

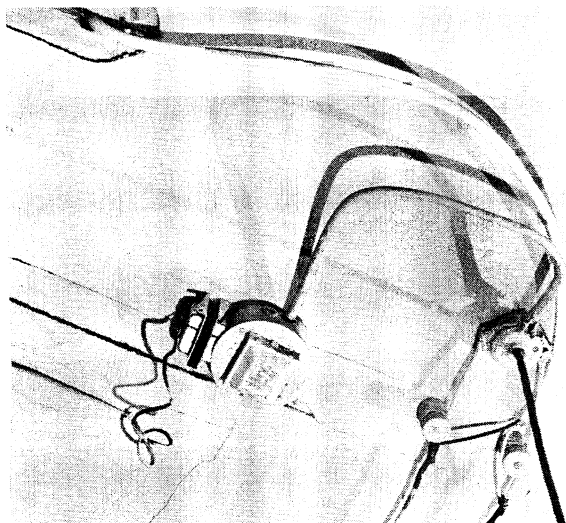
Why Ripon Needs New Library . . .



Time and use have out-distanced Ripon's present library



Lack of proper storage space...



And hazards that jeopardize users...

When was the present Ripon Public Library erected?

In 1905 when the city's population was about 3,500.

How many volumes could the present library comfortably house?

Approximately 15,000.

How many books should a city the size of Ripon have in its library?

The American Library Association recommends a minimum of five books per person. Thus Ripon should have about 30,000 volumes. Its collection presently numbers approximately 34,000.

How many periodicals should a library the size of Ripon's receive?

The State of Wisconsin has recommended a library of this size should receive about 140 magazines. The Ripon library subscribes to 90; there isn't room to shelve any more than that.

Has use of the library increased in recent years?

In 1950 the library circulated 22,775 books. In 1968 it circulated 53,200, or more than twice that of 18 years before.

How many card holders does the Ripon library have?

There are currently 3,050; 1,950 adults and 1,100 juveniles.

Are the present facilities adequate?

No.

What is the recommended seating capacity for a library the size of Ripon's?

It is recommended that a library have 10 chairs per 1,000 population. The library has 20 chairs, 60 are needed.

Are there adequate restroom facilities?

No. There is one restroom in the library. That restroom serves all library users and staff, both male and female.

Are there enough fire exits?

No. There are three exits. One is upstairs, two are located in the basement. One of the basement exits is through the furnace room.

Is there sufficient heating and circulation?

No. The present plant is unable to properly heat the building during cold weather. Building temperatures during the winter are often 60 degrees or lower. In the summer the problem is reversed, there is no cooling system and inadequate ventilation.

Are there other physical problems with the present building?

Yes. Electrical wiring, plumbing, and the outdated and unmaintained construction of the facility create hazards.

Would the present building meet the state code standards for a public building?

Probably not.

How long has the present building been considered inadequate?

Consideration of a new building started in 1953, seventeen years ago.

Why has the building been allowed to deteriorate to the present condition?

Because a new building has been a consideration for 17 years and because it was recommended not to place any more costly maintenance into the building.

Why, in the last 17 years, hasn't a plan for maintaining the present library, or constructing a new one, been carried out?

Plans have been initiated on both these points but never fully pursued because the library had received a low priority from the city until last year.

Why did this priority change last year?

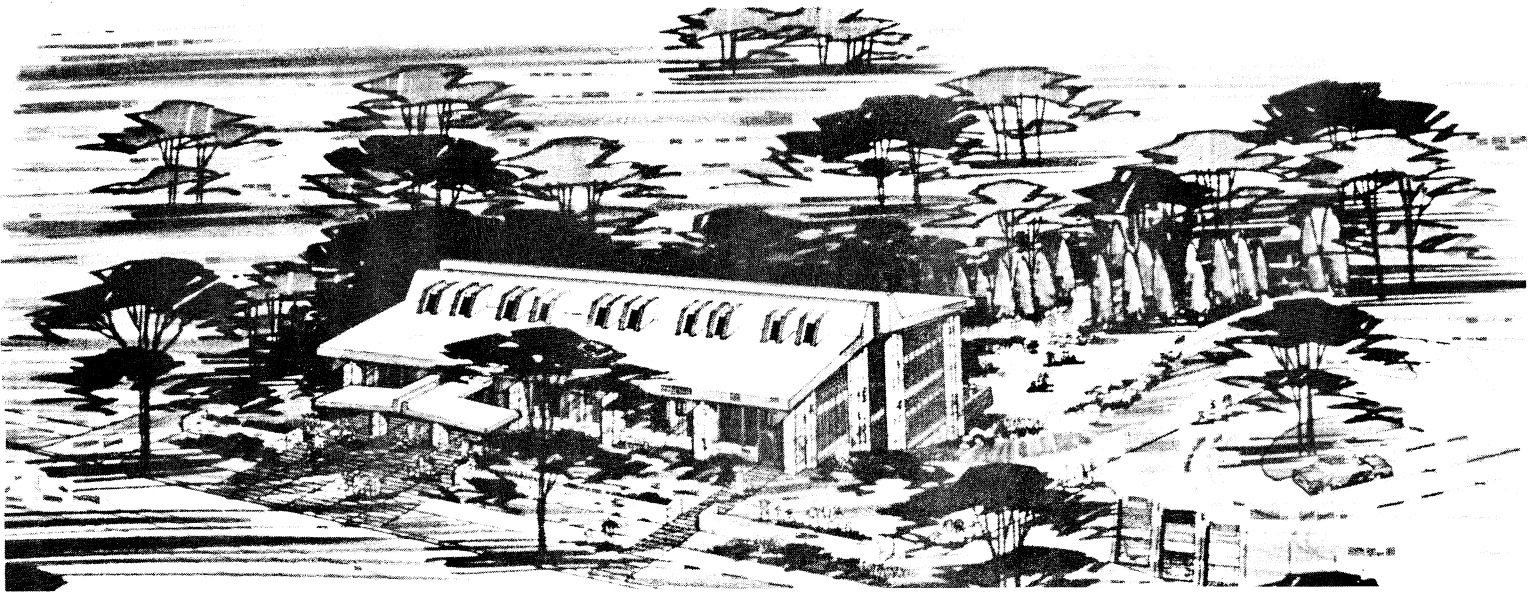
Because the library could no longer be put off, and because the city was in a position to act on a plan.

And what has resulted since then?

The Ripon Public Library Board has been authorized to study and recommend a plan for the construction of a new library to the Common Council.

What action has the Library Board taken?

It has retained an architect and selected a proposed building site, the Nash-Mill property on Jefferson Street.



The architect's view of what a library would look like on the proposed Nash-Mill site

A Public Library Is Important Because:

- *it is a source of information, entertainment and recreation
- *it is open to everyone
- *it is a reflection on the community

(Printed courtesy of The Ripon Commonwealth-Press at no cost)

Who Needs A Library?

Abraham Lincoln...Horatio Alger...Americans know about these men, thanks to libraries. Americans know that Lincoln walked miles in order to be able to read, that Alger created a fictional dream many people grew up with...

Lincolns, Algers, myths and ideas, issues and answers, facts and fancies...libraries. Empires and fortunes have risen and fallen because of libraries. Science has advanced and myths have been dispelled in libraries.

Libraries are one of the first cultural vestiges tyranny selected to destroy. The Hitlers and Stalins knew the importance of libraries.

James Michener once wrote that he knew two ways to knowledge. "One is through experience," he said, "the other is through books." No one can experience all he wishes, but nearly everyone can read, thanks to libraries.

Is it any wonder libraries are important?



Ripon's 65 year old public library