white photostat of library reference material or a document of your own. It takes about 25 seconds. It will reproduce a page of a book or magazine, a map, a picture, a birth certificate, or other personal records.
7. The Library shut-in delivery loads up with books for Lakewood residents who can't come to the Library because they are chronically ill or handicapped and have no one to come for them.

8. Listening to hi-fi in the Library's music room, a couple of fans enjoy classical and modern recordings. The collection also includes some plays, poetry, readings, and foreign language courses.

9. Many a borrower "researches" his own investments. The Library subscribes to important investment services such as Moody's, Standard and Poor's, Wilhelmsen's, the Wall Street Journal, Barron's, and many other magazines and market guides.

10. A caller gets brief, factual information quickly over the phone in the reference room. In the background are files containing thousands of pamphlets and maps which people may consult or borrow.
Four Man-Three Woman Board Oversees Library

BY MRS. ROBERT CHEENEL, President
Board of Library Trustees

The Lakewood Public Library is one of nine independent public library systems in Cuyahoga County. The library is under the direct control of the Board of Trustees, whose prime responsibility is determination of policy. The Board is composed of seven library trustees, all Lakewood residents. Since the Lakewood Library is a school district library, which means the taxing authority for the library is the Lakewood School District, trustees are appointed by the Lakewood Board of Education. A full term for a trustee is seven years. Each year two terms expire. Traditionally, the Board has been composed of four men and three women.

The Board of Education gives serious thought to library trustee appointments, evaluating the background of knowledge and experience each member can be expected to bring to the Board. Though space does not permit listing names of former trustees, today’s library patrons owe much to these dedicated men and women, serving without pay, who helped make our main library the fine central core library it is today.

A MAJOR responsibility of the Board of Library trustees is the selection of a competent head librarian. Mrs. Mary B. Bloom, Lakewoods’s Librarian, is one of the top notch library administrators in the area. Mrs. Bloom and the trustees have developed a harmonious working relationship which is also vital for an efficient operation.

Another major responsibility of the trustees is to secure adequate funds for the operation of the library. Funds for operating and maintaining a public library in Ohio come from three tax sources—Ohio Intangibles personal property tax, the Ohio tax collected for vehicular license fees. These funds are then allocated by the County Auditor, the County Treasurer, the County Commissioner’s Office, and the County Court of Common Pleas (or Common Pleas Court). The Commission is required by law to grant to each public library system in the county funds based on the needs of each library.

The PERCENTAGE of the total Intangibles tax the Board Commission decides to give to libraries is entirely at the discretion of the Budget Commission. If the Budget Commission allocates less than the total anticipated tax revenue, cities in the county share in the balance of the tax. Consequently, at the annual budget hearing each year, city officials and their library officials are keenly interested in the anticipated tax collection and its allocation. It is vital for a library board to fight as hard for its fair share of the tax dollars as other public officials for their budgets. The library’s total receipts for 1966 are estimated at $499,000, of which $400,000 were allocated by the Budget Commission. The balance will be received from fines and as refund from the Board of Education.

In 1963 the citizens of Lakewood passed an $800,000 Library bond issue to provide funds for the modernization and expansion of the Main library, an old Carnegie type building, and for modernizing Madison branch library.

IN ADDITION to operating the Main Library at 15425 Detroit Avenue and “Madison” at 15250 Madison Avenue, the Library Board, on a contract basis with the Lakewood Board of Education, is responsible for the supervision and operation of twelve school libraries, three in the Lagrange High School, and nine in the elementary schools. Mrs. Jeanette Beery, Coordinator of School Libraries, supervises a staff of 16 in the school libraries. The Board of Education continues to embrace the Library Board for all salaries and costs.

Each year the Library’s asking budget for the coming year is prepared with considerable deliberation. For example, the Personnel Committee of the Board, in consultation with the Librarian, recommends to the Board a minimum professional salary rate, which will keep the Library’s salary scale competitive with others in Northern Ohio. Library, in the budget, are the historic 2 per cent terms are reviewed. The grand total of the asking budget. Later, if tax funds are not available to meet the increases as proposed, the Board must cut back on expenditures to achieve a balanced budget.

Each trustee is a member of at least two standing committees, which convene on call. The Board meets monthly at 7:45 P.M. on the first Thursday of each month. The Librarian, Mrs. Bloom, and Mrs. Margaret Melnick, attended Board meetings in their professional capacity. A good trustee is interested in the Library and has time to attend board and committee meetings regularly. A trustee is to know the needs of his library and his community, and must be aware of new trends and procedures in the library field. Board membership must be far from dull!

The Garden Committee in the Main Library is a memorial to:

(a) The First Librarian
(b) The First President of the Board of Trustees
(c) A wealthy library patron

If you wanted a copy of Swift’s *Traveler’s Tales* you would look for it in the:

(a) Children’s collection
(b) Young Adult collection
(c) Adult collection

If you were looking for these three books under “Washington” in the Library catalog, which would appear first:

(a) George Washington’s *Farewell Address*
(b) Washington Adventures (1961) by Rockland Books
(c) *Up From Slavery*, the autobiography of Booker T. Washington

If you asked a librarian for a book on “crooners” you would be given one that described:

(a) The care and feeding of hables
(b) The production and effects of very low temperatures
(c) The testing and control of pesticides

Answers to the Library Quiz appear on page ... Allow ten points for each correct answer. What’s your score?

Library Quiz

How well do you know your Library?
1. The Lakewood Public Library is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by:
   (a) The County Commissioners
   (b) The Mayor of Lakewood
   (c) The Lakewood Board of Education

2. A free borrower’s card may be obtained by:
   (a) Residents of Lakewood
   (b) Residents of Cuyahoga County
   (c) Any resident of Ohio

3. The operating expenses of the library are paid out of:
   (a) Lakewood real estate taxes
   (b) Taxes on the income from stocks and bonds
   (c) Sales taxes

4. Approximately how many books does the Library own:
   (a) 50,000 to 100,000
   (b) 100,000 to 200,000
   (c) 200,000 to 300,000

5. How many different current magazines and newspapers are available to a reader in the Library? Approximately:
   (a) 50 to 100
   (b) 200 to 300
   (c) 500 to 600

6. Madison Branch was first opened in 1961 as:
   (a) A former dance hall
   (b) A former real estate office
   (c) A former drug store

7. The Garden Committee in the Main Library is a memorial to:
   (a) The first Librarian
   (b) The first President of the Board of Trustees
   (c) A wealthy library patron

8. If you wanted a copy of Swift’s *Traveler’s Tales* you would look for it in the:
   (a) Children’s collection
   (b) Young Adult collection
   (c) Adult collection

9. If you were looking for these three books under “Washington” in the Library catalog, which would appear first:
   (a) George Washington’s *Farewell Address*
   (b) Washington Adventures (1961) by Rockland Books
   (c) *Up From Slavery*, the autobiography of Booker T. Washington

10. If you asked a librarian for a book on “crooners” you would be given one that described:
    (a) The care and feeding of hables
    (b) The production and effects of very low temperatures
    (c) The testing and control of pesticides

Answers to the Library Quiz appear on page ... Allow ten points for each correct answer. What’s your score?
Program for Adults Extends to All Ages

Most people know that the modern public library is really an informal center for lifetime learning and enrichment. People come to it for the skill and knowledge that a person needs to graduate, to advance on the job, to pursue a hobby, or to become a good parent, home maker and citizen. They ask for answers to a thousand and one practical and personal questions, and they also find their fun and inspiration.

A liberal education is available for any adult or youth who reads selectively and consistently in the Library's first floor book collection. Here may be found all the richness of the humanities, the best in philosophy, in literature, and in history, the important books in psychology, in biology and in travel. Along with today's best sellers are the best of American and foreign fiction of other years. The borrower may make his own selection from open shelves, or with the help of a librarian who will be pleased to help.

The Wide Horizons group at Madison Branch Library enjoys a talk and color slides shown by Alice and Ron Reed, Executive Directors of the Northeastern Ohio Camera Club Council, attended The New Gains and Wide Horizons meetings at the Well over two thousand people, among them many citizens, Main Library and Madison Branch last year. Designed to stir the imagination and -colleges horizons, these free programs feature informal talks, usually illustrated with films or color slides. They are open to the public.

Discussions of Great Books Occupy Group's Time for Twenty Years

People and ideas.

These are the twin magnets that attract — and hold together year after year — sixteen Lakewood and West Shore members of a Great Books Discussion Group.

Four of the group, which has been meeting without interruption twice monthly for the past 20 years at Lakewood Public Library, are long-time members. Their reasons for maintaining the winnowed relationship are as diverse as they are revealing of their particularities.

ONE OF THE oldest Great Books enthusiasts is 80-year-old Arthur F. Comnard, a former Lakewoodite who now lives at 23777 Edsall Ave., Rocky River. He is also the group leader.

"My education was technical," says Comnard, a graduate of the University of Illinois and a mechanical engineer with Boole, Inc., Cleveland, until his retirement five years ago.

"I have always missed not having more of a liberal arts background. The Great Books group reading assignments have helped me to satisfy my desire to know the classics and the fields not touched on in my engineering work. It has broadened my reading and deepened my knowledge in literature, philosophy and the arts.

"I have found both the variety and the pace of the Great Books program very suitable for my purposes and will continue attending the sessions.

He WAS THE FIRST OF discussing this idea of great minds is what prompted Mrs. John M. Mayer, a former high school teacher who lives at 22209 Brittle Dr., Rocky River, to join the Lakewood group.

"It's been fun to be with such a friendly group and to exchange ideas with them about the great writers. This rubbing of minds together is an exhilarating experience. We don't always agree, but we disagree amiably — and gain new viewpoints that keep us resilient and young-thinking."

Mrs. Mayer calculates that the group has read some 350 required books during the 20 years, plus many others as extra assignments.

"The theory behind the Great Books idea is to read only books tested by time, but every now and then we 'music' something modern that we think is important — like Robert Penn Warren and Herbert Northrup."

A GENERAL SALES manager for East Ohio Gas Co. until his retirement 16 years ago, Karl Frommetting, 1950 Lake Ave., says: "It's not just the reading of the books that matters. It's the ideas and the conclusions people draw from what they read that count."

The Great Books program has forced me to read much that I would never have read otherwise. Although I prefer history, science and mathematics, the course opens you to be more democratic in your thinking and you get to enjoy the classics and new authors for yourself in your own way. It literally spreads over the waterfront.

Ralph Moore, who attended Case Institute of Technology, plans to keep attending sessions as long as his health holds out, "I can't think of a more interesting way to spend leisure time," he says.

"We've learned to disagree with each other's points of view and still have a lot of fun," says Ralph Read, chairman of the Biology Department at Lakewood High School.

"References of opinion add lists of intellectual stimulation to our sessions. There is more than just the sheer joy of reading — there is the joy of discussing it."

"And don't get the idea that it's easy. It's hard reading. It's not the kind of stuff you pick up for ten minutes of relaxation. People who want light reading don't stay with us very long. Neither do those with closed minds."

Nothing is ever really resolved in the class discussions, Read says. "You must recognize that we are still wrestling with the same problems that confronted the ancient Greeks and Romans — human nature is the same through all periods of history."

"Every problem we study simply unfolds more problems. If we arrived at a final answer we would have exhausted the subject."

A reader does some browsing in the garden above. Note that he remembered his library card.

All the comforts of home — with 540 current magazines to choose from in the second floor reference department at Main Library.
The circulation of 660,633 books by the Lakewood Public Library system in 1965 is an all-time high. It represents an increase of 15,000 over 1964 and slightly more than 5,000 over the next highest year, 1962. Of 660,633 books borrowed, 155,246 were from the school libraries; the other 465,280 were from Main, Madison and the Hotline Library, the latter circulating 3,383 books.

The professional staff at Main Library are conscious of a steadily larger demand for information material to be used in the Library. This is true not only of the Reference Department but also in the first floor where the librarians can be very busy helping numbers of people with often difficult questions only to find that the circulation figure for the day was low.

Registered borrowers grew from 35,655 to 37,602, this an increase of 5.6%.

A TOTAL OF 13,522 books purchased by the public library were added to the system, with an additional 5,300, paid for by the Library Board, to be added to the school libraries. All of these are purchased and cataloged by the public library. For the past several years the Board of Education has given the school librarians generous funds for the purchase of school books. Of the 13,522 books added to the public library collection, 3,526 were new adult titles and 1,102 new juveniles. The choice of which of the title to buy was in the hands of current and future use in the community present a major challenge to the professional staff and concerns much of their time and effort. Books canceled from the collection numbered 10,324 during the book collection as of January 1, 1965 and the net reduction of holdings, 120,735 are at Main Library, 24,903 at Madison and the rest in the schools.

PRESCHOOL story hour was more popular than ever, with 38 sessions at Main and 16 at Madison, attendance totaling 3713 children. Story hours for older children also had a good response with 35 sessions drawing a total attendance of 735. All of these story hours will be continued in 1966.

The Young Adult Discussion Group, which is restricted to a small number of participants be- cause of the need for everyone to talk, was again considered a success by Mrs. Wilson. She was pleased by the quality of the reading and of the young people's contribution to the discussion.

Library sponsored and co-sponsored programs for adults co-ordinated to draw young support from the community. Mrs. Reed reports that: "Our perennial popular Great Books discussion groups reached an all time peak of seven last spring, but failed to hold that gain in the fall. There have been four to six groups meeting at the library in constant attendance for the last eight weeks, whereas last year we had but one group. We have revised our reading list considerably, considering the quality of the reading and the enlightened leadership and self-discipline involved."

OUR MEETING rooms at both buildings were used for the total of 649 meetings during the year. Mrs. Reed writes it is "important to see signs of the so-called culture explosion in the increas- ed use made of the Library's meeting rooms for the many activities. Ten years ago the 20 rooms of the Lakewood College Library's music appreciation group and one meeting co-sponsored by the Young Adult Group and the Library were the only ones devoted to these arts. In 1960 there were 20 sessions and in 1965 there were 89 sessions devoted to music appreciation and music appreciation classes, all of them sponsored or co-sponsored by art, orchestra, or opera associations. This is an increase of 426% in ten years and 100% in the last five years."

The four sessions of Opera Pre- view at the Lakewood Library cor- eben of the Northern Ohio Open Book Club also the Young Adult College Club, drew an average attendance of 200, an increase of 45% over the year be- fore, was proceed with remodeling to provide more shelf space for the need.