



VANGUARD OF BOY SCOUTS moves down New Street, books in hand, during moving day operation. Hundreds of volunteers turned out to

help transfer volumes from the old Market Street library to the new City Center building. (Globe-Times Photo)

## Volunteers Put Muscle Into Library Moving Day

"Operation Books" had volumes of backing today from Bethlehem residents both young and old.

At noon, 440 volunteers had registered to help transfer 90,000 books from the Bethlehem Public Library on Market St. to the gleaming new concrete, glass and steel structure in the new City Center complex.

As the old building was rapidly stripped of its printed treasures, it was learned that Mayor H. Gordon Payrow will recommend to city council on Tuesday that the city-owned library annex be sold at public auction for \$30,000.

Moving day at the library was expected to continue until dusk, according to Mrs. Charles

Seidle, wife of the president of the library board of trustees.

Dr. Seidle, wearing a pair of old Army fatigues, was among the army of volunteers lending arms, legs and muscles to the mammoth job.

Miss Amy Preston, librarian, estimated that vans leased by the Bethlehem Jaycees would move about 20,000 of the books.

### Army of Volunteers

The remaining volumes, about 20,000 were being carried by hand downhill on New St. by a carefree army of high school and elementary pupils.

The youth army was entrusted with many of the larger volumes which presented awkward packing problems, Mrs. Seidle said.

The smaller children were issued coupons, on registering, for free refreshments at the snack bar set up in the annex and staffed by MOHA Club members.

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## Big Library Move Spurs Willing Helpers

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It was a popular oasis for the children, many returning after each round trip.

Jaycee member Ed Beighe supervised the book carriers. Paul Horvath assisted him.

A good turnout was on hand when registration began this morning at 8 o'clock, Mrs. Seidle reported. At noon, volunteers were still reporting. Many planned to stay until the operation ended at dusk, others donated a few hours of their day.

Books remaining after the volunteers depart this evening will be trucked to the City Center by professional movers, Miss Preston said.

Among the hundreds in the work force were Girl and Boy Scouts, members of the high school Key Clubs, Junior Leaguers, and Lehigh fraternity men.

### 'Big Move'

"Your guess is as good as mine," Miss Preston replied to a query on whether the move could be completed today.

"This is really a big move. It seems bigger every day."

The library staff, Jaycees and volunteers did not have to move an additional 20,000 books at present in circulation. Those books are not due back until Nov. 20 when the new library goes into limited operation, according to Miss Preston.

Also, about 1,000 outdated and worn books were discarded in the past few months.

Library patrons will be forced to use other resources for the one-week period from Monday until Nov. 20, since that time will be utilized for setting up

"shop" in the new structure.

### 225,000 Capacity

The new library has a 225,000 shelving capacity. Of course, since many books are expected to be in circulation the actual working library volume figure is anticipated to be less.

This move, Miss Preston said, means that Bethlehem readers will have a great many books from which to choose. The number will be increased steadily.

Miss Preston took her 20 member staff on a tour of the new library this afternoon.

The new library is more than five times larger than the Market St. library. A total of 45,000 square feet of usable space is provided in the new library.

Although the space will be increased more than 36,000 square feet, only two additional staff members are anticipated, Miss Preston said.

The Market St. library was built in the 1800s as a private residence. Later it was used as a fraternity (Lehigh University).

Then Bethlehem Steel Corp. took over ownership of the 19th century structure and built an addition to it. The firm used it for a time as a band hall for the former Bethlehem Steel Co. band.

The City of Bethlehem purchased the building in 1924 and set it up as the North Side library branch. Stacks were installed in the early 1930s.

"We've had the same furniture in here for 40 years," Miss Preston said, "and nothing (major) has been done to the building in all that time."

Payrow had planned to recommend that the Annex and the main building be sold for \$100,000 at an October council meeting. But he later found the city did not own the entire building — the Public Library Board owns the main section.

Payrow said the annex was purchased in 1959 for \$75,000. He thinks the annex is now worth at least \$80,000.

The building is being sold because the library is moving into its new City Center headquarters.

Payrow reported that gas stations would not be allowed

to bid for the annex.

According to library staff, the annex was used mainly for office space and for book catalogs. Three apartments were included.

Dr. Seidle said it is hoped the Annex and the main section of the building can be sold together.

The building, he said, is in an important historical area of the city.

### Adams Portrait

When the new library opens, a portrait of Globe-Times publisher Rolland L. Adams will be in a prominent spot.

Adams became the prime mover in making the new library a reality on June 2, 1965 when he pledged a \$250,000 challenge grant to the fund raising campaign.

Bethlehem and area residents met his challenge and a few weeks later it was announced that matching gifts surpassed the publisher's gift by almost \$50,000.

When civic-minded groups and individuals proposed that the library bear Adams' name he declined, suggesting instead that the institution continue to bear the city name.

This was fitting, he declared, because the public library was a result of community effort.

To the Adams' gift of \$250,000 and the public subscription, were added a \$400,000 state grant and a \$500,000 contribution