

The issue was approved and the building started in 1904. As the building progressed, it was apparent that the sum allotted was not sufficient. A request for another \$1,000 was made to Mr. Carnegie and granted.

The new building was opened to the public January 2, 1905, but the opening exercises did not take place until February.

In 1925, a children's room was opened in the basement of the library. In 1935, a branch library for the use of both children and adults was opened in the old Grosse Point school building on Wilmette Avenue near Ridge Road. In 1942, a similar branch was opened in the Harper School, but in neither case did the use of these branches justify their maintenance, and they were subsequently closed. Collections of children's books have been maintained in various schools of the village at different times.

In 1938, conditions at the central library became so crowded that books had to be placed in storage in the old Grosse Point school building. At one time, as many as 8,000 books were in storage there. In July, 1946, all of the books in storage were returned to the central library by the addition of stacks in one of the reading rooms. With seating space in the library practically nonexistent, it was apparent that a new building was imperative. Fortunately for the library, the community as a whole needed municipal improvements in many areas. Consequently, a long-range projection of community needs for the next twenty years, known as "The Wil-

mette Plan" was prepared by the various government bodies culminating in a package referendum which included a new library building along with an increase in the tax rate. While the library put on its own campaign, it also benefited from efforts made on behalf of the whole plan.

The library portion of the referendum was approved by the voters in February, 1948. Two additional lots to the east of the original lot and one to the north were purchased. The firm of Holabird & Root of Chicago were selected as architects and work on the new building was begun in February, 1950. The new building was dedicated July 15, 1951. Total cost of the building including land, furnishings and equipment was \$415,000.

A beautiful memorial garden off the reference room was given by the Wilmette Garden Club in memory of its deceased members and relatives of members. The building received an award from the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for meritorious design.

The new building brought increased use and circulation of books. An additional factor was the rapid growth in population in Wilmette within a comparatively short period of time. As a result, although planned for a twenty-year period, the children's room became overcrowded in 1959 and an auditorium on the second floor was converted into a junior high room serving 6th, 7th and 8th grade children.

In 1964, the children's room again reached a saturation point even with