

History of the Brunswick-Glynn County Regional Library 1976-1983

It is now 100 years since the Brunswick Library Association was founded. Its descendent, the Brunswick-Glynn County Regional Library, continues to serve the public and is the fourth oldest continuously operating public library in Georgia.

The library occupied its new 32,000 square foot building in 1976. The availability of space permitted the development of two new public service departments. In 1976, the Video Department began operation, making this one of three libraries in Georgia providing television production services.

In January 1977, the library's Talking Book Center began to serve the blind and physically handicapped residents of a twelve county area. Housed in the headquarters library and funded by the Library of Congress, the Talking Book Center provides talking books and players, large print books, braille materials, and a variety of services to qualified individuals. It is one of thirteen such centers in Georgia.

In a cooperative venture, the Glynn County Bar Association moved its law collection to the library. The Bar Association continues to purchase needed law materials, and the collection is maintained by library staff. This arrangement permits access to the collection by attorneys and the general public.

In 1977, Mrs. Elizabeth Rountree resigned as library director to assume the position of assistant director of the New Orleans Public Library. Mrs. Harriette Hammond served as acting library director for two months, and in December 1977, Miss Lila Rice became director. Following Miss Rice's resignation in July 1978, Miss Marcia Hodges was acting director for eleven months and now serves as associate director and reference librarian. In June 1979, Mr. Jim Darby was named director and continues to serve in this position.

The Brantley County Public Library was organized in late 1979, bringing the regional system's libraries to a total of eight and providing a library location in each of the region's counties.

In 1978, Mrs. Hildreth Taylor completed her fortieth year as chairman of the library's board of trustees. Mrs. Taylor continues service on the library board, which is now very ably chaired by Mr. Edward Liles. The excellence of the regional library's board of trustees is to a large degree responsible for the quality of the library's service. In addition to Mr. Liles and Mrs. Taylor, the board is composed of Miss Edna Armstrong, Mrs. Faye Barber, Mrs. Virginia Dent, Mrs. Georgia DeSain, Mrs. Nell Easterling, Mr. Ron Maulden, Capt. John Lowe, Mr. Charles McKenzie, Mrs. Marrion Mitcham, Mrs. Margaret Mizelle, Mrs. Mary Morris, Mrs. Virginia Ramsey, Mrs. William Walls and Mrs. Maude Walthour. Miss Virginia McGarvey and Rev. Talbert Morgan serve as board members emeritus.

The years 1976-83 have been years of continued growth and development as well as growth in library use. In 1976-77, the system circulated 276,000 books and other materials. It is estimated that the total circulation for 1982-83 will be 450,000 items.

It is with pride in the past and optimism for the future that the Brunswick-Glynn County Regional Library observes its 100th year of service to the public.

From: *A Short History of the Brunswick-Glynn County Regional Library*. By Hildreth F. Taylor.