

MOSES GREELEY PARKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS 01826

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES FOR JANUARY-DECEMBER 1977

The year 1977 was a period of marked change in the Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library. Personnel, the physical plant, and library services have all experienced change. In large part this change has resulted from this library's financial and space limitations, yet in part this change also has resulted from anticipation of an addition that will quadruple the size of this library.

Former Librarian Joan Noonan and Reference Assistant Paul Marion resigned in June as a result of the town policy of no wage increases this fiscal year. Michael Grazier assumed the position of librarian starting in July 1977. Also, as a direct result of this wage freeze, all full-time and permanent-part-time employees have joined the National Association of Government Employees as their representative in collective bargaining. The C.E.T.A. program has proved to be of great support to the library in funding two positions, and the Neighborhood Youth Corps also provided two employees for the summer. However, with the new addition due for completion within the coming fiscal year, there will exist a dire need for additional town support for more full-time library employees. With the tremendous increase in size of this library, the most obvious need will be additional qualified staff.

Library services continued to grow and expand this past year. The Parker Library circulated 42,482 books this past year including 25,620 adult titles and 16,862 juvenile titles. In addition patrons borrowed 4,038 paperback volumes, 4,651 magazines, and 1,966 records. Requests for materials which the library could not supply were provided through 610 interlibrary loan receipts, and this library was able to help patrons of other communities by sending twenty-five books to other libraries. Book deposits to the Dracut Council on Aging and the Dracut Housing Authority were also part of the library's book services. All total this library circulated 53,772 items, excluding these deposits.

The Parker Library continued to present programs in and out of the library of interest to the Dracut community. These programs included the Alistair Cooke film series, Robert Pelletier's astrology lecture, a concert given by Maurice Pepin and the Dracut Chamber Chorale, a lecture on Transcendental Mediation, and a reading of contemporary poetry. These programs attracted over two hundred adults. Also, librarians gave presentations to the Parents Advisory Council at the Parker Avenue, Goodhue, Dracut Center, and Campbell schools, as well as giving talks to local civic organizations.

Children's library services also expanded both in and out of the library this past year. Children's librarian Constance Griffin conducted preschool story hour throughout the year with a total attendance of approximately 1,300. A new weekly film program began in October; and by the year's end, over seven hundred children viewed films. Puppet workshops continued to be a popular feature at the Parker Library with about twenty-eight children presenting

puppet plays to audiences totaling over 250 children and adults. Special events held in the library included the annual Halloween and Christmas Tree Trimming parties attended by over a hundred children each time. Ms. Griffin was also very busy in taking the library outside of its walls. Throughout the year she has been in the schools explaining the library and its services to Dracut children as well as having classes visit the library. Also, a special trip this past summer to Sturbridge Village, sponsored by the Lowell Housing Authority, for seventy-five children with thirteen adult chaperones was part of the library's summer program. With such enormous responses to children's activities both in and out of the library, the new addition with its added space and facilities will be most welcome.

The most visible and dramatic area of change in Dracut's library is yet to come, but with the December 13 groundbreaking, the new library addition moved from planning to reality. In 1977, the Parker Library received an approximate half million dollar federal grant from the Economic Development Administration for local public works projects. This grant is being used to create a 10,000 square foot addition whose area will effectively quadruple the size of the present library. For the first time in recent history, this library will have at least the physical capacity to meet minimum national standards for library service to a community of Dracut's population. Although actual construction has yet to begin, the addition is a definite reality. The projected date for completion of this project is either late 1978 or early 1979. Also, this year, the library received federal monies from the town for a heat and smoke detection system as well as monies for basement repairs to correct an existing water problem. These projects will be coordinated with the library addition project.

The library's materials collection continued to grow with the addition of 2,136 volumes to the collection. Also, the magazine collection increased to ninety subscriptions. Registrations also continued to increase with 1,387 new patrons registered, bringing the total registrations on file to 10,642. 1977 was indeed a year of marked change, growth, and expansion at the Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library.

Special mention must also be made of support which this library has received from inside and outside the Dracut community. Dracut's American Revolutionary Bicentennial Commission donated five hundred dollars to be used for supporting children's American history book collection. The Theodore Edson Parker Foundation donated five thousand dollars to support the new library addition. The Lowell Housing Authority donated approximately five hundred dollars enabling the library to sponsor the field trip for children to Sturbridge Village.

The Dracut community has also been a source of support to the Parker Library. The Friends of the Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library deserves recognition for their support and donations to the library. This organization, ran an annual book sale and a bake sale which doubled their ability to support this library. Finally, there must be a sincere thank you to the citizens who have donated materials to this library. Only with such support and donations can this library truly claim to be a town supported activity.

The year 1977 marked a change in the Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library, a change that will take the library and its services to more and more members of the Dracut community. 1978 will be the year in which this change first becomes dramatically obvious.

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Memorial Library

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