

MOSES GREELEY PARKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

Headlines for this annual report read, **THE LIBRARY IS OPEN**. Under the direction of the Friends of the M. G. Parker Memorial Library and with full support and assistance from the Board of Library Trustees, enough funds were raised between July of 1992 and January of 1993 to re-open the library for one-half of the year. No one thought it could be done. From Florida to California, from Chicago to Texas papers and magazines marveled at the determination of the people in this community. It was very obvious that you wanted a library and we are here. Lights went on in January and within a few short weeks we were staffed and ready to welcome back our patrons. Gradually all services returned to normal. Our periodicals were ordered, outdated reference materials replaced, new books began arriving and so did our patrons.

The beginning of the fiscal year found the Library funded by the Town. We are now in the first real year of recovery. Our circulation continues to grow and with help, we are adding more programs for all ages. The Junior Friends of the Library continue to be the mainstay of the children's room. With the help of the Children's Librarian they planned and executed a wonderful Halloween Haunted House for all the children of Dracut and followed it up the next night by a Halloween party. Less than two months later they created a Holiday extravaganza that was attended by over 120 children along with their parents. Their enthusiasm and assistance is very welcome and hundreds of Dracut children have enjoyed and benefited from their work.

The first annual Town wide summer reading program found us searching for room to hang the fish in the children's room. The High School and Junior High teachers actively participated by awarding points on the first test to those students who registered with the Library and read over the summer. Our adult patrons joined the contest and all together Dracut read over 12,000 books in less than three months. The summer reading program for 1994 has a good number to beat.

This year we added, on a trial basis, **Morning Star Mutual Funds** which provides all the data and analysis needed to make informed investment decisions and "**Barrons**" the weekly business and finance newspaper. It is apparent even after only a few months that our patrons find both items very helpful.

We continue to work on the facility itself. The windbreak has proven its value over the past year. During the heat of the summer, the double doors helped keep the library cool and the winter winds no longer blow papers around the lobby. Space in the children's room was becoming a problem but with the addition of wall shelves, we managed to add space and room for more books. As the use of our periodicals, reference and general adult activity in the main reading room increase, it is apparent that this is the next area that needs work. The

heating system is a constant source of problems and we dread the day when it will need replacing but are already looking into different systems.

We successfully completed a Long Range Plan for the M. G. Parker Library which was required before we could apply for any grants. In September we were notified that a grant for the Books-on-Tape had been approved and we eagerly await the actual funds to begin purchasing these heavily requested materials.

This has been a very busy and rewarding year. It is with high hopes that we look forward to 1994.

For the Board of Trustees
John Katin
Mary Lee Matthews
William Sullivan

Respectfully submitted
Susan A. Schwarz, Director.