



The move was a good one, which saw library use grow, and the following year, the Board added an assistant, who was to be paid 25 cents per hour.

Shortly after, Mrs. Florence Taylor was named co-librarian, an appointment that resulted in changes at the Library. During Mrs. Taylor's tenure, the Library began collecting local documents in order to preserve our local history. A card catalog was introduced, replacing the cumbersome and outdated book catalogues.

Children came into their own when, in 1950, a section of the main room was closed off to create a Children's Room, with their own librarian.

The Library grew and grew. When the school district centralized, the Library's charter was changed to incorporate the expanded area and increased tax base. With the larger tax base, the budget could grow to match the increased use by more patrons.

In 1955, the reception room facing **Liberty Square** was rented to be the Children's Room and the space previously used for that purpose became a Reference Room.

Hours were extended, more staff members were employed, and the **Ellenville Public Library** began meeting and cooperating with other area libraries for mutual benefit. It was logical for the **Ellenville Public Library** to become one of the early members of the Ramapo Catskill Library System and for Milton P. Townsend, one of Ellenville's trustees, to become one of the first officers of the RCLS Board of Trustees.

Late in 1964, Mrs. Dorothy Sanderson resigned as Ellenville's chief librarian and the Board of Trustees, with a strong mandate from Ulster County Civil Service, decided that it was time for the **Ellenville Public Library** to employ the services of a certified public librarian, a graduate of an American Library Association school of library science with experience in public library service.

Marion M. Dumond became the first qualified Director of the **Ellenville Public Library** on April 1, 1965,

bringing her experience as a children's librarian, school librarian, system consultant, Sullivan County bookmobile librarian, and two years as Director of the Pearl River Public Library. When she met with the Board of Trustees, they assigned three objectives.

The first objective was to organize the local history collection begun by Mrs. Taylor and substantially amplified by Mrs. Sanderson, and make it accessible to the public. The first order of business was to organize the multitude of newspapers for preservation. Mrs. Dumond applied for a grant, which paid for rental of a planetary camera and training for a member of the staff to film the old papers. The *Ellenville Journal* was willing to let their bound copies of the paper be filmed as long as the bindings were not destroyed (which commercial microfilmmers required at that time), so Mrs. Muriel Booth accepted responsibility for the project and the *Journal*, from its beginnings in 1849, was filmed. A storeroom on the lower level of **Hunt Memorial** had been rented for the microfilming project and a longer lease was negotiated so that the room could be converted to a museum. Showcases were ordered, the room was painted, lighting was installed, and the museum was opened to the public in December of 1966. The Library's charter was amended to include "**and Museum**" in the name, acknowledging the importance of the local history facility.

The second goal was to secure adequate space for the Library. This was not so quickly accomplished. The WCTU was unwilling to discuss selling **Hunt Memorial** to the Library for adaptation and expansion, but public sentiment seemed to be in favor of the Library remaining in **Liberty Square**. Feasibility studies were contracted, a formal public opinion study was conducted, and the consensus was that, even if **Hunt Memorial** could be purchased, there just wasn't enough space for the present, much less the future, at an acceptable cost.

In the midst of all this activity, the Library hosted a gala week of celebration for its Diamond Jubilee, recognizing 75 years of service to the public. The Jubilee events emphasized the many inadequacies of available space and some events had to be scheduled elsewhere because of space constraints.

Several years of meetings, appeals, and negotiations had accomplished nothing when Lou and Harry Resnick offered the **Canal-Childs-Center Street** property which had been used for parking for the *Motor Museum* (and site of several carnivals) as a location for a new library building to be named in memory of their deceased brother, Congressman Joseph Y. Resnick. The offer was gratefully and quickly accepted. The first referendum was narrowly defeated, possibly because of the starkly modern design, and possibly because of the estimated cost. The Library Board accepted the public's decision and went back to the drawing board, changing architects and looking for a ➔

