

**HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY**

HIGHLAND PARK ILLINOIS

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
May 1934 - April 1935

To the Trustees of the Public Library:

The community's need and the library's opportunities for service were never greater than during the past year. This invites a look back to better meet the year ahead.

Its service, in common with that of all educational institutions, is largely intangible. However, who reads what, has increasingly become the topic of conversation of group after group. Highland Park has been the exception rather than the rule in the quality of its reading and in the use and appreciation of its public library.

**Trends**

What, then, have been the trends of the past year in our community? The most noticeable increase is found in current periodicals.

Books about books have been growing in demand the last year as have books on religion, fine arts, economics and biography. The decline in fiction reading has been steadily downward for the past three years, despite the fact that there has been no lack of good novels. That the "stimulating depression" has brought us back to the practical phases of life is shown in an increase of eighteen per cent in the books on useful arts: home crafts, automobile repair, boats and boating, cook books, radio, office practice, gardening, etc.

Good books are stimulating, as the numbers of borrowers in the popular book room on Saturday evenings indicate. From the scientist to the music teacher, books are helping to beat the "no work" racket, and better still they have brought a comforting message to many who realize that the inner life may be enriched.

**The Chief Gauge**

Statistics show that the books borrowed last year by adults numbered 6,879 less than the year previous, in spite of an increase in registration of borrowers, and greater use of the reference collection.

Is this true because we are reading with greater discrimination? The encouraging facts shown in the cause of adult education and the increased demand for books about books might so indicate.

Our own library figures—122,087 volumes borrowed for home use in the year ending April 30, 1935—show a gain of 85,000 volumes over the figures of ten years ago. Every other person in Highland Park is now a card-holder in the public library.

**Book Collection**

The book collection has this year gathered some special points of interest.

The Jesse L. Smith Lincoln collection, which is being developed and presented to the library by Mr. Alfred W. Stern, now comprises some 175 volumes.

The new historical room houses all of the material on Highland Park and Lake County. This comprises some 500 manuscripts, year-books, programs, interviews with early residents, annual reports, etc., together with many pictures of early Highland Park, which were made from old plates found in the studio of Mr. O. B. Brand. This has been

greatly enriched by Miss Elizabeth Sullivan's gift of a rare copy of "Historical and Statistical Sketches of Lake County," by Elijah M. Haines. Another volume of interest, "The Past and Present of Lake County," published by La Baron in 1877, was presented by Miss Emelia Nafe. Mrs. Ira J. Geer has added richly to our early Illinois history. A map of Highland Park, of date 1872, in a fine state of preservation, was received from Mr. F. D. Everett. Such a collection as this can only be developed in our community by the help and interest of every citizen.

The natural history group has strengthened by the purchase of 318 volumes from the library of the late Jesse L. Smith, whose collection was strong in this field.

At Oak Terrace school, through the efforts of Mr. W. A. Thomas, the principal, \$100 was raised by General F. C. Boles of Fort Sheridan and presented to the library for the purchase of books for use in that school.

Books from other friends of the library were received from time to time, all deeply appreciated but too numerous to be listed here. These form a duplicate collection of some 900 volumes.

Two thousand fifty-three books were added to the collection during the year, and 540 were worn out and discarded. The collection now contains 30,221 volumes.

May our institutional resources prove helpful to people in understanding the nature, structure and drift of our civilization!

**Future**

The library seems the most rapidly changing institution of public use. This it must perforce do or stagnate. Every day appear new comers, new interests, new publications, new propaganda, bringing responsibility to be exercised with restraint.

Every library board now faces the question of keeping the library one step ahead of the demands of the community. Depleted land valuation means a decreasing library income. This must not be allowed to go on. The present social, economic and political trends must inevitably

lead to a great expansion of the agencies which serve the educational, recreational and cultural interests. This nation-wide problem will engage the program next month at the national library meeting in Denver.

**Finance**

The library has always lived within its income. The cost per capita for library service last year was \$1.27, about one half the cost of one book, yet the average circulation of each borrower was more than eighteen books.

The last payment on the library building was made during the year. With the aid of local men under the Civil Works Administration, the second floor was converted into a paneled room now available as a meeting place for small gatherings during the day.

Books	\$224.54
Binding	476.97
Periodicals	313.39
Salaries of staff	9162.88
Janitor service	1448.08
Heat	698.87
Light	598.19
Insurance	246.31
Drays, freight, telephone	129.99
Maintenance of building & equipment	241.48
Printing and supplies	419.91
Miscellaneous	444.18
Summer Reading	\$17,890.32

The following suggestions from friends and neighbors may help in a choice for summer reading.

In choosing an inspiring and delightful book of the year, that he would like to share with his neighbor, J. B. Garnett, president of the library board, selects Russia's Iron Age, by W. H. Chamberlain, as one of the most fair and unbiased so far published on that country. William H. Wilson chose The Shape of Things to Come, by H. G. Wells, a book which offers real stimulus to thought.

W. F. Suhr suggests These Twelve, by Charles R. Brown, as a provoking book on religion for the layman. Personal History, by Vincent Sheehan, was suggested by Emily Beers, not only for its wealth of stirring incident and unusual, detached perspective, but for the effect of the living history upon the character of the author.

Dr. L. W. Sherwin says that "in the year filled with many interesting books, I believe the one I enjoyed the most, because of its rich human interest, is the Autobiography of John Hays Hammond.

For English readers Mrs. William Pearce suggests English Summer, by Cornelia S. Parker, with whom she relived her life in England.

For real enjoyment try Men

Against the Sea, by Nordhoff and Hall, suggests Mr. C. G. Mason, head of the English department at the Deerfield-Shields high school.

Another biography was chosen by Mrs. Arthur Raff. She says "I was deeply impressed by the new biography of Thomas Mott Osborne. This is entitled There Is No True, by R. W. Chamberlain.

This is the 47th annual report of the Highland Park Public library, in

the making of which every member of the staff has had a part.

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**Plain Cookies** 2 LBS. FOR **29c**

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**PEACHES** No. 2½ CANS **5 FOR \$1**

RAGGEDY ANN  
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SAVOY OR RICHELIEU  
**Tomatoes** No 2½ CANS DOZ. **\$2.25**

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**CORN** No 2 CANS **7 FOR \$1**  
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**ORANGES** 3 CANS FOR **29c**  
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**PEARS** No 2½ CANS **4 FOR \$1**

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**Fresh Carrots** 2 BUNCHES **9c**

**Juicy ORANGES** 5 DOZ. **\$1**

SEEDLESS FLORIDA  
**Grapefruit** 5 FOR **25c**

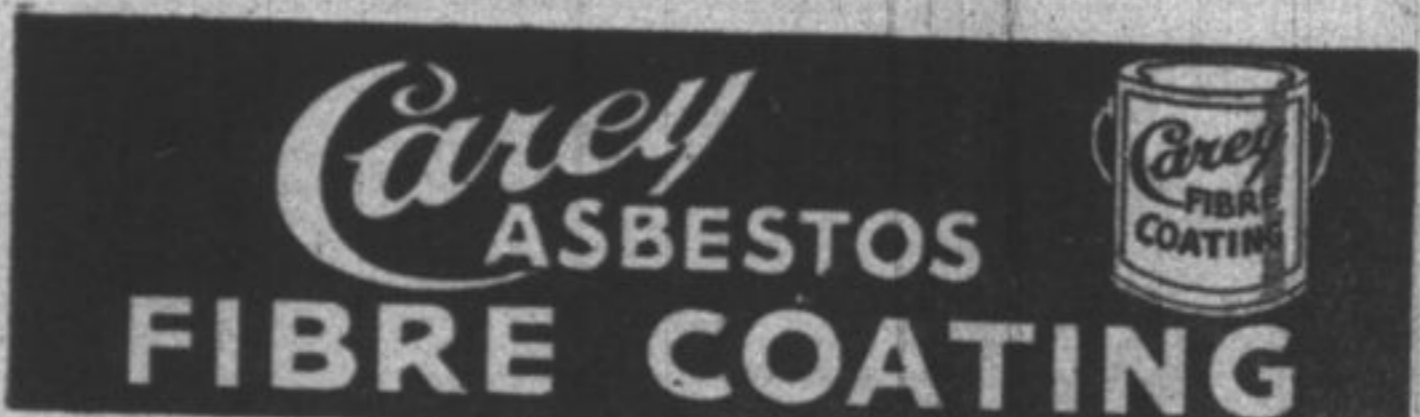


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