

Richland County Library Report Reveals Phenomenal Growth

Mrs. Bostick Gives Figures On Institution

Number of Books Quadrupled and Circulation Increase Is Greater

In the past ten years, since its founding, the Richland County Public library has shown a phenomenal growth, quadrupling its number of books and more than sextupling its circulation, it was revealed in figures released yesterday in the annual report by Mrs. Hagood Bostick, head of the library.

When established in 1929 the Richland county library was located over the present Jacqueline Slipper shoppe in the 1500 block of Main street. The number of books possessed in December of that year when the site of the library was changed to the present location on the corner of Sumter and Washington streets was 16,069. It is now stocked with 64,072 books, four times as many as were on the shelves ten years ago.

In 1930 the circulation of the library was 164,179 and this year it was more

than six times that number, reaching the impressive figure of 552,440.

The number of books in the library from 1929 through 1938, taken year by year, were as follows: 1929, 16,069; 1930, no figure; 1931, 28,351; 1932, 33,887; 1933, 40,335; 1934, 47,108; 1935, 50,472; 1936, 53,305; 1937, 57,200, and 1938, 64,072.

Library circulation from 1930 through 1938, year by year, was as follows: 1930, 164,179; 1931, 204,871; 1932, 306,665; 1933, 426,700; 1934, 438,757; 1935, 449,855; 1936, 452,336; 1937, 501,538, and 1938, 552,440.

Gradually through the ten years the library has been expanding. In the first year of its existence in its present location only one-half of the bottom floor was used. This has been expanded throughout the entire building now but in spite of these

additions the library is still in need of space.

"The number of books in the library has tripled," Mrs. Bostick said, "whereas the space has only been doubled." An annex was added to the old building two years ago for devotion to the rapidly expanding county department.

Mrs. Bostick has seen the library grow from a very small beginning into its present wide influence throughout the county. In December, 1929, there were four libraries besides Mrs. Bostick, two regular and two part time. Those serving regularly were Mrs. Inglesby Dial and Miss Annie Locke and part time assistants were Miss Nancy Blair and Miss Ida

Battle. The library staff has now increased to 12, excluding the WPA employees.

Waverley Branch of Library Opens New Larger Quarters

Entire Building Now to Be Utilized Giving Approximately Three Times as Much Space as Formerly. Mrs. Bostick Points to Exceptional Growth.

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The Waverley branch of the Richland County Public library, which serves the Negro borrowers of the county, today swings open its doors on approximately three times as much space as has been utilized since its opening less than a year ago.

Mrs. Hagood Bostick, librarian in charge of the Richland County Public library, announced last night the opening of a new division of the branch almost twice as large as the former quarters to be used as the adult department. The room quartering the branch until now will be used as the children's department.

The shelves have been arranged, the books moved, and all equipment is in readiness to greet the patrons.

The Waverley branch is located in the building once occupied by the Waverley Methodist church (now Wesley Memorial Methodist church). Only the Sunday school section of the building has been used but the

entire building now will serve as quarters for the 5,000 books.

Mrs. Bostick pointed out that the growth had far exceeded the expectations when the branch was established. She said there were now approximately 3,000 Negro borrowers and that new books were constantly being added.

The branch serves the Negro schools just as the county department of the public library serves the white schools of the city and county.

Renovations of the quarters cost approximately \$2,000, it being necessary to install a furnace and to build a new ceiling so that the space could be more conveniently heated.

The branch, exceptionally attractive, now becomes one of the outstanding Negro libraries in the Southeast.

Among the features since its establishment was a recent flower show. There are a number of beautiful plants at the branch which adds to its attractiveness.