

DIRECTOR'S REPORT August - September, 2000

The first part of the annual State Aid application, the ARIS form, has been completed and mailed as of August 28th. Statistics provided from **NOBLE** to complete the form showed that library circulation is about level with last year. Construction at Town Hall which closed the parking lot and blocked the easiest entrance to the Children's Room succeeded in lowering circulation there. But there were over 12,000 "users of electronic resources", e.g., uses of the public PC's, a fact which I did not fail to mention at the second Selectmen -sponsored department head meeting.

An Proposition 2 ½ override will be sought again. Prior to the first try, departments were asked to send a prioritized wish list to the Selectmen, which the library did. I culled three items from that original list when asked again in August. Copies are included with this mailing.

A new Administrative Assistant, Barbara Clarke, has been hired. She will be attending a workshop with me on the second half of the State Aid form, the financial report, on September 20th. I will also have the usual extra **NOBLE** meetings in September as they begin their budget process for the next year then.

We received notification that as a library qualifying for the region's Supplemental Services program (population under 25,000) we will have 600 Baker & Taylor dollars. Baker & Taylor is the FY2001 state bid holder for hard cover books and some other materials. Purchases should be made early in the fiscal year and should be circulation materials.

The down spout which purportedly is causing the dampness in the old Technical Services Room (now closed) has been installed. I got tired of waiting for a third electrical contractor to provide and estimate for the third floor lighting and am now waiting for Ideal Electric to provide one. All three contractors have different ideas about how to approach the lighting challenges in the Study Room and the Museum which will need consideration.

I was busy this Summer designing two brochures, one of which is included with these materials. Planning for a new program, the Mystery Book Group, also occupied much time. I have given over design of the Library's web page to our very competent Assistant Director/Reference Librarian, who will be attending a **NOBLE** workshop on the subject.

I met with Mary Paulson, who wants to reorganize the "Friends of the Library" group and who attended a Trustee meeting during the past year to introduce herself. She is working on some ideas to revitalize this important support organization.

The first "Dog Days of August" was a success and I hope there are many more to follow. After complaining to two people at the *Winthrop Independent*, they did publish the dog picture. The library continues to receive positive comments on the flower border installed earlier in the summer.

I look forward to a busy and productive Fall.