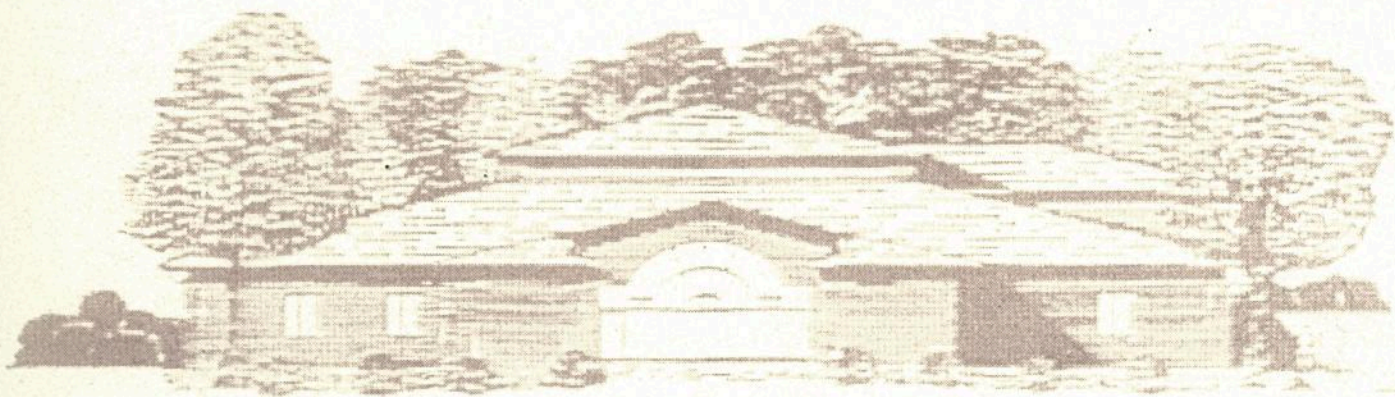


# LOWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

1993



*Dedication Ceremony*  
*November 7, 1993*

1505 EAST COMMERCIAL AVENUE • LOWELL, IN • 46356

# LOWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The purpose of the Lowell Public Library is to provide all residents and/or taxpayers of its taxing district with access to facilities, materials, programs, and services which can broaden their minds, enrich their lives, and fulfill their cultural, civic, intellectual, educational, and recreational needs.



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# PRESERVING THE PAST

*One of the distinguishing achievements of civilization is the effort it makes to keep a record of its past. The library has traditionally been a warehouse for documents that relate the history of the area and the society. The existence of a library says that a community cares about itself and its past. The Lowell community has been committed to library service since the beginning of the century.*



## LIBRARY HISTORY

In 1904, the Lowell area had a small subscription library of 500 books. Members paid dues and borrowed books free of charge.

The Lowell Library was organized in 1917 and consisted of two small rooms housed on the second floor of Lizzie Davis' hat shop.

The Lowell "Public" Library (one that is supported in whole or in part by local taxation) became a reality in 1920 through the hard work of local residents and a large donation from the Carnegie Corporation. The new (one and one-half story) library was typical of Carnegie construction.



Located on the "Town Square," it contained 4,000 square feet and by the late 1960's had become severely overcrowded.



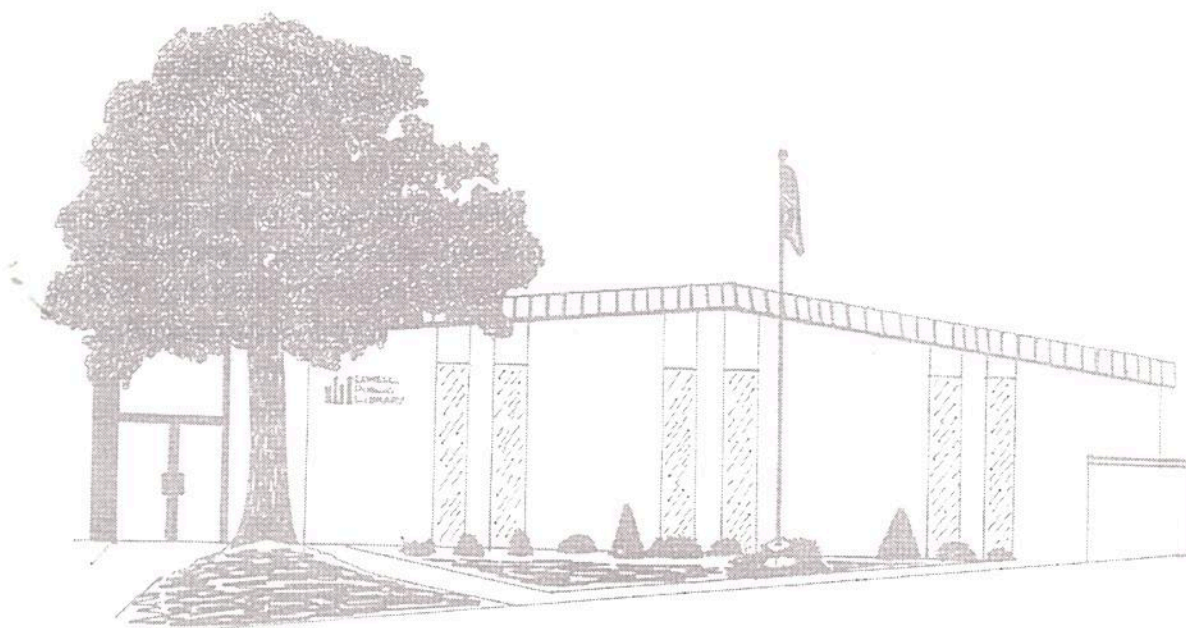
August 12, 1968, marked the date for the groundbreaking of the new 9,600 square foot library on the corner of Fremont and Main Streets. The site was designed for twenty-eight parking spaces. Opening on December 8, 1969, in many ways the building served the community well for almost twenty-five years.

As the area grew (54% between 1970 and 1990) and circulation of materials increased (135% from 1985-1992), workspace for library staff began to take up more and more of the public reading room area.

Additional shelving was installed to accommodate the increasing book collection and more tables were needed for audio-visual materials and computers. Comfortable seating areas for library patrons and room for a growing collection were no longer possible. Surveys of the community determined a need for even more materials, programs, and services than the library could handle at its present facility.

In 1987, a Long-Range Planning Committee (made up of members of the library board, staff, community business persons, and area residents) was formed to plot the course for the library's future. One of the objectives cited in their report was to analyze building needs.

Over the next three years, alternative studies were conducted to determine the cost and feasibility of expanding the existing building. When all the results were in, it was decided that if an addition were built at its present location, the library would still lack parking space and would be landlocked should further expansion be needed. The planning for a new library began.





## PROVIDING FOR THE PRESENT

*The library users of today demand far more than just books. They want magazines, compact discs, audio cassettes, meeting room space, programs for all ages, and a variety of electronic equipment.*

*The new library was designed to meet those demands as well as to remain adaptable when needs change.*



### THE LIBRARY

The new library stands nestled among mature native Indiana hardwood trees. The building is intended to be a gathering place for the community, transcending the traditional concept of a library. The 24,000 square foot building is over twice the size of the former library.

The exterior is clad in materials of rich earth tones. A grand arched window of Palladian proportions graces the front of the library, inviting passers-by to enter.

At the main entrance a protective canopy stretches to the parking lot to receive patrons while providing protection from the elements. More than one hundred spaces provide ample room for parking. Special bricks on either side of the entrance walls bear the names of many donors to the library's furnishing fund. Inside, the lobby includes quarry tile floors, while vaulted ceilings focus attention on the main circulation desk.

Meeting rooms flank the lobby to provide space for use by non-profit organizations and for library programs. Each meeting room has a cozy kitchen area and overhead track lighting for special exhibits. The

rooms can be closed off at night from the rest of the building, allowing meeting room occupants to remain after regular library hours. The conference room, located at the south end of the library, can comfortably accommodate up to twelve people.

A twenty-five foot high clerestory area rises through the center of the library permitting natural light to fill the building's interior. The circulation desk rests under a trellised canopy in the center of the main room. The staff workroom and offices surround the circulation desk, allowing library staff to be available to patrons in all areas of the building.

Rich colors, inspired by the natural wooded surroundings, create a warm, comfortable environment for formal and informal gatherings, as well as for solitary or group study.

Fanning out from the circulation desk are the children's department, young adult area, audio/visual, adult fiction, magazines and newspapers, adult non-fiction, Indiana, and Reference sections.

These departments are identified by various carpet patterns, vaulted and flat acoustical ceilings, and fabric end panels on the shelving.

The collection consists of over 59,000 items. Through contractual and computer agreements with the Lake County Public Library, local patrons can access materials from the third largest library in the state and have them sent to the Lowell Public Library.

The Reference/Indiana collection is located at the south end of the library. A reference desk is located in that area as well as six quiet study rooms and a small group study room. Two large windows on the west side provide an excellent setting for leisure reading and a view of the splendid woods.

Among the special features of the Reference Section are the IBM-compatible computers for use by patrons for word processing or with their own software or the library's shareware.

One of the library's CD-ROM's has 368 shareware programs that the public can download to their own floppy disks. Library staff are happy to provide patrons with hands-on instruction of the library's computers and other technical equipment.

Another unique area of the new library is the Young Adult Section, filled with books of popular appeal for young teens, and a large study area.



The new library is designed for accessibility for persons with disabilities with automatic doors, wide aisles between rows of shelving, and carrels at special heights for wheel chairs. A separate restroom for persons with disabilities, as well as their attendants, is located in the foyer.

Energy conservation was given high priority in the planning of the new library. Windows are double glazed thermalbreak with operating sections for natural ventilation when desired. The facility is insulated with six-inch side wall insulation and twelve-inch attic insulation. Natural gas furnaces provide controlled zoning to the various sections of the library. Lighting is high-efficiency in design and controls. Modular carpet squares were chosen for the flooring to allow easy access for future wiring needs.

The library district serves over 14,600 people and offers programs and services for all age groups. The service area includes the towns of Lowell, Shelby, and Schneider, the community of Lake Dalecarlia, and the townships of Eagle Creek, Cedar Creek, and West Creek.

The Lowell Public Library opened the Schneider and Shelby Branch Libraries in 1988. Each branch has bi-weekly courier service from the main library, as well as programs and services that support local interest.

Twice a month free medical screening is offered to community residents at the Lowell Public Library and at its Shelby Branch Library.

Throughout the year a variety of programs, workshops, classes, and craft-making sessions are scheduled for library patrons.

The library's Literacy Program, begun in 1987, provides basic literacy services for adult learners reading below the fifth grade level. It is the only provider of this service in the library district. The program has been funded in part by federal grants in 1987, 1989, 1991 and 1992.

## THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

The large Children's Room provides an inviting atmosphere to promote reading and encourage creativity. The design and colors of the carpet were inspired by an aerial view of farm fields.



In keeping with the agricultural theme, youngsters can "hitch a ride" on the library tractor and wagons. They are made of wood with padded vinyl seats and are finished in bright, vibrant colors of red, blue, orange, green, and yellow.

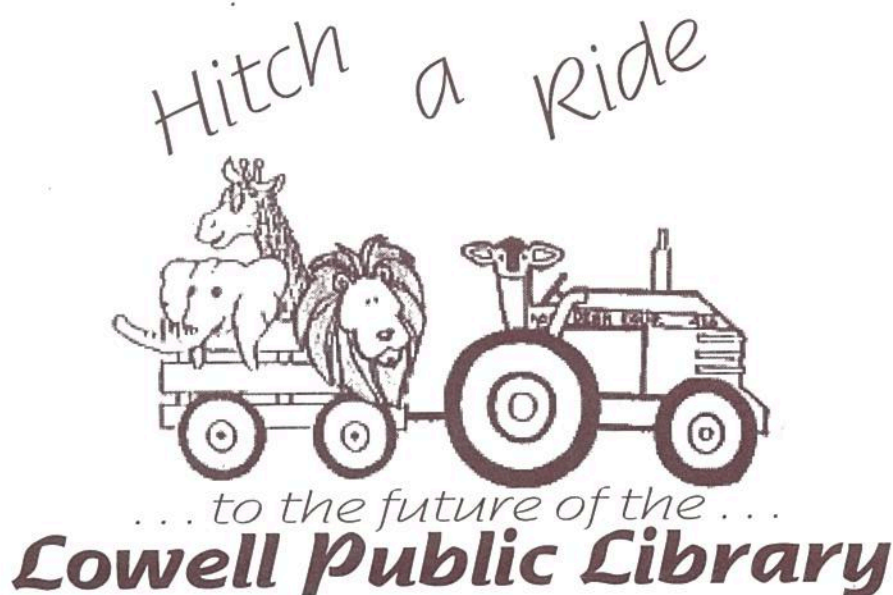
The arts are represented by six small chairs, each painted with a unique design symbolizing one of the arts by Indiana artist Carole Boller.

The "Puppet Theater" stands ready for show time! Plush toy animals add to the friendly atmosphere of the room.

Large casement windows face the east and south providing natural light and a view of the woods as the seasons change.

Scheduled programs such as Toddler Time (18 months-3 years) and Story Time 3-5 years) are held during the fall, winter, and spring months. Summer Reading Club, a two month summer program for youngsters of all ages, is filled with special activities and events for children's enjoyment.

Christmas Story Time with Santa Claus and a Halloween Party are some examples of the special programming designed to encourage children to foster a life-long love of reading.





# FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

*No one knows what the future will bring. The role of assessing and predicting demand is a challenging one for libraries in an age where communication and information technology is constantly changing. One of the goals of the Lowell Public Library is to prepare for tomorrow, while remaining adaptable as unforeseen changes occur.*



## FUTURE GROWTH

In keeping with this goal, the new Lowell Public Library is designed for expansion of the facility from 24,000 to almost 60,000 square feet.

## TECHNOLOGY

While the library presently has several computers for public use, conduit was installed throughout the building to provide for even more technology in the future.

## LOWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY ARBORS-NATURE LEARNING CENTER

A "Nature Trail" will be an ongoing project of the Library Board and staff to preserve our natural heritage.

A Nature Trail will wind through the woods on the perimeter of the Library, providing an outdoor educational classroom laboratory for community groups as well as a setting for library programs.

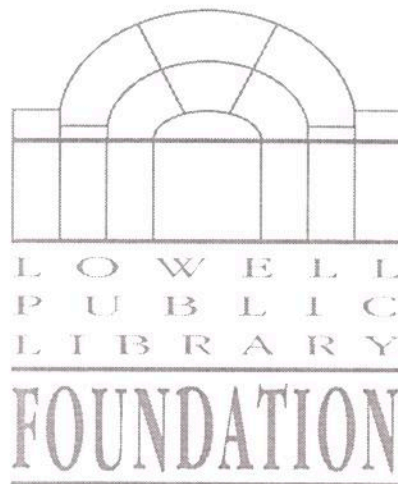
The project, partially funded by a \$20,000 federal grant of the Small Business Administration Tree Planting Grant Program, will serve as a prototype to encourage the preservation of urban forestry.

Included in the project is the planting of 211 shade and ornamental trees (Ginkgo, Amur Maple, Austrian Pine, Green Mountain Sugar Maple) on the 5.5 acre site. Winter habitat will be substantially improved due to the extensive numbers of trees planted and the variety of species. Wildlife food will be provided by the fruits and nuts of many trees including Hawthorn, Serviceberry, Pawpaw, Blackhaw, Beech, and Oaks.

## FOUNDATION

The Lowell Public Library Foundation is a newly-formed not-for-profit organization dedicated to raise, receive, hold, invest, and administer funds and property for the benefit of the Lowell Public Library.

The Lowell Public Library Foundation Board of Directors is comprised of the district's leading citizens who are committed to providing for the future informational, educational, and recreational needs through enhanced library services.






# LIBRARY BUILDING PROJECT

## PROJECT COORDINATORS

David R. Smith . . . . . Library Consultant  
Pecsok, Jelliffe, Randall & Nice . . . . . Architects  
Rotz Engineers, Inc. . . . . Consulting Engineer  
The Rowland Associates, Inc. & Daunn Guthrie . . . . Interior Design  
Semford Contracting Co., Inc. . . . . General Contractors

## COSTS (estimated)



Cost of construction, fees, land, architectural services, and furnishings . . . . .	\$2,876,161
Cost of bond issuance and interest . . . . .	\$338,839
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,215,000</b>

## FUNDING

Bond Issue . . . . .	\$2,775,000
Library Capital Projects . . . . .	\$80,000
Interest . . . . .	\$60,000
Library Services and Construction Act Title II Grant . . . . .	\$300,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,215,000</b>

*Funds for construction provided by the  
tax payers of the Three Creeks area and by a  
Library Service Construction Act Title II Federal Grant.*

## CALENDAR OF BUILDING PROJECT

### • 1987-1988

The Long Range Planning Committee, a group of citizens, library board and staff, meet to chart the course for the future of the library. The determination is made that the present space and services is inadequate.

### • 1989

The Library Board secures the services of David R. Smith of Hopkins, Minnesota, to study space the space needs of the present library. Smith has assisted in the planning of over 100 libraries across the nation. He recommends that a new facility be built on Commercial Avenue.

### • 1990

The library board purchases a five and one-half acre site on Commercial Avenue for \$77,500. An additional one-half acre is later purchased to provide an entrance/exit to Harrison Street.

### • April, 1991

The architectural firm of Pecsok, Jeliffe, Randall & Nice is chosen to design a new library to serve the residents of the Tri Creek area. Additionally, the Lowell Public Library Leasing Corporation is formed to sell bonds.

### • June, 1991

Friends of the Library circulate petition for the building of a new library. Over 1,000 signatures of support are counted. Later, \$528,113 is awarded to the library by the state from Build Indiana Funds.

### • July, 1991

The Indiana State Board of Tax Commissioners hold a hearing on the proposed new library. They approve the project one month later.

### • August, 1991-April, 1992

Planning for the library continues with the involvement of board, staff and architect.

### • April, 1992

Semford Contracting Co., Inc. is awarded the bid to erect the new library.

### • June, 1992

Groundbreaking for the new library takes place.

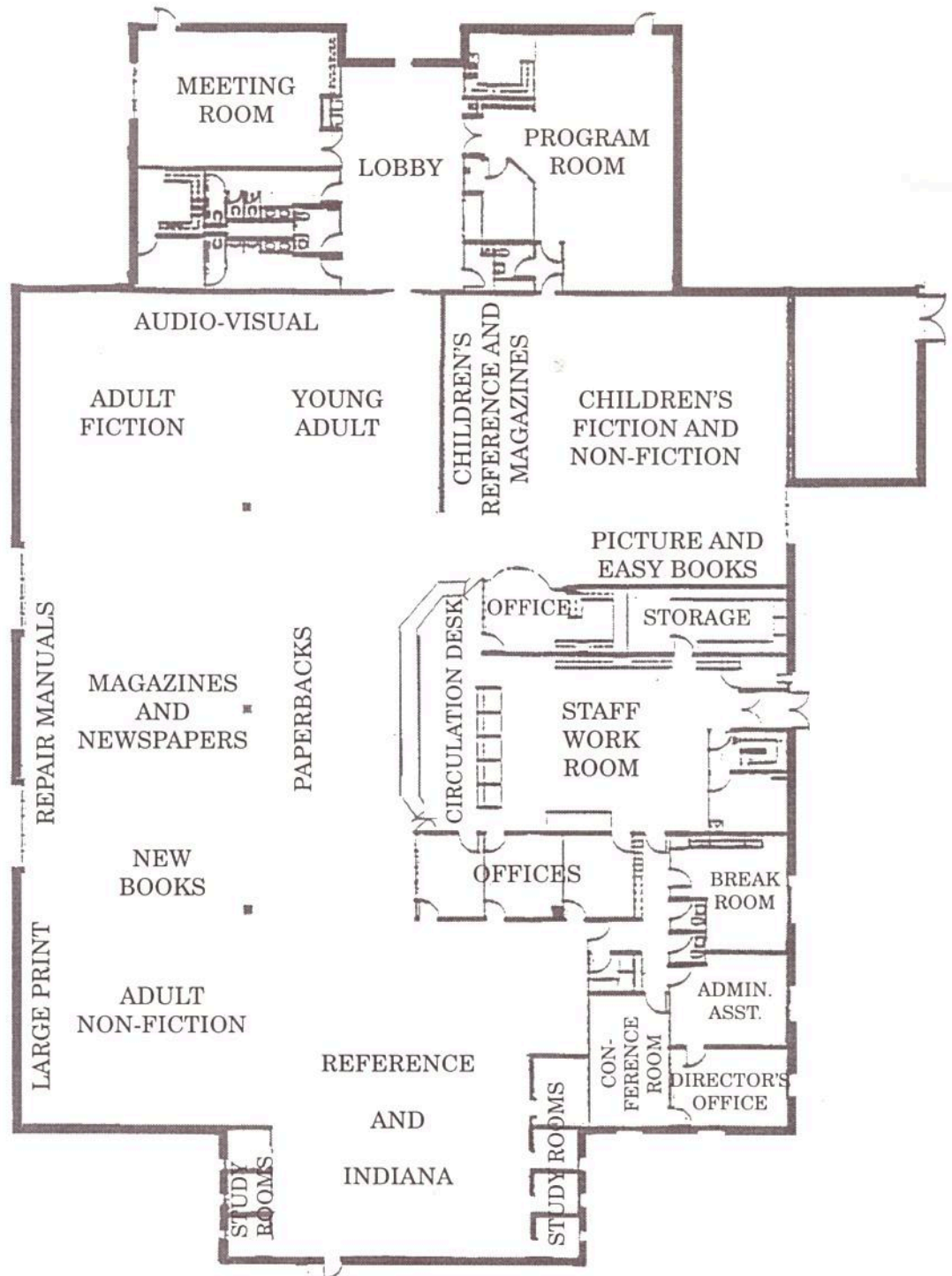
### • November 7, 1993

Dedication ceremony for the new Lowell Public Library is held.





# FLOOR PLAN



The New Lowell Public Library  
1505 East Commercial Avenue  
Lowell, IN 46356





# PROJECT PERSONNEL

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

N. Jeanne Guske	President
William J. Mitchell	Vice President
Seth D. McLellan	Secretary
Norma J. Ruley	Treasurer
Janet L. Granger	Member
Marilyn P. Hardwick	Member
Zern E. Hayden	Member
Mary K. Bruce	Past President

## LEASING CORPORATION

William E. Lain	President
Jon E. Afanador	Vice President
Bonita L. Echterling	Secretary
Thomas I. Stuart	Treasurer
Jon R. Jurs	Member

## OTHER PERSONNEL

Virginia Maravilla	Library Director
Nancy A. Campbell	Assistant Director
Donald R. O'Dell	Legal Counsel
Moldenhauer & Associates, Inc.	Landscape Architects
I & M Electric Corporation	Electrical Contractors
Bloomfield Corporation	Heating & Air Conditioning





## IN APPRECIATION

*The Lowell Public Library wishes to extend our sincerest thanks to the Friends of the Lowell Public Library, the literacy tutors and advisory board, and all of the organizations, businesses, and community residents who continue to support our library.*

*We also wish to extend our gratitude and welcome to the founding members of the new Lowell Public Library Foundation.*



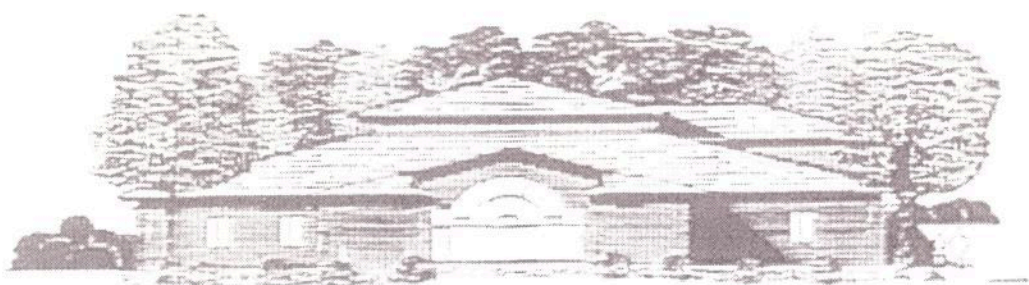
## IN RECOGNITION

Lowell Public Library Staff:

Eleanor Bartz  
Waldo Bartz  
Betty Beier  
Lori Beier  
Barbara Berkey  
Michele Bluett  
George Bogan  
Vicky Boteler  
Loretta Brewer  
Fawn Bunkowfst  
Maureen Burkett  
Nancy Campbell  
Linda Clark  
Jayne Cockrell  
Susie Dokulil  
Nell Fabish  
Sandy Fuller  
Carolyn Lindahl  
Virginia Maravilla  
Sandy Morgan  
Lu Parrish  
Tammy Rankin  
Darlene Rigg  
Chris Straka  
Carole Sutton  
Maria Svorenick  
Amber Wietbrock



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*Dedication booklet design by Matt J. Fuller.*