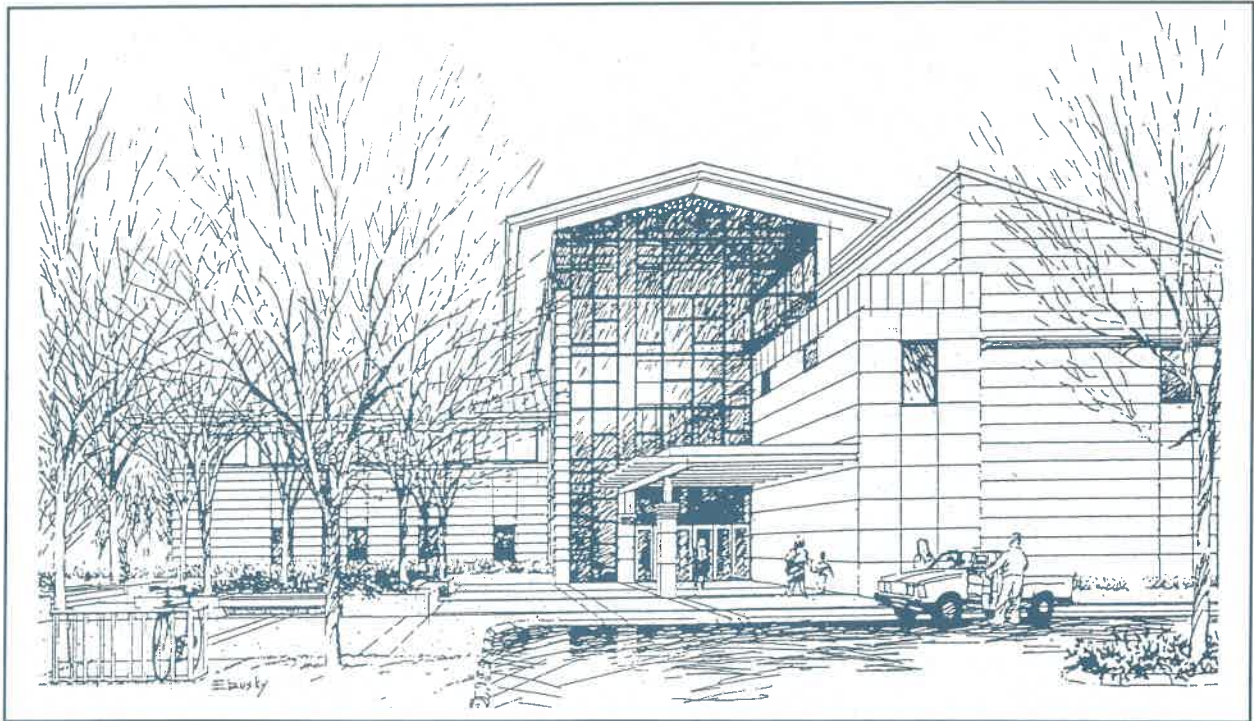




West Des Moines Public Library

■ THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS ■ THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS ■

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS



THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

■ THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS ■ THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS ■

GRAND OPENING

June 5 - 8, 1996

A NEW CHAPTER IN OUR LIBRARY'S HISTORY



West Des Moines Public Library

Dear Reader,

The citizens of West Des Moines should take great pride in the opening of their new library. Several years ago, the City was faced with two urgent needs: a new library to replace the out-grown facility on Grand Avenue and a new building to house the administrative offices of the City. The new library was conceived as the most cost-effective single solution to meeting those dual needs.

The new library has been built to a size sufficient to temporarily house the City administrative offices, while leaving adequate remaining space available to satisfy library needs into the near future. The time will come when the library's needs will require that the City offices be relocated and that the entire facility be devoted to library use. Thus, through careful planning, the community is the beneficiary of a facility which will be fully utilized from the beginning while remaining adaptable to satisfy the library's requirements for additional space well into the 21st Century.

The financing, design and construction of the new library have been the result of an extraordinary amount of cooperation among many, many people. It has been an honor for me to have served on a library board with such thoughtful and dedicated members. The work of the Library Director and staff has been invaluable, as have been the generous contributions of the library's Friends organization and those of many individuals and organizations. Finally, I want to express my gratitude to the Mayor, City Council Members, City Manager and City staff for their cooperation and consideration in working with the library board to resolve many issues which have required action over the course of the library project.

Sincerely,

James E. Nervig, President
Library Board of Trustees



GRAND OPENING EVENTS

Through the Looking Glass is the theme for the library's Grand Opening celebration! Chosen by the *Friends* Grand Opening Committee, it brings to mind the delightful children's classic, *Alice in Wonderland*, as well as the love of books and reading in general. Through the Looking Glass is also appropriate as we consider the design of our new facility, with its distinctive glass curtain wall, undoubtedly one of the most dramatic highlights of the exterior structure. Finally, as Alice stepped through the looking glass to embark on an incredible journey, so too, is the library beginning an incredible journey of its own. As we step through the looking glass, we are actually stepping into the *future*...with a bright, new building, better technology, and boundless opportunities on the other side.

We invite the citizens of West Des Moines to step with us *Through the Looking Glass*....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

1 p.m. — *Mary Kay Shanley* & Paul Micich**

3:30 p.m. — *Valley Mimes*

5:30 p.m. — *Brian Duffy**

6:30 p.m. — *George S. Mills**

7:30 p.m. — *Chuck Offenburger**

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

11 a.m. — *Fern Kupfer**

1 p.m. — *Bob Artley**

3 p.m. — *Richard, Lord Acton**

4:30 p.m. — *Library Closed*

We're sorry, but the library will close at 4:30 p.m. so the *Friends* may host the *Grand Opening Gala*, a special fund-raising event.

6 p.m. — *Grand Opening Gala*

Join the *Friends* for an intimate view *Through the Looking Glass* of the new library. Enjoy food and libations while the Valley Mimes conduct tours and the Youth Chamber Group provides entertainment.

Des Moines area businesses have donated the contents of twenty-four baskets for the silent auction — *A Tisket, A Tasket, A Literary Basket*. Each basket has a theme and, of course, at least one book! There are fashion baskets, food baskets, travel baskets, even a RAGBRAI basket, complete with a bike! Tickets for the *Gala* are \$25 per person and proceeds go to the *WDM Library Friends Foundation*. Smart casual attire. Please RSVP by May 29. Call 222-3407 for reservations.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

10:30 a.m. — *Jeannette Eyerly**

11:30 a.m. — *James A. Autry**

1 p.m. — *J. Thomas (Machia)**

2 p.m. — *Cornerstone Ceremony*

3 p.m. — *Bob Nandell**

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

9:30 a.m. — *Dedication Ceremony*

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. — *Open House & Kid's Day*

• *Eulenspiegel Puppets* — 10:30 a.m.

To register call 222-3405 beginning May 20.

• *Valley Mimes* — 10:30 a.m.

• *Storytelling by Aunt Betty* — 11:30 a.m.

• *Tae Kwon Do Demonstration* — 1 p.m.

by Farrell's U.S. Martial Arts & Fitness

• *Suzanne O'Dea Schenken** — 1 p.m.

• *Eulenspiegel Puppets* — 2 p.m.

No registration required, but space is limited!

• *Valley Mimes* — 2 p.m.

• *Facepainting* by the Girl Scouts

• *Library Tours*

IOWA AUTHORS!

We are pleased to welcome the Iowa authors who are making appearances at the library in honor of our Grand Opening. These authors are highlighted in the daily events listed above with an asterisk*.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW LIBRARY

It's the Little Things

If *it's the little things that make a house a home*, then the same can be said about a library. With each visit to the new building, details come to light that escaped notice before, like the window sills on the exterior of the first floor, which were molded in the shape of open books. It's these details that make the library *feel* like home.

A Place to Relax

Leisure seating is located in the children's area, the periodicals area, and near the biographies. Instead of harsh, fluorescent lighting, an eye-pleasing combination of natural, indirect and task lighting was incorporated into the library's design to encourage our patrons to relax and read!

Books! Books! Books!

Speaking of reading — don't let those empty shelves fool you! The library purchases new books on a continuing basis. So far, more than 400 books have been purchased thanks to those who have participated in the Friends' *Build Our Library, Book Buy Book* program. The *Resource for Renewal* campaign has brought in a million dollars in pledges for the purchase of more books and technology, in addition to the library's regular annual budget. With these funds, the library hopes to increase its number of books per capita to State library standards over the next three to five years.

A Little Adventure

Fiction, audiovisual, and children's materials are located on the first floor. While not necessarily noisy, the first floor will be the site of most of the activity in the building.

A Little Peace and Quiet

For the more serious-minded library user, reference and nonfiction materials are located on the second floor. There is also a computer lab where patrons may access various word processing programs on a sign-up basis. Study tables are located throughout the library.

A Room With a View

Several large windows accent the south side of

the library on both the first and second floors, allowing library patrons a fabulous view of the pond. Study tables and leisure seating are scattered along the south wall for maximum viewing pleasure.

Something for the Kids

Designed to welcome kids of all ages, the children's department lends a splash of color and excitement to the library. Book bins are made of colored laminates and shelving end panels are oak with tinted stains. The cushioned reading bench was cleverly fashioned in the shape of an open book. A child-sized door opens into the story room, where brightly hued shapes are suspended from the ceiling. Puzzle tables for toddlers are located in a lounge seating area so parents may easily supervise, or sit comfortably with their infants. A nearby window seat is framed with panes of red, yellow, green and blue. West Des Moines children made the quilt blocks for the *My Visit to the Library* wall quilt that was sewn by the Head of Children's Services, Judy Proksa.

Something for Everyone

The new library offers something for everyone. There's more technology, including audiovisual viewing and listening stations, a security system, computer catalogs on the first and second floors, and a reading device for the visually impaired. Staff at the new information desk will be glad to provide direction and assistance. More public restrooms are available. A bench in the vestibule makes waiting for rides more comfortable. The community room with an attached kitchenette will hold City Council meetings and library programs, and may be reserved by the public.

Space....The Final Frontier

The new library has one luxury that West Des Moines library users have been sorely lacking...space. Now there is adequate space for lounge seating and study tables, more space between the book shelves, and lots of space on the shelves. Don't worry — the shelves may look bare, but that means we will have plenty of room to grow! It has taken more than sixty years to accumulate all of the books in the library. In twenty years or so, our shelves will be full again.

THE CIVIC CAMPUS

In the spirit of cooperation, the West Des Moines School District and the City of West Des Moines acquired adjoining parcels of land between Fuller Road, E.P. True Parkway and 39th Street. The City and the schools agreed to develop this land jointly, allowing for the possibility that land could be exchanged in order to utilize the site most effectively. This parcel of land, often called the future Civic Campus or *Superblock*, already includes the Jordan Creek Elementary School, the Law Enforcement Center, the Learning Resource Center, and now, the West Des Moines Public Library (building "C" on the map below). Plans are underway to construct a ninth grade school in the

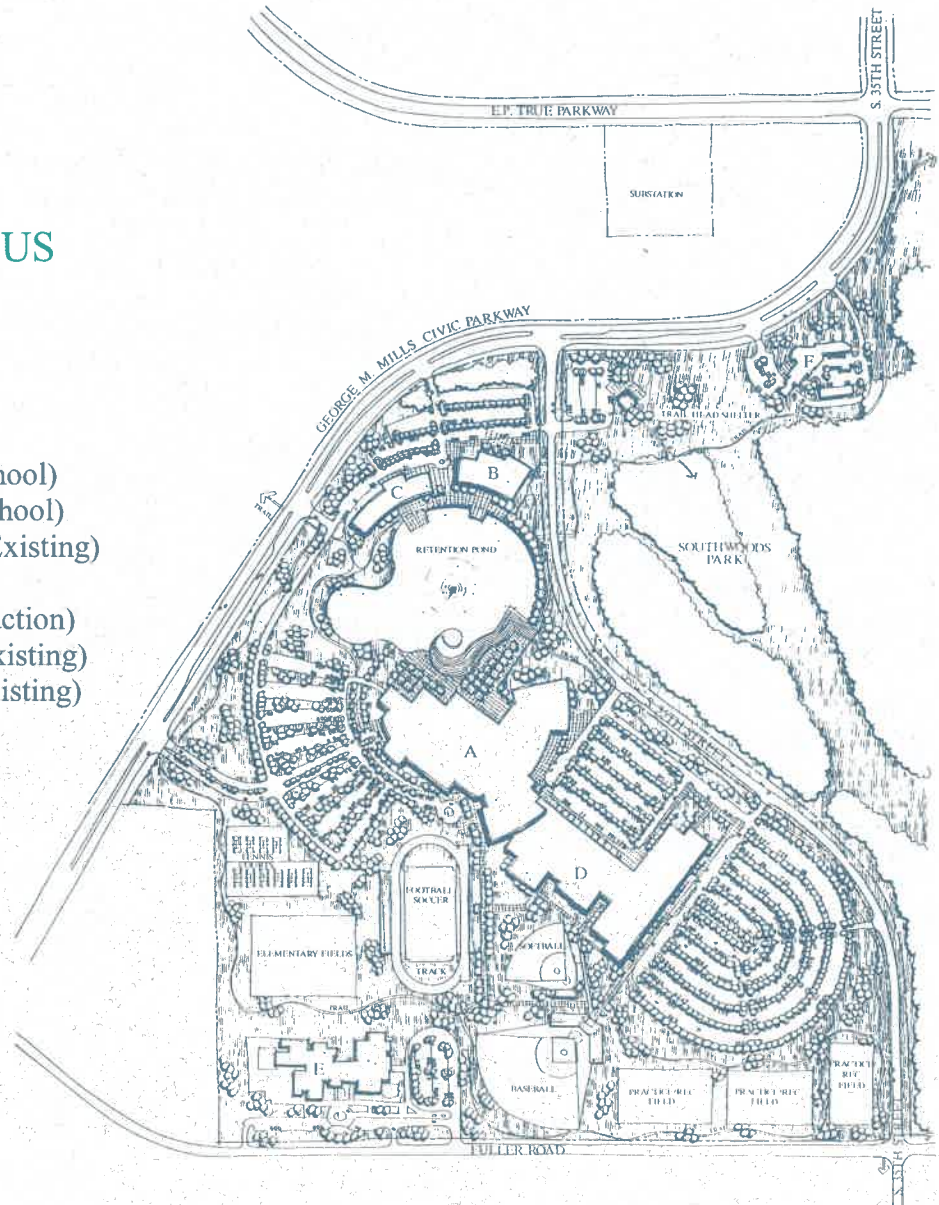
near future and the site may eventually include a municipal center with recreation facilities and City offices, plus a shared City/School auditorium and indoor pool.

Throughout the planning of the new library, the City, the School District and the Library Board have worked together to take advantage of the emerging opportunities, not only on the site, but for coordination of technology and so on. With the development of the Civic Campus, City planners have come up with a thoughtful, imaginative and cost effective way to respond to our growing community's needs.

Conceptual Master Plan WEST DES MOINES CITY/SCHOOL CAMPUS

LEGEND

- A. Municipal Center
 - Recreation Center
 - Municipal Offices
 - Auditorium (Joint City/School)
 - Indoor Pool (Joint City/School)
- B. Learning Resource Center (Existing)
- C. Library (Existing)
- D. Ninth Grade (Under Construction)
- E. Jordan Creek Elementary (Existing)
- F. Law Enforcement Center (Existing)



THE ARCHITECT'S VISION

The Architects — Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle

Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd. was founded by the three principals in 1981. It is a Minnesota corporation employing a staff of twelve registered architects, as well as intern architects, interior designers and administrative staff. The firm designs and manages some \$25 million in construction each year, primarily for three client types: private corporations, private citizens (custom residential work) and public institutions, particularly museums and libraries. MS&R has provided feasibility studies and architectural and interior design services for more than two million square feet of library space, including the U.S. Senate Library in Washington, D.C.

Projects and Awards

Previous library building projects in Minnesota include: Stillwater Public Library Historic Renovation; Detroit Lakes Public Library Addition and Renovation; Hennepin County Southdale Library, Edina; and Merriam Park Library, St. Paul.

Current projects include: Fairfield Public Library in Iowa; Janesville Public Library in Wisconsin; Kendall Young Library in Webster City, Iowa; and Kirkendall Public Library in Ankeny, Iowa.

MS&R has received numerous architectural awards, and has recently received national awards from the *Brick Institute of America* for Facility Systems Inc. Headquarters; the *American Institute of Architects* and the *American Library Association* for the historic restoration of Stillwater Public Library; and a *Heritage Preservation Award* for the Detroit Lakes Public Library.

Philosophy of Design

MS&R believes that library architecture should respect what is great about traditional libraries and still set new standards for design and technical excellence. A new library should emerge from the design process with its own identity.

The Design Process

The architects at MS&R worked diligently with the Library Board, library staff and others in order to determine the most efficient use of space, as well as the kind of ambience desired. Everyone



agreed on an atmosphere that was warm and cozy, yet open and airy. The architects' difficult task, then, was to reach a balance between comfort and spaciousness.

Warmth was achieved through the use of brick, wood, and other natural materials. Soft, indirect lighting was incorporated. Colors were selected to inspire feelings of tranquility. Low ceilings, particularly in leisure areas, further promoted this concept. In contrast, a high center atrium was designed to create an open effect that is enhanced by the abundance of natural light throughout the building.

Traditional Design Influences

Influences from the *Craftsman Style* can be seen in the library's design, as well as in its furnishings. The Craftsman Style, also known as the Mission Style, was based on the Arts & Crafts Movement in Europe led by English architect William Morris (1834-1896). In America, these influences are seen in the works of Frank Lloyd Wright, Gustave Stickley, and the Greene Brothers. Followers of this movement rebelled against the Functionalists who embraced the impersonal machine, and Art Nouveau was seen as too frivolous and decorative. The Arts & Crafts Movement utilized natural materials such as wood, tile and stone, and earth colors were commonly employed. The overall effect was a natural, warm, livable building.

MS&R has successfully employed their design philosophy, combining these traditional influences with modern design and technology in order to build a library with its own identity and sense of style...the West Des Moines Public Library.

CONSTRUCTION



FRIENDS

Friends of the Library

Organized to provide citizen support to the library, the *Friends of the West Des Moines Public Library* began meeting in 1991. Initial projects were modest, including advocacy and promotional events, membership drives, staff support, and sale of book bags.

Aiming High

An opportunity for greater involvement and lasting impact presented itself sooner than expected with the passing of the 1994 bond referendum. West Des Moines was to have a beautiful new library building, but the bonded amount did not include funding for additional books, technology, programming or endowment. The existing collection was 40,000 books short and the library in critical need of technology according to State Library standards. A 1991 citizen survey and the passing of the referendum indicated that our residents expected a better library and were willing to work for it. The challenge was at hand....

Setting Goals

With the guidance of their Board President, Judy Oggero, the Friends met this challenge head on. The *West Des Moines Library Friends Foundation* was formed and they immediately launched their \$1.5 million *Resource for Renewal* campaign in February of 1995. Since then, the campaign has been the all-consuming effort of the Friends Board, as well as the more than 100 citizens serving on various volunteer committees.

A Plan of Action

The Friends' intricate plan of action involved formation of a Fund Raising Committee, co-chaired by Judy Oggero and Bob Larson. They, along with other committee members and volunteers, approached numerous individuals, area businesses, civic organizations and foundations, giving them an opportunity to invest in the future of the community through the library. Donors were able to pledge their contributions over a five year period and only one percent of the funds raised were budgeted for campaign expenses. Citizens stepped forward in leadership roles and volunteers agreed

to make personal contacts. Malinda Wiesner, now the current Friends Board President, wrote many successful grant applications in cooperation with library staff. To emphasize the need for books, Kay Ceilley and Judy Baur co-chaired the *Build Our Library — Book Buy Book* program, along with their committee of dedicated volunteers. These community leaders, and many others, are recognized in the next few pages under DONORS and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. In short, the *Resource for Renewal* campaign has been one in which the entire community can take pride.

Community Response

Response from local businesses, individuals and organizations has been very positive. Contributions have ranged from \$25 to \$150,000. Due to the generosity of the community, funds are now available to meet the immediate need for books and technology. The *Friends Foundation* would like to thank all who have offered support. Not only do they have many new Friends and a substantial monetary contribution, but the campaign effort has also deepened their appreciation for library director, Ray Vignovich, and his dedicated staff who worked with unbounded energy for a better library. Equally important is the group of volunteers that are committed to making the library an ongoing, important Resource for Renewal.

Plans for the Future

The Friends will celebrate the Grand Opening of a beautiful facility with contributions of more than one million dollars, but their efforts will not stop there. The Foundation will continue its fund raising efforts, concentrating on insuring the future with an endowment.

The Friends Review Their Purpose

The Friends Foundation was established to provide organized citizen support of the West Des Moines Library. It provides opportunities for volunteerism and philanthropy.

DONORS

The *Resource for Renewal* campaign is a volunteer effort to raise private funds for support of the West Des Moines Public Library. The *Friends Foundation* gratefully acknowledges those who helped make the campaign a success. All donors as of April 1, 1996 are listed according to giving levels. Those with an asterisk by their name are designated Community Leaders and gave volunteer time in addition to their pledge.

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In September of 1995, Marvin and Rose Lee Pomerantz and family pledged a challenge gift of \$150,000 to the *Resource for Renewal* campaign. Their gift launched the Friends Foundation's vigorous effort to purchase books and technology and establish an endowment fund to enhance library service to our community. The *Foundation* would like to thank the Pomerantz family for their vision and generosity.

DONORS

VISIONARIES ENDOWMENT FUND Mary Cole Smith

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Steven K. Gaer
Ben C. Chatman *
Ted Ohmart *

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**Anders Dahlgren,
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WEST DES MOINES LIBRARY

Modest Beginnings, 1934 - 1942

Valley Junction was founded more than a hundred years ago, but the community did not have library service until 1934. Thanks to the vision and energy of the charter members of the *Valley Junction Civic Club* (now the *West Des Moines Women's Club*), the community's first library opened in the home of Mrs. Dan Herron at 504 Sixth Street. The small library contained only 450 books, which were donated from personal collections. To finance the library, the *Civic Club* held Tag Days, Silver Teas, ice cream socials, candy sales, rummage sales, and concerts. Members also went door to door requesting cash donations.

Over the next twenty years, the library occupied five different locations, including two more private homes, the Longfellow School, the Corner Bank Building, and the Old Security Bank Building.

Changes and Growth, 1943 - 1995

The *Civic Club* continued to support the library, unaided until 1943, when the City Council agreed to provide funds to maintain the library, and appointed the first Library Board. Alice Mitchell was the first city-appointed librarian, serving until 1946. She was replaced by Nell DeBoest who retired twenty years later.

In 1954, the library was relocated to a room in the new City Hall at 318 Fifth Street. Approval of a \$77,000 bond issue allowed the Library Board to construct a separate facility in 1966. The prop-



October 1934 - September 1935
First community library in Marge Herron's home
504 Sixth Street



April 1966 - April 1996
West Des Moines Public Library
1105 Grand Avenue

erty at 1105 Grand Avenue was purchased from St. Mark Lutheran Church for \$17,000, and a new 2,700 square foot public library was built, containing 20,000 volumes.

On March 5, 1974, voters approved a \$378,000 bond issue for an addition to the Grand Avenue facility. Library Director Miriam Hansen and the Library Board hosted an open house to showcase the enlarged building that now provided 14,400 square feet and included a lower level. From 1972 through 1976, the library maintained a branch on Fifth Street.

A New Library, 1996 —

Twenty years after the last referendum, 77% of the voters passed a \$6.95 million bond referendum to build a *new* library facility for West Des Moines. The *West Des Moines Library Friends Foundation* launched the *Resource For Renewal* campaign with a goal of \$1.5 million for the expansion of the collection, enhancement of services, and updating of technology in the new library.

The new 51,000 square foot facility was completed in the spring of 1996 and the library opened on April 29. The library occupies about two-thirds of the building; the remaining space will be used by City offices until library expansion becomes necessary. The library presently contains some 80,000 volumes — in sixty-two years, the collection has grown almost two hundred times! With a capacity of 220,000 volumes, the new facility is expected to serve the community for the next twenty years.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



West Des Moines Public Library

Dear Citizens of West Des Moines,

The opening of a new library is a rare and unique occasion for any community, and we should all pause to reflect on the significance of this event. The facility that has been constructed is now a new feature to our community. It is a building where children will develop fundamental skills that will serve them into old age, and where adults will discover, refine and process information into ideas and actions; it is a building where people will meet, where friendships will be struck, and where individuals will find intellectual refuge.

Our new library is a symbol of old and new technologies. Books, magazines and other printed matter exist in harmony with video tapes, compact discs, computer and global information networks. As we grow into our new home, we will be able to offer many more resources and to provide access to digitized information far beyond our present abilities. While the sirens of technology will always beckon, the printed word will outlive us all.



Every public library is a reflection of its community's commitment to education and culture. The West Des Moines Public Library was established by the Valley Junction Civic Club in 1934 and it existed solely on private funding for the first 10 years. Our community's tenacious commitment to having a library is evidenced by the 77% approval for the bond referendum and by the success of the Friends Foundation's fund raising campaign.

Being a part of a project that has enjoyed such wonderful public support has been a privilege. As you look over this opening day program you will see the names of a great many people who have been a part of this project—and that is only a *partial* list of those who have been involved. When I think of all the efforts made by members of our community throughout the library's history, I am astonished.

Our efforts at providing a good library do not end with the dedication of this new building, but West Des Moines' ability to meet the community's library needs have been significantly improved thanks to all of you.

Respectfully,

Ray Vignovich, Library Director

*Books are the quietest and most constant
of friends; they are the most accessible and
wisest of counsellors, and the most patient
of teachers.*

— Charles W. Eliot

*I have always imagined that Paradise will
be a kind of library.*

— Jorge Luis Borges

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