

***History of
Library Service in Roseland***

***Written in Celebration
of the
25th Anniversary
of Incorporation
of the
Roseland Free Public Library***

1972 - 1997



**HISTORY OF LIBRARY SERVICE
IN ROSELAND**

**ROSELAND FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY
1972-1997**

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PREFACE

In honor of the 25th Anniversary of Incorporation of the Roseland Free Public Library, this history of library service was researched and written by Judith Lind, Library Director, and edited by many.

This history has been written from/with quotations from local newspapers, records, minutes of groups such as the Roseland Woman's Club, and other sources such as scrapbooks and memorabilia.

There is no way that we can be sure we have included all that should be included or that our information is accurate in all details, but it does represent a sincere effort to accurately relate what is known about the history of library service in Roseland as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Roseland Free Public Library.

Among our purposes in compiling this history, other than to provide a comprehensive written record of our library services in Roseland, is the hope of making our current and future Roseland residents more aware of the scope and potential of our current Library services and possibly inspire many to take an active role in our Library's future as we immerse ourselves into the rapidly expanding technological/media explosion that undoubtedly will change Library services exponentially in the immediate future.

In my opinion, Roselanders should be very proud, as I am, of our Library's rich history and current facilities, but we need to focus on the enormous opportunity of the current and future potentials our Library has to enrich the life of all of us.

Richard Fassett

Chairman, 25th Anniversary Committee

INTRODUCTION

The Roseland Free Public Library is celebrating 25 years of growth. It suggests the maturing of our Borough from a farm community to a business community with national outreach.

My memory reaches back to 1920. Most families purchased a small encyclopedia such as Volume Library, along with the many children's books of the day. Teachers read Treasure Island, The Last of the Mohicans and, yes, we enjoyed Zane Grey and Jack London and were still reading Scott and Tennyson. Movie houses were everywhere and even Caldwell supported two.

The Caldwell Library was available particularly during my high school years. Andrew Carnegie had endowed libraries throughout the country so that more people could have access to a good library.

Even though the Morristown and Erie Railroad connected Morristown with Essex Fells and thus New York City in 1904, Roseland was still literally one-half dairy farms in the 1950s.

A Roseland Free Public Library became possible only when large business ratables became a reality.

Everett N. Leonard

The idea of a municipal library in Roseland, to the best of my recollection, had its genesis in 1958, the year we celebrated our 50th Anniversary as a Borough. A committee was appointed by our Mayor to plan a bang-up celebration consisting of a parade, exhibits, speeches, sporting events and a commemorative album of the borough's history.

Since this kind of information was scarce, our album committee visited the families of older, as well as newer residents, to gather material...photos of farm and home life, family genealogies and oral comments. All this ultimately resulted in a 40-page historical album with this introduction: "ROSELAND: The story of a typical American community and its folks: Pioneers...Farmers...Soldiers...Builders...Blacksmiths...Preachers...Merchants...Shoemakers...Legislators...Worshippers of God...Citizens with an everlasting heritage."

Incidentally, the residents we interviewed for the album in 1958 commented favorably on the fine quality of life in the Borough through the years...good roads; health, police and fire departments; schools; transportation; public lighting; recreation; and local shopping. But it was the newer residents who asked about sanitary sewers, more sidewalks, and a library. Well, we told them that a sewer system was on the drawing-board for the mid-1960s, and the prospects of a municipal library were only occasionally discussed. We were aware that most of the communities surrounding Roseland already had established libraries, and why not one in Roseland?

Between 1958 and 1961, the interest in a municipal library was maintained by a small group of book-lovers and book-collectors, as well as by several of our residents employed in neighboring libraries. This enthusiasm resulted in the formation of the organization known as The Friends of the Roseland Library. The big stumbling-block was space for such a facility. We had many offers of good, free books; volunteer help; and donations by interested residents, businesses and industries in Roseland, but no way could we afford to pay rent for a facility.

It happened that one day we met Mayor Richard Ebersbach and asked if there was a small area in the Borough Hall for a collection of books for use by our residents of all ages. He replied that he would discuss this with members of the Council. A few days later, his answer was "yes", a small room on the second floor of the Hall would be made available. Mayor Ebersbach continued, "But this venture is in no way to impose a tax burden on our people." We assured him that we could raise the necessary funds and supply the volunteer help for this undertaking. So, the women sewed curtains for the several windows, a desk and chair were provided for our "librarian", and in the evenings and Saturdays fathers and Boy Scouts built the first pine book shelves, 6' high, 3' wide and 9 1/2" deep with five adjustable shelves, holding 121 books total. A similar metal book shelf at the time sold for thirty-five dollars. Finally, a coat of tough varnish, Fabulom, was applied. Several of these pine shelves are still in private use.

Even today, a few Borough residents rib us, saying "Once you fellows got your foot in the door in the Borough Hall, you went to town with a full scale library in mind, increasing our taxes considerably." Not so. The little lending library grew and grew rapidly through the years because children, young people, fathers and mothers, and retirees could visualize its present and future value, and they fully supported the venture once it started.

In the early years of the Friends association, we could envision a public library here in Roseland in perhaps two rooms in a larger municipal building with limited volumes and services, but never a Free Public Library in its own specially built edifice, fully staffed by professionals, thousands of books, periodicals and technical equipment, and with room for expansion. You will agree with me that today we have the best library in the area.

George A. Flammer

THE ASSOCIATION LIBRARY

On March 15, 1961, a number of Roseland citizens held the first meeting of a new association called the Friends of the Roseland Library. A program presenting Mrs. Lou B. Powell, Principal of Roseland School; Byron Kirk, former Mayor; and Mayor Richard Ebersbach; plus an exhibit of Civil War mementos was offered to arouse interest in beginning a library in the Borough. These Friends began to collect books and funds. John Hall, a Borough resident, contributed generously from his personal collection of new and used books.

Headed by Everett Leonard, president, the group spent several months organizing a library. Other officers of the Friends of the Library were: Mrs. John Lincoln, vice-president; Godfrey K. Preiser, Jr., treasurer; Miss Rita Carles, secretary; and board members George Flammer, Francis DeCoster, Mrs. Herbert Harrison, Raymond Simpson and Mrs. Robert Graham.

Mrs. Lincoln and the staff of the Verona Public Library volunteered to help organize the collection.

The first Library opened in Roseland on July 29, 1961, on the second floor of the old Borough Hall with 1,500 books and 12 pine bookcases. The hours of operation were Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 to 4:00 and 7:00 to 9:00. More than 150 people visited the Library on the first day.

During the summer, 1,200 books were borrowed from the Harrison Avenue School. In order to accommodate school children, the summer schedule for lending varied somewhat from the winter hours.

There were four types of membership available in the Friends organization: associate member, \$1; sustaining member, \$5; sponsoring member, \$10; and patron member, \$25. The privileges for all were the same, but there was always the opportunity to contribute more.

"Visit Your Library Day" was an open house held on Saturday afternoon, December 9, 1961. The advertisement stated, "Browse among 2000 Books!" The event was planned to encourage all residents, not just members of the Friends organization, to borrow books.

Everett Leonard and Mrs. Elizabeth Lincoln, vice-president and librarian, received the first new set of encyclopedias for the Library in April 1962. The 24 volume Encyclopedia Britannica and the 50 volume Great Illustrated Classics were donated by Richard McFadyen, president of the Ketcham and McDougall Foundation of Roseland.

Located on Woodland Avenue, Resistoflex Corporation, a manufacturer of hose assemblies, announced a donation of \$500 in May 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Bond of Holmehill presented several cartons of non-fiction books. News of this

significant donation and a listing of titles appeared in the Caldwell Progress in July 1962. Nelson Bond, director of the McGraw-Hill Book Company and president of its publication division, gave an address to the organization later that year on the topic--"What Books Have Meant to Our Civilization."

THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION LIBRARY

The first anniversary of the association library was reported in the local paper on August 2, 1962. It boasted that the library had "one new set of encyclopedias, several hundred good, used books and a great deal of enthusiasm."

The article went on to say, "In this one year period more than 600 new books have been purchased from dues collected by members of the Friends of the Roseland Library and substantial gifts from local industries and businessmen."

"The Library has been staffed by volunteers from the Roseland Junior Womens' Club with the assistance of Mrs. John Lincoln, Mrs. Herbert Harrison, Mrs. Robert Graham, Miss Reita Sarles and Mrs. Edward Ahlstedt. The books have been sorted and prepared for the shelves by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Simpson.

"On the occasion of this anniversary one of the borrowers, who is an older resident of Roseland,

remarked: 'I was skeptical last year at another attempt to promote a library in the borough. Several former endeavors in previous years struggled along for one or two months, then closed up. However, I am happy to say that we have a library that is here to stay. In September I'm donating 50 books from my own collection, plus all my bound copies of the National Geographic Magazine.'"

"One of the main objectives for the coming year is additional space for the growing needs of the library. Also more books, expanded library services such as being open more hours and more borrowers. The president of the organization, Everett Leonard, stressed that, 'this library is free to all residents of Roseland and you are encouraged to use its facilities often. The greater your use of it, the faster we will develop.'"

Treasurer Godfrey Preiser reported in the newspaper on August 9, 1962, that there were 204 paid memberships of children, young people and adults. He went on stating that, "We have received from Jimmy Golden, age 7, of Park Street, \$5.18 for library use. Jimmy collects empty soda bottles from his neighbors, returns them to the store and hands in his pennies and nickels for the purchase of new books. Two volumes entitled Trees and Dogs will be procured and placed on the shelves with his name in them. He loves books and animals."

As the residents continued to give generously, the Library acquired more and more books, as well as tables and chairs.

Mrs. Joan Bollinger was employed by the Friends of the Library in 1964 and served as director until 1983.

By 1965, the book collection had increased to 6,000. On October 27, 1965, the Newark Evening News reported that, "The Roseland Public Library will expand its facilities in the borough hall and will not relocate as previously proposed."

"The library will increase its facilities by moving into an adjacent room in the municipal building. Permission was granted by the Borough Council, based on a report by a special Council library committee."

"Councilman Matthew J. Smith Jr., chairman of the library committee, said the move will double the present 6,000 volume facility. His committee was organized last month to investigate the possibility of relocating the library to a new site."

"The Friends of the Library have been attempting to move the library from its cramped quarters for the last year. One of the sites suggested by the library trustees was the Men's Club on Freeman Street."

With Borough Council approval, the Library expanded into an adjacent room in the old Borough Hall and was dedicated to George A. Flammer, the second President of the Friends of the Library. The Library expansion meant the relocation of three Borough offices: the Board of Health, the Building Inspector and the

Municipal Court. The joint Board of Health-Building Inspector office, located next to the Library, was moved into the court chambers. Court was then convened in the council chambers when the governing body was not in session.

THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION LIBRARY

On the fifth anniversary, a photograph appeared in the Newark Evening News on June 7, 1966, illustrating a ceremonial anniversary cake being cut by Godfrey Preiser, President of the Friends, Joan Bollinger, Librarian, and Mayor Eugene Becker. The ceremonies were held in the George A. Flammer Room of the Library. The caption noted that the Library had over 8,000 books.

George Flammer, a life long resident of Roseland and borough magistrate, reported library improvements to the Caldwell Progress on the occasion of the anniversary which included a repaired desk, new lighting fixtures, and new light colored vinyl tiles. He related that John and William Wareheim, George Faber, and other members of the Roseland Volunteer Fire Department constructed sturdy and attractive shelving for the new room. A donated rocking chair offered "old fashioned comfort beside the magazine and newspaper rack." The windows had new drapes and paintings by local artists hung on the walls. Mr. Flammer expressed his appreciation and pleasure and made a request for donation of a few other items.

The Caldwell Progress on June 9, 1966, offered details on the evening's festivities. Mayor Eugene Becker "expressed the hope that 'this room be a source of information and enlightenment to the people who use it.'" The Friends viewed that evening as a "step toward the superior municipal library."

This newspaper article went on reporting, "What is the future of the library in Roseland? It is a larger library with three times the present number of books, three times the present space, three times the current annual budget and is open three times as many hours each week. This is what the Friends of the Library are working towards. Some day, with help from the borough's governing body, it is hoped that this goal will be achieved, a spokesman told The Progress."

During the summer of 1966, the local newspaper contained several articles attesting to the growing popularity of the idea of supporting a library in the community.

The headlines "Roseland Library Breaks Record" appeared in the June 30, 1966, issue of the Caldwell Progress. Days before, on June 20, the record number of 50 persons used the facilities and borrowed over 100 books.

During August, the newspaper contained this bit of news, "Miss Joan Lincoln of Mitchell Avenue will be in the Roseland Public Library Thursday and Friday

mornings from 10 until noon during this month. She will act as an assistant to Mrs. Ray [Joan] Bollinger and will aid the children in selecting their books. Miss Lincoln will begin her junior year at Bloomfield College in the Fall."

The article titled "Roseland Library Gets More Books on Shelves", also appeared during the month of August and contained brief annotations of all the new titles for readers of all ages.

The Reader's Club of the Roseland Library regularly met at one of the homes of its members and discussed "novels of time and consciousness. Those recommended are James Joyce's Ulysses or A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man, Thomas Wolfe's Look Homeward Angel, Of Time and the River, You Can't Go Home Again, William Faulkner's Light in August, or Virginia Wolfe's Mrs. Dalloway or To the Lighthouse."

"Committee Chairman John Hall invites anyone who wishes to participate in the discussion to read one of the aforementioned novels and to attend the meeting. Further information may be obtained by calling Mr. Hall or one of the following committee members: Mrs. Bolton Dockrell, Mrs. Harry Culver, Mr. Everett Leonard," as reported in a November 1966 issue of the Caldwell Progress.

"Mrs. Ray [Joan] Bollinger of the Roseland Library this week (December 15, 1966) released circulation figures covering the last six months at the

library. From June through November of 1965, the library loaned 2,712 books. In 1966, over, 4,285 books were loaned during a similar period. This is a circulation increase of 58% in 1966. Over this same period, there was a 48% increase in the number of persons using the library. In 1966, 32 families were added to the list of borrowers at the library."

Annually, the Friends of the Library held membership and fundraising drives. "Harry Culver, treasurer of the Friends of the Roseland Library, has announced that the halfway point has been passed in the drive to raise \$2,000 for the library in 1967. The sum of contributions on Friday totaled \$1041.50. Family and individual memberships for 1967 total 130; 36 of whom are new members. Mr. Culver urged residents to join the 'Friends' this year so that a superior reference section could be developed." (March 30, 1967)

ATTEMPTS AT REGIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE

The Library Study Committee of the West Essex Chapter of the League of Women Voters held meetings during the 1960s. The group consulted with the New Jersey State Library and studied various forms of joint venture proposals for providing better library service to the residents of local communities.

In 1967, the Municipal Library Study Commission, a group of 18 members, consisting of two citizens and one councilman from Caldwell, Essex Fells,

Fairfield, North Caldwell, Roseland, and West Caldwell, explored the means by which municipalities of the area could cooperate in public library services. Roseland's representatives were: Frank Morgan, Councilman; Margaret Auld and John Hall, citizens. The impetus for the formation of this group was the League of Women Voters of West Essex. At about the same time, the town of West Caldwell decided that the municipality would be better served by the development of their existing Julia Potwin Memorial Library that had been built in 1915.

In 1971, following a professional study, the Borough of Essex Fells declined the Borough of Roseland's offer to form a joint library.

A STORY WITHIN THE STORY-- THE ROSELAND WOMAN'S CLUB AND NELLIE BOND OSBORNE ESTATE

In 1905, a group of Roseland ladies decided to form a club called the Roseland Ladies Literary Society which periodically met at various members' homes to discuss topics of a literary nature. In 1907, the club became a member of the State Federation of Woman's Clubs. It became known as the Roseland Woman's Club and Mrs. John Hyer was the first president. The club met for many years in the Roseland Band Association Building on Freeman Street.

Nellie Bond Osborne, club member, died and was buried in her family's plot (No. 123) at the Prospect Hill

Cemetery in Caldwell on January 30, 1922. Her last will and testament stated, "Two of the said shares I give, devise and bequeath to the Trustees of the Library Fund of Roseland, New Jersey, the same to be known as 'The Riley W. Bond Bequest', to be used by the Trustees of the Library as they shall see fit." Riley W. Bond, Nellie's father, passed away in 1897 and had been interred in the same family plot.

The minute books of the Woman's Club of Roseland reflect that as early as October 11, 1927, the Library Committee consisted of the following members: Mrs. Inez Teed, Mrs. Hyer, Mrs. Baxter, Miss Mary Condit, Mrs. Marcus DeCamp, Mrs. Greenard, Mrs. Walter Bush, Mrs. Patton and Mrs. Jay Baldwin.

From the minutes of October 28, 1930: "Mrs. Roland Teed, chairman of the Library Committee, suggested that each member bring with them at each meeting a book or magazine to exchange with some other member. At the end of the year if the owners of the books or magazines do not desire to have them returned they can then become the start of the club library. Motion by Mrs. C. Baldwin, seconded by Mrs. Greenard that the plan of Mrs. Teed be given a trial."

"Chairman of the Library committee, Mrs. R. [Inez] Teed stated," as recorded in the minutes from the December 16, 1930, meeting, "there were 23 books on hand with 13 of the books in circulation."

Similarly, in the February 18, 1931, minutes, "Mrs. Teed reported that 24 books were in the circulating library and suggested that in the event any member desired to donate a book and was in doubt as to the selection, if they would donate the money the Library Committee would purchase a suitable book".

The library was usually open during the "social hour" portion of the club meeting. Mrs. Teed regularly solicited for donations of more books. Some fundraising was done to purchase more books and eventually, trustees were named to oversee the Library Fund. By May 1932, the collection numbered 60 books.

"On motion made by Mrs. R. [Inez] Teed," from the minutes of the meeting on May 14, 1935, "duly seconded and carried that we loan our library to the school and that a list of all the books be kept by our Library Committee."

Dated January 1938, the By-Laws of the Roseland Woman's Club stated,

**"Article II
Objects:**

To take over and manage a certain legacy, with the increment thereto, paid by the estate of the late Nellie Bond Osborne to a corporation known as 'Library Fund of Roseland, New Jersey', and to manage control and use the said fund for library purposes in

the territory now known as the Borough of Roseland.

The legacy referred to was left to the Trustees of the Library Fund of Roseland, New Jersey as paid to a corporation known as 'Library Fund of Roseland, New Jersey,' which corporation still holds the legacy intact, with accumulated income. One of the objects of this incorporation is to have the fund turned over to this club as a fund to be kept, increased and eventually used for library purposes."

The collection continued to increase and the members "unveiled" their new sectional bookcases in 1938.

Recorded April 11, 1939: "Mrs. Dunning, reporting for the Trustees, stated this board was in favor of answering the letter from Mayor Braunworth in regard to creating a public library. Motion by Mrs. C. Greenard that the Corresp. Sec'y write the answer to Mayor Braunworth's letter in reference to creating a public library. Seconded and carried." There is no record of discussion in the minutes nor reference to what answer was contained in the letter to the Mayor.

November 14, 1939-- "Mrs. Sanford, Library Chairman called to our attention again the fact that she still has about one hundred books at her home which belong to the club. After a discussion, motion was made

by Mrs. Augustine that the Library Committee be authorized to buy necessary sectional bookcases, with locks put on with the approval of the Trustees, the purchase to be made immediately." The bookcases arrived in March 1940.

"Library Chairman, Mrs. Sanford introduced Miss Edith Smith from Morris County Library Association who spoke to us on the topic 'The Library and the Community'. Then Mrs. Fischer played two more beautiful piano solos."--from the minutes of February 13, 1940.

"Mrs. J.[Jesse] R. Teed spoke for a few moments" at the meeting on February 25, 1941, "about our building a library. Whether the Library Fund money is to be used for Private or Public Library is what the club will have to decide." The minutes of the next meeting only note that the topic was discussed; however, the content of the discussion was not recorded.

As an investment in the future of America, in January 1942, the club members voted to purchase Defense Bonds. "A report on the purchase of United States Defense Bonds was made stating the Club had purchased from the account of the Library Fund in the Citizens National Bank of Caldwell three \$100 bonds, one \$500 bond, one \$5000 bond, making a total at maturity in twelve years of \$5,800 as a total of \$4292 was paid for these bonds."

"Mrs. Percy Teed asked", at the meeting on March 3, 1943, "for coat hangers for the Red Cross and asked that it be put in the minutes that our Club was once organized as a Literary Club and it was called Roseland Woman's Literary Club Society."

"A motion was made and seconded the Library Committee pick out suitable books to send to Camp Meade. A motion was made and seconded \$50 be spent for new books." --from the January 11, 1944 minutes.

In June of 1944, Mr. Perry Strausburg, owner of the Charter Rock Library Building on Eagle Rock Avenue, sold the building that had been the former Roseland Presbyterian Chapel to the Roseland Woman's Club to be used as their Club House and Library. Included in the \$6,000 sale was a number of book shelves, books and certain articles of furniture. Later that year, a bronze plaque was mounted to the new Club House commemorating the Riley W. Bond Bequest that had been received 22 years earlier. The plaque states,

“THE RILEY W. BOND BEQUEST
THIS BUILDING WAS ACQUIRED
AND DEDICATED BY THE
ROSELAND WOMAN’S CLUB
IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH AND
MAINTAIN A LIBRARY
AS A MEMORIAL
TO RILEY W. BOND
THE BELOVED FATHER OF
NELLIE BOND OSBORN[sic]
A FORMER CLUB MEMBER
October 24, 1944”

In 1982, club members generously offered to give the title of their Club House to the Borough of Roseland for \$1.00 if certain conditions could be met. These conditions included: the right of the Woman’s Club to use the premises free of charge for a maximum of 18 meetings per year, that the exterior appearance of the premises not be altered, and that the proceeds of any sale of the premises be donated to the Roseland Free Public Library.

Correspondence indicates that the club members’ stipulations could not be met by the Borough Council and at a meeting on July 7, 1982, the Board of Trustees of the Roseland Woman’s Club voted to withdraw their offer to the Borough of Roseland and voted to sell their building.

In 1985, in keeping with the wishes of the memorial bequest made 60 years earlier, the Roseland Woman’s Club generously donated \$75,000, the

proceeds of the sale of their Club House, to the Building Fund of the Roseland Free Public Library. The club members have always kept their interest in books and libraries. The membership saw a need in the community for a library facility and felt an obligation to the residents of Roseland.

THE MUNICIPAL ROSELAND FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

At a regular meeting of the Roseland Borough Council on August 13, 1968, the Council adopted a resolution placing the question of whether or not to make the Library in Roseland a municipally funded facility on the referendum at the general election in November.

The residents of Roseland voted in a referendum to make the Roseland Library a municipal library instead of an association library. Library service then became supported by tax dollars rather than donations.

The certificate of incorporation of the Roseland Free Public Library was signed and notarized on December 30, 1971. Raymond Simpson, Jane Martinez, Elizabeth Lincoln, Bernice Dockrell, John Hall, and Frederick Renz, Jr., signed the document in the presence of Robert Bosworth, Borough Administrator. The incorporation was recorded by the Essex County Clerk on January 6, 1972. We now celebrate the 25th anniversary of this date of incorporation.

THE FIRST ATTEMPT AT LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION

During the Fall of 1970, the Board of Trustees began interviewing architects. Holmish, Haas and Cordasco, Architects and Planners, was selected. Plans, sketches, and elevations for an 11,000 square foot municipal library were drawn and discussed with the Mayor and Council.

The Roseland Free Public Library Board of Trustees, in order to provide more and better services, petitioned the governing body for authorization for a new library building. The Borough Council unanimously voted in March 1974 to put a referendum on the ballot in the general election to measure public sentiment. The question was: "Shall the Borough of Roseland adopt a bond ordinance appropriating \$536,000 for the construction of a new building for the Roseland Free Public Library?"

The Council's action came in response to a request from the Board of Trustees for permission to proceed with architectural and engineering preparations for a new facility with plans that were drawn a few years earlier.

In the November 5, 1974, general election, 2057 (76%) of the 2685 registered voters in Roseland went to the polls. Residents rejected the referendum for the new library by a vote of 1083 to 611.

LIBRARY ON THE MOVE

As the collection continued to grow and library usage increased, the book collection was moved to rooms in the rear of the Roseland Methodist Church in 1975. Jean Fardelmann joined the staff as an Assistant Librarian.

The weight of the growing collection of books threatened the floor at the Roseland Methodist Church and the Library had to be moved again. Following a feasibility study of Roseland's two schools (Harrison Avenue School and Lester C. Noecker Elementary School), the Library was moved to the Lester C. Noecker School on Passaic Avenue. A decision was made to choose the more appropriate structure over the more appropriate location. In September 1978, the Library reopened its doors in several classrooms at the school.

The Board of Trustees concluded that the move to the Lester C. Noecker School was a success for both the school and the Library as circulation and memberships continued to increase. However, the Board's desire to better serve the public in a centrally located separate facility continued.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library was reorganized in 1980, under the leadership of Jerry Sherman and with support of many regular library-goers. The organization

provided programs for the community and raised funds to enhance library services.

HOW A COMMUNITY BUILDS A LIBRARY

The Board of Trustees hired Robert Neufeld, a professional librarian, as Library Director in April 1983, as the Borough of Roseland celebrated its 75th year as an incorporated municipality.

On May 8, 1985, the Library hosted a reception for Roseland organizations, requesting that each organization plan a fund-raiser for the new Library. This was followed up by an Open House for the entire community. In preparation for the Library's first major out-reach effort, Elise Blum and Rob Neufeld produced an internal case statement, outlining the needs, goals, objectives and background of the building project. Elise Blum and Bud Strauss formed a fundraising committee; Carl Guerrina, the Library Board, and School Superintendent formed a building committee.

The members of the Roseland Free Public Library Board of Trustees during these years were: Marie Yorlano, President; Charles Haight, Vice-President; Raymond Simpson, Treasurer; Eileen Linehan, Secretary; Elise Blum, Fundraising Chairperson; Ruth Sherman; and Jean Wells.

When Roseland Public Works erected the sign at Roseland Avenue and Fells Road identifying the new

Library site, June 1985, it was a signpost of the community's progress. The Library was prepared to respond to the outpouring of community spirit that followed. At this point, Connie Filippello, who was to become the major organizer of special events, began her work in quest of the great goal. She, Esther Fox, and Kay McCormack pooled skills arranging festivities, invitations, and publicity. Rob Neufeld created a slide show for the occasion and, advised by Bob Braden, collaborated in the production of the Library's first informational piece, a handsome brochure highlighting the "New Building Preview and Open House". Marie Yorlano, Charles Haight, and Elise Blum addressed concerns and curiosity.

The response of Roseland's organizations provided the next emotional and financial lift to the Library. The Roseland Junior Woman's Club dedicated the proceeds of its annual fund-raiser, a musical theater show and dinner, to the Library. The local Veterans of Foreign Wars (#2619) ran a Country/Western Jamboree for the new Library. The many supporters of children's programs developed by the Library pitched in to create a kids' carnival that summer. Many people worked to generate fun for the children and funds for the building project. The Friends of the Roseland Library funneled their annual contribution toward the new building. At the same time, a group of residents from Nob Hill distributed a letter drafted by Mendell Seagull that solicited donations from the Nob Hill community. The Rotary and Kiwanis, Roseland's two civic-minded organizations, designated large portions of their charity and welfare

budgets towards the new Library. The Home and School Association's 1985 October Fair benefited the building fund, too. Library Youth Task Force organizer, Kathie Kaczynski, organized a major youth fund-raiser. The borough's Youth Guidance Council sponsored and judged a Library Essay contest.

The Bellemead Development Corporation, developers of the Route 280 Corporate Center on Becker Farm Road, donated the architectural and engineering services of Alvin Dattoli for design of the new library building.

Brant Cali of Cali Associates and Herm Simonse of Bellemead, working with Bud Strauss, hosted a fundraising luncheon for executives from Roseland's corporate residents.

Many Roseland families, organizations, and businesses not only made generous donations, but also gave their support, their time, and their energies to the building campaign.

The spade ceremonially lifted earth on November 17, 1985, breaking ground for the "new" Roseland Free Public Library.

In July 1986, the Board of Trustees of the Roseland Free Public Library received notification from the Library Development Bureau of the New Jersey State Library that Roseland was awarded grant funds in the amount of \$141,500 toward the \$1.4 million construction.

On November 8, 1986, "Puttin' On the Ritz", a fundraising event, provided an evening of casino games, dancing and dinner. Connie Filippello, Norm Raymond, Elise Blum, and Lou LaSalle directed the gala, along with many residents who served on various committees. The evening's proceeds added more than \$25,000 to the Building Fund.

In June 1987, the library collection was moved to the "new" Roseland Free Public Library building. The official ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held later on November 1, 1987, when the new facility was dedicated. Marie Yorlano, President of the Library Board of Trustees, was the Master of Ceremonies. Dozens of speeches, introductions, and addresses were followed by the actual cutting of the ribbon and a reception.

Following the resignation of Robert Neufeld, the Board of Trustees appointed Judith Lind, a professional librarian, as Library Director in November 1988. With a commitment to service, the Board of Trustees continued to appoint professional librarians for the leadership roles as a way to increase the quality of service to the community. Soon after, Reina Jacobowitz was appointed as Reference Librarian and Anne Hurley was appointed as Children's Librarian.

With a new facility and enhanced professional staffing, the focus of the Board of Trustees was to provide the very best library service possible and to provide access to the world of information. Particular

attention was given to collection development as the staff took great care to stock the library shelves with books that would meet the informational and recreational reading needs of the children and adult members of the community. Several Collection Evaluation and Development Grants and a Technology Grant from the New Jersey State Library totaling \$71,800 helped the collection quickly grow and gave funding for the initial steps into technological library service. Gradually, the "new" Roseland Free Public Library was providing library service to an increasing number of Roseland residents.

Following the resignation of Anne Hurley in 1993, the Board of Trustees appointed Nancy Shacklette as the new Children's Librarian. Nancy brought her experience, enthusiasm, and a love of children and books to Roseland.

In 1994, the state statistics reported that the Roseland Free Public Library had the third highest circulation of library materials per capita in Essex County. In 1995 and 1996, the Library was in second place.

FROM THE FIRST COMPUTER TO AN AUTOMATED FACILITY

In 1989, the Library purchased its first computer which was a 286 Epson Equity 1+ computer with MS-DOS Version 3.2 and the software that could produce

catalog cards and labels. Previously, sets of catalog cards were manually typed one card at a time, but The Librarian's Helper software created and produced full sets of catalog cards easily. Having served the Library well, this computer and software are still in daily use as the Library approaches automation in 1997.

This year, the GALAXY Integrated Library System, a turnkey automation system created by Gaylord Information Systems, will be installed at the Library. GALAXY provides state-of-the-art system modules for cataloging, circulation, on-line public access, acquisitions, and networking--together with a host of features that provide sophisticated reporting and simple system operation.

After reviewing many automation systems, GALAXY was selected by the Board of Trustees because it was found to be the most user-friendly. The company held the best record for customer support, and was recommended by many local libraries that had been using a version of the system for years.

Patrons will find what they want easily and quickly with the GALAXY On-line Public Access Catalog (OPAC). The Graphical User Interfaces (GUI) will permit a user to operate the computer by clicking on appropriate images (icons) drawn on the screen, making computer operation accessible for those with even minimal computer expertise.

Searches can be simple or sophisticated. Patrons can search step-by-step by author, title, subject, or keyword. Full Boolean capability (the use of **and**, **or**, **not** in searching) is supported, as is proximity searching.

The OPAC Bulletin Board will provide news and information, plus a map of the Library.

Individualized training will be made available for children and adults; and the staff is always available to assist patrons of all ages with their informational needs.

FACTS AND FIGURES

THE LIBRARY GROWS IN SIZE AND USAGE

COLLECTION SIZE

YEAR	NUMBER OF BOOKS
1987	17,916
1988	19,424
1989	21,891
1990	24,102
1991	26,450
1992	28,349
1993	31,740
1994	32,094
1995	35,345
1996	39,000

YEARLY CIRCULATION TOTALS

YEAR	NUMBER OF BOOKS
1987	17,777
1988	28,900
1989	32,591
1990	39,649
1991	49,322
1992	55,806
1993	66,414
1994	67,919
1995	71,672
1996	73,392

**CIRCULATION INCREASED 413% FROM 1987
TO 1996.**

CIRCULATION PER CAPITA
(from the Analysis of New Jersey Public Library
Statistics)

YEAR LIBRARY CAPITA	CIRCULATION OF MATERIALS PER
1987	3.3
1988	5.3
1989	5.9
1990	8.2
1991	10.2
1992	11.5
1993	13.3
1994	13.6
1995	14.3
1996	14.6

GRANTS AWARDED

Construction Grants

	YEAR	AMOUNT
Construction Grant (State)	1986	\$ 141,500
Construction Grant (County)	1986	25,000
TOTAL		\$ 166,500

Collection Evaluation and Development Grants

TITLE OF PROJECT	YEAR	AMOUNT
Consumer Health and Medicine	1989	\$ 10,000
Art and Music	1990	10,000

Literary Criticism, Poetry and the Classics	1991	10,000
Natural Sciences and the Environment	1992	10,000
Biographical Sources	1993	10,000
Literary Criticism	1996	12,000

Technology Grant

CD-ROM Technology	1993	9,800
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TOTAL \$ 71,800

CURRENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Steven Perlmutter, President
Elizabeth McGovern, Vice President
Helen Degnan, Treasurer
Deborah LaMonica, Secretary
Richard Fassett, Chairman, 25th Anniversary Committee
Frances Rubinroit
Florence Banks
Joseph Bergen
Marianne Turnbull

FORMER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Marianne Cavallo	Eileen Linehan
Nicholas Corbo	Jane Martinez
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Louis DeBell, Mayor

John Arvanites
John Derites
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Wesley Hughes
Richard Leonard
Michael Pacio

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Judith Lind, Director
M.A. - New York University
M.A. - Rowan College of New Jersey
B.A. - Kean College of New Jersey

Reina Jacobowitz, Reference Librarian
M.L.S. - Wayne State University
M.S. Ed. - Queens College
B.A. - Albany State

Nancy Shacklette, Children's Librarian
M.L.S. - Rutgers University
B.A. - Dunbarton College

PROFESSIONAL STAFF - PART TIME

Margaret Yao, Reference Librarian
M.A. - Western Michigan University
B.A. - National Taiwan Normal University

Tina Arkoff, Reference Librarian
M.A. - Pratt Institute
B.A. - Brooklyn College

SUPPORT STAFF

Dorothy Pruden, Administrative Assistant
Vincent Rosamilia, Head of Technical Services
Ann Cramer, Library Assistant
Jill Pruden, Library Assistant
Mary Ann Kocornik, Library Assistant
Fred Moson, Library Assistant
Lisa Origlieri, Page

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS WHO HELPED BUILD THE LIBRARY

Boy Scouts of America
Friends of the Library
Home and School Association of Roseland
Nob Hill Club
Roseland-Caldwell VFW Post No. 2619
Roseland Girl Scouts
Roseland Historical Society
Roseland Junior Women's Club
Roseland Kiwanis Club
Roseland Men's Club
Roseland Rotary Club
Roseland Senior Citizens' Club
Roseland Woman's Club
The Town Set
Unico National, Roseland Chapter

CLOSING REMARKS

The future of the Roseland Free Public Library is ours to make and given the current ever growing support, use, and enthusiasm of the Library's patrons, it would appear that the Roseland Library is healthy in all respects and fully capable of meeting the Library needs of the future. In order to ensure the positive development of our Library services, we need to do all we can to make known to the community the Library service available and to make sure our patrons recognize that we need and welcome their ongoing communication and participation

in determining the focus of Library services in the future.

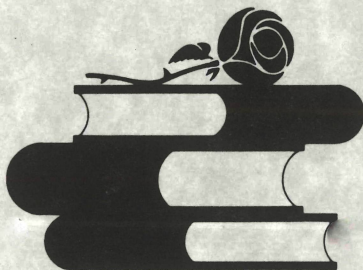
Richard Fassett

Chairman, 25th Anniversary Committee

On the opening day of library service on July 29, 1961, a bookmark was distributed announcing the new community service. It stated "COME TO THE LIBRARY AND BORROW BOOKS." On the reverse side of the bookmark was the following:

**John Cotton Dana's
Twelve Famous Rules
About Reading**

1. Read.
2. Read.
3. Read some more.
4. Read anything.
5. Read about everything.
6. Read enjoyable things.
7. Read things you yourself enjoy.
8. Read, and talk about it.
9. Read very carefully some things.
10. Read on the run most things.
11. Don't think about reading, but
12. Just read.



Roseland
Free Public
Library

20 Roseland Avenue
Roseland, NJ 07068

973-226-8636