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THIS WEEK IN TEANECK

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Library - Center Of Learning

The Township of Teaneck's Municipal Library, nestled in the shadow of Eugene Field School and adjacent to the municipal complex is a monument to the concern of Teaneck residents with reading and education.

The library boasts a book list of 115,000 volumes with access to books in 46 other public libraries throughout Bergen County.

According to Michael D. McCue, Library Director, the township's facility was recently designated a regional reference center by the Bergen-Passaic Regional Library Cooperative which entitled it to a \$35,000 grant in 1987 and a \$48,000 grant this year for the purchase of reference materials and computers.

The most dramatic change in the library over the past year has been the inauguration of automation in all phases of operation, according to McCue.

Also, for the first time, the library has a security system which alerts librarians when a book, which has been not processed is leaving the building. McCue claims that approximately 15,000 volumes have disappeared from the library, estimating that about 1,000 a year were stolen in the past.

There are 16,000 cardholders for the public library since it changed over the new computer cards in 1986, and McCue says that there are presently 100 new registrations per week.

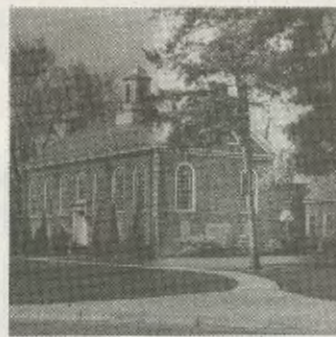
The library's strong subjects are business, Judaica and Black Studies, according to the librarian, but coming up strong is an interest in video rentals available at the facility.

Fifteen months ago, rentals for the library's video collection was approximately 300

per month, however currently that figure has increased three-fold to 900 per month, he said.

The library has its own collection of video tapes, as well as a circulating collection in cooperation with 36 other libraries throughout the county. Rentals are fifty cents per day, and borrowers are encouraged to return the tapes within 48 hours.

Within the building is an active children's reading



room, in which programs are offered to tots as well as children and parents.

McCue said that the library is trying to persuade fathers to bring their children dressed in pajamas to the library's bedtime story hours on Tuesday's from 7:30 to 8 p.m. That program is for children from three to seven years old.

The local public library program began in 1912, as an outgrowth of a collection of books which were stored in the sunroom of Mrs. A.N. Jordan.

She obtained the books from her brother-in-law and stored them in a sunroom until Johnny Imhoff borrowed several he wanted to read.

Soon others were borrowing books and Mrs. Jordan began circulating them among her friends.

Neighbors began to assist her, and then she learned that she would obtain books from the State Library in Trenton if she could get ten property owners to back the plan.

Soon the library outgrew the sunroom and was moved to a candy store and later to a drug store on Station Street, according to *The History Of Teaneck*, by Mildred Taylor.

"The Library Ladies" purchased the Old Stone Cabin near Bedford Avenue as the site for the new library and paid \$2,000. The original members of the association were, Mrs. A. Ahrens, Mrs. Evalina Caddy, Mrs. Agnes Campbell, Mrs. Carl Franke, Mrs. R.W. Greenlaw, Mrs. Sarah Kennedy, Mrs. Eva Lebeck, Mrs. Lena Hibbe, Mrs. Rose Peinecke, Mrs. Frances Quasdorf, Mrs. Frank Sample, Mrs. Ella Schumann, Miss Matte Schott and Mrs. Irene Thackwell.

Two years later, in 1925, the building was sold for \$17,500 to developers and the ladies made a pitch to the governing body to plan and build a library if the township would donate the land and earmark \$5,000 toward annual maintenance.

The current building was constructed and opened in 1927 with 650 books on the shelves. Two wings and the junior room were added in 1936 and two more wings were added following World War Two.

Today, books are checked out with a light pen which records the book and the borrower's name on the computer in moments.

McCue said that the only problem with the new system is that there is no card necessary for the library records but which informs residents of when the book is due back.

"We've kept the cards so people know when to return the books," he said. "Otherwise we'd have 50 calls a day.

"The card is probably the only part of the system that is the same as when the library started in the '20's," he said.