

MAIN CITY PARK - History

Kilgore Public Library

References: Permanent Record Book Vol. 4 - Pgs. 200, 201, 202, 203, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 238, 333, 334

Mayor: Roy H. Laird

Commissioners: J.E. Bagwell
E.C. Middlebrook

City Secy: U.W. Prater

Application to United States Public Works Administration for 45% funding for library bldg. (City's contribution to be \$25,000)Resolution accepting grant....Employed George Marble of Dallas as architect to prepare plans and specifications and other contract documents and supervise construction.

Bids and bid award.....Resolution accepting construction completion.

The Construction of the Library Building

The new Kilgore Public Library was constructed at a cost of \$45,454 with a PWA grant of \$20,454. It is a one-story, part-basement structure, which includes a foyer, an adult reading room, a children's reading room, a librarian's office, a circulation office, a stack room, and a committee room. The building is air-conditioned.

The structure is of French Provencal design, and it is made of Texas limestone. The brown and green coloring of the tile roof blends with the white stone walls.

The interior has an ancient appearance. Designs of fleur-de-lis on the ceiling of the foyer carry out the French motif of the architecture. The walls in the foyer are of shellacked brick. The shellac gives an effect of great age. The walls of all other rooms are of plaster with various designs.

From the foyer, arches lead to the reading rooms. To the extreme right is the children's reading room. The walls of this room are decorated with animal designs which please the small boys and girls.

To the left of the foyer is an arch which leads into the main reading room. There broad windows with Venetian blinds let in the sunlight on cold days and give a view of the attractive park and nearby homes. At one end of the room is a wood-burning fireplace with mantle of Texas shell limestone. This room is luxuriously furnished with massive antique, white oak tables and chairs especially designed for the Kilgore Public Library.

Adjoining the main reading room is the librarian's office which opens into the circulation office. The stack room to the right of the circulation office shelves most of the thousands of volumes that are in the library. Metal shelves are used. The hall to the right of the foyer leads to the committee room which contains glass cases to be used for exhibits. This room will be used for library committee meetings and programs sponsored by the library.

Downstairs there is a lounge room with attractive leather-cushioned furniture. A short way down the hall to the right are the wash rooms. The air-conditioning and heating system is also located in the basement. The room directly beneath the committee room is now used for storage, though it may be developed into a museum later.

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Location

The Kilgore Public Library is located in the children's room, the

In the children's reading room, picture book room, and in addition to these

In the adult reading room, books, magazines, and newspapers are checked out. All these books.

The stack room is used for those whose interest is in other fields. It specializes the book.

At one end of the library is every book in the

Nothing like

Reading is n

If it's a book
K. H. S.

Helping the
H. S.

Reading bri

A book a day

Reading, th

Give yourself

To be well e
gore Public Libra

—Use It!

of you residents of Kilgore. In
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brary are especially suited for
you can venture forth on new
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can show your appreciation

ew Lang

a soul.—Cicero

ord Chesterfield

—The Book House

vast seas of time.—Bacon

f books, than thy purse full

ar companions, for their

Kilgore Public Library Staff

Miss Elizabeth Hay, *Librarian*

Miss Grace Green, *Assistant librarian and head of the child-
ren's department*

Mrs. Grace Bartholomew, *Staff member*

Mrs. Sylvia Potts, *Staff member*

*You may not be interested in books; but
whatever you are interested in, the Kilgore
Public Library has a book about it.*

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Founding of the Kilgore Public Library

In 1931 the directors of the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce listed a city library as one of their projects of the future. In 1933 the first library was opened in the City Hall by members of the Delphian and Business and Professional Women's Clubs. They had less than fifty books with which to begin. Since that time the library has been improved until Kilgore now has a modern and well-equipped new building.

Mayor Roy H. Laird, the City Commissioners J. E. Bagwell and Ed C. Middlebrook, and all the interested citizens of Kilgore who have made possible the establishment of the new library may well feel pride in the completion of the library project.

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HISTORY

CRANE

The first public library in Kilgore was founded by the Kilgore Business and Professional Women's Club in August, 1933. The members sold tickets to dances and many other fund-raising projects to make money to buy books. Next, they needed a place to house the collection plus shelves to hold them. One of the members, Nannette (Crain) Wickham's father, Dr. J. B. Crain, let the club use one large room in the local hospital which was located where East Texas Glass is today. Most of the members of the club, being single at the time solicited help from their boyfriends to build shelves and help them set up the first library in Kilgore. Merchants donated lumber, nails and other supplies needed for the purpose.

Kilgore at this time was bursting at the seams with people from all over due to the oil boom. Since the young women worked during the day, they kept the library open from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, two girls working together each night. Men, women and children from all walks of life came to enjoy the facilities offered by this energetic group.

Later, the library was moved to a room in the old Texan Theatre loaned to the club by Liggett N. Crim.

In about 1937, the City of Kilgore took over the sponsorship of the library and Roy H. Laird, Mayor at the time, along with City Commissioners J. E. Bagwell and E. C. Middlebrook, as well as many library board members and friends decided it was time to build a permanent home. It is the present building we are in today and was completed in October, 1939, at a cost of \$45,454; part of this amount being a PWA grant of \$20,454.

The structure is of French Provincial design, and it is made of Texas limestone with a base of shell stone. The roof is covered with thick, wooden shingles.

The interior has an ancient appearance. Designs of fleur-de-lis on the ceiling of the foyer carry out the French motif of the architecture. The walls in the foyer are of shellacked brick taken from a building in Pittsburg, Texas, that was being razed at that time. The shellac gives an effect of great age. The walls of all the other rooms are of plaster with various designs.

The original architect, George M. Marble, is still living and resides in Athens, Texas.

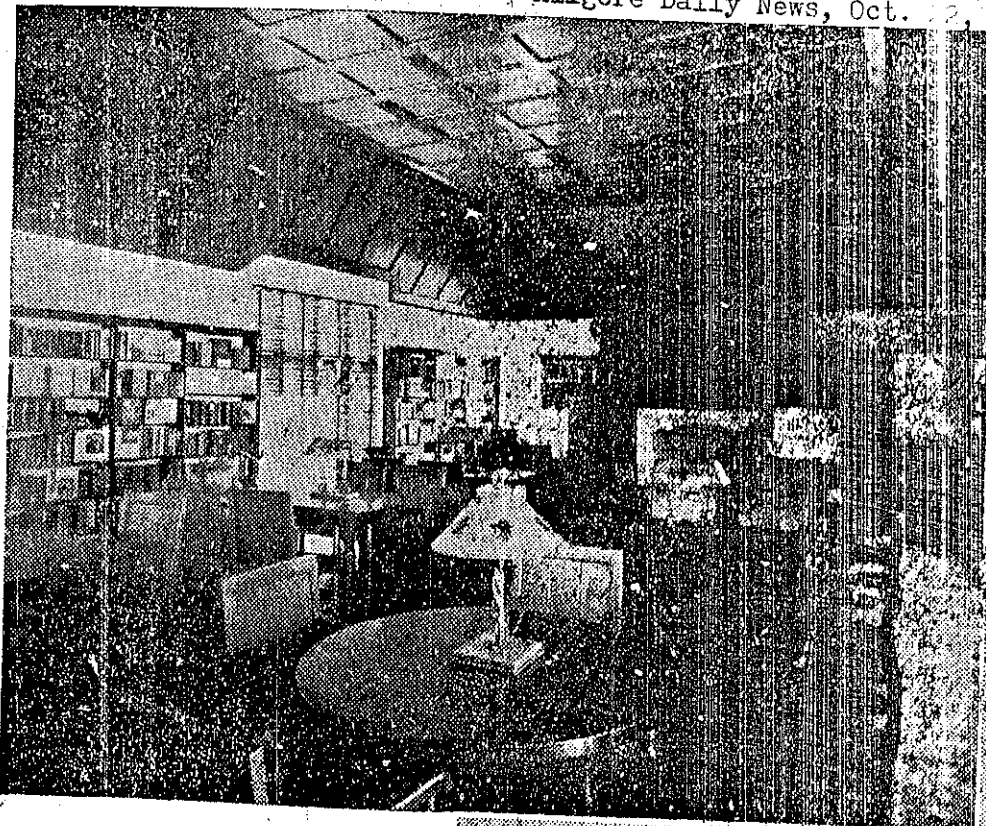
In October, 1939, Kilgore Public Library opened for business with a book collection of 8,000 volumes. The population of Kilgore at that time was 6,708.

Today, we are here for the dedication of a much needed addition of 4,450 square feet. We have the citizens of Kilgore to thank for the passage of the bond issue for \$300,000, the City Commission for approving the total cost of building and architect fees of \$359,652.92 and \$50,936.06 for furnishings.

Our population has grown to 11,245 people. We serve anyone within the Kilgore trade area which means service to neighboring counties. Our central collection is 26,945 volumes plus 7,666 volumes in our Liberty City branch library for a total collection of 34,611 volumes.

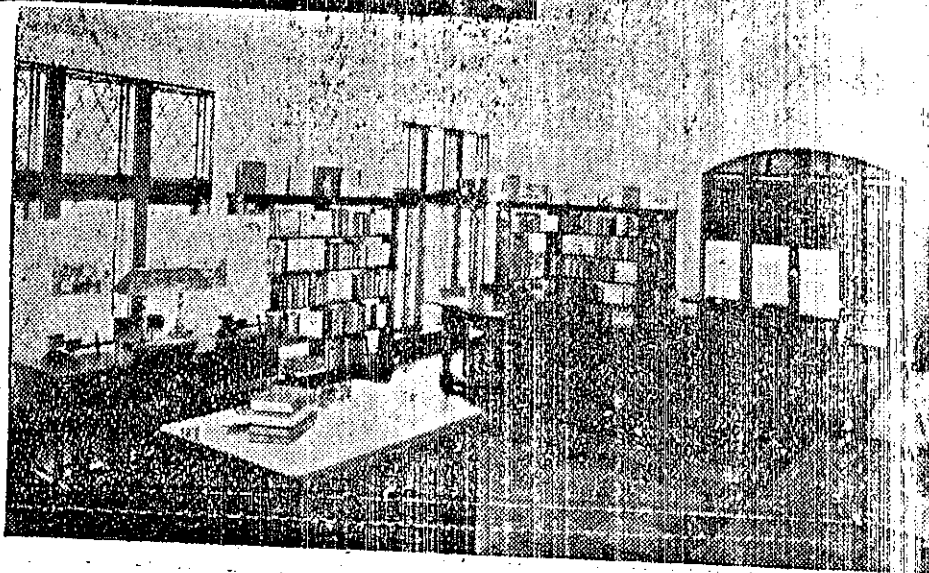
NEW \$45,000 PUBLIC LIBRARY OPENS

Kilgore Daily News, Oct. 22, 1939



Left is the handsome receiving room of the new building which formally opened last night with prominent citizens receiving guests. Mayor Roy Laird, member of the commission, and others were first in the receiving line. Formal open house will be this afternoon from 2 o'clock with Parent-Teacher Association leaders in the receiving line. The building is conditioned winter and summer.

Right is a view of the children's reading room with furniture scaled for use by children. Amusing parge ornaments adorn the walls and the ceiling is covered with delicate Italian tracery. The library has begun collections in all fields of activity, including an already comprehensive collection of children's works. Elizabeth Hay, librarian, and Grace Green, assistant librarian, will begin issuing borrowers' cards Tuesday. They will be ready to receive gifts beginning Thursday.



THE
KILGORE PUBLIC LIBRARY

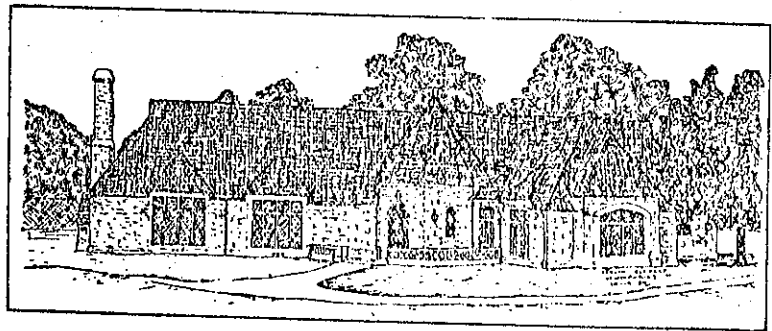
IN THE
NEWS

THE CITY OF KILGORE
REQUESTS THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THE FORMAL OPENING OF THE
PUBLIC LIBRARY
HENDERSON BOULEVARD AND NORTH STREET
FRIDAY EVENING, THE TWENTIETH OF OCTOBER
AT EIGHT O'CLOCK

CHILDREN'S OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER THE TWENTY-FIRST

OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER THE TWENTY-SECOND
MONDAY, OCTOBER THE TWENTY-THIRD

Information Pamphlet



Above drawing by Evelyn SeCrest Humphries, Sophomore, K. H. S.

Kilgore Public Library

Compiled and Written

by

121 Sophomore English Pupils

of the

Kilgore High School

Billy Griffith, J. B. Watson, Richard Andrews, Class Presidents

Miss Verdine Brookes, Teacher

October, 1939

This Is Your Library—Use It!

The Kilgore Public Library is for the use of you residents of Kilgore. In this library you are always welcome. You may study, use reference books, read your favorite magazines and newspapers, check out a book to take home, or look through the Keystone views at pictures in lifelike form.

The comfort and quiet atmosphere of the library are especially suited for reading. By spending your leisure hours here, you can venture forth on new trails of knowledge. Do as Arthur Ballfour says: "There is no mood to which a man may not administer the appropriate medicine at the cost of reaching down a volume from his bookshelf."

One of the privileges offered you is admission to the stack room where you may look through any book before checking it out. The only thing that these new books need is your friendship, so get acquainted with them soon. This library was put here for your benefit. You can show your appreciation by coming to it often.

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No furniture so charming as books.—*Andrew Lang*

A room without books is as a body without a soul.—*Cicero*

The best companions are the best books.—*Lord Chesterfield*

The child who reads is the child who leads.—*The Book House*

Books are ships which pass through the vast seas of time.—*Bacon*

Far more seemly to have thy study full of books, than thy purse full of money.—*John Lyly*

We should choose our books as we would our companions, for their sterling and intrinsic merit.—*C. C. Colton*

Kilgore Public Library Staff

Miss Elizabeth Hay, *Librarian*

Miss Grace Green, *Assistant librarian and head of the children's department*

Mrs. Grace Bartholomew, *Staff member*

Mrs. Sylvia Potts, *Staff member*

You may not be interested in books; but whatever you are interested in, the Kilgore Public Library has a book about it.

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Location of Books in the Kilgore Public Library

The Kilgore Public Library has 8,000 books. These are located in the children's room, the adult reading room, and the stack room.

In the children's room are five kinds of juvenile books: biographies, fiction, picture books, easy books, and all other classified books for children. In addition to these there are three sets of Keystone views.

In the adult reading room there are reference books, biographies, fiction books, magazines, and newspapers. Periodicals and newspapers may not be checked out. All books may be checked out with the exception of reference books.

The stack room contains all other books. For instance, there are books for those whose interests turn to aeronautics, art, business, radio work, music, and other fields. In the back of most of the books in a "blurb" which summarizes the book.

At one end of the stack room is the card catalog. This card catalog lists every book in the library.



SLOGANS (by Sophomores, K. H. S.)

Nothing like books.—*Edwin Guidry*

Reading is man's best hobby.—*Cecil Lang, Sophomore K. H. S.*

If it's a book you want, we have it.—*Billie Elinor Thayer, Sophomore, K. H. S.*

Helping the library will help you.—*Dorman Davis, Sophomore, K. H. S.*

Reading brings wisdom; wisdom brings happiness.—*Paul Hamilton*

A book a day keeps the blues away.—*Leon Burcalow*

Reading, the cornerstone of education.—*Ruby Jewel Higginbotham*

Give yourself a rest; read a book.—*Jane Ann Moore*

To be well educated you don't have to go to school. Come to the Kilgore Public Library and read.—*Anne Love*

**Excerpts from the
POLICIES OF THE KILGORE PUBLIC LIBRARY
As Adopted by the City Commission**

To check
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An auth

I. **Silence** in adult and children's rooms is essential.

II. **Borrowers**

must reside within City of Kilgore and Kilgore Trade Territory.
will be issued borrower's card FREE OF CHARGE.
will be charged 2c per day for books kept overtime.
will be immediately notified when books are overdue;
one notice only will be mailed.
will be required to pay fines on damaged books and lost books.
will not be issued books until fines are paid on overdue, damaged,
lost books.

III. **Readers**

all persons may use the reading rooms and reading materials whether
not they check out a book.
persons of junior high school age and over will use adult reading room
persons of grammar school age and under will use the children's room
persons who intentionally damage furniture or equipment may be fined
according to city ordinance by the City of Kilgore and denied further
reading privileges.

IV. **Books**

all books except reference books may be taken from the library.
books may be kept 2 weeks, except those limited to 7 days.
books may be renewed except 7-day books or books reserved by some
borrower.
limit to borrowers: 2 fiction, 3 non-fiction, (only one of which may be a
day book) at one time.

V. **Building**

will be open to the public from 10 a. m. to 7 p. m. daily except Sundays
and holidays.
no smoking is permitted in the library building.

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The Kilgore Public Library is yours. Use it—FREE.—*Roy H. Lattin*
Mayor.

A title :

How to Find and Check Out a Book

To check out a book from the Kilgore Public Library first go to the card catalog which is at the end of the stack room by the circulation office. This card catalog is a set of drawers containing cards for every book in the library. The cards index the books alphabetically by subject, title, and author. Each card contains in the upper left hand corner the call number of the book. This card also give the full name of the author, the title, the publisher, and the date of publication.

An author card has the author's name at the top.

540
S

SLOSSON, EDWIN E.
Creative Chemistry. N. Y. Century. c 1919
311 p.

A title card has the title of the book at the top.

540
S

CREATIVE CHEMISTRY.
SLOSSON, E. E.

A subject card has the name of the subject written in red at the top.

540 S CHEMISTRY Slosson, E. E. Creative Chemistry. N. Y. Century. c 1919 311 p.

Except for the different headings, all the cards for any one book are the same. Thus, if you know either the author, the title, or the subject of the book which you want, you can find a card for it in the card catalog. Since the cards from the catalog are never to be taken out, copy down the call number of the book you want. Then go either to the stack room or the main reading room according to the call number of the book.

All fiction and biography books are in the main reading room. The fiction books have the letter **F** (Fiction) placed before the number which indicates the author's name. Classified books with the following call numbers are in the stack room. They are books on various subjects arranged as follows by the Dewey decimal system:

- 000-099 General Works (Includes encyclopedias, periodicals, etc.)
- 100-199 Philosophy (Includes works on psychology, right living, etc.)
- 200-299 Religion (Includes mythology.)
- 300-399 Social Sciences (Includes economics, government, law, etc.)
- 400-499 Language (Includes dictionaries and grammars.)
- 500-599 Science (Includes mathematics, chemistry, physics, etc.)
- 600-699 Useful Arts (Includes agriculture, engineering, etc.)
- 700-799 Fine Arts (Includes sculpture, painting, music, etc.)
- 800-899 Literature (Includes poetry, plays, etc.)
- 900-999 History (Includes geography, travel, and biography.)

When you locate the book you are hunting, look inside the back cover at the "blurb." It is cut from the jacket of the book and gives a brief summary of the book. Read the "blurb," and if the book does not contain all the information you are searching for, find another.

When you have found the book you want, go to the automatic checking machine at the circulation desk. Insert in the machine your library card and the card from the book. The machine checks out the book. Leave the card from the book with the person working in the circulation office, and take the book with you to read.

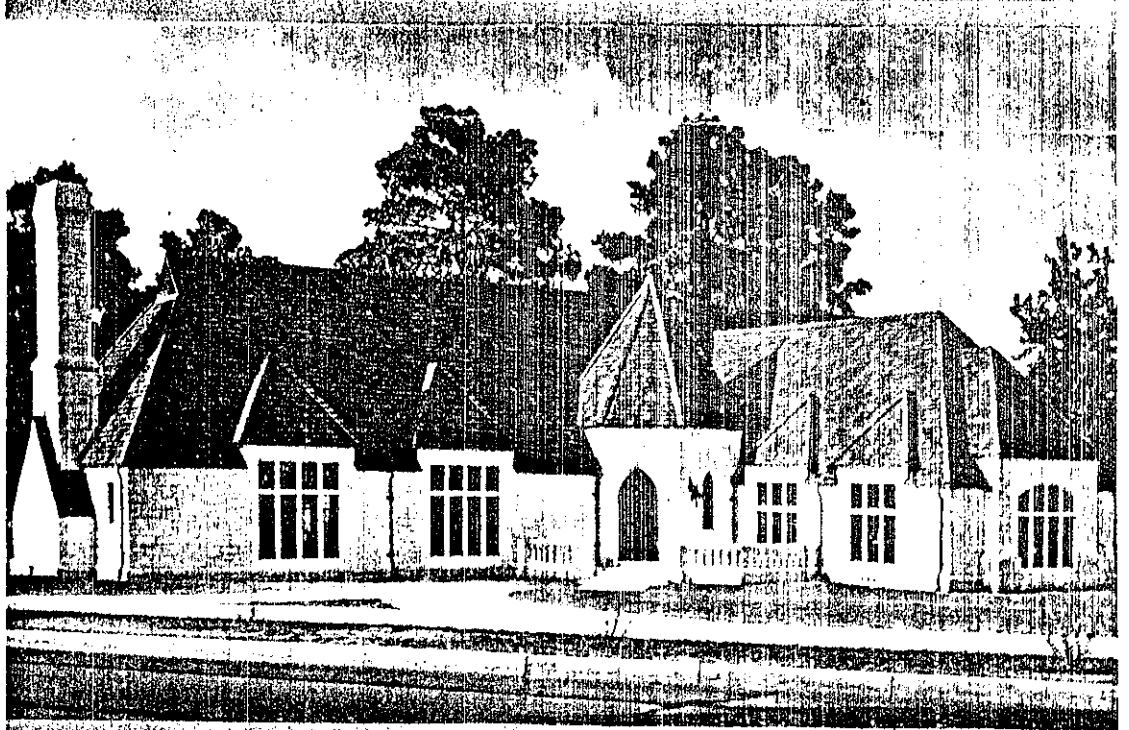
THE



PIONEER

ESTABLISHED 1876

No. 6



KILGORE PUBLIC LIBRARY, KILGORE, TEXAS
GEORGE N. MARBLE, Architect

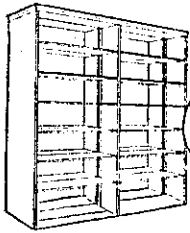


OCTOBER

1940



LIBRARY BUREAU DIVISION of Remington Rand Inc.



The LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

A Horatio Alger Story

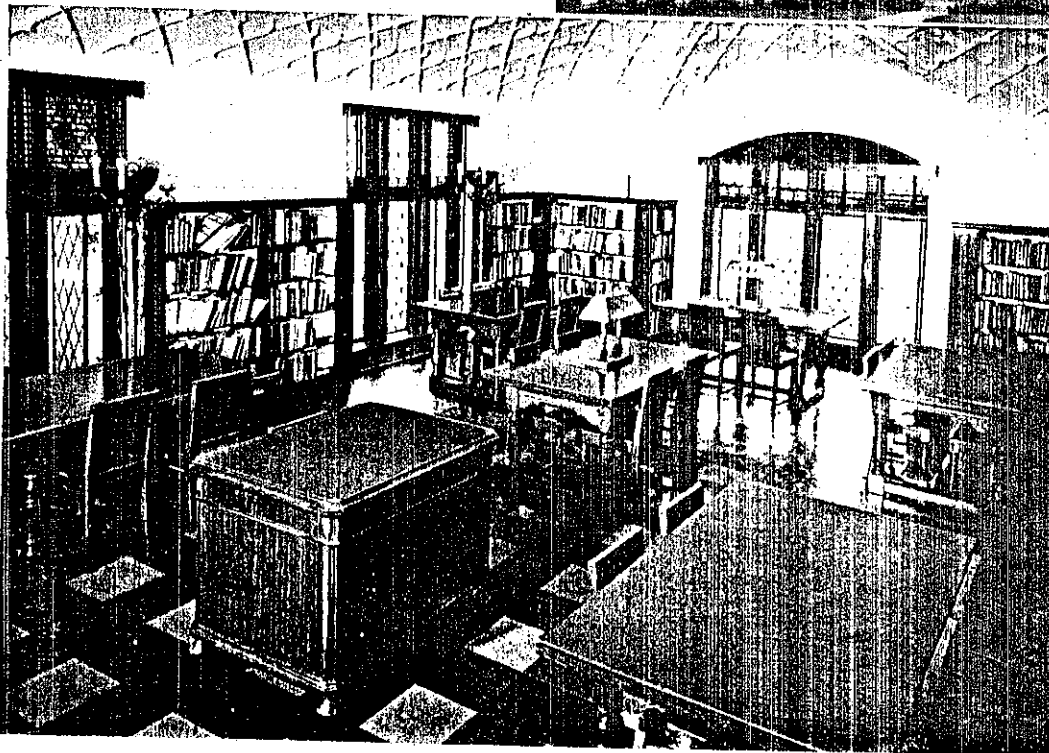
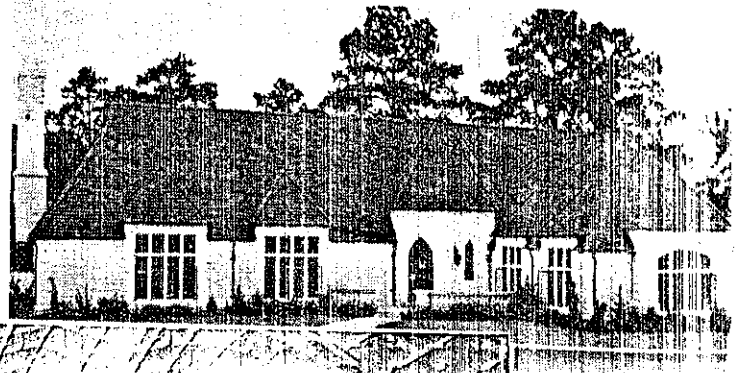
The success story of the Kilgore Public Library sounds like a story by Horatio Alger. Starting in July 1933, with \$90 and no books, this library is now serving its public in the attractive new building shown in the illustration below. Leaders in the organization in 1933 were the Business and Professional Women's Club and the Delphian Club, and the library was kept alive by donations, benefit dances and other means. In 1937 the city began a monthly appropriation of \$50. Shortly afterward plans were made for the new building, and Mayor Roy H. Laird and the City Commissioners got behind the project and saw it through to completion.

The building, designed by George N. Marble of Dallas, is a Provencal residence-type structure, constructed of Texas limestone with a base of shell stone and a tile roof. The library is air-conditioned and contains an adults'

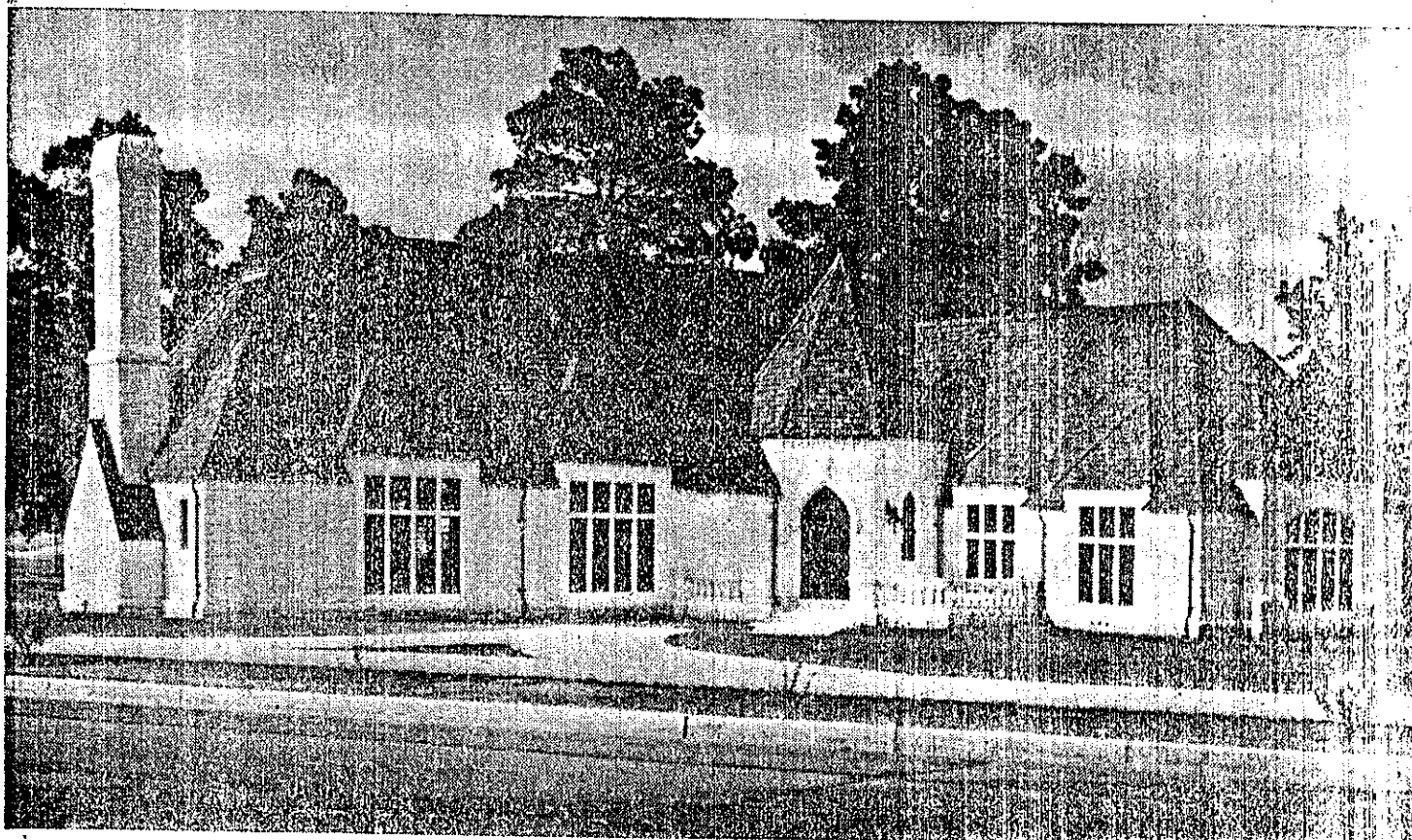
reading room, children's reading room, bookstack room, an office for Miss Elizabeth Hay, librarian, the delivery hall, and an assembly room.

The Kilgore library has about 8,000 books, subscribes to nearly 100 magazines, and six newspapers. Story hours for children and brief talks before various local groups keep up the interest in books and in the new library. A number of old books and rare manuscripts, one of which is dated 1493, are also creating much interest.

The library is adequately planned and equipped to serve the town of Kilgore for several years to come. Special oak furniture was designed by the architect, and Library Bureau selected to manufacture it from his plans. As a result Kilgore has a building of which it is and should be proud. A beautiful new building which is the result of an inspiration on the part of the local women's clubs only a few years ago.



Kilgore Herald April 14, 1940
Kilgore Public Library Resembles Attractive Residence



Styling that is "easy on the eye" is shown in the Kilgore Public Library, located in the City Park. The building was erected at a cost of \$45,451, but is valued at more than

\$60,000 with all the equipment. It is distinctive for its tasteful and attractive styling and is called a French provincial, residence-type structure, 111

feet long and of irregular width. When opened the library contained 8,000 volumes, but has accepted several book contributions since then. There is

a periodical department more than 87 magazines, children's reading included in the adequate files.

PROUD IS THE word to describe how Kilgore should be about the city library, which is becoming more useful to its citizens every single day. Mr. Buck Morris, oil engineer who has a 4-ounce bottle of oil from the first well drilled in the United States, gives us a report on the library's collection of oil books. The oil men are welcome to use it, as you will see from a story in today's paper.

Public Library Lists Issues Of Magazines Needed

Mrs. Norman Roberts, assistant librarian at the Kilgore Public Library has been sending copies of periodicals to be bound in permanent files during the past week, and she finds that she is in need of back issues of several magazines.

"If you have any back copies of American Home, Arts and Decoration, Asia, Atlantic Monthly, Etude, Readers' Digest, Fortune, Holland's Magazine, House and Garden, House Beautiful, Life, National Geographic, or Time, and if you have no use for them we would really appreciate your

bringing them by the way," said Mrs. Roberts.

Mrs. Roberts added that she would be glad to send a card for the magazines if it was impossible to bring them to the library.

Cabinet Member Speaks In Kilgore



Kilgore Daily News, March 27, 1940

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR HAROLD ICKES and his young attractive wife were visitors in Kilgore today. Mr. Ickes is the only cabinet member of the United States government ever to be entertained in Kilgore. He will speak tonight at the Kilgore Junior College auditorium under the auspices of the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce.

KILGORE, TEXAS, MARCH 27, 1940
ON HIS TOUR of Kilgore and the oil field this morning, made during intermittent downpours of rain, the only place Mr. I. showed any inclination to get out was at the Kilgore Public Library. Here, he went in and looked around and met Miss Elizabeth Hay, the librarian.
March 27, 1940

Kilgore Daily News - 1941

1941 Library Exhibit Interesting Part Of WPA Displays

At the WPA Sewing Room an exhibit showing work done by the WPA library workers is attracting the attention of many of the daily visitors during This Work Pays Your Community Week. The valuable service rendered local citizens by WPA workers is graphically illustrated in the exhibit.

One display shows the step by step process of sewing and re-binding the books which have become too worn through use to be circulated further.

Another display shows by diagram the routine work performed by the WPA library workers in Kilgore Public Library. By a clever arrangement of cards joined by ribbons to the drawing to the floor plan of the public library, the visitors are able to see at a glance that work performed is of actual cash value and that service rendered makes possible a speeding up of all routine work in the library. By means of this display, visitors learn that Kilgore WPA library workers list among their daily duties:

Writing slips for books to be ordered, checking orders against card catalog cards, checking in new books against invoices and order, stamping new books with Kilgore Public Library stamp, accessioning books, cutting book jackets and filing, pasting bookplates, book pockets, and blurbs in the books, shelving and loaning books, taking borrower's applications, typing borrowers cards,

checking in newspapers and putting on newspaper rods, checking in magazines and placing in binders, filing cards in card catalog, finding source of answers to reference questions, helping students find material to supplement school work, mending books, and typing periodical correspondence.

LINDLEY BECKWORTH
3d DISTRICT TEXAS

COMMITTEES:
CIVIL SERVICE
INSULAR AFFAIRS
MINES AND MINING
EXPENDITURES IN THE EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENTS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

Oct. 20, 1939

TO THE CITIZENS OF KILGORE:

You have come together to show your appreciation and admiration for one of the greatest accomplishments of which any city or citizen can boast--the completion of a Public Library. Perhaps this is the arch evidence that you farsighted and diligent citizens of new, modern, progressive, permanent Kilgore are building your city on a firm and unshakable foundation.

Someone has said that "education is the guardian genius of Democracy." I believe this statement. Christian activities expand and Democratic ideals grow as enlightenment of a pure type and education of a practical type become disseminated. No action more conducive to the spread of Christianity and to the development of Democracy could you take. A Public Library is Democracy exemplified fully in that a Public Library affords all people, poor and rich, prominent and obscure, powerful and weak, the identical opportunity.

May your experiences in connection with the new Public Library vivify to each of you the real meaning of the words, "He who loveth a book will never want a faithful friend, a wholesome Counsellor, a cheerful companion, or an effectual Comforter."

Very sincerely,



LINDLEY BECKWORTH

LB/j

From its early beginning in a single room in the local hospital to the beautiful, magnificent, structure that is admired by many out-of-state visitors, as well as our local clientele, we think we have an awful lot to be proud of and we invite you to come and share it with us.

KILGORE CITY COMMISSION

Mayor
Foster T. Bean

Mayor Pro-tem
Julian W. Potter

Mickey D. Smith

James E. Harvey

Rex Whitten

Dewayne White — City Manager
Bobbie Schutz — Library Director

Staff

Callie Thompson
Dorys Ward
Geneva Massingill

Joyce Riddles
Barbara Miles
Peggy Kohlepp

Leland A. Guinn — Architect

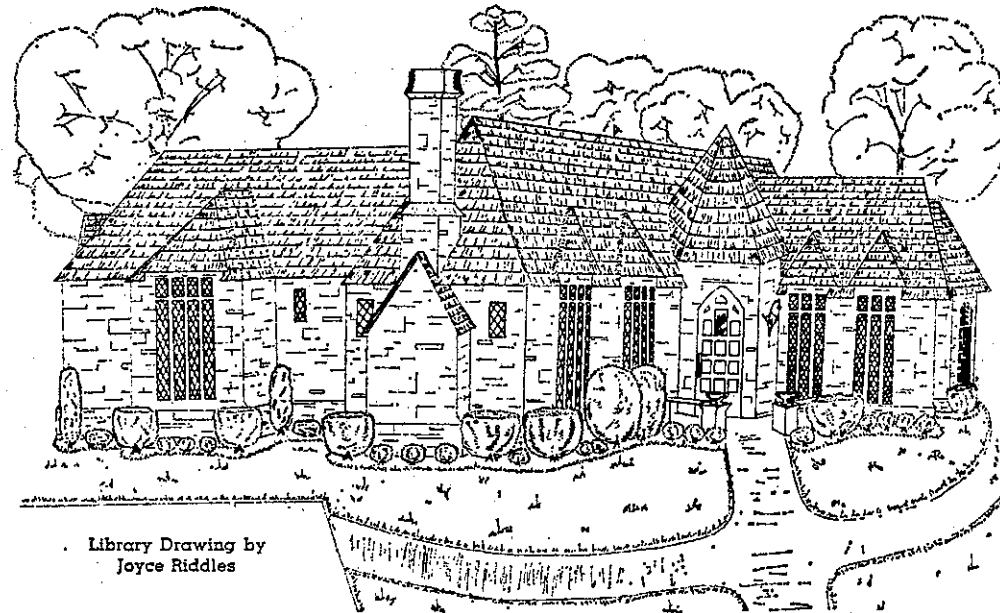
David Henington — Library Consultant

Kerr Engineering, Inc. — General Contractors

Kilgore Public Library

Erected 1939

Addition 1979 — 1981



Open House and Dedication

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 1981

2:00 P.M. — 4:00 P.M.

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies Julian W. Potter
Mayor Pro-tem

Invocation Rev. George W. Ross
St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Welcome Mayor Foster T. Bean

Introduction of Librarian and Staff

Dedication Dr. Dorman H. Winfrey
Director—Texas State Library

Special Presentation

Benediction Rev. O. D. Oliver
First Baptist Church

Invitation to Visit: Refreshments

HISTORY

The first public library in Kilgore was founded by the Kilgore Business and Professional Women's Club in August, 1933. The members sold tickets to dances and many other fund-raising projects to make money to buy books. Next, they needed a place to house the collection plus shelves to hold them. One of the members, Nannette (Crain) Wickham's father, Dr. J. B. Crain, let the club use one large room in the local hospital which was located where East Texas Glass is today. Most of the members of the club, being single at the time, solicited help from their boyfriends to build shelves and help them set up the first library in Kilgore. Merchants donated lumber, nails, and other supplies needed for the purpose.

Kilgore at this time was bursting at the seams with people from all over due to the oil boom. Since the young women worked during the day, they kept the library open from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, two girls working together each night. Men, women, and children from all walks of life came to enjoy the facilities offered by this energetic group.

Later, the library was moved to a room in the old Texan Theater loaned to the club by Liggett N. Crim.

In about 1937, the City of Kilgore took over the sponsorship of the library and Roy H. Laird, Mayor at the time, along with City Commissioners J. E. Bagwell and E. C. Middlebrook, as well as many library board members and friends decided it was time to build a permanent home. It is the present building we are in today and was completed in October, 1939, at a cost of \$45,454; part of this amount being a PWA grant of \$20,454.

The structure is of French Provincial design, and it is made of Texas limestone with a base of shell stone. The roof is covered with thick, wooden shingles.

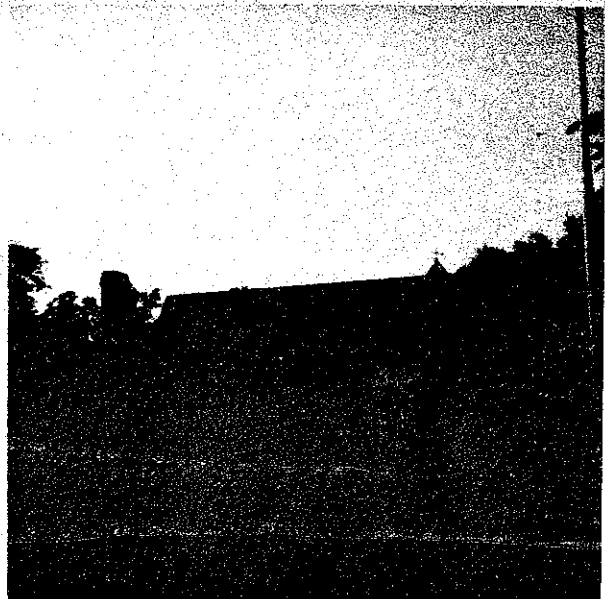
The interior has an ancient appearance. Designs of fleur-de-lis on the ceiling of the foyer carry out the French motif of the architecture. The walls in the foyer are of shellacked brick taken from a building in Pittsburg, Texas, that was being razed at that time. The shellac gives an effect of great age. The walls of all the other rooms are of plaster with various designs.

The original architect, George M. Marble, is still living and resides in Athens, Texas.

In October, 1939, Kilgore Public Library opened for business with a book collection of 8,000 volumes. The population of Kilgore at that time was 6,708.

Today, we are here for the dedication of a much needed addition of 4,450 square feet. We have the citizens of Kilgore to thank for the passage of the bond issue for \$300,000, the City Commission for approving the total cost of building and architect fees of \$359,652.92 and \$50,936.06 for furnishings.

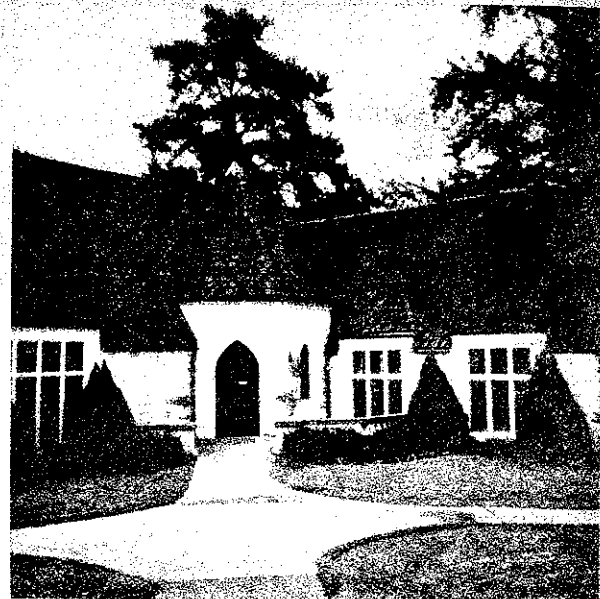
Our population has grown to 11,245 people. We serve anyone within the Kilgore trade area which means service to neighboring counties. Our central collection is 26,945 volumes plus 7,666 volumes in our Liberty City branch library for a total collection of 34,611 volumes.



Kilgore Public Library
8/11/89



Kilgore Public Library
8/11/89

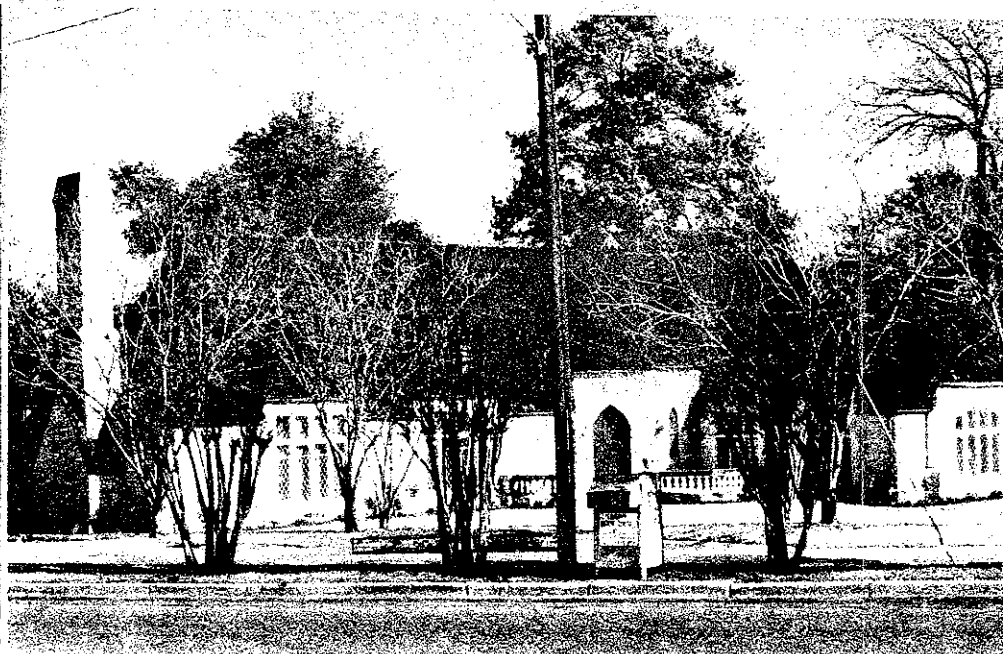
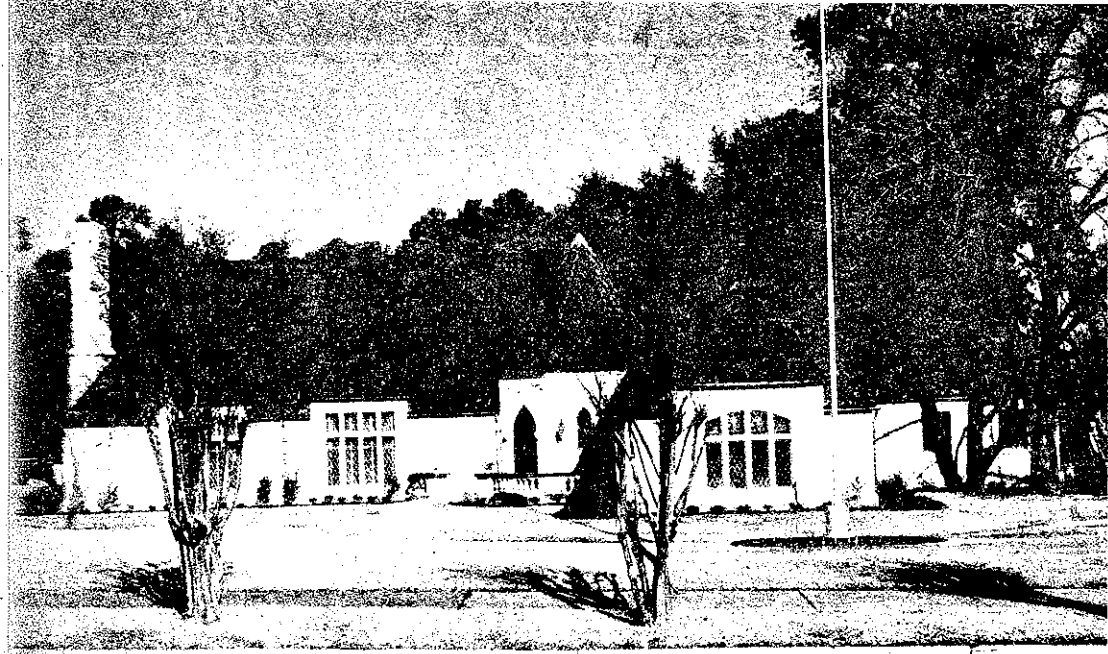
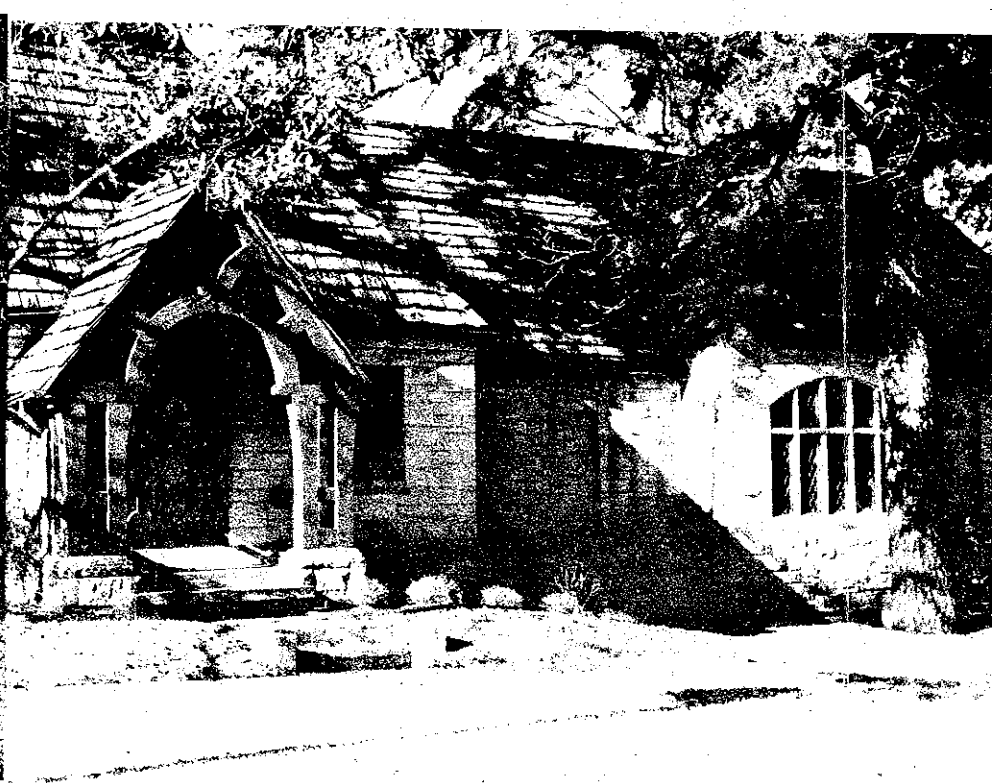


Kilgore Public Library
8/11/89

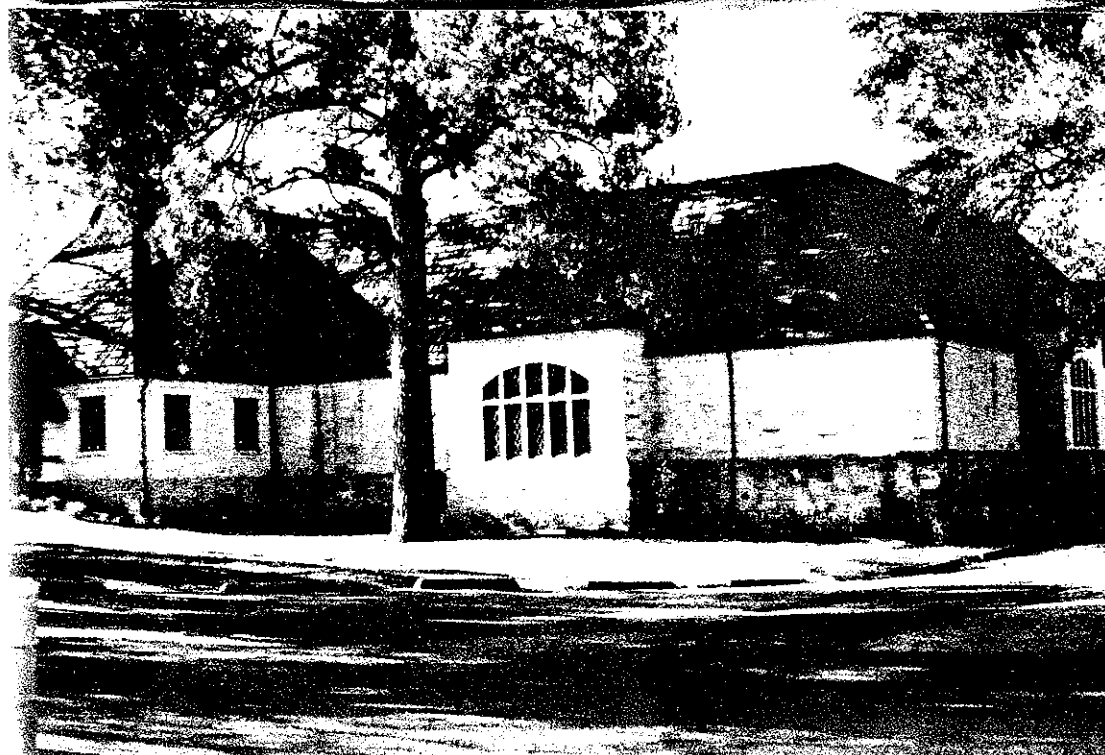
The original photographs (sent
with H. M. application) were made
with a Polaroid camera (color).

TJB

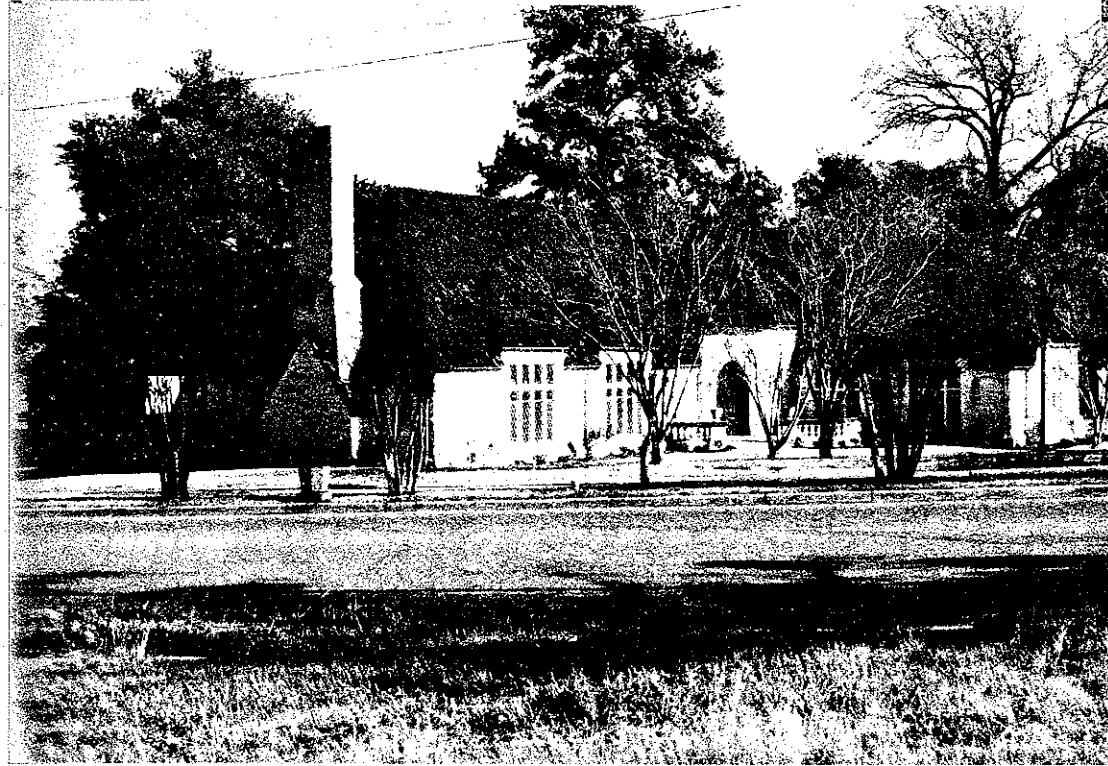
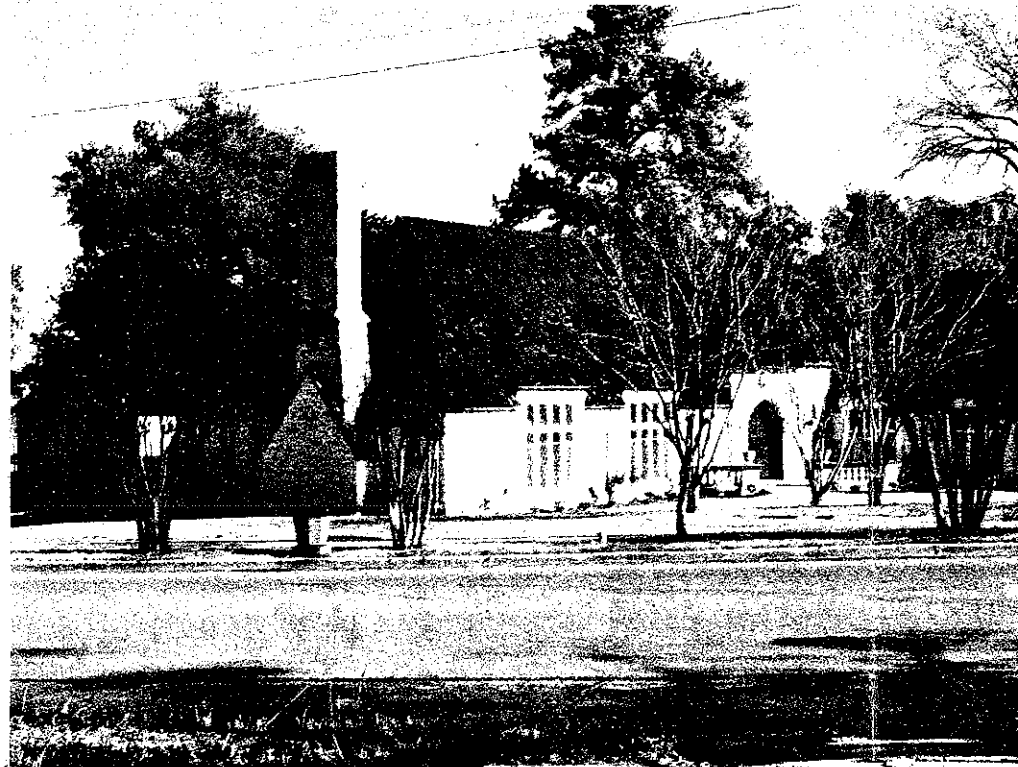
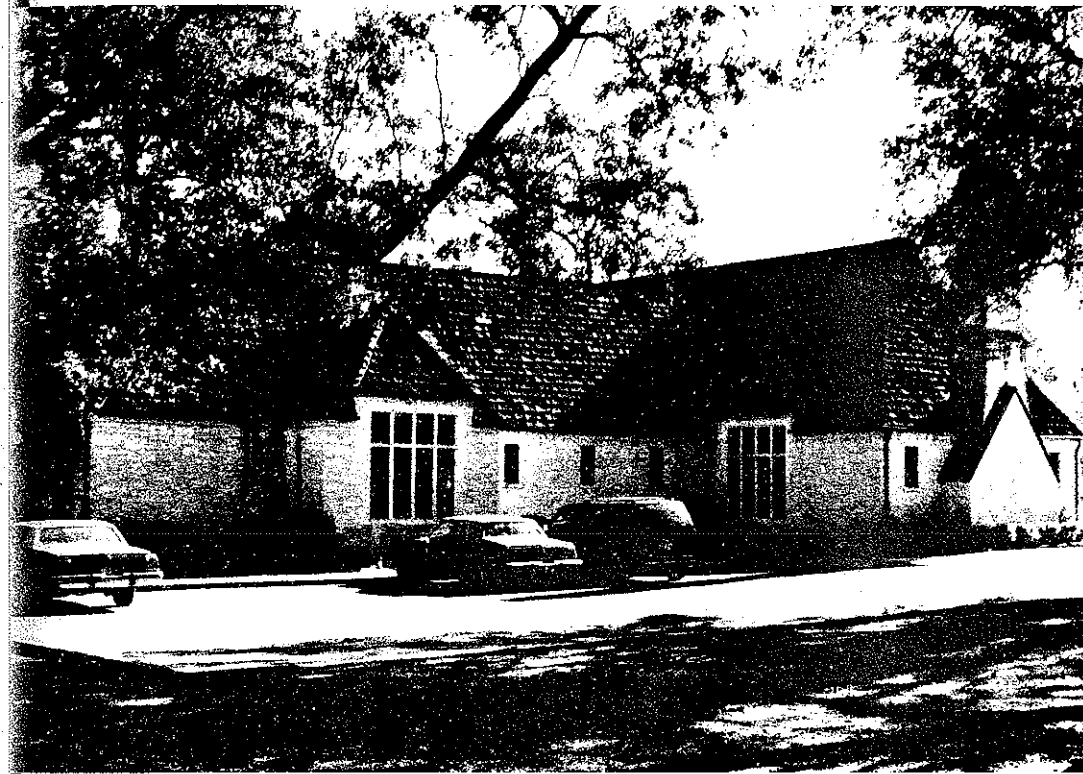
originals: Kodachrome prints



Originals: Kodacolor prints



Originals: Kodachrome prints



Kilgore. An unusual honor came to the Kilgore Public Library when the picture of its new, modern building appeared, with that of 12 other libraries of all times and all parts of the world, in the 1942 edition of "Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia." The pictures appear in an article entitled "Libraries from Ancient to Modern Times," and the caption of the picture of the Kilgore Library building reads, "Invitation to Learning in a Small Town." A brief description follows the picture.

Austin. In an effort to more nearly meet the needs of people in war times, the Austin Public Library has changed its lending rules to allow borrowers to keep books for a longer period of time. New books, both fiction and non-fiction, may be kept for two weeks, while older books may be kept for four weeks. Each person may check out as many as six books at one time, and no books may be renewed. The change was made because of the difficulty so many people have now in getting to the library more often.

Among those who have taken civilian war positions are Miss Elizabeth Hay of the Kilgore Public Library who is now with the Office of Price Administration, and Miss Willie Mae Robicheaux of Tyrrell Public Library who accepted a position with the United States Army Training Depot at New Orleans.

-0-

Kilgore. During the summer, the Kilgore Public Library conducted a Victory Book Contest which was very successful in stimulating reading among the young people. The prize, a copy of Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, was awarded the person reading the most books during the five weeks of the contest.

KILGORE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Although Kilgore dates to the late nineteenth century, the history of its municipal development really began in the 1930s with the discovery of the rich East Texas Oil Field. While many other towns and communities had important ties to the oil boom that followed, the citizens of Kilgore managed to establish a progressive government that assured the community would remain viable and strong long after the oil-related speculation declined. One visible reminder of Kilgore's Depression-era progressivism is the town's public library.

The idea for a public library did not begin with city officials, although it was mentioned as a worthy goal by the Chamber of Commerce as early as 1931, the year after the opening of the oilfields.¹ The city, however, had other priorities, given the problems associated with the paradoxical boomtown development in the midst of a national economic crisis. A municipally-funded library, therefore, gave way to such projects as road improvements and the construction of water and utility lines.

Thanks to the efforts of two civic-minded ladies' organizations, a town library became a reality in 1933. The Delphian Club and the Kilgore Business and Professional Women's Club initiated plans to fund, house, and staff a library facility. Without benefit of an endowment or the donation of a major collection, members began raising the necessary funds through projects such as public dances. They soon secured permission to use a room in the city hospital and recruited their friends to construct shelves from lumber and supplies donated by local merchants. Since many of the women worked at the time, the library was first open for only two hours each evening. Club members volunteered their time to staff the facility.²

When the holdings outgrew the hospital space, local businessman Liggett N. Crim provided space in his Texan Theater. By 1937, the city had become a sponsor of the project, contributing the sum of \$50 per month. At about the same time, city officials initiated plans to assume full responsibility for the library. Leading the effort were Mayor Roy H. Laird and commissioners J. E. Bagwell and E. C. Middlebrook. As a result of their support, the City of Kilgore began planning for a new library building. Funding for the project came from the city and from the Public Works

Administration, one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.³

Completed in October, 1939, the new Kilgore Public Library presented a striking architectural addition to the developing boomtown. The architect, George M. Marble of Dallas (later of Athens, Texas), chose a French Provencial design reminiscent of a European chateau.⁴ While the design was unusual in the Piney Woods of deep East Texas, it was in keeping with a general popular trend of library construction. Just as bank architecture often reflected strength and stability and school design projected order and classicism, libraries frequently represented important ties to great philosophical, educational, and artistic movements of the past. In that regard, Marble's choice of chateausque detailing celebrated the contributions of Renaissance Europe.

Important exterior features include an asymmetrical plan, paired windows, shingled window pediments, and a dominant tower element, flanked by balustrades, that form the central entry. The massive roof, while shingled, is similar in proportion and impact to thatched roofs found on early cottages throughout many parts of Europe. The significance of the roof is enhanced by the contrast in shading, from the dark shingles to the light limestone

walls. While there are many interesting vertical lines in the overall design, horizontality is maintained, especially through the structure's prominent siting on a sloping tract of land.

Interior features echo the strong statements of the exterior design:

Designs of fleur-de-lis on the ceiling of the foyer carry out the French motif of the architecture. The walls in the foyer are of shellacked brick taken from building in Pittsburg, Texas, that was being razed at that time. The shellac gives an effect of great age. The walls of all the other rooms are of plaster with various designs.³

The Kilgore Public Library opened with 8000 volumes, an impressive number given the size of the town (6700) and the brief history of the its library movement.⁴ The federal government continued as a partner in the project for some years, supplying workers through the Works Progress Administration (WPA). A 1941 newspaper article noted the many contributions of the WPA workers. Covering events associated with "This Work Pays Your Community Week," it noted:

One display shows the step by step process of sewing and rebinding the books which have become too worn through use to be circulated.

Another display shows by diagram the routine work performed by the WPA library workers in Kilgore Public Library. By a clever arrangement of cards joined by ribbons to the drawing to the floor plan of the library, the visitors are able to see at a glance that work performed is of actual cash value and that service rendered makes possible a speeding up of all

routine work in the library. By means of this display, visitors learn that Kilgore WPA workers list among their daily duties:

Writing slips for books to be ordered, checking orders against card catalog cards, checking in new books against invoices and order, stamping new books with Kilgore Public Library stamp, accessioning books, cutting book jackets and filing, pasting bookplates, book pockets, and blurbs in the books, shelving and loaning books, taking borrower's applications, typing borrowers cards, checking in newspapers and putting on newspaper rods, checking in magazines and placing in binders, filing cards in card catalog, finding source of answers to reference questions, helping students find material to supplement school work, and typing periodical correspondence.⁷

Although the detail of the article is painfully familiar to anyone who has filed work audits or governmental reviews, it does provide insight into an important, but little-known, program of the WPA.

The library also had two other related associations with the New Deal. First, it was located within the city's public park, which included numerous structures, walls, and facilities built as a result of PWA funding. Second, Secretary of the Interior Harold C. Ickes, whose department administered such programs as the WPA and the PWA, personally toured the facility. On March 27, 1940, Ickes was visiting Kilgore and the East Texas Oil Field. As the local paper recorded: ". . . the only place Mr. I. showed any inclination to get out was at the Kilgore Public Library. Here, he went in and looked around and met Miss Elizabeth Hay, the librarian."⁸

Since the boomtown days of Kilgore's history, the library has continued to serve the community and to meet its educational needs with a diversity of collections and programs. It has continued the dramatic growth that marked its early years, and in 1981 was enlarged with an addition designed by the original architect, George M. Marble. While substantial, the addition was designed in a way that would not detract from the integrity of the original, unique building. The 1939 structure remains an important symbol of Kilgore's commitment to excellence and a municipal landmark widely admired for its beauty and elegance.

Written by:

Dan K. Utley

Researched by:

Nelda Lewis

Virginia Long

Betty Robertson

ENDNOTES

¹"Information Pamphlet: Kilgore Public Library. Compiled and written by Kilgore High School students for opening of the new library building, October, 1939 (see attached).

²"Open House and Dedication." A program prepared by the Kilgore Public Library staff opening of the new library wing, March 29, 1981.

³"Open House and Dedication," 1981; "Information Pamphlet: Kilgore Public Library," 1939.

⁴"Open House and Dedication," 1981; Vertical files, Kilgore Public Library.

⁵"Open House and Dedication," 1981.

⁶"Open House and Dedication," 1981.

⁷Kilgore Daily News, (no date shown), 1941 (from library's vertical files).

⁸Kilgore Daily News, March 27, 1940.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Information Pamphlet: Kilgore Public Library". Written and compiled by "121 Sophomore English Students of the Kilgore High School," this brochure was printed in October, 1939, to coincide with the opening of the new library building (see attached).

Kilgore Daily News. March 27, 1940.

Kilgore Daily News. (No date), 1941.

"Open House and Dedication Program." Kilgore Public Library.
Dedication of library addition, March 29, 1981.

Vertical files. Kilgore Public Library.

APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

**Texas Historical Commission
State Marker Program
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711**

Title of Marker (subject to revision by THC staff) ▶ Kilgore Public Library	County ▶ Gregg
Marker Location (street address and town, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map) ▶ 301 North Henderson Blvd. Kilgore, Texas 75662	
Distance and direction of subject from marker site ▶	If not on post, type of surface to which marker ▶ Stone will be attached (wood, stone, etc.)
Owner of Marker Site ▶ City of Kilgore	Address 909 N. Kilgore City, Zip Kilgore 75662
Sponsor of Marker ▶ Kilgore Improvement & Beautification Association	Address P. O. Box 1524 City, Zip Kilgore, Texas 75662
Signature of County Chairman ▶ <i>Korman H. Black, A. Del.</i>	Address City, Zip 2-5-90 417 Mobberly Ave. Longview 75602
Person to whom marker is to be shipped* ▶ <i>Ron Cox</i> Ron Cox, City Manager City of Kilgore	Address City, Zip Telephone 909 N. Kilgore Kilgore (required) 214 75662 984-5081

**If marker is to be placed on highway right-of-way, it will be shipped to your district highway engineer.*
Please consult the back of this page for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Approval of the application and narrative *must* be obtained from the county historical commission, as indicated by the county chairman's signature on this form, before forwarding the material to the Texas Historical Commission. Please *do not* send payment if ordering subject or building markers; funds will be requested once the application has been approved by the State Marker Committee. Sales tax must be added to the price, except if purchased by a tax-exempt organization. Applicants may order a marker with a socket to attach to their own post; however, the cost is the same as a marker furnished with a foundry post.

SUBJECT MARKERS

- 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) \$225
- 27" x 42" subject marker with post \$650
- 27" x 42" subject marker without post \$600
- 18" x 28" subject marker with post \$375
- 18" x 28" subject marker without post \$300
- I(We) request that RTHL designation be considered for this marker.
(Please see signature line below)

BUILDING MARKERS

- 16" x 12" building marker with post \$350
- 16" x 12" building marker without post \$300

Applications for building markers will automatically be considered for the RTHL designation. Please read carefully Texas Marker Policies 13 through 18, and indicate that you have done so by signing below.

Ron Cox, City Manager
Signature of owner

PAPERWEIGHTS

Please indicate quantity desired.

- 3" x 4" plastic paperweight
mounted with replica of marker \$90
*Allow two months from completion of marker
for receipt of paperweight.*
- Medallion paperweight \$40
Allows four lines of engraving; please indicate desired wording.

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Please indicate quantity desired and give location(s) on form above:

- 24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign \$80
*These will be shipped to and placed on your town's city
limits signs by the District Highway Engineer.*
- Black and White (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)
- Green and White (for interstate highways)
- 18" x 22" Historical Marker directional sign \$80
*In black and white only. For city and county roads.
Applicant must supply post and be responsible for placement.*
- With arrow pointing straight ahead
- With arrow pointing left
- With arrow pointing right

OTHER

- National Register plaque \$ 50
- 12" x 6" supplemental plate \$110
- 16" x 12" building marker plate only
(see policy #15) \$190
- Replacement medallion (see policy #15) \$110
- Bronze stars (for replacement on 1936
granite markers) \$ 25
- Bronze wreaths (for replacement on
1936 granite markers) \$ 25
- Bronze seals (for replacement on
1936 granite markers) \$ 65
- Bronze plates (for replacement on
1936 granite markers) \$185
- Certificates of commendation 50¢ each



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

February 13, 1990

Dr. Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
417 Mobberly Ave.
Longview, Texas 75602

RE: KILGORE PUBLIC LIBRARY
16"X12" building marker w/o post

Dear Dr. Black:

This letter is to notify you that we have received the above referenced marker application.

The application first will be reviewed and evaluated by the Texas Historical Commission staff. Should additional information be needed, you will be contacted. After any deficiencies have been corrected, copies of the application will be sent to the members of the State Marker Committee, who will make the final determination of the topic's acceptability for marking.

You will be notified as soon as the committee makes its decision. If the topic is approved for marking, we will request payment at the time of notification. If not approved, the application will be returned along with a letter of explanation.

Because of the variables involved in the marker process and because we must coordinate our orders with the schedule of the contracting foundry, we would ask that the dedication date not be set until you have received notice that the marker has been shipped.

We appreciate your interest in preserving the history of Texas.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program

FR/bjb

cc: Ron Cox



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

October 5, 1990

Ron Cox, City Manager
City of Kilgore
909 N. Kilgore
Kilgore, TX 75662

RE: KILGORE PUBLIC LIBRARY
301 N. Henderson Blvd., Kilgore
16"X12" building marker without post
(Job #14090)

Dear Mr. Cox:

This letter is to notify you that the State Marker Committee has reviewed and approved the above-referenced structure for the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation. This special status, awarded to properties deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations, conveys a measure of legal protection to the building. Notification of any modifications to the exterior of this structure should be made to the Texas Historical Commission at least 60 days prior to the commencement of work. Please refer to the enclosed brochure for further information on the RTHL designation.

At this time payment for the marker is due. A check, in the amount of \$324.00 (\$300.00 if paid for by a tax-exempt organization) should be made payable to the Texas Historical Commission and sent to the letterhead address as soon as possible. Once payment is received, the application will be placed in line to have the marker inscription written. The inscription will not be prepared until after funds have been received. When the text is written, a copy will be sent to you and any parties listed below for review.

The Texas Historical Commission wishes to congratulate you on the preservation of this fine structure and appreciates your effort to record Texas history in this manner.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program
FR/bb

cc: Dr. Norman Black, Gregg CHC
Kilgore Improvement & Beautification Assoc.
Virginia Long

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

Texas Historical Commission Staff (CJB), 11/5/90

Official Texas Historical Building Marker without post, for stone
Gregg County (Job #14090)

Location: 301 N. Henderson Blvd., Kilgore

KILGORE PUBLIC LIBRARY*

KILGORE'S FIRST PUBLIC LIBRARY

OPENED IN 1933 UNDER THE DIRECTION

OF TWO LOCAL WOMEN'S CLUBS, WITH

FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL PUBLIC

WORKS ADMINISTRATION, SUPPORT

FROM THE CITY, AND LABOR FROM THE

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION,

THIS STRUCTURE WAS COMPLETED IN

1939, ARCHITECT GEORGE M. MARBLE

DESIGNED THE LIBRARY BUILDING IN A

STYLE REMINISCENT OF COTTAGES IN

THE FRENCH PROVINCE OF NORMANDY.

MARBLE ALSO DESIGNED THE 1981

REAR ADDITION.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1990***

*1/2 inch lettering

**3/8 inch lettering

***1/4 inch lettering

Bendel tells Kiwanians history of Kilgore library

By ANNELLE DUGAN

Kilgore Public Library was founded in 1933 when the Business and Professional Women's Club took it as a project, said Paul Bendel, speaker for the Kilgore Kiwanis Club luncheon Tuesday at the Community Inn and Convention Center.

The B&PW Club launched the library project with \$90 — and no books, he said.

Nannette Wickham's father, Dr. J.B. Crane, provided a room in his hospital on North Kilgore Street, and merchants donated lumber and other items to make shelves. Others donated books, and club members kept the library open from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, with two women at a time taking turns working in the library.

Later, the library was moved to the old Texan Theater, Bendel said.

The current building was constructed in 1939 at a cost of \$39,000, with \$20,000 of that being Works Project Administration money.

George Marble, Dallas architect, designed the building, Bendel reported. Marble later said the French Provencal-style library was one of his most prized designs. He added that he had to fight the WPA officials to keep many of the spe-

cial features in the library's design.

The building features such items as stone lions at the entrance, leaded glass windows, a weathervane, hand carved beams, hand carved reference desks, fireplaces, and animal motifs in the children's room.

In 1978, voters approved a bond issue that included a \$400,000 addition to the library, which was matched as closely as possible to the existing facility.

The library has 33,000 volumes, plus five daily newspapers and more than 100 monthly periodicals, audio cassettes, video cassettes, and records. It also has a meeting room that is available to the public for meetings.

The City of Kilgore, Gregg County and the State of Texas provide funding for the library.

Friends of the Library was formed several years ago, and the organization annually sponsors a book sale. It has purchased carpet for the children's room and bought books for the library.

An open house is slated for Tuesday, Dec. 4, from 7 to 9 p.m., with the Kilgore High School stringed orchestra playing and refreshments being served.



OPEN HOUSE — Frank Herbert, Rebecca Bendel and David Wilcox Jr. decorate one of the Christmas trees in the Kilgore Public Library in preparation of

the library's open house Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. The open house is being sponsored by Friends of the Library. (Photo by Melinda W. Bigelow)



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone
903-757-2261

October 24, 1991

Janet Marley
Kilgore Public Library
301 Henderson Boulevard
Kilgore, Texas 75662

Dear Janet:

Thanks for the letter, invitation draft and preliminary program. This looks great! I only wish they would all be as correct as yours.

I am enclosing some lists which, I hope, will keep you from waiting. The notes on the Gregg County Historical Society list should explain. There are some additional new members which Beth Dodson, the secretary, has and I'll get them to you as soon as I can.

Sincerely,

Norman

Enc.

Mrs. Mildred Wood Barker
P. O. Box 765
Gladewater, Texas 75647

Sondra Daniel
803 Willow Blvd.
Gladewater, Texas 75647

Dr. W. D. Northcutt, III
P. O. Box 3523
Longview, Texas 75606

Mrs. Sally Gossett Barron
3215 Pat
Longview, Texas 75601

Mrs. Bill W. Dodson
117 W. Edgefield
Longview, Texas 75602

Dr. Norman W. Black,
Chairman
417 Mobberly Ave.
Longview, Texas 75602

Mrs. Amelia Belding
4 Palisades Blvd.
Longview, Texas 75601

Dr. Ken Durham
15 Country Place
Longview, Texas 75601

Mrs. John W. Osteen
405 Phillips Drive
Gladewater, Texas 75647

Mr. Jack Buchanan
1504 Lazy Lane
Longview, Texas 75604

Mrs. Helen McHaney Griffin
2600 Brookview
Kilgore, Texas 75662

Mrs. Amanda Pratt
P. O. Box 990
Kilgore, Texas 75662

Mrs. Anne P. Cammack
2007 Sunshine Square
Longview, Texas 75601

Mrs. Nelda Lewis
2301 Greenhills
Kilgore, Texas 75662

Mr. Ben Reynolds
P. O. Box 51
White Oak, Texas 75693

Mrs. Pauline Cox
P. O. Box 174
White Oak, Texas 75693

Mrs. H. L. Long
2909 Royal Drive
Kilgore, Texas 75662

Mrs. Nancy Ruff
13 Iris Circle
Longview, Texas 75601

Mrs. B. W. Grain, Jr.
P. O. Box 2146
Longview, Texas 75606

Mrs. Gordon J. Mayer
P. O. Box 1428
Gladewater, Texas 75647

Mrs. Charlotte Teske
1101 Yates Drive
Longview, Texas 75601

Mr. Joe White
3208 Edgewood
Kilgore, Texas 75662

GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 542
LONGVIEW, TEXAS 75606

STATEMENT

Dues

October 1991-October 1992

\$3.00

MEETING THE LAST THURSDAY

OCTOBER, JANUARY-MAY
EDUCATION CENTER
GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

H.C. means these people are on the G.C. Historical Commission list.
 * means: these ^{are} out-of-county members and you may choose not
 to include them on your mailing list (invitations)

NOTE: Watch for some of these who will probably be on another list
 that you have (Caroline Ross, et. al.)

Name & Address

Name & Address

Mrs. E.G. Andress
 1507 Judson Road
 Longview, Texas 75601

Mrs. Lesley F. Brown
 206 South Center
 Longview, Texas 75602

Mrs. Mildred Barker
 P.O. Box 765
 Gladewater, Texas 75647

H.C. Jack T. Buchanan
~~1199 Lake Cherokee~~ 1504 Lazy Lane
 Longview, Texas 75604

H.C. ~~Mr.~~ Mrs. Paul B. Belding
 4 Palisades Blvd
 Longview, Texas 75601

Mrs. Robert Cargill
 4 Covington Drive
 Longview, Texas 75602

~~Mrs. Lawrence Birdsong~~
 Mr. Lawrence Birdsong, Jr.
 104 West Whaley
 Longview, Texas 75601

Yvonne E. Clark
 905 N. Fourth Street
 Longview, Texas 75601

H.C. Dr. Norman W. Black
 417 South Mobberly
 Longview, Texas 75602

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Coghlan
 P.O. Box 2665
 Longview, Texas 75606

* Mrs. James Bond
 5433 Wateka Drive
 Dallas, Texas 75209

H.C. Pauline Cox
 P.O. Box 174
 White Oak, Texas 75693-0174

Mr. Edwin R. Booth
 106 Betty Drive
 Longview, Texas 75602

H.C. Mr. & Mrs. B.W. Crain, Jr.
 P.O. Box 2146
 Longview, Texas 75606

* Mr. Howard Bramlette
 2014 Linden Ave. #4
 Nashville, Tenn. 37212

Mrs. Robert S. Daniel
 803 Willow Blvd
 Gladewater, Texas 75647

Mrs. B.M. Brewton
 311 South High
 Longview, Texas 75602

H.C. Dr. Ken Durham
 No. 15 Country Place
 Longview, Texas 75601

Mrs. Frances H. Bristow
 327 Eden Drive #312
 Longview, Texas 75601

H.C. Beth Dodson
 117 W. Edgefield
 Longview, Texas 75602

Mrs. Arthur N. Brown
 6 New Forest
 Longview, Texas 75601

~~Miss Frances Edwards~~
~~301 W. Gregg Co. Blvd. #203~~
~~Longview, Texas 75602~~

~~Mrs. Katherine Brown~~
~~P.O. Box 569~~
~~Kilgore, Texas 75662~~

Mrs. A.E. Fancier
 1104 South Fredonia
 Longview, Texas 75602

★ Mrs. R.J. Findley
240 Mountain View Drive
Hurst, Texas 76054

Mrs. Royce G. LaFitte
1203 Yates Drive
Longview, Texas 75601

Mrs. A.T. Glover
806 North Seventh
Longview, Texas 75601

Mr. Michael Liverman
~~409 E. Main~~ P.O. Box 2381
Longview, Texas 75601

Mr. & Mrs. Henry O. Gossett, Jr.
P.O. Box 88
Longview, Texas 75606

H.C. Mrs. H.L. Long
2902 Royal Drive
Kilgore, Texas 75662

Mrs. Charles S. Gray
225 S. Club Drive
Longview, Texas 75602

Mrs. Ken Loomis
~~216 N. Fredonia~~ 2000 Tryon Rd.
Longview, Texas 75601

~~Dr. Paul Gray
Rt. 9, Box 166 (Weaver Lane)
Longview, Texas 75601~~

Mrs. J.C. McKinley
Mr. Jimmie Joe McKinley
P.O. Box 2106
Longview, Texas 75606

Mrs. Barton Griffin
Rt. 2, Box 59
Kilgore, Texas 75662

~~██████~~ Mrs. Eugene R. McWhorter
508 Fairmont
Longview, Texas 75601

H.C. Mrs. James H. Griffin, Jr.
2600 Brookview
Kilgore, Texas 75662

Mr. & Mrs. B.F. Martin, Jr.
P.O. Box 1902
Longview, Texas 75606

Mrs. Houston Harper
213 E. Edgefield
Longview, Texas 75602

H.C. Mrs. Gordon Mayer
P.O. Box 1428
Gladewater, Texas 75647

~~Mrs. John W. Harrison
316 South Fredonia
Longview, Texas 75602~~

~~Mrs. B.F. Martin (Franklin)
800 North South
Longview, Texas 75601~~

Mrs. Mabel P. Henderson
600 Baylor #130
Longview, Texas 75601

Mr. Marvin R. Mikeska
P.O. Box 26
Longview, Texas 75606

★ Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Holloway III
P.O. Box 402
Malakoff, Texas 75148

A. Ann Elizabeth Moore
907 Sunshine Square
Longview, Texas 75601

Mrs. K.W. Irwin
327 Eden Drive #305
Longview, Texas 75601

Mrs. Curtis Morris
1215 South Fredonia
Longview, Texas 75602

★ Mrs. Roger Keane
4530 Gloster Road
Dallas, Texas 75220

Mrs. Leon D. Northcutt
~~175 Young Street~~ 2910 N. Eastman Rd.
Longview, Texas 75601

★ Mr. John Edwin Lacy
P.O. Box 8004
Dallas, Texas 75205

Mrs. W.D. Northcutt, Jr.
31 Covington Drive
Longview, Texas 75602

← please send an invitation to Mrs. Terry - she will probably come.

H.C. Dr. W.D. Northcutt III
~~1211 N. Fourth Street~~ P.O. Box 3523
Longview, Texas 75608

Mrs. W.S. Terry
420 N. Walnut
~~Longview, Texas~~
Jefferson, Texas 75657

H.C. Mrs. John W. Osteen
405 Phillips Drive
Gladewater, Texas 75647

H.C. Charlotte Teske
1101 Yates Drive
Longview, Texas 75601

Miss Allise Owings
412 South Fredonia
Longview, Texas 75602

Mrs. Kenneth Wickham
1117 E. Houston
Kilgore, Texas 75662

Charles R. Perkins, Jr.
821 MBank Bldg
211 E. Tyler Street
Longview, Texas 75601

Mrs. Georgia B. Wilcox
P.O. Box 7575
Longview, Texas 75607

Mrs. Charles R. Perkins
1211 Hillcrest Drive
Longview, Texas 75601

Eloise Wilson
508 Oakdale
Longview, Texas 75602

Mrs. Murray L. Pyle
2806 Tryon Road
Longview, Texas 75601-2733

Mrs. Hugh G. Willis
SR 23 Lake Charokee
Henderson, Texas 75652

Mrs. Paul (Elizabeth) Ray
7 New Forest
Longview, Texas 75601

~~Mr. & Mrs. Harold~~ ^{Addie} Williams
917 Fisher Road
Longview, Texas 75604

Mrs. Leonard M. Riggs
516 Cynthia
Longview, Texas 75601

★ Mrs. Tyson Woods
P.O. Box 460
Ingleside, Texas 78362

Miss Caroline A. Ross
P.O. Box 929
Kilgore, Texas 75662

H.C. Nancy B. Ruff
13 Irid Circle
Longview, Texas 75601

Mrs. James C. Selman
912 Arkansas
Longview, Texas 75601

~~John Ben Sheppard~~
~~1208 Texas Commercial Bank~~
~~Odean, Texas 75664~~

Mrs. Earl D. Smith
406 E. Methvin
Longview, Texas 75601

★ Mrs. Guy Sterling
5610 Caruth Blvd
Dallas, Texas 75209

Mr. & Mrs. Alto Tatum
718 Sylvan Drive
Longview, Texas 75602



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

April 9, 1991

Phone
903-757-2261

Gregg County Commissioners Court

Kenneth J. Walker, Judge
P. O. Box 3386
Longview, Texas 75606

G. A. McLaughlin, Comm. Pct. 1.
1109 FM 449
Longview, Texas 75605

Jim Gray, Comm. Pct. 2.
P. O. Box 6194
Longview, Texas 75608

Nelson R. Tyl, Comm. Pct. 3.
Rt. 4, Box 648
Longview, Texas 75604

James Johnson, Comm. Pct. 4.
2400 Lilly St.
Longview, Texas 75602

Gregg County Sheriff

Bobby Weaver
P. O. Box 506
Longview, Texas 75606

District Attorney

David Brabham
220 Joan St.
Longview, Texas 75601

Dr. Ellie Caston
P. O. Box 3342
Longview, Texas 75606

Rep. Jerry Yost
3211 W. Marshall Ave.
Longview, Texas 75604

Kenny Hawthorne
410 N. Center St.
Longview, Texas 75601

Audrey Kariel
503 Landsdowne
Marshall, Texas 75670

Virginia Knapp
321 College Ave.
Henderson, Texas 75652

Jeanette Graham
507 Whiskey Still Rd.
Daingerfield, Texas 75638

Sen. Bill Ratliff
P. O. Box 1218
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

Frances Rickard, Director
Local History Programs
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Roni Morales, Director
Publications
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

(Director
Gr. Co. Histor.
Museum)

(Director,
Main Street
Program,
Longview)

(Ch. Harrison
Hist. Commis.)

(Ch. Rusk Co
Historical
Commission)

(Ch. Morris
Hist. Com.)

PROGRAM

PRESIDING NORMAN W. BLACK, D.D.S., CHAIRMAN
GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

INVOCATION LARRY DARNELL, PASTOR
EASTVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

GREETINGS/WELCOME BOB BARBEE, MAYOR
CITY OF KILGORE

CAROL HINTON, PRESIDENT
KILGORE IMPROVEMENT & BEAUTIFICATION
ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS/HISTORY MIKE KERR, MEMBER
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

DEDICATION OF MARKER VIRGINIA LONG, PAST MEMBER
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

READING OF MARKER NELDA LEWIS, CHARTER MEMBER
KIBA

ACCEPTANCE/UNVEILING MAYOR BOB BARBEE

AMANDA PRATT, PRESIDENT
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

JANET MARLEY, DIRECTOR
KILGORE PUBLIC LIBRARY

BENEDICTION W. B. WILSON, PASTOR

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY
SPONSORED BY
THE FRIENDS OF THE KILGORE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Historical marker dedication set at library on Thursday

A Texas Historical Marker Dedication for the Kilgore Public Library is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday.

The brief ceremony will be followed by the Friends of the Library's second annual Christmas Open House. The public is invited to attend.

Kilgore Public Library is now in its 58th year of providing service to the citizens of Kilgore and surrounding areas. Founded in 1933, the women of Kilgore must be given credit for its birth. Six years before the French Provincial structure was completed, members of the Kilgore Business and Professional Women's Club took up the establishment of a library as a project. Starting with only \$90 and no books, the project was kept alive by donations and other means.

The group also had to find a place to house the library and shelves to hold the books. Dr. J.B. Crane let

the club use one large room in the local hospital.

Later, the library was moved to a room in the old Texan Theater loaned to the club by Liggett Crim. Within four years, the city, under the leadership of Mayor Roy H. Laird, got behind the project appropriating \$50 per month toward its support.

Soon after, city leaders along with library board members and friends decided it was time to build a permanent structure. It is the building the library is in today and was finished in 1939 at a cost of \$45,000. Of the original cost, \$20,000 was Public Works Administration monies.

Dallas architect George M. Marble designed the building and chose the styling which is found in Provence, a region in Southeast France famous in the Middle Ages for its poetry and chivalry.

KILGORE PUBLIC LIBRARY HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION, DECEMBER 5, 1991, 7:00 P.M.

M.C. Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker: The Kilgore Public Library. This historical marker is authorized by the State Of Texas and sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission, the Gregg County Historical Commission and the Kilgore Improvement and Beautification Association. This marker designates this building a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, the most significant of all THC designations.

INVOC. Please stand with me for the invocation given by the Rev. Larry Darnell, Pastor of the Eastview Baptist Church. Rev. Darnell.
Thank you Rev. Darnell. You may be seated.

GREET./
WELCOME His Honor, Mayor Bob Barbee, has some remarks to make at this time. Mayor Barbee.
Thank you Mr. Mayor.
Mr. Melvin Marshall, Vice-President of the Kilgore Improvement and Beautification Association will now come to the lecturn. Mr. Marshall.
Thank you Melvin.

GUESTS We have several guests with us this evening. (Ask guests to either stand or raise their hands.) See list(s).

ADDRESS/
HISTORY Mr. Mike Kerr, of the Friends of the Library will tell us about the history of the Kilgore Public Library.
Thank you, Mr. Kerr.

DED. Mrs. Virginia Long of the Gregg County Historical Commission and former Vice-Chairman of the Texas Historical Commission and member of KIBA will

now dedicate the historical marker. She will also read the text of the marker.

Thank you, Mrs. Long. Virginia, of course, is also President of the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce and involved in more civic activities than most anyone I know.

ACCEPT. &
UNVEIL.

Mayor Barbee will accept the historical marker, and Mrs. Amanda Pratt, President of the Friends of the Library and Mrs. Janet Marley, Director of the Kilgore Public Library will unveil the marker.

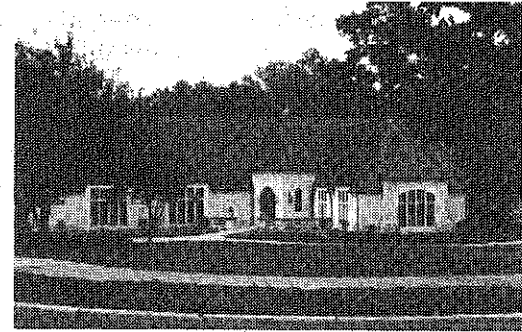
BENEDICT.

Rev. Darnell will return and give the benediction. Rev. Darnell.

CLOSE.

Thank all of you for coming and for making this dedication a memorable one. And now, I believe the Annual Christmas Party is about to begin.

Kilgore Public Library



Texas Historical Marker Dedication and The Friends of the Library Christmas Open House

Thursday
December 5, 1991
7 p.m.

In Cooperation With
The Texas Historical Commission
The Gregg County Historical Commission
The Kilgore Improvement and Beautification Association
The Friends of the Kilgore Public Library
The City of Kilgore

History

Kilgore Public Library, now in its 58th year, stands as a beautiful memorial to the early day Kilgoreites who established and supported its beginnings.

Founded in 1933, the women of Kilgore must be given credit for its birth. Six years before the French Provincial structure was completed, members of the Business and Professional Women's Club took up the establishment of a library as a project with no books and only \$90. It was kept alive by donations.

Dr. J.B. Crane's medical center was home to the first library. Later, the library was moved to a room in the old Texan Theatre loaned to the club by Mr. Liggett Crim.

Within four years, under the leadership of Mayor Roy H. Laird, the City of Kilgore realized the important role that a public library played in the community and thus decided to appropriate \$50 monthly to its support.

Shortly thereafter, the city, in conjunction with board members and friends decided to build a permanent structure. It is the present building we are in today and was completed in October of 1939 at a cost of \$45,000. Of the original cost, \$20,000 was public works administration monies.

In 1978, a bond issue was passed by the citizens of Kilgore that enabled the addition of 4,500 square feet. Every effort was made to ensure the addition would not detract from the original structure.

From its early beginnings in a single room in the local hospital to the beautiful structure we admire today, Kilgore Public Library is indeed an integral part of the City of Kilgore's rich history.

Program

Presiding	Norman W. Black, D.D.S., Chairman Gregg County Historical Commission
Invocation	Larry Darnell, Pastor Eastview Baptist Church
Greetings	Bob Barbee, Mayor City of Kilgore
	Melvin Marshall, Vice President Kilgore Improvement & Beautification Association
History	Mike Kerr, Member Friends of the Library
Presentation	Virginia Long, Past Member Texas Historical Commission
Acceptance and Unveiling	Mayor Bob Barbee
	Amanda Pratt, President Friends of the Library
	Janet Marley, Director Kilgore Public Library
Benediction	Rev. Larry Darnell

.....

Christmas Open House Immediately Following
Sponsored by
The Friends of the Kilgore Public Library

Musical Selections by the Kilgore High School Orchestra
Lisa Roberts, Director



MARKER — Friends of the Library President Amanda Pratt, left, and Librarian Janet Marley, right, unveil the new Texas Historical Marker which was presented at the Kilgore Public Library Thursday night amid ceremonies, holiday music and an open house

sponsored by Friends of the Library. The marker dedication attracted nearly 100 people including county and city officials. The marker will be erected outside the library next week. (Photo by Greg A. Collins)

KILGORE NEWS HEADLINE

America's No. 1 small city — capital of the East

60TH YEAR — No. 289

USPS 294-700

KILGORE, TEXAS, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 6, 1991

8 PAGES, 1 SECTION — 25¢

Library historical marker dedicated

By GREG A. COLLINS

Amid holiday music and beautiful Christmas decorations, a Texas Historical marker was dedicated at the Kilgore Public Library Thursday evening. Librarian Janet Marley and Friends of the Library President Amanda Pratt unveiling the honor as nearly 100 people looked on.

The marker dedication preceded an open house at the facility, sponsored by Friends of the Kilgore Public Library. Members of the Kilgore Improvement and Beautification Association board of directors also helped host the event by serving and greeting.

In cooperation with the Texas Historical Commission, the Gregg County Historical Commission, KIBA, the Friends of the Kilgore Public Library and the City of Kilgore, the marker was formally presented to the citizens of the community.

Norman W. Black, D.D.S. and chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission, presided over the event. He commented the library was being marked as a Texas Historical Landmark, the highest distinction possible, and added he was proud to be a part of the event. He then introduced dignitaries in the room.

The Rev. Larry Darnell, pastor of Eastview Baptist Church, gave

the invocation and benediction at the event.

Mayor Bob Barbee greeted the guests and added his congratulations on the marker being placed at the facility.

"A lot of work has gone into making this a reality," Barbee said. "Lots of groups have had a part, and Janet Marley and her staff are to be commended for their hard work."

He added the Christmas decorations were outstanding, and said "the library is the prettiest it has ever been."

Also greeting guests was Melvin Marshall, vice president of the KIBA.

"KIBA stands ready to support projects such as this, and we join hands in dedicating this marker with the city and the Friends of the Library," he said. "This library is beautiful, magnificent. It is a beautiful building Kilgore can be proud of, but Kilgore can also be proud of the people who have worked to make this library so outstanding."

Representing the Friends of the Library, Mike Kerr have a history of the building which was constructed in October of 1939 and added onto in 1978 with Kerr himself as the job foreman for his father's company.

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BLACK, DR. NORMAN
417 MOFFERLY AVE
LONGVIEW, TX

75402

He detailed the beginnings of the facility, adding personal notations from Nanette Wickham, one of the original founders and still living in Kilgore today. He also quoted the original architect, George Marble, from Dallas, who said the Kilgore library was one of his proudest accomplishments. Finally, he added some personal insights of his own, telling the crowd how he was able to get the original quarry in Austin opened again so the stone on the addition built in 1978 would match the original building.

Virginia Long, past member of the Texas Historical Commission, present member of the Gregg County Historical Commission and current president of the chamber and a KIBA board member, presented the marker to the residents of Kilgore.

"Tonight, we honor the women who began this library, the people who helped it grow and we honor those efforts," she said. "We also look to the future and what it holds for the library."

The marker was accepted by Barbee, Mrs. Pratt and Mrs. Marley. Mrs. Marley commented she was proud to be a part of the historic event, and thanked all those who made it possible.

Library group meets with city on facility

By RENEE ROUTON-SMITH
Friends of the Library

Friends of the Library (FOL) held a meeting Thursday with city officials to discuss extensive repairs needed at the Library.

Attending were City Commissioners Janice Hancock, Billy Bob Brady,

'The meeting was very positive and informative for those attending.'

Jerry Ted Roberts, and Wilbur Yates, with Dr. Roberts presiding for Mayor Joe Parker.

Also, attending were FOL board members Sue Brown, Margie Hall, Billie Echols, Caroline Ross, Robert Floyd, Renee Routon-Smith; Helen Padgett, Rod LaGrone and Clara Bradford; City Manager Ron Stephens; City Secretary Karen Custer; Executive Vice President, Kilgore Chamber of Commerce, Mike Coston; members of the Kilgore Historical Society Mike Joseph, Terry Stembridge, Frank Brown and Helen Pudge Griffin (also vice president of the Gregg County Historical Commission); and Dale Hedrick.

Linda Johnston, library director and her complete staff were also present.

Helen Padgett greeted the audience and introduced Sue Brown, who as chairman of the building committee had set the agenda for the meeting.

Ms. Brown outlined the repairs that are needed.

Main repairs are: Exterior where water is entering the basement, fireplaces, gutters, front door, windows, light fixtures; Interior-ceiling, tile, window sills, wall plaster, and leaking fireplace. Others repairs concern the parking area, library sign, and library table and chairs. These are the main things on a list of the necessary repairs and refurbishing.

She distributed a letter to the city commission, which stated, "for too long the building has required attention, but we are most appreciative of your cur-

See LIBRARY, Page 5A

LOCAL

LIBRARY

(Continued from Page 1A)

rent endeavors to find solutions. We thank you for this opportunity to voice our concerns towards the preserving of the 'castle on the corner.'"

Mrs. Brown told the audience that because the building has a Texas Historical Marker, and Kilgore has the responsibility to make sure "every effort is made to preserve the integrity of the building and Marker.

Along with this honor comes responsibility for both the Library and the Texas Historical Commission. The Commission will be our helper and advisor and we must strive to preserve the history of the structure. The Library has what is known as a Structural Marker, entailing a responsibility to make sure nothing is done to jeopardize its historical significance. Not only must we make repairs, we should learn what caused the damage to prevent it reoccurring."

Mrs. Brown commended the library staff for their dedication and pride in the library. She pointed out that they had done much painting themselves.

Mrs. Griffin, in her capac-

ity as Vice-President of the Gregg County Historical Commission, presented a

*'We want to keep
this historical
landmark intact.'*

passionate plea to the city officials, stating, "Please keep this historical landmark intact. Please listen to the Historical Commission and preserve this beautiful historic building."

Her comments echoed the mood throughout the crowded room. She also advised that the Texas Historical Commission could send experts to insure the job is done professionally. They will provide a list of professionals that can do the work, as well as come look at the repairs and approve how they are done.

Ron Stephens said he would call the Texas Historical Commission to seek their professional advice on how to proceed with repairs and obtain their expert assistance needed to preserve the building.

The meeting ended with the commissioners touring the library to personally observe the damage and needed repairs.

Library may be getting repairs

KILGORE NEWS HERALD

■ THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2001

By JOHN HASSELMEIER
Reporter

Those numerous problems being experienced by the Kilgore Public Library might just be on the way to being fixed.

At Tuesday night's meeting of the Kilgore City Commission, City Manager Ron Stephens told the commission that a firm from Longview would be willing to abate the area of flooding and remove the growths of mold for \$7,288.

"I recommend we go ahead and do this," Stephens said.

Sue Brown, Building Coordinator with the organization Friends of the Kilgore Public Library, pointed to a letter that the commission received with the list of items of concern. As for the exterior of the building, that list included:

— Finding the source of water coming into the basement area of the building to prevent any deterioration to the foundation of the building as well as eliminating basement water even if the landscaping is altered.

— Maintaining the existing underground drain system.

— Addressing any repairs needed on the roof around the fireplace and any deterioration to exterior roof

decking, soffits, fascia boards and miscellaneous trim.

— Purchasing new gutters/downspouts with consideration of original material of copper.

— Studying making repairs to the front door prior to the purchase of a new door; replacing the new basement door with a duplicate of the original that has been replaced; refurbishing the existing double doors and wooden sections of porch on the east side of the building.

— Replacing duplicates of two missing concrete spindles under concrete railing in front of building not only for building integrity but for safety concerns.

— Continuing repair of lead/glass of existing windows of building.

— Re-caulking all windows and repairing cast stone sills of meeting room windows.

— Sandblasting and repainting the light fixture.

As for the interior of the building, that list included:

— Re-grouting the tile in the floor of foyer.

— Repairing plaster on west wall and portion of ceiling in children's room in same patterns, but only after determining the source of deterioration.

See LIBRARY, Page 4

LIBRARY

(Continued from Page 1)

— Making repairs to interior window sills.

— Correcting the leaking fireplace.

Other miscellaneous items included:

— Surfacing the muddy area of the staff parking area.

— Sandblasting and painting library sign and drop box.

— Refinishing the library tables and chairs.

— Maintaining documentation of any work done for future reference.

"I became aware of this a couple of months ago," Mayor Joe T. Parker said. "I notice on the payables we had a \$17,000 bill for a sump pump. I gave Ron (Stephens) the authorization to seek a solution."

Mrs. Brown told the commission that some people would be willing to walk through the library with them and show them these things if they so desired.

Stephens said that a Tyler firm had done an air quality study of the library. They

said there wasn't any immediate danger and the mold was an insignificant amount, but that it wasn't going away. The firm also recommended abating the area and removing the mold.

The city manager said that one big problem the city had in combating the problems was that a set of original blueprints of the facility was unavailable.

"Part of the problem is that we can't find the original plans of the library," Stephens said.

Terry Stenbridge, who was in attendance, said that he had found a set.

Library leakage

reviewed

By ANNETTE DARLING
Reporter

KILGORE NEWS HERALD

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2001

Kilgore city commissioners on Tuesday received a suggestion to prevent water from leaking into the Kilgore Public Library.

Engineer Ralph Stokes presented a report to commissioners about the soil and ground water conditions at the library, and said water was not coming up from below the ground.

"It is getting in from up above and it's seeping in through the building," he said.

Stokes said the gutter and drainage systems needed to be replaced to prevent the water from seeping into the library's basement.

"Basically what we need to do is move the water away from the building, however, it entails moving the greenery," he said. He presented commissioners and the Friends of the Library a layout proposal of completely encircling the building with a concrete seal slab walkway.

"I know that is just a plan, but we think it's a solution," he said.

Commissioner Billy Bob Brady asked if the season was extremely rainy would the water come up from the ground and penetrate the library.

"It's always possible but not probable," Stokes said.

Stokes said the walkway would take about a month to complete.

"I think this could be done fairly inexpensively," he said.

City Manager Ron Stephens said the walkway work should be done in conjunction with the roof repairs.

"We are going to have a basement full of water if we don't do it at the same time," he said.

He also expressed concern for two areas of the library, the southeast corner and the northwest corner, which have some slab and foundation problems, he said.

"I think absolutely we should address this before pouring concrete for the walkway," he said. "We need to look at the structural deficiencies before we pour concrete slab all the way around."

GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
417 Mobberty Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602
903-757-2261



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone 903-757-2261
Fax # 903-753-5337

September 17, 2001

Mark D. Cowan
Project Reviewer, Division of Architecture
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Kilgore Public Library repairs

Dear Mark:

I have been sending you newspaper clippings as I get them from the Kilgore paper and sometimes from the Longview paper relative to this project. It is no trouble for me to do this as I do this for our files. However, you may already be getting this information from other sources and I don't want to be redundant, causing extra reading time for you. Please let me know if you want me to continue sending this information to you.

Sincerely,

Norman Black, D.D.S.

Enc.

City approves bid for library repairs at meeting

By GREG A. COLLINS
Managing Editor

The Kilgore City Commission approved a bid for \$19,854, plus stipulations presented by Commissioner Billy Bob Brady, in order to do work on the Kilgore Public Library roof and guttering.

The vote was unanimous from commissioners. City Manager Ron Stephens was not in attendance at the meeting after being hospitalized this past week for a few days. He has returned to limited duty at work but was not present at the meeting.

The bid was awarded to Brown Roofing out of Dallas. Local people were called on several occasions to bid, according to Tom Clark of Midlothian, who put together the specs for the project and had them approved by Stephens and local government officials, but none of them ever bid on the entire project.

The \$19,000-plus dollars will enable the firm to put up new guttering and downspouts and do related roof work to stop water from leaking into the historic facility. The contract includes \$1,800 contingency for collateral roof damage that is found, but Clark wanted someone from the city to be responsible for making the roofing firm sign off with them on any work that is done above the \$18,054 that was bid on the project. B.J. Owens was assigned by the commission to be the person.

Commissioners were in complete agreement with the work to be done and the way it

would be done after Clark delivered a 20-minute report to them Tuesday evening. Only Commissioner Brady wanted stipulations, that being the fact that Craig Jaynes, local businessman contracted to do part of the project, would reduce his bid if the other firm did the guttering and, if the guttering was taken down by Jaynes, he would reduce his bid \$200 because the guttering, which is copper, is worth money.

The project, according to Clark, is bid fairly by Brown Roofing, a firm which has recently completed work on the Sam Rayburn House in Bonham, another historic structure. Also, Clark said, the Texas Historic Commission has signed off on the Kilgore project the way it has been bid so the integrity of the historic library can be maintained.

The majority of the cost for the project, approximately \$13,000, will be for the copper guttering, Clark said when asked by commissioners about the total amount of dollars needed.

According to Clark's report, it was decided several weeks ago that a joint effort was

launched to investigate and prioritize the scope of work that was needed for the structure.

"All parties recognize the historical importance of the building and made sure any work performed would have the least impact on the original fabric of the building," Clark said.

Clark said the engineer's report that a french drain around the side of the building is not needed is a welcome bit of news.

"The recommendation of replacement of the existing guttering and downspout system has been acknowledged," Clark said.

Clark reiterated that attempts to get bids from local companies have not been successful, so he turned to Brown Roofing, a firm with whom he has worked before. He also made a recommendation for the commission to accept Brown's bid for the work.

Brown has said he needs a three to four-week lead time after acceptance of the bid, and he said the work would take approximately two weeks to complete, barring any in-

clement weather.

Clark said Tuesday night that the work needs to get under way to beat the second rainy season in East Texas.

Jaynes is responsible for removal of the existing guttering and the replacement of the wood molding around the perimeter of the building.

According to Clark, Jaynes told him yesterday that the molding has been milled and the material would be primed this week. Jaynes also said that he was approximately three weeks out on the guttering/trim removal and installation of the molding.

Clark recommended that, during this three week period, the city or an outside contractor should complete the investigation of the sub-grade drainage lines to determine which ones if any can be utilized, and the planning for new drain lines.

He also requested that the metal edging used in the perimeter bedding around the building be removed and replaced with a more appropriate edging that will not trap water and hold it next to the building.

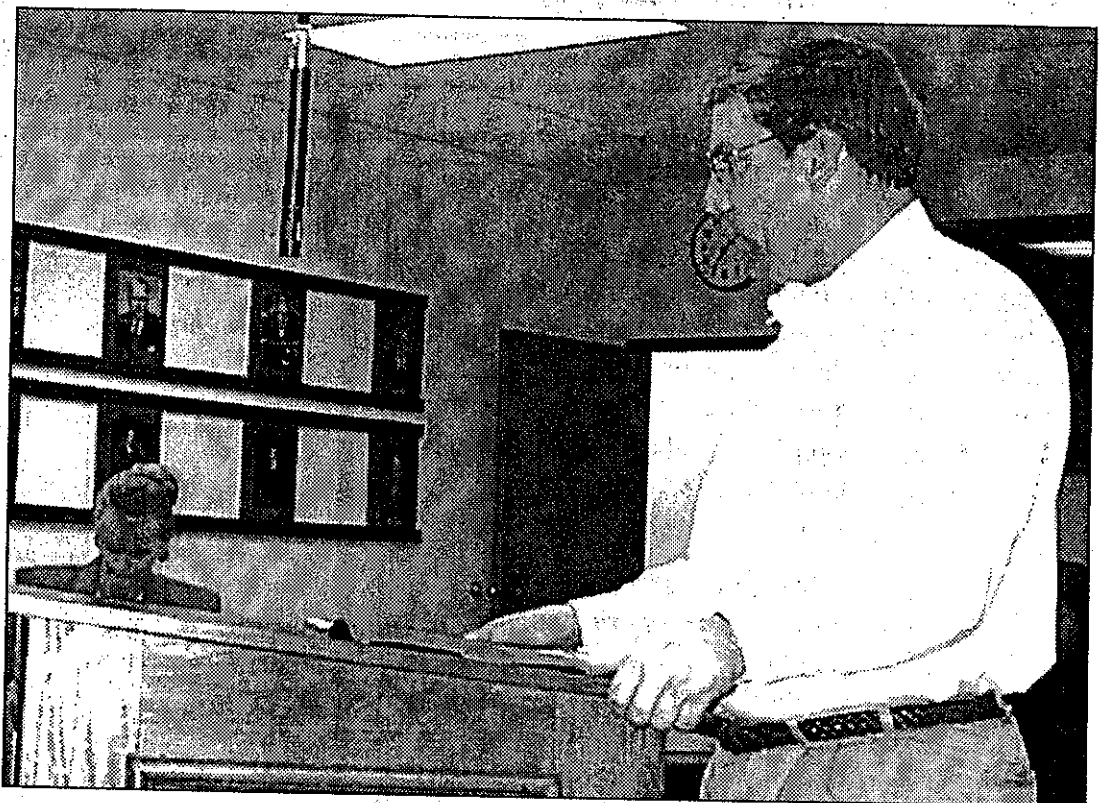


Photo by Greg A. Collins

TOM CLARK MAKES A PRESENTATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION ON LIBRARY REPAIRS

No lights will be on Library at Christmas this year

By GREG A. COLLINS
Managing Editor

Several members of the Friends of the Kilgore Public Library, the Kilgore Historical Preservation Foundation and the Kilgore Public Library staff were in attendance at the Tuesday Kilgore City Commission meeting to see if the lawmakers would take positive action on water drainage problems at the historic local facility.

It was through the efforts of the Friends of the Kilgore Public Library and the Kilgore Historical Preservation Foundation that the needs of the building were addressed by city commissioners and the city staff.

Tuesday night, the commissioners voted to expend nearly \$20,000 to fix those prob-

lems, and the people there to witness the action were pleased.

Mayor Joe T. Parker asked the people present during the action on the agenda item if they had anything to say and no one stepped forward. He also asked them if the plans and the project that was bid and approved was to their liking, and they said it was.

They did have one bit of news to share following the meeting, however.

Helen Padgett with Friends of the Kilgore Public Library said that the Christmas lights which usually adorn the outside of the facility during the holiday season would not be put up this year, or ever again for that matter.

"The ladders on the side of the building and people up on the roof are reasons why the

work on the roof and guttering and downspouts is having to be done," Mrs. Padgett commented. "So, in order to stop damage to the roof and guttering and downspouts, the outside lights will not be put on the building this year."

She said that the group realizes that there will be some upset people over this, she herself realizes the outside lights were very attractive and made the library one of the most festive facilities in Kilgore, but the overall good of the building dictates that the lights not be put up.

Library officials said, however, they would continue the attractive inside decorations with different trees and lighting which also make the library one of the best decorated facilities in town.

Kilgore library upgrade OK'd

By **MARK EWY**
Staff writer

After a battle with mold in the basement, the Kilgore Public Library will be getting the improvements it needs to prevent water leaking in the basement during the wet months.

Earlier this week the Kilgore City Commission approved a bid from Brown Roofing in Dallas to do the roofing repairs after failed attempts to seek local companies to do the job.

The existing gutter and downspout systems will be replaced. Roofing repairs, new copper gutters and a chimney cap were also approved.

Brown Roofing submitted a bid that complied with U.S. Department of Interior guidelines concerning historic structures, city officials said.

Work will begin in three to four weeks and will take two weeks to complete, said Thomas Clark in a letter to the Kilgore commissioners and mayor.

Clark is with Leeds Clark Historic Restoration & Consulting.

Long-term basement flooding at the library prompted a clean-up of the 62-year-old building earlier in the year. Because water has been leaking into the basement for years, mold and mildew gathered on the tiles and books downstairs.

"(City workers) cut out sections of the walls and took out the cabinets," said Director Linda Johnson in an earlier interview. She pointed out where the carpet and tiles had been stripped.

"They tested for air quality. They sanitized it, and it's safe now," Johnson said.

Johnson, who boasts that the library is the most beautiful building in Kilgore, has worked there for 17 years. She has been the director for eight.

She said the space in the basement is important to library operations.

"We store books down here," she said. "We depend on it."



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone 903-757-2261
Fax # 903-753-5337

October 13, 2001

Mark D. Cowan
Project Reviewer, Division of Architecture
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin Texas 78711

Re: Kilgore Public Library Repairs

Dear Mark:

More Gregg County newspaper articles about the library. Note that there is a difference in local opinion about the concrete skirt next to the building. I'm sure you are aware of this. I went by the site a week ago and they had most of the old underground pipe out and on the ground. It was a mess.

Sincerely,

Norman Black, D.D.S.

Enc. - 3.

Planners look to preserve outside of Kilgore library

By MARK EWY
Staff writer

KILGORE — Building planners are finding ways to preserve the historical Kilgore Public Library from water damage without pouring concrete around the building.

Construction began Thursday on the historical building, that was commissioned by the Texas Historical Commission in 1990.

City Building and Maintenance supervisor B.J. Owen said the library's underground drains have been replaced and new gutters and flashing are being placed on the roof. Frank Brown Roofing of Dallas has worked with the city to complete 35 percent of the work needed to cease basement flooding.

Librarians and city workers opposed the proposal of a concrete apron around the building, but basement flooding has plagued the library for some time.

Director Linda Johnson said she and her fellow workers once came across an article from the Kilgore Herald in 1987 that reported the same problems that they were

experiencing.

"(Today, workers) checked the drain lines in the ground. They dug them up and they were all filled with hard dirt," Johnson said of Friday's work done just before the rains came.

The workers hope the unclogged drains will clear water away, eliminating the need for a concrete apron around the library.

"Most of us wouldn't want to see a concrete pad around the building," Owen said.

Johnson, who boasts that the library is the most beautiful building in Kilgore, has worked there for 17 years. She has been the director for eight.

She recalled that water would pour into the rooms that are below ground level and soak the wooden bookcases.

"We use this basement a lot," Johnson said.

"We store books down here with shelves. We depend on it."

The library was originally built by WPA workers.

The WPA is a former U.S. government agency, established in 1935 by executive order of President Roosevelt as the Works Progress Administration.

Library project

Renovation work ongoing so drainage system can be installed

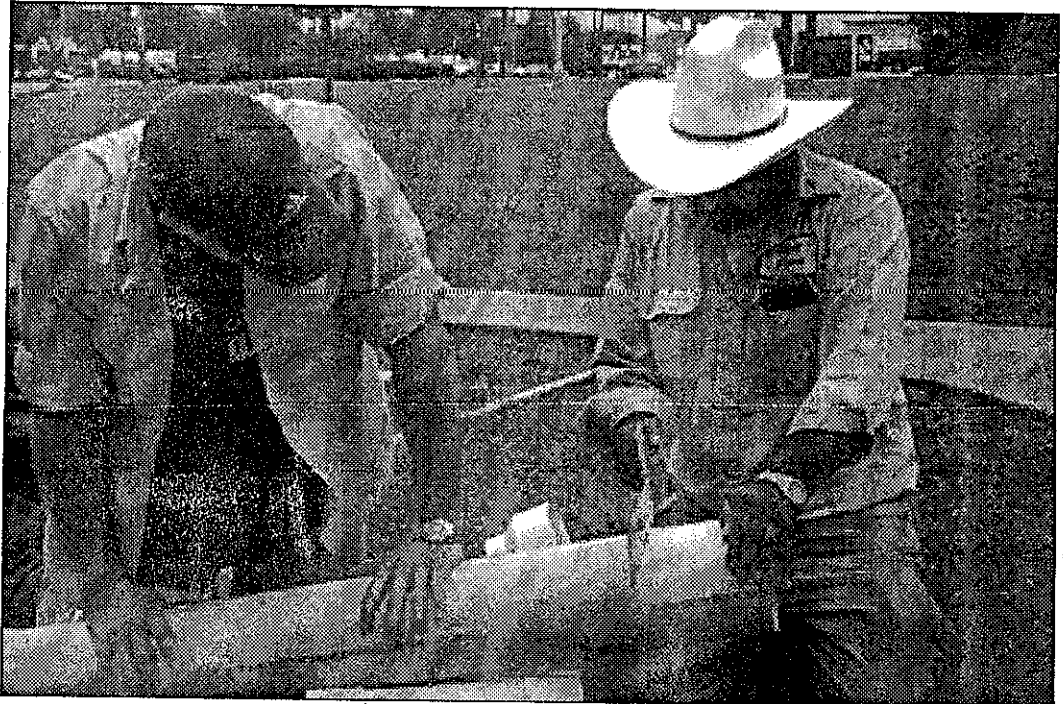
By ANNETTE DARLING
Reporter

City workers have moved greenery and shrubs away from the Kilgore Public Library and continue to dig around the perimeter to place a drainage system and prevent water leakage into the building.

City Manager Ron Stephens reported to commissioners Tuesday that the carpenters should be at the library today or Friday to put up molding, and city workers were digging trenches for drainage. Once it is finished, he said, the person who will complete the roofing and gutters can return to finish that project.

Commissioner Billy Bob Brady asked where the shrubs were going to be placed after the work was done, and suggested some type of shrub that does

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Photos by Annette Darling

LIBRARY WORK — City workers dig trenches and cut PVC pipe to install a drainage system around the Kilgore Public Library to prevent water leakage into the building.

LIBRARY

(Continued from Page 1)

not require much water be placed to cover the Y's that are part of the drainage system.

During their August meeting, commissioners heard a suggestion to prevent the water from leaking into the library building.

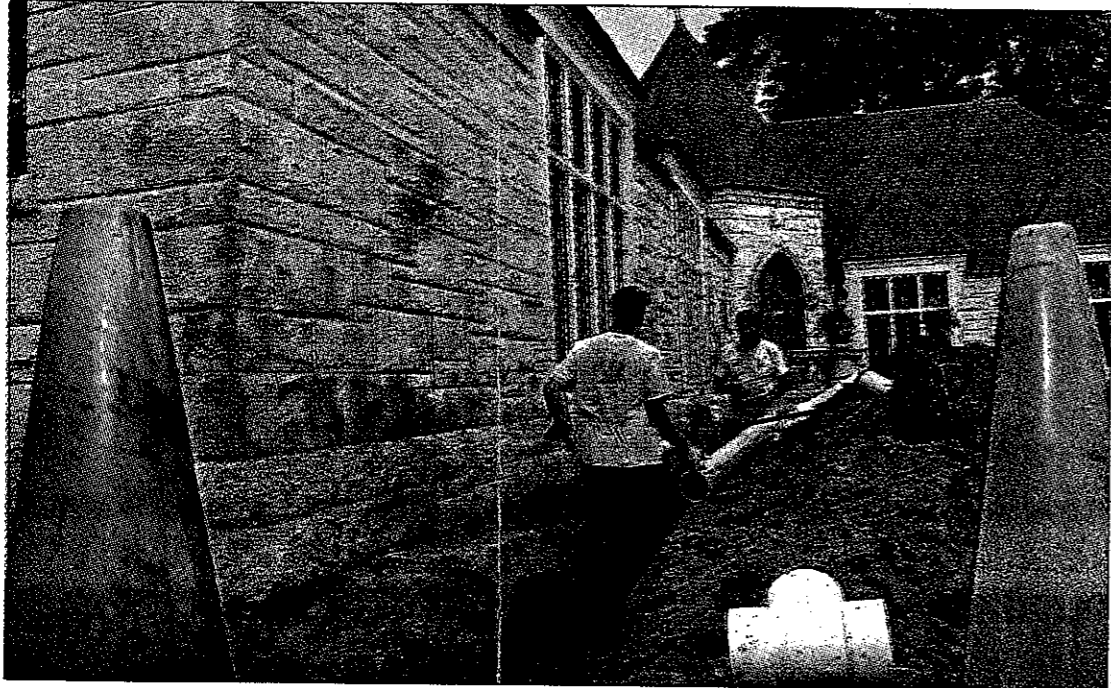
Engineer Ralph Stokes presented a report to commissioners about the soil and ground water conditions at the library, and said water was not coming up from below the ground. He said it was getting in from up above and seeping

through the building.

Stokes said the gutter and drainage systems needed to be replaced to prevent the water from seeping into the library's basement. He also said the greenery would have to be moved to do that.

Stokes presented commissioners and the Friends of the Library a layout proposal of completely encircling the building with a concrete seal slab walkway.

Stephens suggested the walkway work be done in conjunction with the roof repairs.



Kevin Green/News-Journal Photo

Kilgore city workers Thomas Brandt and Eleno Barcia install new drainage pipes Wednesday at the historic Kilgore City Library. The original clay pipes were determined to be the root of a flooding problem.

Kilgore City Library's water problem closer to evaporating

By **MARK EWY**
Staff writer

Progress is being made to prevent further water damage to the historic Kilgore City Library.

A drainage system responsible for the water damage was removed, and city employees Thomas Brandt and Eleno Garcia were finishing up drainage pipe replacements Thursday.

Old pipes made of clay had not been replaced since the library was constructed in the 1930s.

Over the years, water seeped into the basement after heavy rains, destroying many books

and bookcases that can not be replaced.

On top of losses due to the water, library workers had complained of mold in the basement. The city cleaned the basement, removing any traces of mold.

City officials hope the work on the drainage system will prove effective for future preservation of the building.

City Building and Maintenance Supervisor B.J. Owen said the library's underground drains have been replaced and new gutters and flashing are being installed on the roof.

Frank Brown Roofing of Dallas is working with the city to

help prevent more flooding while complying with the Texas Historical Commission's building codes.

For aesthetic reasons, librarians, Friends of the Library and city officials opposed the idea of pouring concrete around the building to stop any water leakage in the event of heavy rains.

Basement flooding has plagued the library for some time.

Director Linda Johnson said she and her fellow workers once came across an article from the Kilgore News Herald in 1987 that reported the same problems that they had experienced.



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

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November 19, 2001

Mark D. Cowen
Project Reviewer, Division of Architecture
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin Texas, 78711

Re: Kilgore Public Library

Dear Mark:

I apologize for the delay in sending this clipping to you. It was misplaced and found yesterday. I hope the under-surface part of this project was done correctly. When I last visited the site the area was covered.

Sincerely,

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.

Kilgore Library work nearing completion

Officials: Restoration
75 percent finished

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Kilgore City Library restoration is about 75 percent complete, according to Building Manager B.J. Owen.

"All the underground work is done. There has to be some flashing work done around the chimney," Owen said.

He said the Texas Historical Commission wants the library to be as dry as possible, and the city is working to get it airtight. After the new gutters are installed, crews will seal the windows.

During the restoration, workers had to remove a couple of trees because the roots were interfering with the drainage. City workers also cleaned up mold and mildew from outside stones, Owen said.

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2002

Library renovation work moving slowly

Little accomplished since Christmas

By **BECKY CRABTREE**
Reporter

Renovations to the Kilgore Public Library are moving slowly with no scheduled time of completion, according to Linda Johnson, director. She said the only improvement since Christmas has been some painting around the windows.

"We have quite a bit that still needs to be done," Johnson said.

According to Johnson,

projects that are yet to be finished include:

- Landscaping.
- Basement renovations.
- Wall in children's room still needs to be repaired.
- Grout in the tile in the foyer needs to be replaced.
- Banisters on the porch need to be replaced.
- Cement around the windows is cracking and chipping.

Johnson said the city de-

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Hampton's dedication to the building process, Bill Bass's planning and management during construction and the hundreds of people who volunteered time, money or resources to the project.

"We have a lot to be thankful for today," he said. "This is a day of celebration."

Both ministers, however,

ready to give tours of the facility.

"This is a day of celebration for the church," Tisdale commented. "This October First Baptist Church will celebrate 100 years of life in Kilgore, and this building is a sign that God is continuing to use this church in the lives of this community."

LIBRARY

(Continued from Page 1)

cides when the improvements will be completed.

"The bottom line is it always goes back to Ron Stephens," she said.

Stephens, city manager, and B.J. Owen, code enforcement inspector for the city, were unavailable for

comment.

Johnson said the renovations are done during busi-

ness hours, but no one has complained about the smell of fresh paint.

"The only thing I've heard a complaint about was when we had a sprinkler hitting the sidewalk and they (the customer) had to time their entrance. I don't

ly, the people that come in here are good natured," she said.

City: Library improvements made as fast as possible

By BECKY CRABTREE
Reporter

City crews are making improvements to the library as fast as possible, said B.J. Owen, code enforcement inspector for the city. Owen said the city's objective is to take care of the building's structural problems and then focus on beautifying the library.

"We're dealing with the structural inadequacies first such as the drainage and leaks around the window seals. Then we will focus on the aesthetics of the library such as the landscaping," Owen said.

Owen said Anything Green is designing the

sprinkler system and as soon as the design is complete, city crews will install it.

He also said much structural work has already been completed including replacing the gutters, which has solved the library's problems with drainage.

"We haven't had water in the basement since last winter. It has been sealed and repainted from the leaks," he said.

Owen said, however, that some basement renovations still need to be done. He said all the work left to be done deals with aesthetics, however.

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LIBRARY

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Though he said he cannot give an exact completion date, he can assure the public that he has not forgotten about the work that needs to be finished at the library.

"It's going slow, but it's a lot of scheduling. You can't

just go to Home Depot and buy the materials. You have to get everything approved by the historical society and then find the craftsmen who are willing to work on this project," he said.

Owen said he enjoys work-

ing on this project and he is glad that the city commission has approved the repairs that are necessary to repair and beautify the library.

"We've spent \$50,000 so far, and we're looking at

spending another \$25,000. The copper gutters cost \$18,000 alone. But, the city commission has been great. They have unanimously approved everything the library has needed," he said.