



DEDICATION

SOUTH PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE

APRIL 2, 1967



Seated: Mrs. William G. Earles

Standing left to right: James L. Tabor, Edward V. Chenevert

Library Building Committee

CHARLES M. MORHARDT

JOHN LEASURE

CASBURAGE COMPANY, INC.

Consultant

Architect

Contractor

City Officials

BERNAL B. ALLEN

City Manager

CITY COUNCIL

SAMUEL A. HINDS, *Chairman*

WILBUR W. PHILBROOK

SIDNEY SCHWARTZ

GARTH L. GOOD

E. LYLE FLYNN

Library Advisory Board

Left to right: Andrew Flaherty, John Baird, Mrs. Ann Bauer, Director, Roger Sturtevant, Mrs. Elizabeth Frame, Bruce Matthews





Thomas Fee C. Henry Noyes
 Marguerite Roberts

Kiwanis Club

Patrons (Gifts over \$500)

Kiwanis Club Edward H. Daveis Benevolent Fund
 Osewantha Garden Club Hannaford Brothers Co.

Donors (Gifts under \$500)

Jaycee Wives So. Portland Federal Savings & Loan
 Kaler School PTA Mr. & Mrs. Leroy W. Dymont
 Pine State By-Products Portland Pipe Line
 George C. Shaw Company Wolfe Ford Sales, Inc.

Osewantha Garden Club

Left to right: Mrs. Bernard Harris, Mrs.
 Clinton T. Goudy, Mrs. Edward V. Chenevert



Program

Invocation

REVEREND FATHER NORMAN CORMIER, *Holy Cross Church*

Introduction of honored guests

Prayer

REVEREND WILLIAM TINGLEY, *First Congregational Church*

Speaker

HERBERT ROSS BROWN, *Edward Little Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Bowdoin College*

Announcements

Dedication of the Library

SAMUEL A. HINDS, *Chairman, City Council of South Portland*

Benediction

RABBI MORRIS BEKRITSKY, *Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue*

Refreshments

Ushers: Members of the Keyette Club of South Portland High School

History

Attempts to establish a public library in South Portland can be traced back into the nineteenth century, but the first significant official step toward achievement of this goal was made in 1938. In that year three City Council members and three members of the Osewantha Garden Club were appointed "to formulate and draw up proper ordinances, orders or resolves for the establishment of a library in South Portland." They recommended that the Knightville School House, then situated at the junction of Ocean Street and Cottage Road, be used as the library and an initial sum of \$15,000 be appropriated to make it suitable for the purpose. This proposal, however, went down to defeat in a referendum of that year, with 840 citizens voting for its passage and 1,041 against. Fortunately, despite this setback, the City Council did not let the matter drop completely. In 1939 they sold the Knightville School House and provided that this money, plus that received from future rental of the land on which it had stood, plus any other gifts or appropriations designated for the purpose, be set aside as a special library fund.

No further specific action was taken for library service until 1952, when, following a study made by a citizens' committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Robert G. Albion, a contract was negotiated with the Portland Public Library. Under its provisions South Portland residents could use Portland's library as freely as its own residents, with the City of South Portland paying \$5,000 a year, plus \$4.00 for each card holder beyond 1,250.

This cooperative plan worked very well, but it became obvious that a city the size of South Portland should have some form of a library within its own city limits. In 1959, City Manager Bernal B. Allen proposed that a portion of what was then the high school, when the addition to the Junior High was completed, might be used as a public library. Through the cooperation of the South Portland High School Librarian, Mrs. Florence

H. Hascall, in the summer of 1961 the high school library was opened to the public two evenings a week, money from the city's library fund was used to purchase books, and the high school collection was also made available for general public use.

In 1962, the newly formed South Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce chose the building of a library as their community project. A tentative site was chosen, plans were drawn, and a public subscription campaign was launched. It was not due to lack of effort and enthusiasm on their part that their \$100,000 goal was not reached. But they had aroused community interest anew and credit goes to them for another step in the evolution of the library.

It was the youth of the city who finally set the spark motivating official government action. In January, 1964, an eighth grade social studies class from South Portland Junior High School, after much research and opinion seeking under the guidance of their teacher, Mr. Terrence Christy, brought to the City Council its plea for a public library. The Council reacted immediately by appointing a library study/building committee. This was followed by the hiring of an architect, a library building consultant, the choosing of a site, and the appointment of a Library Advisory Board. On October 16, 1965 ground was broken for the \$300,579 building, of which sum approximately 58 percent was provided by the federal Library Services Act.

Temporary headquarters had already been set up in the basement of the Brown School in June, 1965, with the transfer of the public library book collection from the high school library. Mrs. Sarah White Jackson was appointed Acting Director and carried out the preliminary organization and acquisition of books until the appointment of Mrs. Ann Bauer as Director in September, 1965. The move into the new library building was made on August 25, 1966 and the doors were opened for service to the public on December 10, 1966. The goal was reached. The dreams and hopes of many far-sighted citizens were finally realized.

Library Staff

MISS ANN ELIZABETH BAUER	Director
MRS. BARBARA GRAVES	Librarian II
MRS. EVELYN ROBINSON	Librarian II (Part-time)
MRS. SYLVIA WILSON	Library Assistant II
MRS. RUTH GELLER	Library Assistant I
MISS SELAH RICHMOND	Library Assistant I
MRS. JEANNETTE BOUCHARD	Clerk I
MRS. MARILYN BRADO	Clerk I
MARGARET DOW	Page
WILBUR COCHRAN	Page

Library Staff

Front Row left to right: Mrs. Sylvia Wilson, Mrs. Marilyn Brado, Mrs. Ruth Geller
Back Row left to right: Wilbur Cochran, Mrs. Ann Bauer, Miss Selah Richmond



