

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ LIBRARY:

- ◆ A place in which literary, musical, artistic, or reference materials (books, manuscripts, recordings, or films) are kept for use but not for sale.
- ◆ A collection of such materials.

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Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ Libraries have existed for centuries.
- ◆ Before the advent of modern technology, libraries were primarily placed where books, documents and other written material were stored for various use by private or religious organizations.

◆ [Encyclopedia Britannica](#) / by [Don Vaughan](#) Image: © uslatar/stock.adobe.com



Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ The first library to be established in America.
- ◆ In 1636, the "Great and General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony," established the the first school of higher education in Cambridge (Newtowne 1630-1638 Puritian), Mass., which was called, "New College".
- ◆ In 1638, Puritan Clergyman, John Harvard passed, willing half his estate and his collection of 400 books (consisting mostly of religious and theologic topics) to the "New College". This established the first public library in the New World.
- ◆ March 13, 1639, the college was renamed, Harvard College, after it biggest benefactor, John Harvard, later to become Harvard University.

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ For Irondequoit's first 108 years (1839 - 1947), residents of the Town did not have a public library.
- ◆ Only the public schools had small libraries for their students and they were not open all year.
- ◆ Irondequoit residents would visit the Rochester Public Library, often taking a family trip to the city on Saturday morning by bus or family car.

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ In 1946, Pauline Evans began voicing her concerns about Irondequoit's need for a Library of its own.
- ◆ Evans held meetings in her home with various interested parties.
- ◆ In 1947, she established the "Irondequoit Library Association," a group of volunteers, interested in establishing a library for Irondequoit.



Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ Evans solicited the assistance of many organizations, including:
 - ◆ Director of the Rochester Public Library
 - ◆ Library Development Office of the State Education Department in Albany, New York
 - ◆ And the Board of Regents.

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

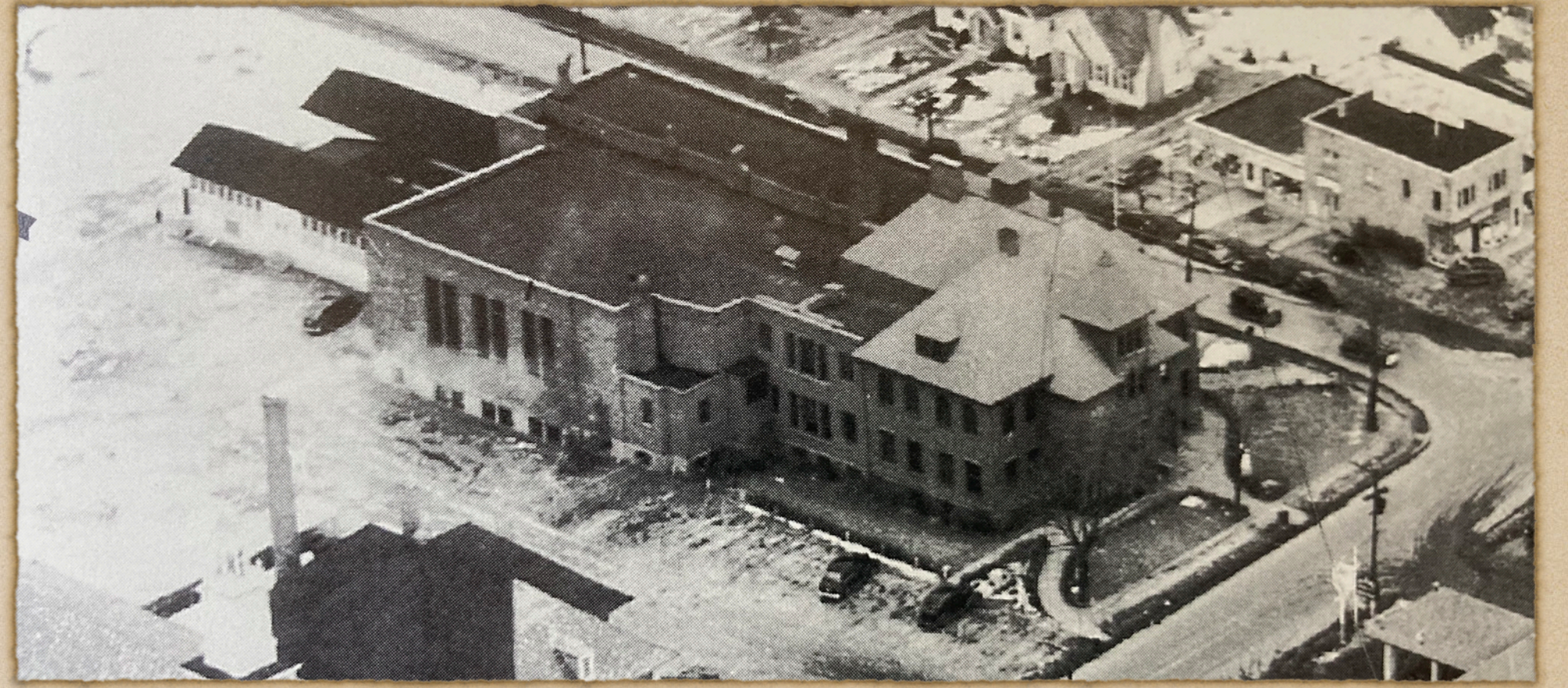
- ◆ In 1947, the School Board, of the old District Number 3 (later to become the West Irondequoit School District) agreed to allow a group of volunteers to keep the school library open during the summer (an experimental trial)
- ◆ On June 30, 1947, Irondequoit Summer Library opens.
- ◆ During the two months the library was open it had 535 borrowers and a collection of around 4500 books.
- ◆ The library was so busy, an area had to be fenced off and high school girls volunteered to watch babies and toddlers in this fenced area, while parents looked for books inside.

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ Library was established in a temporary building, located behind the old Irondequoit High School on the corner of Titus Ave and Cooper Rd.
- ◆ Volunteers staffed the library, which was open during the summer and children's books were borrowed from Seneca, Dake and Rogers Schools, as well as book donations from many people in the community.





Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ Almost instantaneously to the opening of the library in West Irondequoit, Mrs. Norman Graham was instrumental in opening a library branch in Sea Breeze.
- ◆ A small room was obtained for this new library branch in the building that housed the Sea Breeze Water Commissioners Office, 4441 Culver Rd.
- ◆ This library began with only 31 books on the shelf, a significantly smaller collection than at West Irondequoit.



Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ “By January of 1948, a provisional charter had been granted by the Board of Regents of the State of New York. In a relatively short time, all the branches were registered, indicating that they met standards set up by the State Library in Albany.”
 - ◆ Irondequoit Story, page 141 / Maude I. West, Town Historian.
- ◆ Temporary Charter was presented to George F. Helberg, President of the Irondequoit Library Association.

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ In the early years of the library's existence, Mrs. Marsden Tuthill, was instrumental in recruiting about 85 volunteers to work in both libraries, keeping them open six afternoons, five evenings, and one morning each week.
- ◆ The Irondequoit Library Association began searching for a permanent location and looked at many area properties for establishing this goal.
- ◆ Cub Scouts offered their services; collecting used books for the library and raising money to purchase new books.

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ In July 1948, an experimental library was opened in the Laurelton School.
- ◆ The Laurelton Presbyterian Church, on Empire Blvd. and Helendale Rd., offered a 10' x 14' room in their basement.
- ◆ With the help of volunteers preparing the church basement, the Laurelton branch library was moved into the Presbyterian Church and opened in November 1948.



Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ All the donated branches of the Irondequoit Library were rent free including free heat and lighting.
- ◆ The Library Association raised money for telephones, supplies, and postage by charging membership dues. Fundraisers included cake sales, Christmas Card sales, rummage sales, and "penny drives" by schoolchildren.

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ In 1952, the Monroe County Board of Supervisors approved the establishment of the Monroe County Library System.
 - ◆ In the mid-1960s, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down an important decision establishing the “one man - one vote” principle. Based on this historic action, in 1967 the 29 member Monroe County Legislature became the county’s chief lawmaking body, replacing the 43 member Board of Supervisors, which had been in existence for 145 years.
- ◆ In June 1952, the New York State Board of Regents chartered the Monroe County Library System (MCLS) an association of independent public libraries, working together to improve library services for residents in Monroe County.

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ Membership of the MCLS began with sixteen towns, two villages, a school district, and the City of Rochester.
- ◆ Member libraries remain governed by their independent Board of Trustees and funded by local taxes.
- ◆ Irondequoit Library proudly serves on the MCLS, as one of the original sixteen towns.
- ◆ The MCLS' eleven member Board of Trustees are appointed by the Monroe County Legislature.

Irondequoit Public Library

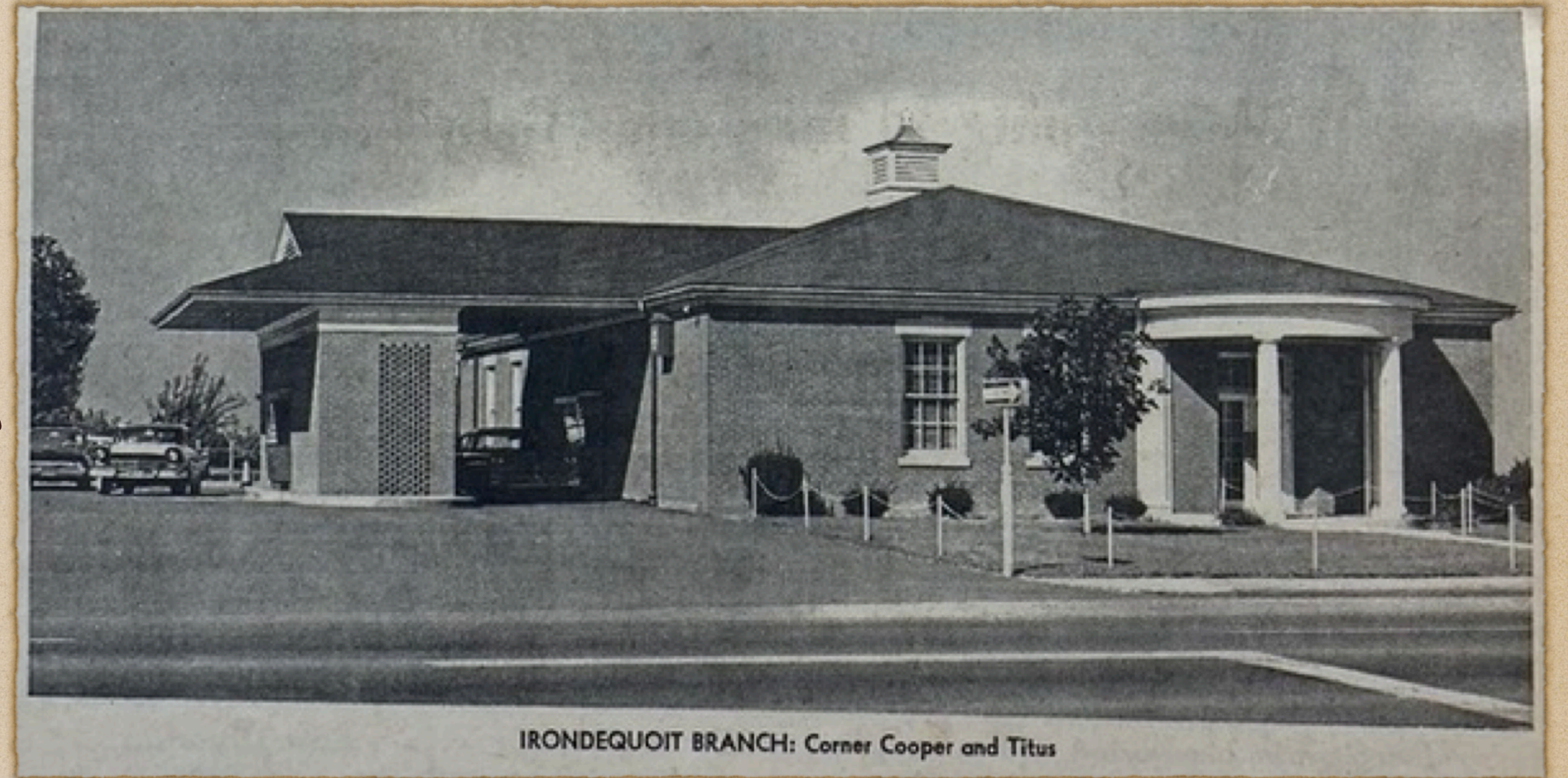
1947 - 2022

- ◆ With the creation of the MCLS, participating libraries were able to share materials. This made it possible for the Irondequoit Library to obtain books or other materials from participating libraries within Monroe County.

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ In 1950, the Irondequoit High School built a new school building further north on Cooper Road.
- ◆ Lincoln Rochester Trust Bank at 621 Titus Avenue replaced the old school building and offered a room in its basement to the Library Association.



Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ On September 27, 1955 an opening dedication of this new library branch was held at the Lincoln Rochester Trust Bank. The ceremony was attended by over 150 volunteers and guests who included Mrs. Frank Gannett, Dr. Charles Gosnell, the State Librarian, and Mr. Harold Hacker, Director of the Rochester and Monroe County Library System.

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ In 1955, Irondequoit had four library branches.
- ◆ Lincoln Rochester Trust Bank, Cooper Rd and Titus Ave
- ◆ 4441 Culver Rd, Sea Breeze
- ◆ Empire Blvd and Helendale Rd, Laurelton Presbyterian Church.
- ◆ Ridgewood Middle School, E Ridge Rd

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ In 1956, volunteers from the Irondequoit Library received a certificate award for 10 years of continuous library service.



Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ In May 1957, a library branch was opened in the new B. Foreman Co. Store located in the Culver Ridge Plaza.
- ◆ B. Foreman Co. provided 600 square feet of space and served the Irondequoit Library free of charge for six years.
- ◆ Upon opening, the other three branches in East Irondequoit consolidated into this new location.



VOLUNTEERS AT OLD BRANCH — Volunteers Mrs. Paul McCarthy and Dianne Walzer (behind Mrs. McCarthy) worked right up to moving time. Press Photo shows crowded quarters in Forman's Culver Ridge store.

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ In 1958, Helen McGraw became the Irondequoit Library's first Library Director.
- ◆ During her first two years, she worked diligently on plans for a new library, presenting a plan to the Irondequoit Town Board in 1961.
- ◆ On April 17, 1961, Irondequoit Tax Payers approved a referendum for the building of two library buildings, one on the West and one on the East side of Town.

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ The Town Board applied to the NYS Board of Regents for a new charter to establish a public library
- ◆ In December 1962, the Irondequoit Library Association Board met for its last time and the volunteer residents group was dissolved.
- ◆ The new Library Board was established and took control of the Irondequoit Public Library.



Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ With the dissolving of the Library Association the Town Board appointed the first new Library Board members.
- ◆ Chairman Bernard F. Jameson - 1 year term.
- ◆ Paul W. Vittum - 5 year term.
- ◆ Rev. Harold W Estes - 4 year term.
- ◆ Treasurer Herbert F. Ryan - 3 year term.
- ◆ Harold O'Dell - 2 year term.

Irondequoit Public Library

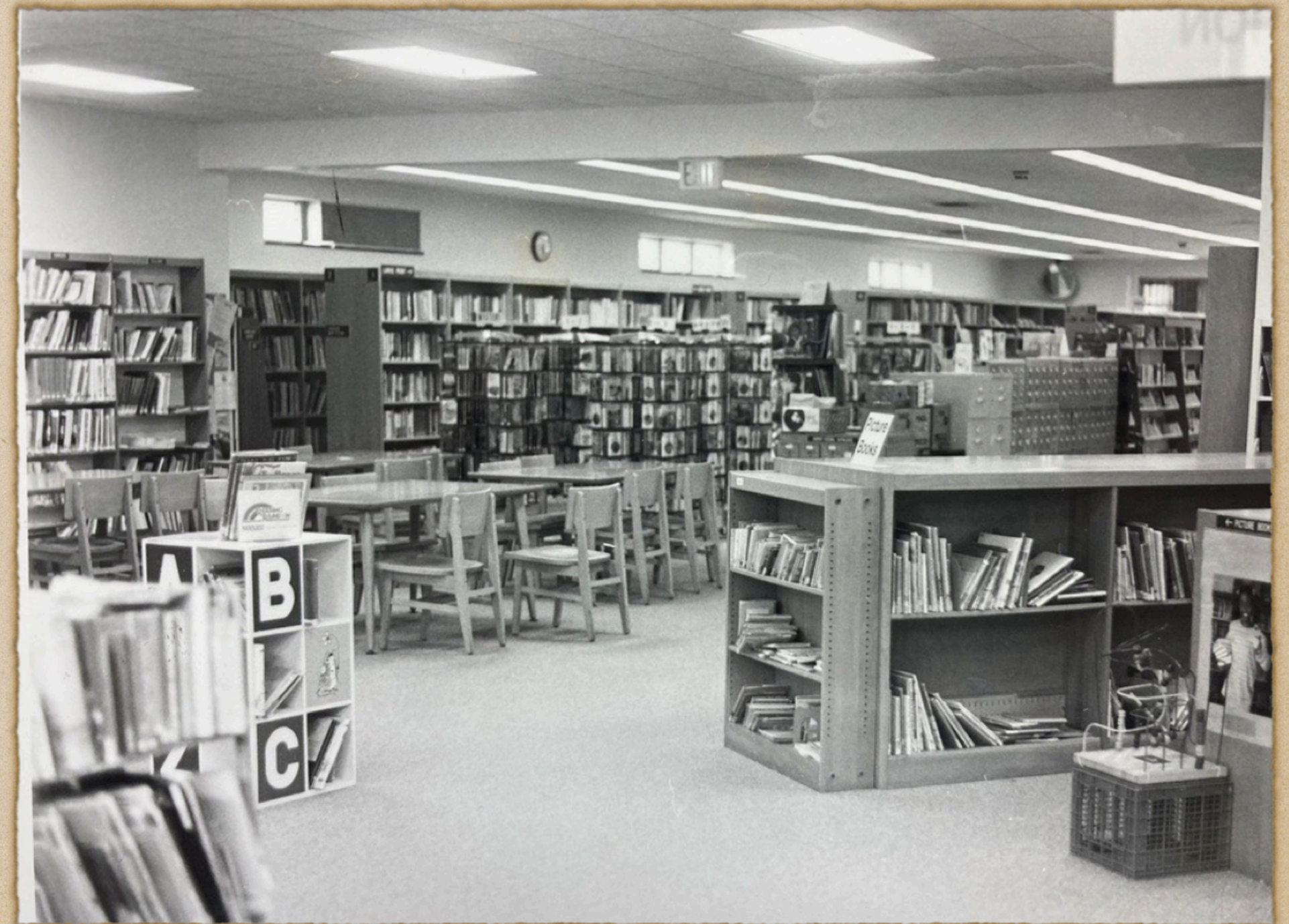
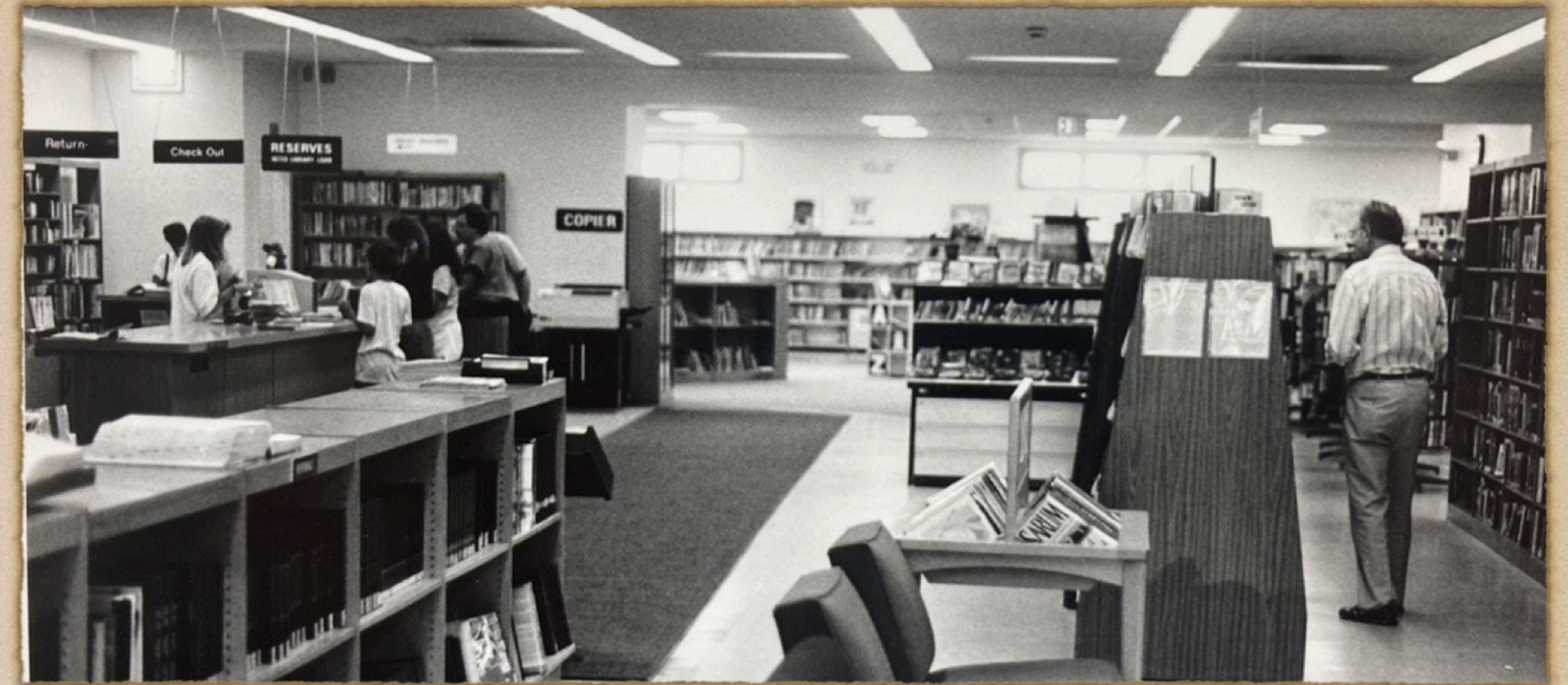
1947 - 2022

- ◆ Sunday, October 27, 1963, the Town of Irondequoit dedicated and welcomed, two beautiful new library buildings
- ◆ 45 Cooper Rd. - West Branch
- ◆ 2180 Ridge Rd E. - East Branch

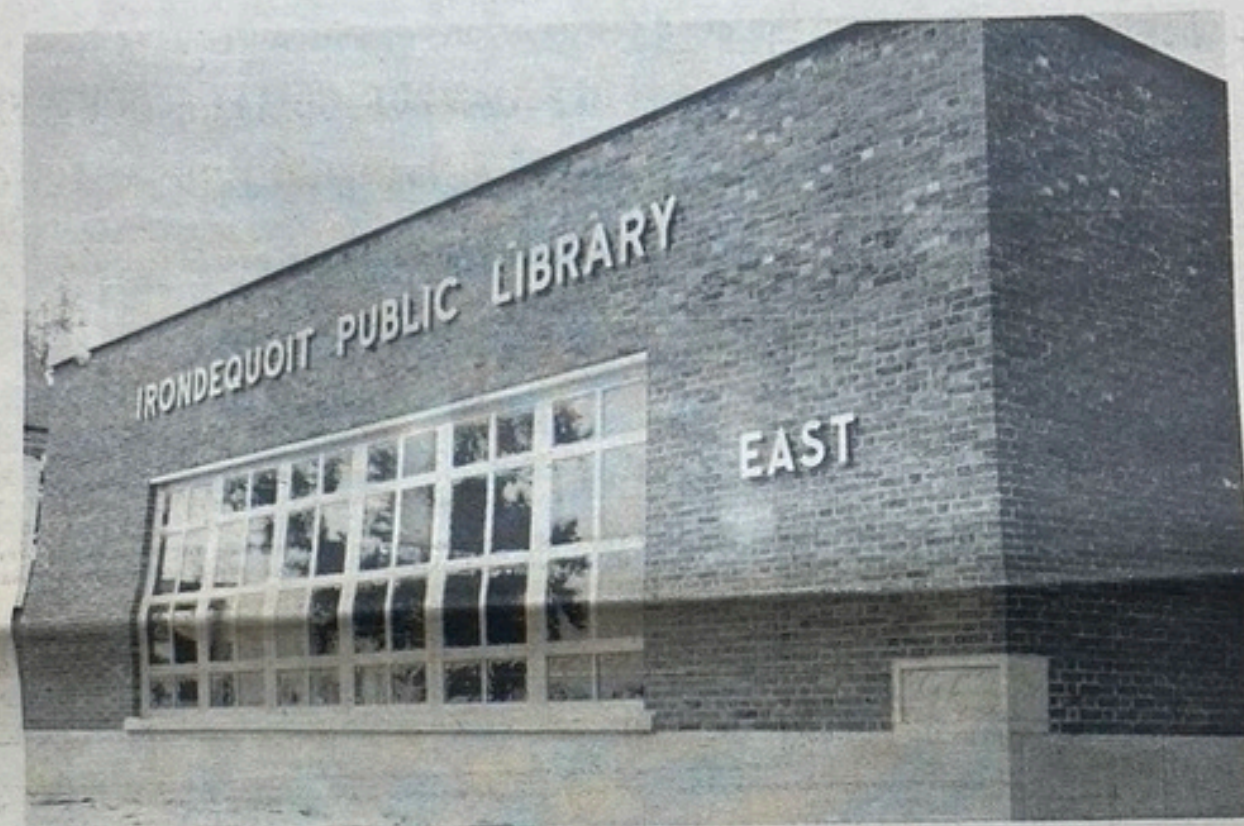


2 The Helen McGraw Branch, opened in 1963,





Opening



Irondequoit Library

East Branch

September 7, 1963

Sonnet of the Books

1963

Sixteen years Irondequoit town has worked,
With a lofty purpose toward intellect
For its people, young and old, to collect.
And now the last mason's trowel has been turned,
So that the dream of multitudes is earned . . .
Ideals in brick and mortar are erect
In library buildings both East and West
Created by the volunteers who clerked
And its presidents Helberg, Robinson,
Friderich, MacIntosh, Christy, Helmer,
Clark, Hanson, and Bernard F. Jameson,
Pioneers Evans, Ryan and helpers
Guided the destiny with distinction
So that knowledge could rise from a cellar.

Miss Anne Bell
East Librarian



Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ In 1975, twelve years after opening these two library buildings, Helen C. McGraw reported that both libraries “were inadequate” in keeping up with the 1,000s of books, non-book materials, and equipment of today.
- ◆ Reports showed that the Irondequoit Public Library buildings were already below state and national library standards upon opening in 1963.

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ In the spring of 2013, a bond resolution was approved for a new, central community library to replace the two-outdated buildings.
- ◆ This approval came with a commitment to seek as much public input as possible for the design, function, and construction of this new library, truly making it the public's, Public Library

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ Forty years after Helen C. McGraw, reported about the inadequacies of the current library buildings, Irondequoit again welcomed and dedicated a new library building on September 9, 2015.
- ◆ Located at 1290 Titus Avenue this new building is more central to Irondequoit and replaced the two existing buildings.





IRONDEQUOIT PUBLIC LIBRARY

IRONDEQUOIT PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Oversees and manages the library,
its staff, and its finances as
directed by law.

FRIENDS OF THE IRONDEQUOIT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volunteer driven to fund and assist
with programs for all ages and
to advocate for the library.



IRONDEQUOIT PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Solicits and manages public and private
funds while building the endowment
for future projects.

Irondequoit Public Library

1947 - 2022

- ◆ Friends of the Library, began in 1972

- ◆