DOES NOT CIRCULATE

JAYCEE REPORT ON LIBRARY CONDITIONS

(An investigating subcommittee of the Library Committee of the Junior Chamber of Commerce rendered the following report on conditions pertaining to the Albertson Public Library Building. The report was adopted by the full committee on January 6, and by the Board of Directors for the entire organization on January 13, 1959.)

Last week this subcommittee, composed of John Barber, Jack Peake and S. Victor Tipton, studied the matter of the Albertson Public Library building by detailed personal inspection of it, by examining written facts and reports concerning it, by reading authoritative information on libraries generally, and by interviewing library personnel. We find not only that the present 35 year old building, constructed when the community had only a fraction of its present population, has almost the poorest possible design and arrangement to serve present needs but that it is in size less than one fifth of that needed.* We find that because of this greatly outmoded size and arrangement:

1. One has to climb 18 stairs to get into the building and often, if seeking books, two additional stairways of 12 steps each after getting in. (This is a bad if not impossible situation for elderly persons, heart patients and many others, and an inconvenience for everyone.)

2. There are no seats available at times. This was even the case during New Year's Eve afternoon. The same was true the day before (see photos).

3. The seats are necessarily small and uncomfortable.

4. There cannot be enough different books nor enough copies of the same books.

5. The business men's research section, the science section and various other sections have to be greatly restricted whereas they should be constantly expanding.
6. To make room for any new materials old materials have to be destroyed and some of it is irreplaceable. (The building is housing many times the number of books and other materials it housed at its meagre beginning, prior to which Orlando had no public library.)

7. The children's room is too small. The young adults' room can only be used by them part time. There are inadequate facilities for adult group study, research and discussion. The reference room is crowded.

8. There is no space for check stations at doors to prevent book thefts.

9. There is no space for adding a photostating machine and other needed modern equipment.

10. There is grossly inadequate space for the some 40 clerical and staff workers to carry on their work. For example, four attempt to work at desks in a room 8 by 12 feet which includes also book shelves and filing cabinets. Desks have to be placed in almost every corner of the building. Some are protruding into aisles necessarily used by patrons. There are only eight small lockers for the 40 odd workers.

11. There is no convenient space for the loading and unloading of the bookmobiles which travel throughout the county.

12. The building is not adequately air conditioned and it would be impractical to make it so.

13. Physical conditions and arrangements on both the inside and outside of the present building are not and cannot be such as to be the basis for attracting new patrons and, in fact, actually discourage its use in many cases. We believe the right kind of a new building would greatly increase the circulation and use of the library - and that the greatest possible dissemination of knowledge is essential for promotion of the public good and the preservation of democracy in a fast moving and threatening world.

We find that there is needed badly and as soon as possible a completely new modern library building several times the size of the present one, with most of
the space on its street level floor and with ample room and strong enough
foundation to expand both horizontally and vertically as future needs require.
Recommendations as to the general area in which such a building should be located,
cost and financing should await further study.

*(The present building has 11,000 square feet. Clara Wendel, Library
Director, has recommended a building with a minimum of 56,250 square feet. We
believe that this figure is conservative and probably too low. It is indirectly
based upon comparisons with the size of modern libraries built for other cities.
But there are many more people living in most of these cities than reside outside
their limits in their respective counties. In Orange County, on the other hand,
there are more than one and a half times as many people living outside Orlando
than live in Orlando itself. Many of these people no doubt use the reference
department and various other sections of the library almost as much as do
Orlandoans.)*

(Signed) ___________________  ___________________  ___________________
          John Barber             Jack Peake             S. Victor Tipton