

*Helena's
report
1971
Town
Book*

To the Board of Library Trustees, Mrs. Helen Neofotistos, Chairman, Mrs. Shirley Kenney, Secretary and Mr. John Katin.

In 1970 the circulation of reading material at the library increased eleven percent, and 1,301 new borrowers registered. An increase in the number of reference transactions was noted but not tallied.

In 1970 the library finally purchased chairs for the children's room, the old chairs having fallen apart. Worn rugs in the main library were replaced and more adequate lighting in the main library was installed. The old fixtures were utilized in the periodical and stacks rooms.

The new duplicating machine has proved very useful to the public as well as to the staff. The charging machine has completed one year of service and it is a valuable addition to the system. Full advantage is being taken of both the Interlibrary Loan plan and the Bookmobile funded by the state.

It was difficult to stay within the segregated wages budget allowed in 1970, which made it necessary to reduce the number of employees from time to time in order to stay within the sum allotted, resulting in occasional lapses in full efficiency. Sufficient staff is essential to maintenance of high quality of service. Hope fully better arrangements can be made in 1971.

The Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library will be fifty years old in 1972. Built in 1922, it was a gift to the town in memory of its namesake. The town accepted the gift under the conditions that it would allot one percent of the town's annual revenue for the upkeep of the library. This commitment has been ignored and was in fact concealed for many years until a state survey brought it to light. Very little tax money has been allotted to the library through the years both for the upkeep of the building or to its contents.

It would seem appropriate for the townspeople to see that the building be put in top condition by the time its fiftieth year of its existence is celebrated.

This year and article has been inserted in the warrant for painting and repairing the exterior of the building. The stack rooms are in need of painting also and much heat is lost through the window casings which need caulking. Some roof repairs are needed following recent storms.

The driveway which was partly hot topped now has several dangerous holes which must be repaired this year.

The librarian is grateful to the trustees for their enthusiastic interest and understanding of our problems and needs.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGARET C. DOCKETT