

WORTHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY (OHIO)

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LIBRARY USE ONLY

1979

From Cocoon To Butterfly . . .

1979 was an eventful year at the Worthington Public Library. All through winter and spring there was daily excitement as the new building at 805 Hartford St. progressed on schedule. Equipment and furnishings were chosen and it appeared that the shiny, new quarters would be ready as promised. →



The long and complicated task of planning the move with a minimum disruption of service was nearing completion when construction progress suffered a setback. Suppliers became vague about delivery dates and finish carpenters were nowhere on site. Moving plans had progressed beyond the recall stage, however, and had to continue as scheduled. On Labor Day weekend, amid cement dust, unfinished interiors and stifling heat, the "Great Community Move" took place. Two hundred intrepid volunteers joined board members and staff in the gargantuan task of moving books, magazines and phonorecords. →



This year witnessed the rise of a new star, Mr. Possum, the puppet with the Henry Fonda drawl. The young crowds continued to clamor for their favorite puppet character, demanding handshakes and pleading for autographs through preschool story hours, class visits, special programs, scout troops working on library-related badges, and summer programs in each park!

Young patrons, whose demand for school research assistance remained constant from old to new facilities, expressed appreciation for library services throughout the year with dandelion bouquets and boasts of good grades on library assisted projects. Trusting that library staff are always on the job, one youngster asked "Where's your bedroom?" Requests for "a really good read" increased, and the popularity of the multi-level story area knew no age boundaries.



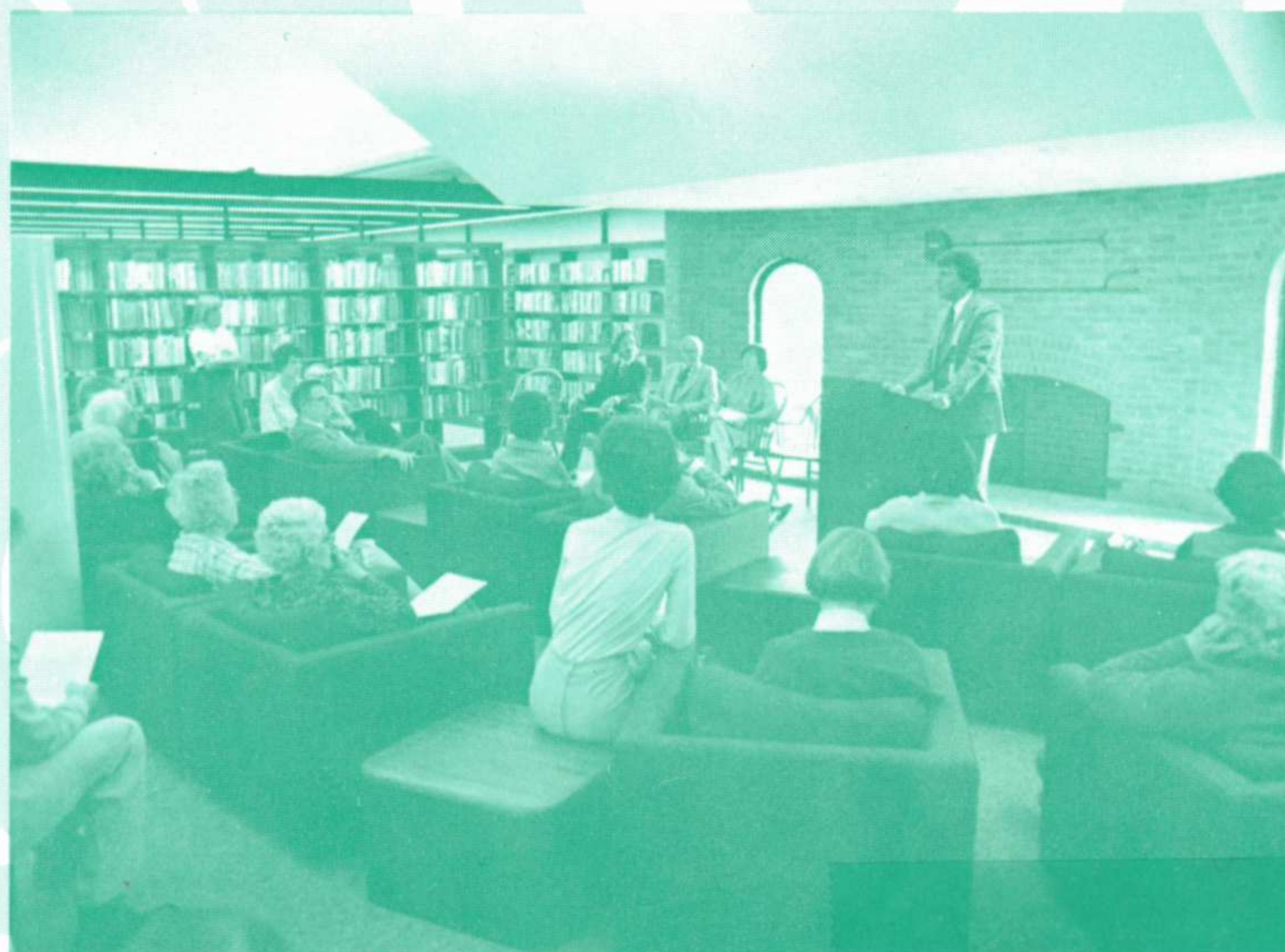
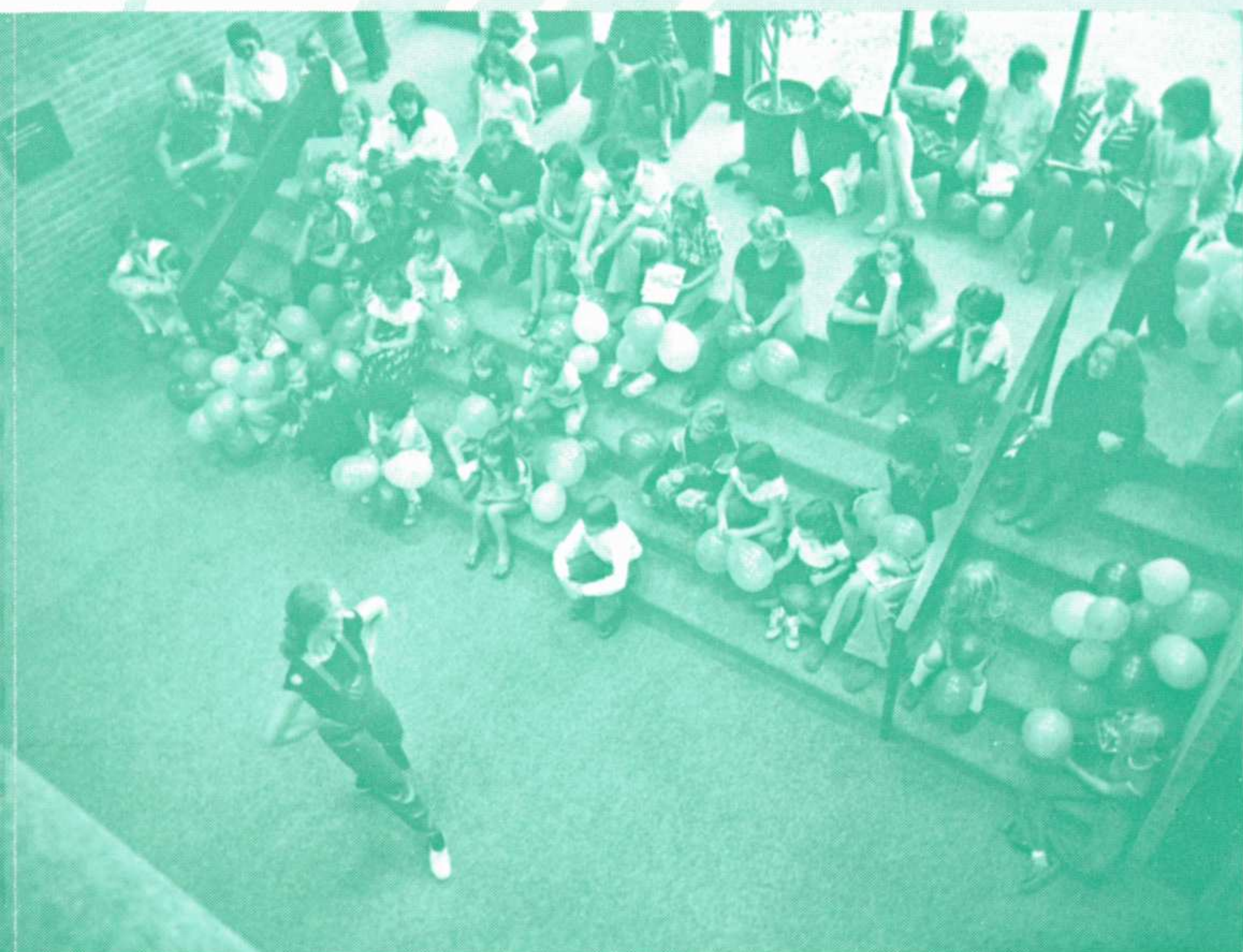
Changes in technology occurred even before the move.

An automated circulation system began operation on January 2, and on July 1, the first edition of the COM Catalog was installed. Read on a screen similar to a TV, it is an alphabetical listing of library owned materials entered under author, title, and subject. "Cat Persons" were volunteers who helped introduce the COM CAT to our public.

On September 17, a serviceable, but far from finished building opened to the public. Work continued, and magically, the building and grounds were sparkling and ready for inspection by the 500 people who attended the Gala Opening Celebration on October 21, 1979. It was an exciting and rewarding day for the Board of Trustees, who had planned so long, for the staff who had worked hard under adverse conditions, for the volunteers who had contributed 2158 hours, helping in many ways, for the Friends who had long supported the library and whose treasury had paid for the day's exquisite refreshments and for the donors whose generosity had helped furnish the library. For the entire community it was a day to share the pleasures of a lovely new building and abundant entertainment for all ages.

The new building permitted great expansion of the non-fiction and reference areas. Book capacity has doubled and individual study carrels have increased seating. Back issues of magazines are now available to the public on open shelves.

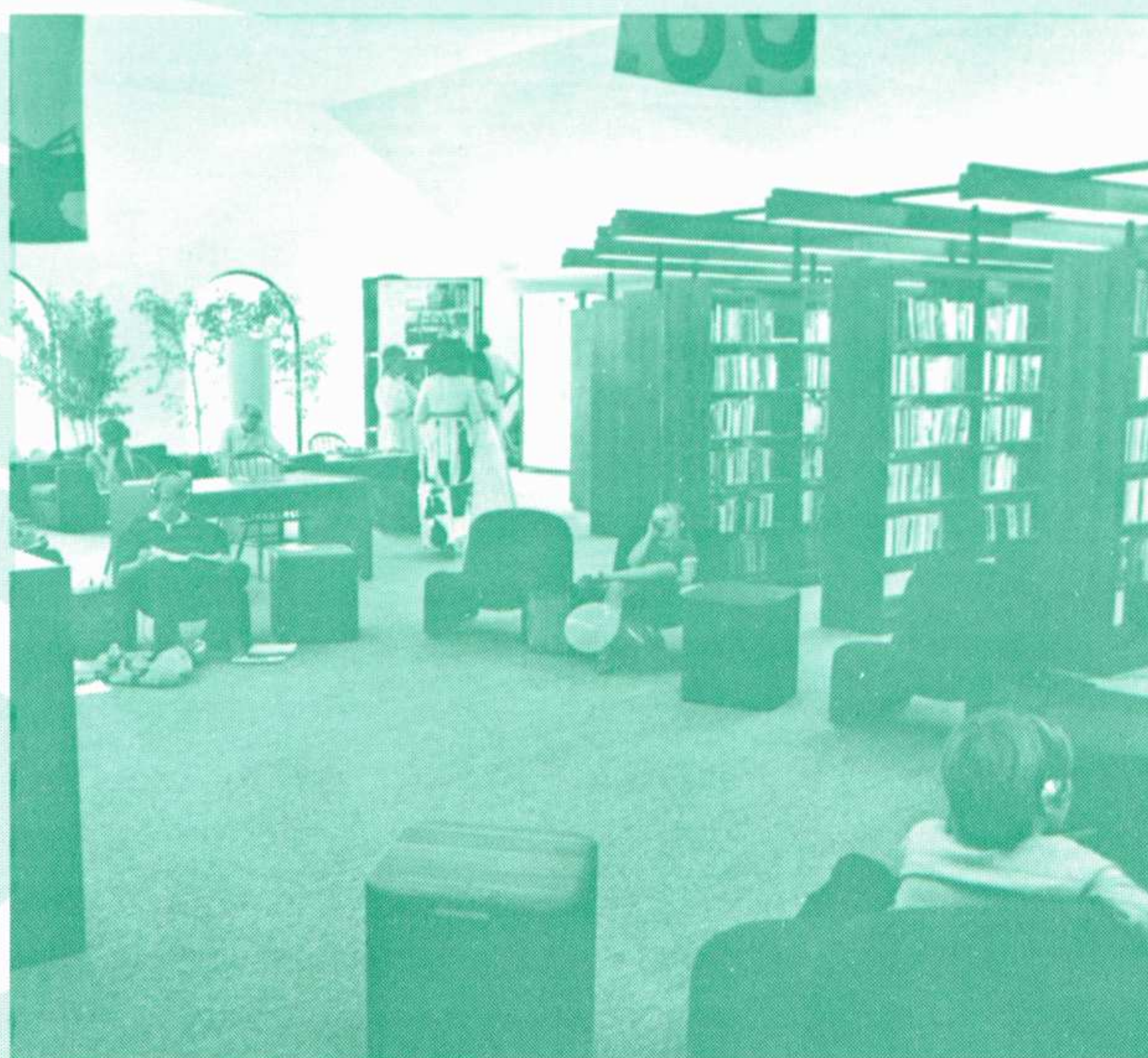
The comfortable chairs and woodburning fireplace have lured many people to the fiction and new book sections to "curl up with a good book", or to select from the 245 current magazines available for use in the library.



In the greatly expanded audiovisual area are stereo headphones which permit the listener to choose from cassettes, phonorecords or radio. A viewing area for film or video has quickly become popular with young and old alike.

The meeting rooms offer an additional public service and, for many people are an introduction to the new library. The exhibit areas and display cases provide an opportunity to make the works and collections of local people accessible to all.

Increased physical accessibility of the building spurred an exciting turnabout when some of the homebound recipients of "library service out of a canvas bag" visited the library and



marvelled at the beauty of book stacks extending as far as the eye could see. An electric wheel chair propelled at rambunctious speed toward the elevator by a grinning youth was heart warming evidence of a welcome advance in service.

Reaching individuals who are unable to use the library's collection in person called for the delivery of 7,047 items to three nursing homes, two senior citizen housing centers, one psychiatric hospital, and 26 people in private homes.

Library volunteers have continued to read aloud in area nursing homes, while others have adopted individual homebound patrons, bringing books and a friendly chat on a regular basis.

We look forward to 1980 and the opportunity to serve the community with greatly expanded quarters and services.



STATISTICS 1979

COLLECTION

Book Stock	89,092
Magazine Subscriptions	245
Magazines on Microfilm	21
Phonorecords	6,906
8 mm films	359
Framed prints	296
Cassettes	772

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday	9 — 9
Friday & Saturday	9 — 6
Sunday (Sept.-May)	1 — 5

CIRCULATION

341,648

PROGRAMS

Adult Programs	170	Attendance	4,297
Juvenile Programs	156	Attendance	3,653
Class Visits	231	Attendance	4,234

TOTAL EXPENDITURES - GENERAL FUND \$509,335

Distribution of Expenditures:	Personnel	Materials	Building Related	Other
	42 %	18 %	6 %	34 %

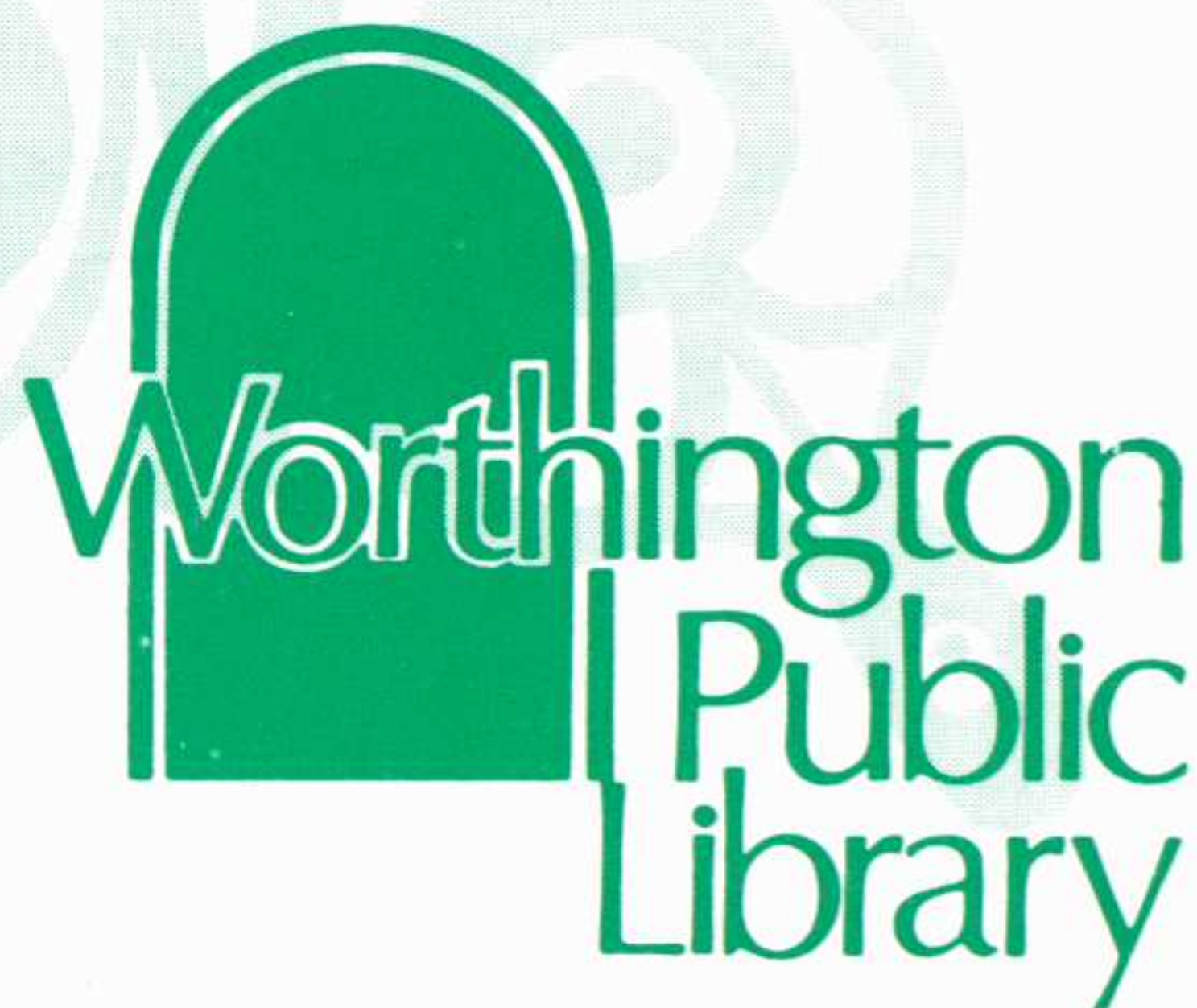
TOTAL EXPENDITURES — BUILDING FUND \$899,667

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