

management thereof during the Year to the next annual meeting, then to make a full report of their doings -

Voted - That Frederic Kidder, E. H. Goss and Charles C. Barry, be the Trustees under the act of the Town establishing a Public Library - true copy as on record

Attest (sd.) James Worthen Town Clerk

The board was then organized as follows -

Frederic Kidder.	Chairman.
Charles C. Barry.	Secretary.
Elbridge H. Goss.	Treasurer.

The Trustees then proceeded to consider, in an open manner, a plan for the formation of the library and it was concluded as best that they should follow. Each Trustee to use his influence in the healthy public interest in the work; to solicit donations of books and money; to find out suitable Depositories from which to purchase our books; to make a list of such as it would be advisable to purchase and compare notes as often as possible. A room was made of a suitable room for the library in the "Waverley Building" and the Trustees agreed to meet at 5 o'clock Saturday P. M. and see what arrangements could be made for renting the room and taking possession immediately -

The Secretary and Treasurer were authorized to purchase suitable books for their use -

It is recommended that catalogue be procured

Melrose March 30" 1871

First Regular Meeting of the "Trustee of the Melrose Public Library" at the residence of Mr Frederic Kidder Pursuant to request and in consideration of the vote of the Town at its Annual meeting - March 27" 1871 - Mess Frederic Kidder, Elbridge H. Goss, + Charles C. Barry, met at the above-mentioned place, and proceeded to a

**One Hundred Years  
of the  
Melrose Public Library**

At the Annual Town Meeting for the town of Melrose held at Concert Hall on the 27" day of March A. D. 1871 -

Voted - That the money now in the Treasury, referred to the town by the County Treasurer, pursuant to Chapter 250 of the Acts of the Legislature in 1871 - 1971 and all that is required by said act, be

Reading Room - That a Committee of three be chosen at this meeting who shall be called "The Trustee of the Town Library" that they be invested with the necessary funds and be authorized to purchase and put up a suitable



The Melrose Public Library Staff

**Director**

Ronald B. Hubbs

**Assistant Director**

Sally T. Duplaix  
Barbara G. Mason\*

**Secretary**

Phyllis M. Brown

**Art Department**

Marion R. Moberger, Librarian

**Audio-Visual and Young Adult Services**

Ruth A. Mountfort, Librarian

**Children's Department**

Elizabeth B. Smith, Librarian  
Vittoria G. Eppoliti  
Paulette C. Loomis  
Jane C. Scott

**Highlands Branch Library**

Doris B. Pratt, Librarian  
Dorris C. McLaughlin  
Rona L. Ragussis

**Custodial Department**

Albert V. Davis, Custodian\*\*\*\*  
John F. Smith  
Marion C. Craven  
Paul S. Guthro  
John W. Murphy

**Adult Services**

Rhoda M. Parmenter, Librarian  
Melba L. Belleau  
Elizabeth B. Griffin  
Virginia S. Graf  
Jane C. Walker  
Virginia C. Lewis  
Beverly Ogren  
Mary Ann Stratton

**Reference Department**

Florence M. Hall, Librarian  
Audrey C. Bergmann, \*\* Librarian

**Technical Services**

Virginia L. Davis, Cataloger  
Margaret M. Lorenz, Cataloger\*\*\*  
Ruth B. Zarella  
Leone B. Fagan  
Ruth L. Pigeon

\*retired August 31, 1971

\*\*retired March 20, 1971

\*\*\*retired August 31, 1971

\*\*\*\*deceased April 9, 1971

This booklet is part of the Centennial Observance of the Melrose Public Library, November 1 - 7, 1971. It was written and designed by Eva H. Gemmill, based on research by Arnold and Christine Williams. Editorial assistance was given by Mary Stetson Clarke. The Library staff helped in many ways.

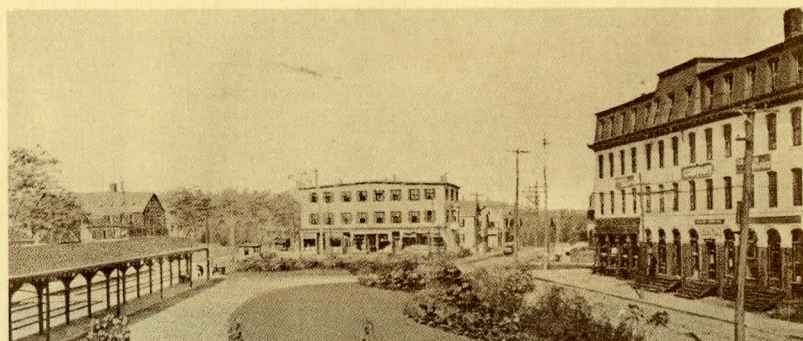
Following are the names of the Centennial Committee:

Helen Anderson	Miriam H. Walsh
Margarita H. Lavender	Orren Lynde Walsh
Frances D. Hayden	Christine M. Williams
Roger T. Hayden	Arnold W. Williams
Paulette C. Loomis	Mary Stetson Clarke
David B. Loomis	Edwin L. Clarke
Irving Smolens	Barbara G. Mason
Edith L. Smolens	Ronald B. Hubbs
Paul S. Rouillard	Sally T. Duplaix
	Eva H. Gemmill

**Pages**

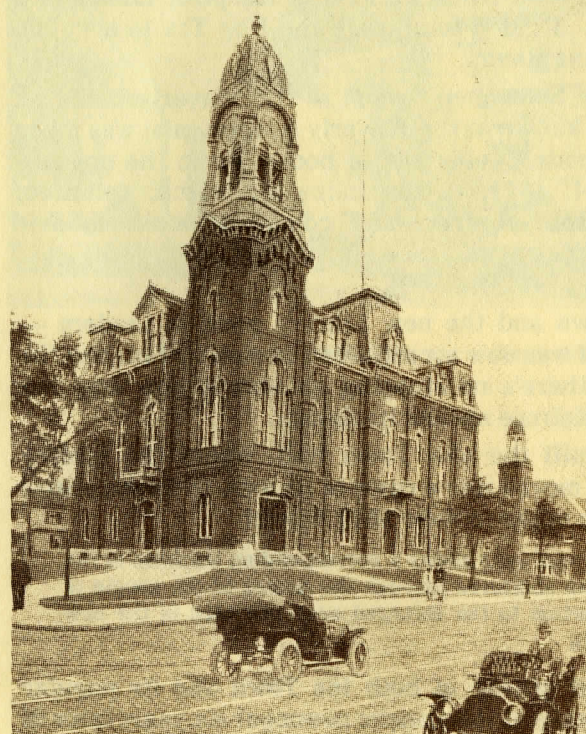
Christine Banks	Susan Dow	Pamela Perry
Janet Bersani	Linda Granfield	Janet Porcaro
Linda Blackwood	Denise Kelly	Diane Ridley
Anne Blanchard	Karen Kelly	Mary Flynn
Ellen Bourgeois	Margaret M. Lloyd	Richard W. Shepherd
Bruce Colvin	Barry McLaughlin	Naomi Waka
Maura Desmond	Stephen A. Mongeau	Eric Wong
	Joyce Mountain	





At the Waverly Block on the far right, at the southeast corner of Essex and West Emerson Streets, the new Melrose Public Library occupied a room from 1871 to 1874.

The Town Hall was the home of the Library and Reading Room from 1874 to 1891.



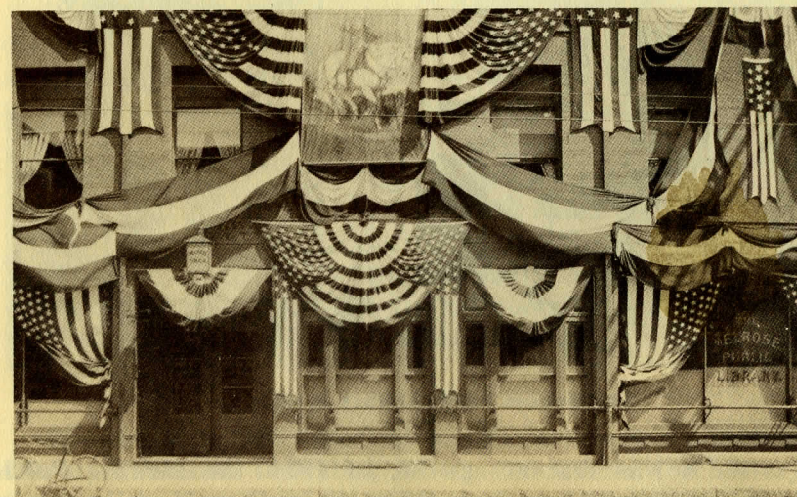
the 10th Annual Report (1881):

The Public Library has reached that stage in its history when its circulation seems rather to diminish than increase . . . for the reason that when open it is overcrowded . . .

On its 20th birthday, in 1891, desperately cramped by no longer adequate quarters in the Town Hall, this plaintive note appeared in the Trustees' Report:

Every year the Town Hall becomes less suited for quiet reading and less desirable for our young people, and with yearly increases in population it must be more noisy and frequented. The rooms were not sufficient for our needs last year and are now more crowded than ever before.

A third "foster home" was found, in 1895, for the 24-year-old Institution. Quarters were rented, for \$1,000 a year, in the then-new Y.M.C.A. building at 497 Main Street, still in use. But even then pressure was building for a permanent home for the collection of books that had grown from some 1,500 in 1871 to 11,000 in 1895.



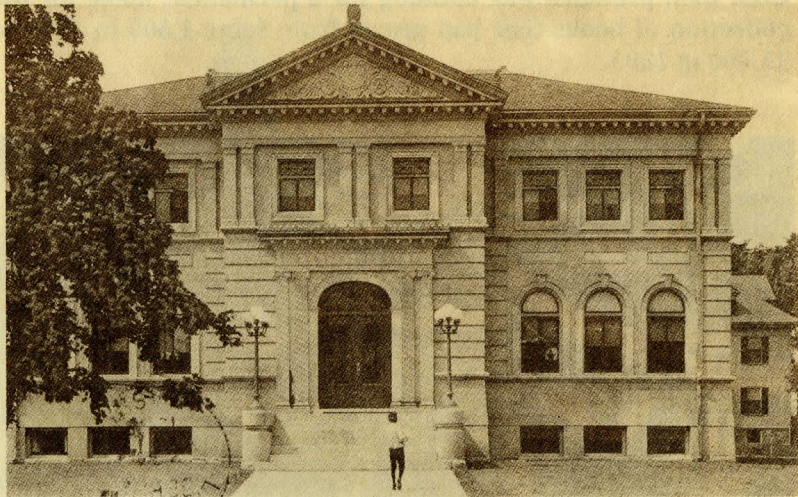
This 1900 photo shows the 5-year-old Y.M.C.A. decorated for the Town's 50th Anniversary. On the ground-floor window at the right, gold letters announce "The Melrose Public Library".



The Trustees' 1898 Report warned tersely:

We trust that the citizens of the Town, when this report is presented, will take the first — and possibly the last opportunity as a town — to vote for a building lot for the Melrose Public Library.

With the arrival of the twentieth century, the 50-year old Town of Melrose became a City — a City that had grown in half a century from 1,200 to 12,000 citizens. Aware of the restlessness of Library Trustees and staff, but burdened with municipal expenses that precluded the additional tax burden of a new library building, Mayor John Larrabee and other citizens persuaded Andrew Carnegie to make a substantial contribution to a library building. The handsome new building, recognizable as the basis for the present enlarged plant, was erected on the West Emerson Street site of the old High School, which had been destroyed by fire in 1897.



The Melrose Public Library in 1905.

So it was that at age 33, in 1904, the Melrose Public Library emerged as a building as well as a collection of books and a dream of devoted citizens, many of whom made substantial financial contributions to augment Andrew Carnegie's gift.

A proud excerpt from the 1904 Annual Report announced that

Dedicatory exercises were held on Friday, April 15, and were most interesting to the large number of our citizens and invited guests that filled the lower floor of the building. The Spring sunshine filled the place with light, bringing out most beautifully the scheme of color employed in the finish of the rooms, and was most happily typical of the illuminating years which shall mark the future life of our library in its permanent home.

Burgeoning population and increased demand brought about Library branches at the High School in 1905, at Swain's Pond in 1913, at the Highlands in 1915, East Side in 1916, and at the Ripley and Lincoln Schools. Changing concepts, however, called for centralizing library efforts, and improvements in transportation made the central location of the main building more accessible to all citizens. Presently only the Highlands Branch exists.

During the Depression years between 1930 and 1936, circulation reached dizzy heights, as reading replaced more costly social activities. The conditions which increased its use, however, made it impossible for the Library to invest in new books.

The building that had served the City proudly for more than 50 years was bursting at the seams. As early as the 1920's an addition was proposed to accommodate the City's growth (to a population of 22,000). Preliminary estimates for building discouraged the Aldermen and, for the subsequent years of Depression and World War II, the idea of an addition to the Library was tabled.

Sparked by a 1956 report of the Massachusetts Division of Library Extension indicating serious deficiencies, the Library Trustees, the Mayor, and the Aldermen began the progression of studies and recommendations that culminated in the 1962 appropriation of \$400,000 for the present addition.



Dedicated on June 16, 1963, the expanded facilities resulting from the addition allowed the Library to participate more actively in the accelerated '60's and to greet the '70's in good health. Birthday wishes to the century-old Institution focus the Community's expectation that its Library will continue to meet new challenges that accompany changing times.

The Library's story has begun with its homes. The next chapter concerns some early leaders who, 100 years ago, responded memorably to Melrose's need for a public library.



The Highlands Branch of the Library, at 525 Franklin Street

## 2.

From its beginning the Melrose Public Library, although dependent upon the whole community, has benefited from the special support of some members of the community. We cannot acknowledge all of the frock-coated Melrose gentlemen and ladies of whaleboned posture, full of civic pride and transcendental faith in the perfectibility of man, whose fond and impatient tugs and pushes helped the Library to its present position. These few early friends of the Library, however, have been chosen for special gratitude.

First, there is David Fairbanks.

*David Fairbanks*

The signature of David Fairbanks, Esq. appears on many early documents — for example, in support of President Lincoln's third Proclamation in 1862, calling for troops. He served Melrose as Assessor in 1856, and as Town Clerk and Treasurer from 1865 to 1870. In those years before 1870 the dream of a library for Melrose began, and David Fairbanks urged the Selectmen on several occasions to take action. We are indebted to Fairbanks who, in the Town Meeting of March 27, 1871, brought forward the motion to establish a public library.

And he "seconded the same by a liberal donation of books"!



## Franklin Fraternity

Passage of Fairbanks' motion immediately brought the infant institution another donation. As Fairbanks' idea gathered force, a parallel thought was growing in the minds of the Franklin Fraternity. Begun by five Melrose High School lads in 1863 as a "Lyceum or Society for mental improvement, especially in the branches of recitation and composition", the Franklin Fraternity grew in numbers and influence.

"In 1871 the dogs and the Franklin Fraternity furnished all the money required to found this Institution", declared Trustee Charles C. Barry at the Cornerstone Exercises of the Library in 1903. Barry referred to the provisions of the motion that the Dog Tax then in the Treasury "and that shall hereafter accrue to the Town . . . be appropriated for a Public Library and Reading Room"; and he also acknowledged the prompt action of the Franklin Fraternity following that vote.

Quoting from the first report of the Trustees, in 1872:

While the credit of this action belongs to the gentleman named (Fairbanks), the action of the Franklin Fraternity taken almost simultaneously deserves almost equal commendation. Upon two occasions the project of a Public Library has been pressed upon the attention of this association; the last occasion being only one month before the Town Meeting at which the vote was taken. At their next regular meeting, held only two weeks before the Town Meeting, the project was again brought forward, and amid much enthusiasm a committee was appointed, and money subscribed, to form the nucleus of a Library, and when of reasonable size present the same to the town. As soon as (the action of the Town) was known, the plans of the Fraternity were altered in accordance with the situation, and nearly two hundred dollars were placed in the hands of the committee as their donation.

A sturdy old wooden trunk now guards the accumulated records of the Franklin Fraternity. Among the papers tied in neat packets can be found announcements of lively debates and earnest participants (the topic for September 13, 1871: "Re-

solved that economy rather than wealth conduces to the prosperity of a nation."); a request for a fire to be lit in the wood stove in good time to warm the meeting room; anniversary dinner menus embellished with Victorian grandeur; fond replies to reunion invitations postmarked St. Joseph, Missouri, Antrim, New Hampshire, Providence, Boston, Jersey City. In one packet was the book plate, reproduced here, that identified the Franklin Fraternity's gifts, nucleus of the Melrose Public Library.

Presented to the  
**Melrose Public Library,**  
By the  
**Franklin Fraternity,**



MAY, 1871.

Many of the new library's volumes bore this book plate. The significance of the Franklin Fraternity's \$200. gift is appreciated when it is compared to the amount with which the Trustees were to buy books and found the library — \$624.85.



Frederic Kidder  
Elbridge H. Goss  
Chas C. Barry

" . . . that a committee of three be chosen at this meeting who shall be called 'the Trustees of the Melrose Public Library'; that they shall be invested with full power to provide and fit up a suitable place therefor, prepare rules and regulations, purchase books, solicit donations, and have the general management thereof, during the year, to the next meeting, then to make a full report of their doings."

With that resolution the Library took its first breath. It was that "committee . . . called the Trustees" who sustained and guided the young library. For one hundred years such committees have continued to interpret Melrose through its Public Library, and each year to "make a full report of their doings". Through their collective wisdom the "centenarian" now begins its second century full of vigor and promise.

Charles C. Barry, Elbridge H. Goss, and Frederic Kidder, aged 23, 41, and 67 respectively, were the first Trustees. Alike in their dedication to the Library, in their activity in organizing their respective churches (Baptist, Congregational, and Unitarian), and in their pride in Melrose, their differences, too, are notable.

Mr. Kidder, born in New Ipswich, N. H. in 1804, was in business in Boston and Wilmington, N. C. before coming to live in Melrose. Following retirement from business in 1869, he devoted himself to historical studies. Kidder is remembered as a writer of books and magazine articles on North American history, among them *History of the Boston Massacre*, *The Abenaki Indians*, and *The Swedes on the Delaware*. His *History of New Ipswich, N. H.*, and Dean's biography of Kidder can still be found in the Melrose Library.

Between Elbridge Goss and Charles Barry, the list of organizations they helped to found is formidable — to name a few: Melrose Y.M.C.A.; Public Franchise League; Lyceum (concerts and lectures); Amphion Club (male singers); Roundabout, and Centennial Clubs (literary) and the Melrose Improvement Society (responsible for planting thousands of shade trees on Melrose streets). Goss and Barry also served *ad hoc* for such special occasions as raising money for the Melrose assessment in the Civil War; for a reception following the Spanish-American War; and for drafting the Melrose City Charter. Elbridge Goss is remembered as author of the *History of Melrose to 1900*. Goss interrupted his 35 years as Trustee only when he was elected Alderman in 1901, as the City Charter forbade an Alderman to hold two offices. Barry served 38 years as Trustee.

In 1873 two additional Trustees were added, Miss Addie A. Nichols and Miss Hannah Lynde. Along with Kidder, Goss, and Barry, they were regularly reappointed until 1884, when Kidder and Miss Nichols resigned.

For the first few months after the Library opened, one of the Trustees' primary duties was to act as volunteer librarians; but from March 1872 to March 1873, C. Edward Prior was Librarian. Prior was followed by Miss Carrie Worthen, who served for 47 years.

Carrie M. Worthen

"Ability and constant fidelity" was Elbridge Goss's description of Miss Carrie M. Worthen, appointed Librarian in 1873 when the Library was two years old and had less than 2,000 volumes. When she retired in 1920, the Library's collection had grown to 24,000 volumes in six branches and the main building. Her near-half-century of service had spanned the early



years when the institution outgrew three homes, as well as sixteen years in its present quarters. With what pride she must have supervised the move in 1904 from the rented Y.M.C.A. rooms to the handsome new building on West Emerson Street. Charles C. Barry began his address at the dedication of that Library with a tribute to "our efficient Librarian, Miss Worthen, whose industry during 30 years of service is only exceeded by her patience and geniality."

Even if records existed of each Melrose man and woman who nurtured the infant Library, it would not be possible to credit them here. These few who were chosen for laurels exemplify the civic pride and the persistence that started the Library toward its vigorous 100th birthday. They are symbols of countless other energetic citizens in an age of expansion — an era discussed in the following chapter as the context for the beginning of the Melrose Public Library.

### 3.

In 1871, when the Selectmen voted to support a public library for Melrose, the Town was only 21 years old, having been known until 1850 as North Malden. The vigor with which the young town sprinted from the starting block was characteristic of a robust era in U.S. history — the pulse of life and growth in Melrose in the late 1800's was a microcosm of the Nation's will to progress and prosper.

Local growth is attributed to proximity to Boston and to expansion of the railroad. Melrose's rocky hills, now wound round with streets and sidewalks and with homes settled comfortably on their sides — these hills were considered uninhabitable in an earlier time when tillable acreage was the criterion for desirable land.



Wyoming Station. The structure at left still shelters B & M passengers.



At the same time that dozens of rail systems spread across the country, the Boston and Maine pushed north from Boston to Melrose and beyond. In the midst of this period of extraordinary vigor in commerce and technology typified by railroad expansion, out of the 19th century came giant steps toward mass culture. The first flush of leisure produced by industrialization brought a dazzling array of popular lyceums for mental improvement, concern for both fine arts and performing arts, and participatory music groups.

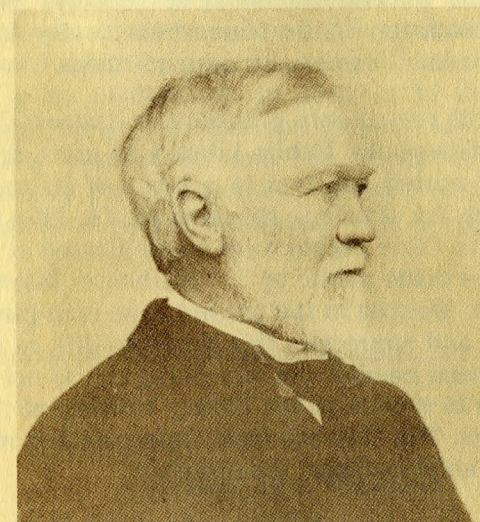
At the turn of the century Melrose had two bands, four orchestras, and three choral societies (Library Trustee Charles Barry was President of one, the Amphion Club). Of "societies, organizations and clubs", Goss, in *History of Melrose* lists an additional 31, calling this a "city of clubs".

Part of the unprecedented compulsion to grow on a grand scale involved a faith in learning, and a corollary faith in books. The belief was prevalent that books in themselves were good; that educated persons were better persons; that reading was virtuous. Literacy, then, became a measure of personal worth. The great gusto that connected our coasts with rails also dotted our land with free public libraries, with free public schools, and with private colleges, academies and state universities still in use.

New Hampshire is credited with having the first free public library in Peterborough, and it was also the first state to pass laws enabling its towns to levy taxes for the support of a public library. But Massachusetts, with advantages of population, age, and stability, soon led all states in the number of her towns and cities supporting free public libraries. Massachusetts legislation enabling municipalities to support a library was passed in 1851, two years after New Hampshire had done so.

In addition to a vastly increased regard for literacy, and to assumption of public responsibility for "an enlightened citizenry", a dizzying technology shares the credit for the rise of free public libraries in the United States.

Feverish 19th century industrialization accelerated urbanization, increased leisure, demanded trained employees, and in addition created vast fortunes which scarcely felt the bite of income tax. The last two decades of the 19th century became the great age of philanthropy. In twenty years after 1880, some \$36,000,000 was given to U.S. libraries by men of immense wealth.



Andrew Carnegie, "Steel King", "Patron Saint of Libraries"

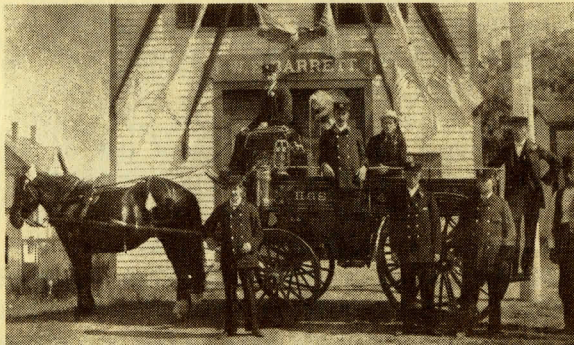
One philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, earned for himself the title "Patron Saint of Libraries". Carnegie's gift to Melrose of \$25,000 for a "Free Library Building" was a portion of more than forty million dollars given by him for 1,679 public libraries in the U.S. Carnegie had made frequent use of the library established by a Col. J. Anderson for workingmen in Allegheny City, Pa. It was while "reveling in its treasures" that the poor Scots lad became convinced of the value that accrued to a nation from an educated citizenry. He vowed then to dedicate any wealth he might acquire to what he considered the ultimate bargain — sharing knowledge through public circulation of information.



Carnegie's benefactions sometimes stirred up controversy, however. An editorial "Rich Beggars", in the *Boston Herald* of January 17, 1902 took Melrose to task: ". . . We confess to a degree of mortification when a prosperous and well-to-do Massachusetts city like Melrose goes to Mr. Carnegie begging him to give it a library building . . . It is charity to a supplicant who is not in need of charity." The writer explains that New York City is to have 5 million dollars from Carnegie, undoubtedly because of his shame at his home city's lack of public spirit, and the editorial continues sternly, "Melrose is in no analogous condition. It is a Massachusetts city. It knows the value of schools and libraries and supports them."

Local records reveal only gratitude to Andrew Carnegie for his gift that allowed the Public Library to move from desperately crowded rented quarters to a home of its own on West Emerson Street. An article in the January 11, 1902 *Melrose Reporter* comments, "Our people were much pleased at the offer of Mr. Carnegie as made public by . . . his honor, Mayor Larrabee on Monday last. Melrose at the present time is in just the condition to receive and appreciate this generous gift, as it is a thing that has long been needed, yet our young city is not in a condition financially to erect a public library building at the expense of the taxpayers. The City has freely appropriated money from year to year to amply support the library."

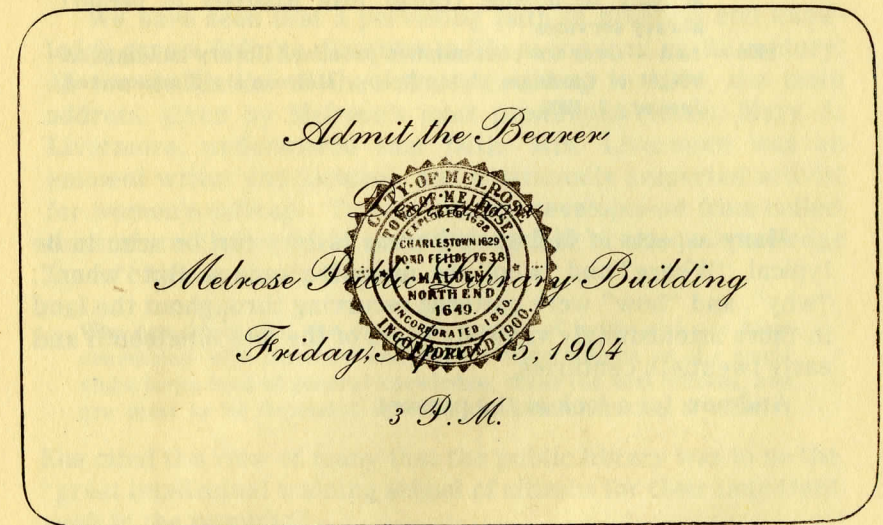
Considering the population's ten-fold growth in 50 years, and the necessity to build schools and furnish municipal ser-



An early fire company, one of many municipal services

vices of all kinds, it is obvious that Melrose was "in just the condition to receive and appreciate the generous gift"!

Carnegie's gift to Melrose was announced in a letter written by his private secretary, James Bertram, as were most of the Steel King's library contributions. Bertram's letter to the Melrose City Council carried the usual provision that the City must furnish a site and maintain the building by an annual allocation of ten per cent of the gift. As Carnegie phrased it, "not philanthropy, but a clever stroke of business"; for he believed that endowments or unencumbered gifts enervated the institution they were meant to support — that a community must invest *itself* in its institutions. In addition to the pledge of a \$2,500 annual allocation, Melrose citizens raised more than \$7,000 among themselves, and the Aldermen appropriated \$6,500, to assure the quality they wanted in their new library. (Blue Wedgewood plates decorated with a rendering of the



A proud day for the Melrose Public Library



Library, given to contributors of two dollars or more, are still found in some Melrose homes. A set of six of the plates is on exhibit at the Library for the Centennial celebration.)

Compared to the rest of the country, New England received relatively few Carnegie gifts since, by the turn of the century, it had already well-established public libraries. Of 64 New England communities receiving gifts, 57, like Melrose, had libraries before the Carnegie grant.

The following milestones show Melrose "in step" with the national library movement:

- 1870 — U.S. Bureau of Education first annual report recognizes importance of public libraries.
- 1871 — Melrose Public Library founded.
- 1876 — American Library Association founded.  
Dewey's *Classification* published.
- 1884 — First Library School, at Columbia University.
- 1890 — 1897 — Sixteen states organize library associations, Massachusetts among the first, recognizing their responsibility actively to provide (rather than passively to permit) library services.
- 1900 — 1905 — Over 600 communities promised library buildings at height of Carnegie philanthropy. Melrose's gift announced January 2, 1902.

Many aspects of Melrose's library history can be seen to be typical. "Where" and "who" are, of course, unique. But "when", "why", and "how" were patterns recurring throughout the land in those astonishingly vigorous years of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

And now for a look at the present . . . .

## 4.

Growing pains at age 100? Of course! Alive, growing and changing after its *first* 100 years, perhaps the best we can hope for our Library on its second centennial is *continued* "growing pains", for surely today's welter of innovative concepts will demand continued growth and change. True, the founders of the Melrose Library represented an evolutionary era, but their era was buttressed with a stability that does not characterize the 1970's.

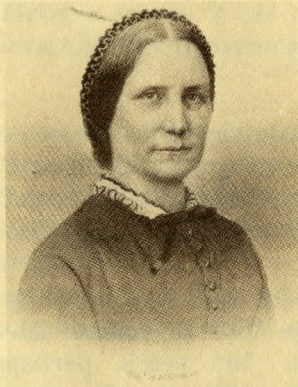
We have seen that a pervading faith in progress and knowledge gave a definite direction to life at the turn of the century. At the dedication of the Library building in 1904, the main address, given by Melrose's most prominent citizen, Mary A. Livermore, underscored that faith. Mrs. Livermore was an eminent writer and lecturer, and a nationally respected activist for women's suffrage. Tracing library development from collections of scrolls for the literate elite to free access to knowledge for *all* citizens, she concluded:

Who can doubt that the men and women of today who are most conversant with libraries and have a wide outlook on the world and a large fund of general knowledge, make the best citizens, and are most to be depended upon in the administration of affairs!

She cited the view of many that the public library was to be the "great intellectual training school of citizens for their important work in the republic".

Almost a paraphrase of Andrew Carnegie's motivation for his vast philanthropies, the sentiments of Mrs. Livermore and





**Mary A. Livermore**

her contemporaries are of course as valid as ever. But over, around, and within turn-of-the-century library objectives have flowed the complexities of an infinitely more sophisticated society. New needs have arisen in an Age of Specialization.

For example, education of children has progressed from a relatively minor portion of town budgets to one of the Nation's biggest businesses. Public libraries began early to acknowledge and provide for this specific educational need. In 1905, only a year after the Melrose Library's opening, the children's section was expanded. Library branches spread their services to more children.

In the *Melrose Home Sector* of May 31, 1923, Miss Elsie Hatch, Librarian since the retirement of Miss Carrie Worthen two years before, wrote:

It is always the aim of the Library to meet every need that presents itself. Apparently, a new need is forcing itself upon our Library — a recreation room for the boys and girls, a sort of community center where they can have their quiet games, where they are allowed to talk above a whisper without disturbing people . . . A room in the basement of the Public Library, properly fitted up and properly supervised, would give the young people such a place.

Miss Hatch continued her crusade, and by October 11 of the same year the *Home Sector* reported that plans were being



**Miss Elsie Hatch at the Children's Desk, about 1930**

made to begin work on the Children's Room.

In 1937 Mrs. Caro Nims took charge of the Children's Room, visiting public schools to explain and promote the use of



**Story Hour with Mrs. Caro Nims, about 1948.**

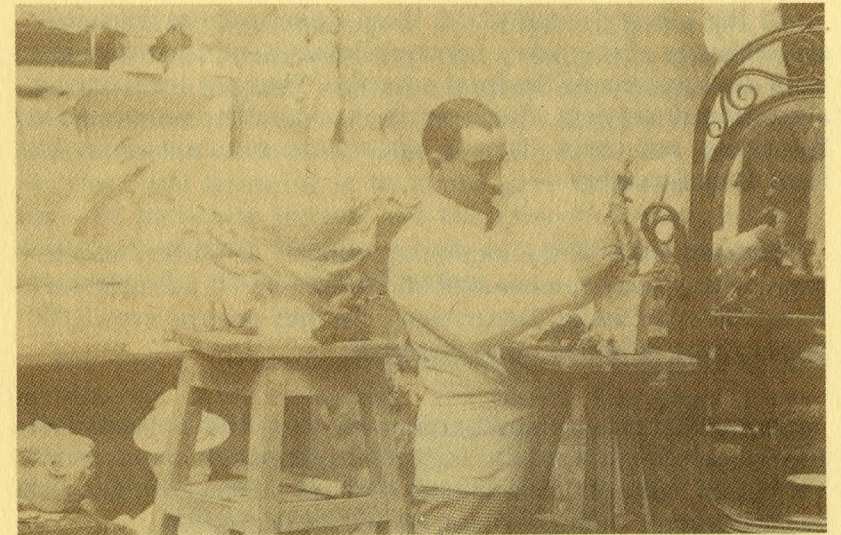




**Miss Helen Anderson and a delighted audience, in 1948**

the Library. With a new and expanded Children's Room in 1948, Mrs. Nims instituted her popular story hours, held consultations with teachers and parents on Monday evenings, and continued her interest in the City's young people. The Children's Room in the 1963 addition provides continuing service of a high calibre.

Educated persons in the 19th century were assumed to have some knowledge of the arts. Books on these subjects were simply part of the warp and woof of culture. By 1905, however, a specific collection of library material on sacred art was donated to the Library by the Melrose Women's Club in memory of Mary A. Livermore. Later, under the guidance of Miss Elsie Hatch, an art area was provided. The generous bequest of Felix A. Gendrot in 1957 greatly aided the Library's efforts to expand the scope of its art collection. The Gendrot fund furnishes, in addition to art books, art materials such as the collection of nearly 2,000 slides widely used by schools, individuals, and in the Library's twice-yearly art appreciation lectures.



**Felix Gendrot, artist, sculptor, teacher, and art connoisseur, in the studio built for him by his wife, Almira Fenno Gendrot, at Buena Vista, their Roxbury home.**

Today's art collection offers a wealth of information on classical and contemporary art; on such practical arts as architecture, photography, and interior decoration; and on crafts and hobbies from ceramics to silk screen. There is a collection of mounted prints for use in the building, and a growing collection of framed prints and reproductions of sculpture that may be borrowed. Display facilities donated by the Melrose Highlands Woman's Club are always filled with works of local artists, from professionals to talented public school students. Additional display facilities are filled with collections made by local persons, on temporary loan to the Library. Examples of recent displays are collections of antique clocks, greeting cards, and lead soldiers.

The Music Section, inaugurated in 1951, offers for borrowing more than two thousand albums of records; and books about composition, appreciation, criticism, and composers. Record players and earphones, a gift of the Pond feilde Club, are available for use of listeners at the Music Section.



Of the Library's staff of 46, those whom patrons first meet are members of the Adult Services Department, located at the main desk just inside the front entrance. They answer inquiries about library services, check out books and other materials for borrowing, and check them in again when returned, charging fines when necessary.

To keep track of the increasing number of Library acquisitions, which today number over 96,000 volumes, it was necessary to establish a Catalog Department. Its staff process over 3,000 books a year as well as other materials.

In the Reference Department more than 2100 volumes and 34,000 pamphlets contain accurate information on a broad variety of subjects. Specialized data on stocks, bonds, and funds is located in the Business and Financial Section.

Self-instruction in languages has become possible on a vastly increased scale with the Melrose Library's Audio-Visual Foreign Language Materials Center, established through the efforts of Robert O. Sondrol, who became Director in 1966. Begun with 1969 grants from the Massachusetts Department of Education, Bureau of Library Extension, using Federal funds under the Library Services and Construction Act, the Language Laboratory is used also by neighboring cities of Wakefield, Stoneham, Lynnfield, Saugus, and Reading.

All of the above cities participate in another service — the Common Borrowers' Card system. Patrons of all six library systems apparently enjoy using each others' facilities to obtain non-fiction materials. The State library agency, the Bureau of Library Extension, encourages this regional concept.

Another Federally-funded program, carried out in conjunction with the Melrose Council on Aging, is the recording of books on tape. The Library's service to the elderly includes, in addition to "talking books", the delivery of books to shut-ins, mostly at nursing homes.

Upstairs in the Genealogical and Historical Room is a rich collection of volumes recording past events, with special emphasis on New England, and Massachusetts in particular. For the preservation of Melrose memorabilia the Library is indebted to Mrs. Elisabeth Perkins, Trustee for 24 years, who served as chairman and treasurer in turn, and gave unstintingly of her time. Of particular interest are the Linscott Papers, original documents of early Melrose, which were cataloged and photographed under her personal direction.

For over a century Melrose newspapers have played an important role in the community. The *Melrose Free Press* is now celebrating its 70th year of recording local events — and acting as a willing publicity agent for the Library. The much younger *Melrose Evening News* has also been a friend to the Library. A microfilm service, supported in part by annual contributions from the Melrose Women's Club, offers to Library patrons the following priceless record of the past:

*Melrose Journal*, 1870 to 1903

*Melrose Reporter*, 1876 to 1903

*Melrose Free Press*, Nov. 15, 1901 to present

*Melrose Evening News*, May, 1969 to present

*Christian Science Monitor* and *Wall Street Journal*, 1967 to present

*New York Times*, 1968 to present

Town and City Reports, 1851 to 1931

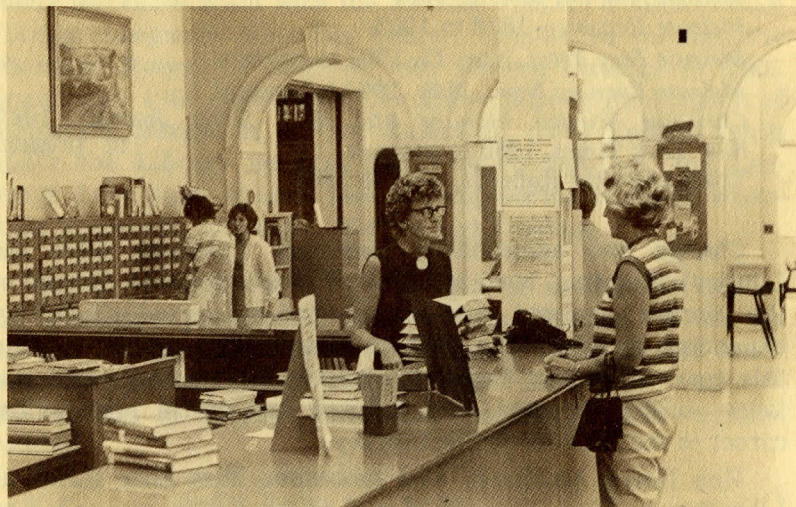
Change and adaptability, necessary functions since the Library's founding, have accelerated in recent years. Several of the Library's present staff have helped shape today's rapidly expanding services. Miss Barbara Mason, for example, retiring this year, served as Assistant Director for 28 years. She was twice Acting Director, and devoted her entire professional career to the Melrose Public Library.

Miss Helen Anderson, who succeeded Miss Elsie Hatch as Librarian in 1945, recognized and energetically responded to the challenge of her time, encouraged to do so by the Trustees' support and corresponding wish to serve the City within the context of contemporary need. Increased use of the Library, and Miss Anderson's continuing request for larger facilities, pro-



duced in 1957 the first encouraging response to Melrose's need for a Library addition. Howard Wilder, former Melrose High School principal, editor, and historian, who was then Chairman of the Library Trustees, was a vigorous proponent of expansion. Joining Miss Anderson and Mr. Wilder, many individuals and groups — including the Melrose Planning Board, Mayor Lloyd, and the Melrose League of Women Voters — worked for library expansion through the late '50's and early '60's. The resulting enlarged structure, today's Library, provides attractive space required for meeting the Community's present needs.

The Melrose Public Library celebrates its 100th birthday in 1971 in a posture of progress, with a staff of 46, an annual budget of some \$200,000., and a collection of over 96,000 volumes — an exemplary and forward-looking status for a centenarian!!!



The Main Desk, 1971

## 5.

In the Library vault are collected minutes of Trustees' meetings beginning in March, 1871. A sense of 100 years of the Trustees' individual and cumulative devotion comes from the handwritten pages of those volumes.

Below is a list of Trustees of the Melrose Public Library, from its founding in 1871 to the present date. We wish it were possible to rescue each name here from the impersonal quality which is inherent in a list — as we attempted in Chapter 2 with the first three names. The men and women whose names follow, through their intelligence and dedication, have guided the Library in useful directions for 100 years.

Frederic Kidder	1871-1885	Frank W. Campbell	1916-1946
Elbridge H. Goss	1871-1900	Clara G. Muldoon	1919-1925
	1903-1908	Ralph G. Harmon	1921-1929
Charles C. Barry	1871-1909	Mary C. Barton	1916-1934
Addie A. Nichols	1873-1883	Mary D. Dike	1925-1931
Hannah Lynde	1873-1887	Willis M. Townsend	1930-1947
Thomas B. Peck	1884-1887	Myrtie F. Seaverns	1931-1945
Ruby F. Farwell	1885-1900	Carita H. Lovejoy	1935-1945
Mary L. Charles	1888-1900	Thomas E. Hannegan	1931-1942
	1901-1914	William Carney	1943-1962
Charles A. Patch	1888-1902	Hugh Nixon	1942-1950
George E. Munroe	1891-1900	Elisabeth Perkins	1946-1970
Edward M. Munyan	1902-1905	Elinor Tibbetts	1946-1958
	1909-1914	Edwin Lundquist	1947-present
Neil A. Divver	1900-1931	Melvin Nicholls	1948-1954
Maria L. Chapin	1900-1904	Edwin C. Kemp	1951-1953
Anna T. Bush	1904-1914	Herbert Hammond	1953-1956
Paul Sterling	1906-1941	Howard Wilder	1954-1968
William Atwood	1911-1914	Ernest F. Perkins, Jr.	1957-1971
Angier L. Goodwin	1915-1916	Elizabeth C. Hayes	1959-1968
John W. Paisley	1915-1917	Richard L. Hildreth	1963-present
Lovisa A. Allen	1915-1918	Chester H. Anderson	1969-present
Charles E. French	1916-1921	Alice V. Wentworth	1969-present
		Mary S. Clarke	1970-present



Among the Directors of the Melrose Public Library during its first one hundred years, the terms of service vary from one year to the forty-seven years which Miss Worthen spent as Librarian.

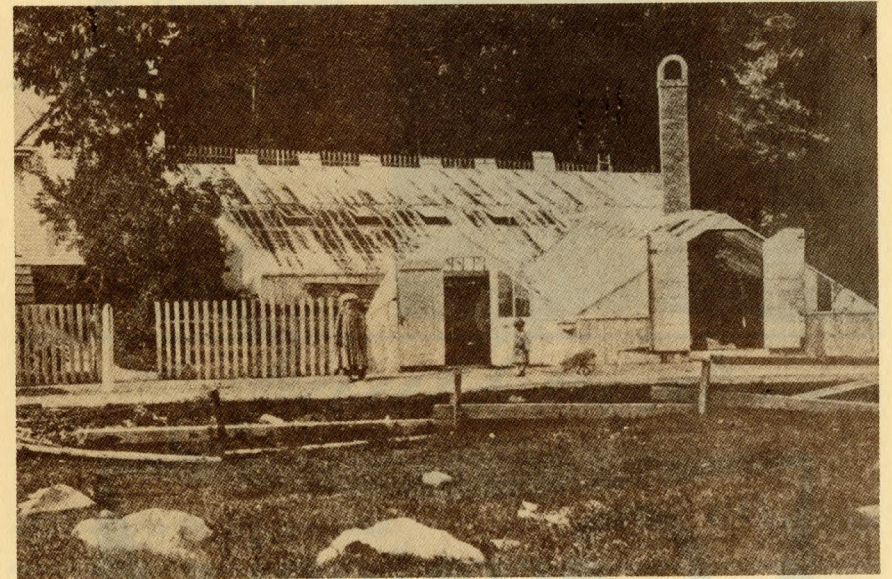
Some of the particular programs initiated during the tenure of each director have been mentioned here, in previous chapters. Another booklet should be written, however, to discuss fairly the personal and professional contributions of each of the persons named below, and to describe the interdependence of the Community and its Library Director. For their leadership during the first one hundred years of the Melrose Public Library, we salute the following men and women, directors of the Melrose Public Library:

The Trustees	November 4, 1871 to March 1, 1872
C. Edward Prior	March 1, 1872 to March 1, 1873
Carrie M. Worthen	March 1, 1873 to September 1, 1920
Elsie M. Hatch	January 1, 1921 to April 1, 1945
Helen Anderson	August 1, 1945 to August 1, 1966
Robert O. Sondrol	December 15, 1966 to August 16, 1970
Ronald B. Hubbs	October 5, 1970



*Congratulations to the Melrose Public Library*

***We are  
also  
Celebrating!  
1869 - 1971***

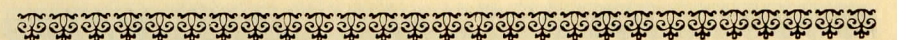


**Casey Florist — 1880**

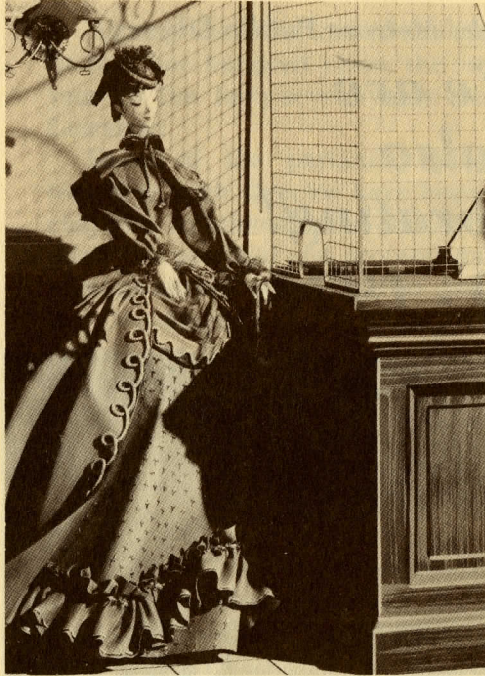
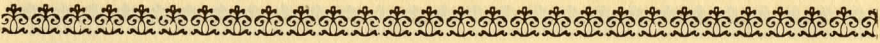
*That's right — when the Melrose Public Library was born, we were two years old and have been literally growing ever since that time in order to meet your flower needs.*



**Over 100 Years at  
93 Maple Street  
665-0123**







*Welcome . . .*

*Melrose Public Library  
to the 100 Year Club*

**MELROSE  
WAKEFIELD  
TRUST**  
*Company*



Member F.D.I.C.  
A Shawmut Association Bank

*Congratulations from*

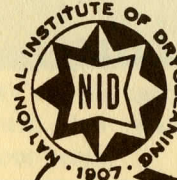
it's **Cerretani's**  
**SUPER  
MARKET**  
**FAMOUS FOR LOW, LOW PRICES  
AND TOP QUALITY FOODS**



*Happy Anniversary*

**CAMPBELL & HALL**

*Good Luck during  
your Centennial*



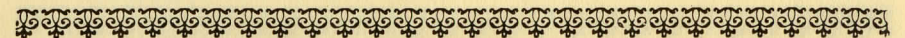
*Faulkner's*  
NEW LIFE CLEANSING

437 Franklin St., Melrose Hlds.

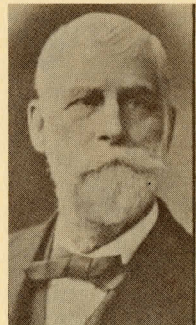
665-6300

*Congratulations  
from*

**EASTERN BOOK CO.**







Levi S. Gould  
President, 1895

The library was 19 years old when we were founded in 1890.

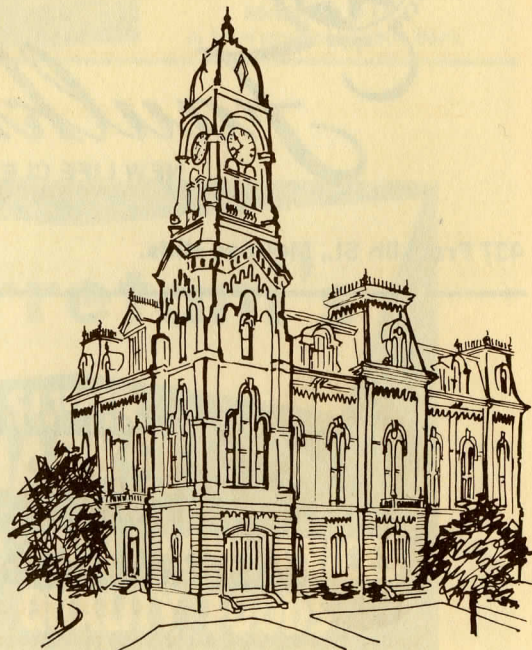
Mr. Gould, our second president, was also a Mayor of Melrose and was instrumental in the process of housing the library in its present quarters.

The two institutions have grown together and both are truly "cornerstones of our community".

## Congratulations to the Melrose Public Library

### Melrose Co-operative Bank

638 Main St.  
665-2500



Early Banking Quarters  
Selectmen's Room, City Hall



*This is how we  
looked in 1944*



We've changed somewhat since then, but still wish to serve your needs.

**463 FRANKLIN ST.**  
**Plenty of**  
**Free Parking**

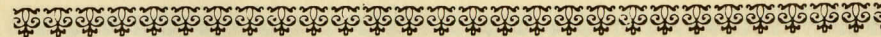
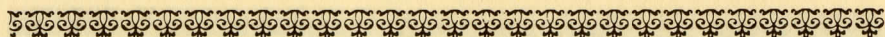
**Continuously operated by the same Cefalo family since 1923**

**We're Newcomers . . .**

relatively speaking, anyway, as we've been in Melrose for **only 48** years. However, any time you need flowers, please remember . . .

# Cefalo's

**665-1627**  
Melrose Florist Co., Inc.  
235 W. WYOMING AVENUE, MELROSE  
Hours: Open Daily 8 am to 5:30 pm Closed Sundays thru Labor Day





Congratulations to the Library  
from a recent arrival to Melrose



TRANS WORLD SERVICES INC.  
72 Stone Place  
Melrose, Mass.

Your

Friendly



Dealer

## CUTLER MOTOR SALES

"By the Pond"

MELROSE

Happy Anniversary from one Centenarian  
to Another

"Mr. Deering established this business in 1872, and by careful attention to every detail has succeeded in establishing an extensive trade . . . We can safely recommend all interested to give their patronage to this house, assuring them that any commercial dealings which they may enter into with Mr. Deering they will find satisfaction in every way."

Taken from an early advertisement — We  
still feel this way

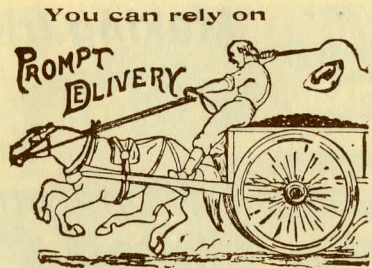
DEERING LUMBER CO.

118 Essex St., Melrose

665-3000

The Benson Coal  
Company,

# WOOD

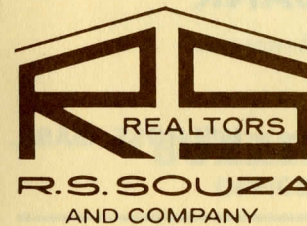


SINCE 1871

## Benson-Goss Fuels, Inc.

20 Tremont St., Melrose

665-4047



Guarantee Sales . . .  
We Buy Direct

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| RESIDENTIAL  | COMMERCIAL   |
| ● SALES      | ● RENTALS    |
| ● MANAGEMENT | ● APPRAISALS |
| ● DEVELOPING | ● COUNSELING |

Melrose  
616 Main St.  
662-6000



Peabody  
12 Peabody Sq.  
531-2800

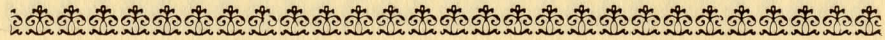
WITH TWO OFFICES DOES THAT MAKE US TWICE AS GOOD  
AS ANY OTHER REAL ESTATE FIRM? NO, BUT WE'RE WORKING ON IT.

Congratulations from your  
neighbor down the street



163 West Emerson Street  
Melrose, Mass.





**Making friends since 1872**

*Congratulations to the  
Melrose Public Library*

**MELROSE SAVINGS BANK**

476 MAIN STREET

PHONE 665-0125

MELROSE, MASS.

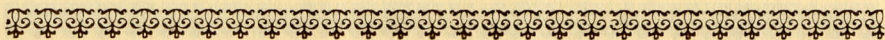


*Congratulations, Library!*

**ANDERSON AND HERMANN, INC**

**WHOLESALE LUMBER SERVICE**

**Chester H. Anderson, President**



Est. 1928

*Call us for  
sales & service on  
Maytag Appliances*

**GRAY'S MAYTAG  
HOME APPLIANCE  
CENTER**

192 Green St.

665-2671

Gray's washing machine service — 1930



*Congratulations to the Melrose Public Library*

**BUZZELLE-COLELLA CO., INC.**  
**OFFICE MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT**

59 W. Wyoming Avenue

665-1588

Melrose, Mass

**SALES — SERVICE — RENTALS**

When *Melrose and Historical Melrose* is your *business* as well as your *hobby*—you are bound to be enthused about celebrating the Hundredth Anniversary of the Library.

At *brad hutchinson real estate Melrose* is our *business*. Drop in and take a look.

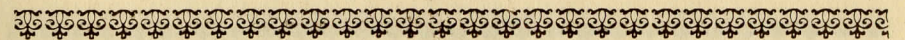
Brad Hutchinson  
Nancy Priestley

Ronald Nelson  
Peter Regan

Russ Berg



**brad hutchinson real estate — 193 Green Street**







# Finis

This page represents the end of a century of service to our community, but not "finish" to the story of our library — that is an ever-progressing theme.

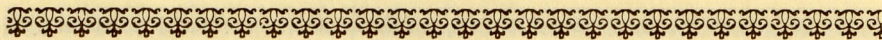
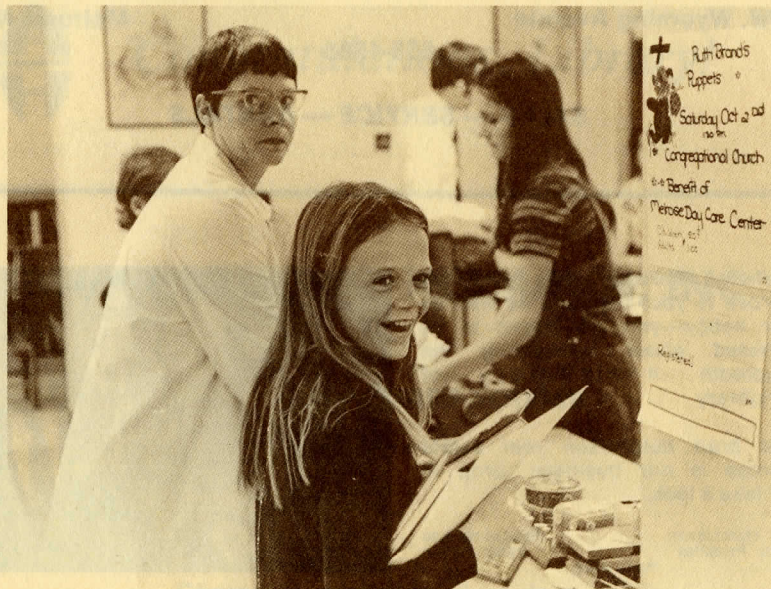
So, too, with us. Our roots were set down in 1887 and we have tried to meet your newspaper and printing needs during that period — another ever-progressing theme.

## The Melrose Free Press

MELROSE PRINTING COMPANY

40 West Foster Street • Melrose, Massachusetts 02176

Phone (617) 665-4003



The Melrose Public Library  
cordially invites you to  
a week-long celebration of its

### One Hundredth Anniversary

November 1 - 7, 1971

Monday, November 1, at 8 P.M.

OPENING NIGHT — Victorian Setting  
Special Guests — Mayor, City Officials and  
Candidates

Tuesday, November 2, at 7:30 P.M.

REMEMBRANCE NIGHT  
Tapes and Tape Players available — local citizens  
speaking on early days of Melrose

Wednesday, November 3, at 10:30 A.M.

VICTORIAN PAINTING and HANDCRAFTS  
Illustrated Lecture by Mrs. Arvid Moberger

Thursday, November 4, at 7:30 P.M.

FILM NIGHT in All Purpose Room

Friday, November 5, at 8:15 P.M.

WALTER MUIR WHITEHILL  
Director, Boston Athenaeum  
Guest Speaker

Saturday, November 6, from 2:00-6:00 P.M.

HAND Book-binding demonstration by Bay State  
Bindery, Inc., owned by Mr. Hector MacDonald of  
Melrose.

2:00 & 4:00 P.M. — Children's Dept. presenting  
"Little Women". All-child cast of 10 — Time: 45  
minutes

Sunday, November 7, from 3 to 5 P.M.

RECEPTION for Local Authors and Authors offi-  
cially connected with neighboring public libraries.  
Authors will autograph personal copies brought in  
by public