

On June 23, 1978, the present site of the Chilton Public Library was dedicated. The library was built by the city with monies added to the \$100,000 donation of the late Gordon Wolff. Jim Toth also donated money to this project in honor of his wife, Ida. Interested businessmen, industries, and citizens donated all the furnishings and many other materials. The library was the first new public building constructed in Chilton's history. Mrs. Evelyn Casper was the head librarian when the library was dedicated. Her staff included Stella Nicolay, Karen Juckem, and June Ninnow. Don Parson built the library, and Russel Miersch was the architect. Helen Wolff, widow of Gordon Wolff, cut the ribbon at the dedication. The library's square footage was 7,248 feet. The library board consisted of Adele Courtice, Charlotte Engler, Carl Siebert, James Skarda, Bernie Vought, and library board president Mary Knauf.

In 1996, the office area of the present library was remodeled with new carpeting, more workspace for staff, a new handicapable circulation desk, and enclosure of ceiling area of the office.

On October 9, 1999, the Riverfront Addition was dedicated. The architect for this project was Birschbach and Associates, LTD. The primary funding for this addition came from the Evelyn Whitby-Farmer Trust, Bill Jr. and Gail Engler, and Mike and Kathy Engler with donor advised funds that were part of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region Inc., Earl and Irma Lintner, and the City of Chilton. There were also many other monetary donations for this addition which are listed on plaques in the Riverfront Addition. The "Riverfront Retirees" coordinated the removal and installation of new carpeting.

The expansion increased the 7,248 square foot building to 9,767 square feet. Other features in the new addition included the following: large basement storage area, expansion of heating and air conditioning system, installation of a fire suppression sprinkler system, and upgrading of fire and security system, new carpeting throughout the entire library, 10 workstations with Intel Pentium III Processors and 17" monitors connected to the Internet, a monitoring system covering the computer lab, conversion of one computer outside of the lab to be accessible for disabled persons, an extended and improved children's section, new window treatments on all windows, extensive landscaping including new trees and shrubbery, nine stall parking lot including one designated "disabled", a large uni-sex lavatory conforming to accessibility standards, replacement of the floor in the main and meeting room entrances, panic bars attached to all doors opening to the outside, a third set of observation windows overlooking the river, additional shelving provided to accommodate a growing book collection, additions to the computerized checkout system, entire inside of library repainted, reupholstering of chairs in the sitting area, and additional outside lighting of the building.

#### Head Librarians Since The Tales of Old Chilton

Evelyn Casper 1970- 1981

Kathy Garton 1993-April 2010

Karen Juckem 1981-1992

#### Library Board Presidents Since The Tales of Old Chilton

Mary A. Knauf 1964-1978

Carl Siebert 1978-

In 1993, the library became computerized with the installation of the Winnebago System. In 2002, the Chilton Library joined a shared system using the Dynix System with Manitowoc, Two Rivers, Kiel, New Holstein, and Brillion libraries. T1 line for Internet usage.

Milestones since 1978 include the following: Earl Linter organized the Friends of the Library in April of 1975, and the Friends of the Library was reorganized in November of 1993, the library celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on January 20, 1983, the first Apple IIe computer was available in the library December 26, 1984, June 20, 1998 the library celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in this present building.

Statistics

Library Circulation

1977

24,513

2000

119,462

The Chilton Public Library is a city run library. We belong to the Manitowoc-Calumet Library System and receive funding from Calumet County and Manitowoc County for patron usage. We now have 7,499 patrons. 3,730 from the county. We also receive many benefits from the system which include grants and system workshops.

The Chilton Public Library has been very fortunate to be the recipient of so many donations which has made it possible to first build the present building and to add on. We have also been fortunate to have had many wonderful volunteers throughout the years. When we have needed them, they have come forward. The Friends of the Library has been a very supportive group. They have an annual "Shopping with Santa" for the kids as well as other successful fundraisers, but they have also been active in the Summer Reading Program, story time, and arranging authors to visit the library. The future for the Chilton Public Library is bright due to donations, volunteers, and great cooperation with the Chilton City Council.