

MOSES GREELEY PARKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

28 ARLINGTON STREET
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS 01826

To: Mrs. Ellen Blackwell, Mr. John Katin, Mr. John William Burke
From: Joan F. Noonan *Joan F. Noonan*
Re: Librarian's Report to the Trustees for January-December, 1976

Reorganization of the library's personnel structure was the most notable feature of 1976. Staff size was reduced as four part-time aide positions were converted into two reference assistant positions, one for weekdays and one for Saturdays, in order to provide a higher quality reference service to library patrons. With the loss of our full-time CETA aide in October, the reduction in staff size created more difficulties than first anticipated. In order to ease the situation, two aides were hired, one of whom is paid through the Neighborhood Youth Corps program. In addition, two volunteers have been helping with the circulation desk routines. Volunteers are also responsible for the continuation of the deposit library at the Cluster Housing Development for the elderly on Phineas Street and the establishment of a second deposit collection at the Senior Citizens Drop-in Center on St. Paul Street.

In spite of staffing difficulties, the library is still striving to serve its patrons to the optimum. In order to ascertain whether patrons desired to have library service on Saturdays during the summer or were content to have the library remain closed on summer weekends, an experiment was conducted. During the three hours the library opened on summer Saturdays, the response was so overwhelming as to insure Saturday opening in future summers.

At the same time the Saturday experiment was taking place, a survey was being conducted to determine patrons' preferences for library hours in the fall. As a result of the questionnaires, the library is now open every evening until 8:00 P.M., and Wednesday evening, on which the library had previously closed at 6:00 P.M., has proved to be the most popular evening of all.

Another notable feature of 1976 is the extent to which the library's collection has been upgraded. Copies of both state and federal laws have been added to the reference collection. With the aid of a \$1500 grant of LSCA money, the library now owns a sizable large print collection for readers who find normal size print difficult to read. Other special collections begun this year are the paperback collection and the one for young adults. The Young Adult section is designed to interest youngsters between the ages of 12 and 16 who find material in the Children's Room too young for them but are not yet ready to utilize adult material.

Young adults were also offered a film program on Monday evenings during the summer. The first five films were provided by the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System to which Parker Library belongs. The last three films were rented with funds supplied by a grant from the Lowell Housing Authority.

This grant also enabled the library to sponsor a trip to the Children's Museum in Jamaica Plain for children of 6-13 years old. Other children's programs continue to be very popular, notably Story Time and the puppet workshops and shows.

Cooperation between Parker Library and the Dracut Public Schools reached a new height this year. More than 360 students from Greenmont Avenue, Dracut Center and Collinsville schools toured the library. In addition the librarian addressed several classes at the Parker Avenue School. Both the librarian and assistant librarian spoke before the Parent Advisory Council at the Dracut Middle School and presented a workshop on how to interest children in reading for PAC members at the library.

The library's physical plant continues to be a major factor due to its inadequacy. Unfortunately, last May's request for planning money to begin work on an addition was not granted, so we were unable to take full advantage of public works money recently made available. It is to be hoped that the desired planning money will be forthcoming at this year's Town Meeting.

Maintenance notes concerning the physical plant include the installation of wall-to-wall carpeting in the adult reading room for safety and accoustical reasons, and installation of a new chamber in the boiler, both for safety and efficiency. Peastone was purchased to fill in holes in the driveway. Since the driveway would be destroyed with a new addition, it is unwise to spend

any great amount on resurfacing it at this time. A bicycle rack presented by the Friends of the Library, has been installed near the front entrance.

The statistical profile of the library's activities for the year is as follows:

As of December 31, 1976

Registered Borrowers	8,366
Reference Questions (Adult Room)	904
Reserves Called	1,679
Books Processed	1,552
Volumes on hand	27,423
Periodical Subscriptions	72
Records	482
Circulation	
Books	50,182
Periodicals	4,202
Records	1,889
Paperbacks	2,054
Total Circulation	58,327
Interlibrary Loan	542
Overdues (March-December)	3,436