

CONDENSED HISTORY OF THE SMYRNA LIBRARY©

When the Smyrna Public Library started in the late months of 1936, its only source of books and finances was from donations of the towns people and their friends. Boy Scouts' and other children went door-to-door collecting books in wheel barrows and small wagons to provide the city with its first "library".

That first library, a joint project of the Smyrna Woman's Club and the Smyrna Men's Club consisted of a single shelf with about 50 books in the Woman's Club building at the corner of Atlanta and Powder Springs Streets. By 1938, the number of volumes had grown to 1400. In 1939 the Men's Club named a committee to raise funds for the addition of a room to the club house to house the books.

Initially financing was provided by the two clubs. Shortly afterwards, however, the city entered a contract with the depression days Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) to provide funds for a librarian. The contract called for a contribution of \$20.00 per month by the W.P.A. through the city, if the Woman and Men's Clubs would match that with \$5.00 from each club, for a total monthly contribution of \$30.00. Club officers were required to sign a pledge that the money would be paid. The contracts with the W.P.A. were renewed each year until the 40's when the agency was abolished.

The present day library, which was completed and dedicated on December 17, 1961, was built by the city at a cost of \$54,000 for the 4000 square foot structure. W. W. Kidd was the construction superintendent. It is located on King Street in the municipal complex and is of modern design and brick construction.

An adult reading facility, named the Jonquil Room was completed and dedicated on December 6, 1970. It houses the reference books and historical and genealogical materials.

The room was named in honor of Mrs. G. C. Green, who was a long-time member of the Library Board and who is attributed as having suggested the name "Jonquil City" for the unofficial name for the City of Smyrna.

A major addition to the building in 1973 added space for books and a children's reading room.

In recent years the administration of the library has been handled by a

committee of the Mayor and Council of the City of Smyrna. At the beginning a Library Board consisting of three members from the Woman's Club and three from the Men's Club determined the policies and made all decisions relative to the operation. The initial board consisted of Dr. W. C. Mitchell, Paul Gresham, C. L. Groce, Mrs. G. C. Green, Mrs. F. W. Dowda, and Mrs. R. R. Manning.

In its fifty year history, seven librarians have directed the activities of the facility: Mrs. Callie Jay, Mrs. Floy Williams, Mrs. Mazie Nelson, Mrs. J. W. Estes, Mrs. Evelyn Ashton, Mrs. Kathryn Jones, and the current librarian, Mrs. Doris Morris

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN? by Bill Barnett

-Jones Shaw Road was paved and became the "shortcut" to Austell Rd.?

-Smyrna Cable T. V. (originally Electrovision, Inc.) was located at Dickson's Shopping Center at the present location of Butler's Drug Store?..

-Smyrna had two police cars: Numbers 11 and 22?

-Ward Street was only a trail behind Belmont Hills?

-The Smyrna Teen Canteen was on a hill at Belmont Hills where Phototron is now located?

-There was no drive-in service at the Dairy Queen on Atlanta Road?

-The "carline" had a stop at Lockheed before it crossed the Access Highway?

-There were in-ground trampolines on Cherokee Road where the Jet Gasoline station is now located?

-The "Pok-Chop" Drive In" on Atlanta Road was the local teen age hang out?

-The Smyrna teenagers raced to Landers Drug Store at the red light for after school hang out?

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