



GRAHAM H. ANDREWS
MAYOR

October 31, 1945

This volume contains ten years of records of the Richard B. Harrison Public Library of Raleigh, North Carolina and is a tribute to the foresight and courage of the librarian, Mrs. Mollie Huston Lee, who in spite of many obstacles has always had the courage to carry on and has built in Raleigh an institution which is a fine tribute to her ability.

I predict for the library much greater growth in the ten years to come.

Graham H. Andrews

Ex Officio Chairman of the Board
of Trustees of the Richard B.
Harrison Public Library and Mayor
of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Richard B. Harrison
Public Library

Tenth Anniversary
1935-1945



Raleigh, North Carolina

HISTORY

During Negro History Week in 1935 a group of white and Negro citizens assembled at Christ Church to discuss the possibilities of establishing a library which would serve the Negroes in Raleigh and Wake County.

The group was composed of the Mayor, representatives from the N. C. Library Commission and the Department of Public Instruction as well as leaders from various professions and clubs.

After a lengthy discussion about the proposed library, the Mayor said that it would be desirable for the Negroes to raise money toward the establishment of the library and that the city commissioners would appropriate \$2,500. With this encouragement, the campaign was organized with "A dollar and a book" as its slogan. Four committees were formed, namely: finance, publicity, book and location. These committees functioned well. The proposed library had excellent publicity, and a large number of books were given. The finance committee canvassed business houses and received many personal contributions. They gave concerts and entertainments to raise funds. The location committee found its task a difficult one. Various sites were considered, but after taking all factors under consideration it was decided that a central, accessible location on the main Negro thoroughfare of the city was best.

With the exhibition of such intense interest the city and county made their appropriations for a Negro public library without debate, setting aside \$3,250 for the purpose. This was a small sum in the city and county budgets, yet it was large enough to start a library and to pay a trained librarian. The money raised by the citizens was used to purchase needed equipment.

The library board was appointed by the Mayor. It was composed of six citizens who demonstrated their interest in the library's development. They were named for terms of two, four and six years.

At this point on November 12, 1935, the Richard B. Harrison Public Library opened its doors to the book-starved Negroes in Raleigh and Wake County with 890 volumes.

GROWTH

<i>Year</i>	<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Books</i>	<i>Borrowers</i>	<i>Circulation</i>
1935	\$3,250	1,518	2,472	8,453
1940	\$4,800	6,275	5,597	23,469
1945	\$8,100	11,998	8,344	60,863

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Within the last ten years the city commissioners have appropriated \$27,950 and the county commissioners \$20,350. In 1941 the General Assembly of North Carolina appropriated money to be used as State Aid to public libraries. This library has realized \$1,971.57 from this fund.

LIBRARY SERVICES

MAIN LIBRARY—Open Monday, Wednesday, 12 to 9 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 12 to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

WAKE COUNTY BOOKMOBILE—Serves Wake County borrowers eight school days each month. There are 58 stops made at schools, churches, cafes, stores, barber shops and homes. Children in 34 schools have the privilege of borrowing books. The bookmobile travels on the average of 383 miles during the eight-day period.

HOSPITAL LIBRARY SERVICE—Once a week patients at St. Agnes Hospitals are given bedside library service. A hospital book truck filled with suitable books and magazines is rolled to the beds of the patients and they are permitted to choose reading matter to suit their interest. The book collection is changed every six weeks.

CHAVIS HEIGHTS BRANCH LIBRARY—Open Monday through Friday, 4 to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This library is for the people in the Chavis Heights Housing Project and those in the vicinity. It has a book collection of 1,000 books and subscribes to eight magazines and three newspapers.

ACTIVITIES WHICH THE LIBRARY HAS SPONSORED

Children's story hours.
 Vacation reading clubs.
 Hobby clubs and contests.
 Book parties for children.
 Lectures.
 Art exhibits.
 Book review clubs.
 Courses in the use of the library for visiting school classes.
 Meeting place for various organizations.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

BUILDING

Plans are being made for a new library building which will be adequate to house the present book collection and allow for at least 25 years of growth. This library will provide comfortable reading rooms for adults and children. There will be rooms for conferences, radio and record listening, and film forums. The auditorium will be large enough for lectures, dramatics, art exhibits and story hours. The building will be equipped with the best modern lighting, heating, air-conditioning and furnishings.

STAFF

In order that the library can give better and efficient service to its readers, additional trained librarians must be added to the staff. A children's librarian is especially desired and an assistant librarian to relieve the bookmobile librarian so that she can devote full time to county service.

BOOKMOBILE

With the rapid growth of the library service in the county and the demand for more stations and a larger supply of books, it is imperative that the library own a bookmobile which can be in service each week throughout the year.

USE OF LIBRARY

The future progress of the library depends upon the use which is given the library by the citizens of Raleigh and Wake County. The library will make every effort to fulfill its obliga-

tion to the community by making available books and materials which will enlighten the citizenry. *Will you use and support your public library?*

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LIBRARY BOARD

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PERSONNEL

MRS. MOLLIE HUSTON LEE.....*Librarian*
MRS. ANNE E. ROBINSON, *Bookmobile Librarian*
MISS MAUDE E. YOUNG.....*Library Clerk*
MRS. INEZ PEEBLES.....*Bookmobile Driver*

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“Raleigh is justly proud of the Richard B. Harrison Public Library and the splendid work that it is doing. This institution in ten years has made itself a fine part of the Negro life of this community. From a small beginning it has steadily grown in size and usefulness.”

MAYOR GRAHAM H. ANDREWS,
Chairman of Library Board.

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“I am particularly happy to note that the Richard B. Harrison Public Library has made such rapid progress. I am especially pleased with the response that the rural colored people have given the bookmobile. It is most gratifying.”

MR. JOHN P. SWAIN, *Chairman,*
Wake County Commissioners.

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“The Richard B. Harrison Public Library has contributed to mental growth and understanding of its citizens by providing books and library service to Raleigh and Wake County. My best wishes for the future.”

MISS MARJORIE BEAL,
Secretary and Director,
N. C. Library Commission.

Your Library Needs a Permanent Home . . .

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In connection with the tenth anniversary a campaign is being launched to raise \$10,000 toward a permanent home for the Richard B. Harrison Public Library.

YOUR LIBRARY has outgrown its present quarters and there is no room for future expansion of either facilities or services until an adequate building can be secured.

YOUR LIBRARY is an important public service agency which serves all people. It needs and deserves a new home.

*Our Goal \$10,000
Give Generously to Your Library*



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Mayor of Raleigh, N. C.