

HIGH POINT PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Five winners in the essay contest sponsored by the High Point Public Library in honor of National Library Week were given Special Certificates of Merit April 24, 1969 at the Rotary Club luncheon.

The winners were: First Place, Senior High category—Floyd Weatherspoon, a senior at T. Wingate Andrews High School;

First Place, Junior High category—Vivian L. Mackey, a seventh grader at Alfred I. Griffin Junior High; Second Place, Junior High group—Keith Harpe, also in the seventh grade at Griffin Junior High School.

First Place, Elementary competition—Sheila Saunders, who is in the fifth grade at Immaculate Heart of Mary School; Second Place, Elementary category—Kim Wray, a fifth grader at Cloverdale School.

Mrs. James M. Harper, Jr., North Carolina Chairman of National Library Week presented each of the winners with a Special Certificate of Merit. The luncheon was held in the Sky Room of the Southern Furniture Exposition Building.

The essay contest, a voluntary assignment for interested students in High Point schools, received a total of 105 entries: three in the senior high class, 31 in the junior high group and 75 in the elementary competition.

The five winners have been guests of the library board of trustees, of which Leo J. Heer is chairman, on a special trip to Raleigh to visit the new State Library Archives and History Building; the Capitol, and the North Carolina Museum of Natural History.

Essays written for elementary and senior high competition follow:

WHY I LIKE THE HIGH POINT PUBLIC LIBRARY

I have a friend. It lives in the heart of High Point, North Carolina, and is known as the High Point Public Library. Let me tell you why the library is such a friend and why I like it!

This friend talks to me through books when I am tired and bored. It has shelves filled with adventure, mystery, and comedy that will make me laugh on the worst days. We share many thoughts and experiences that all end up to be a fun day.

This friend educates and helps me with my schoolwork. It helps me with its Reference Books, Encyclopedias, Maps of the World, Dictionaries, Movies, and Clubs. What fun it is to have a friend that wants to help me with my homework.

With my friend, I can travel to far away places. I can do things like take an ocean cruise, go on an African Safari, go mountain climbing in the Alps, go on a whale hunt with Eskimos. I can shoot off in a rocket to any planet, any star or any dreamland in the sky. I can go to the center of the earth. There I may see strange beings, animals, and homes. I can meet different people and learn their ways of living.

My friend creates new ideas. With its books, I can learn to cook, sew, paint and draw, salesmanship, furniture design, typing, music, the television world, farming, swimming, fishing, hiking, and water skiing. If I ever want to try an experiment with one of these subjects, my friend will always be there with the information.

This friend is different from all my other friends. I will always be welcome and we will have many years yet to learn and grow. As long as I come to my friend, we will find out about the new and old world and the latest discoveries man has made. This is truly one of my best friends, because it shares my dreams, but will never tell them.

SHELIA SAUNDERS

Grade 5

Immaculate Heart Mary School

High Point, N. Carolina

HOW THE HIGH POINT PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVES THE COMMUNITY

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "No community can afford to be without a library." A library is, in a sense, a record of man's accomplishments and thoughts of knowledge and culture. Libraries appeared with the rise of civilization. During the Dark Ages in Europe, the monastery libraries kept alive ancient learning and eventually stimulated the revival of learning by books.

The High Point Public Library is more than a storehouse of books, however. It is an agency of continuing education for young and old. Although its traditional concern is with books and other printed matter, it also makes available many other kinds of materials and services.

Its services to the community are so varied, in fact, that the term education must be understood in its broadest sense. The library contains supplemental reading to help a student from elementary school through college. It provides information, from simple facts to complex scientific data, on all subjects. It gives cultural enrichment in books on art, literature, music, history, philosophy and religion. The library may help in career guidance with books about jobs and technical information. It supplies recreational reading on travel, sports, camping and hiking. All this is in addition to fiction and other entertaining reading material. These services blend and merge.

Libraries have made it possible for us to share the experiences of others by reading about their thoughts and achievements. The library is sometimes called "the memory of the human race." It is like a giant brain that remembers all that scientists, historians, poets, philosophers, and others have thought and learned.

Although a library is usually a quiet place, it is not a dull one. It houses the most explosive and dynamic part of all man's creation—ideas. It takes part in the most exciting of all man's activities—the development of ideas. Through libraries, scientists have unlocked the secrets of nature, and philosophers have searched for the meaning of life.

The library is also a meeting place for the community, and a place where the experience of the past can meet the needs of the present to provide the knowledge for cultural growth that is needed in the community. This necessity is all the greater today in a world giving birth to a host of new nations, amid a land of scientific and technological revolution that moves with the speed of the rocket and the power of the unlocked atom.

To a student, the library is a place where he can pursue knowledge beyond the classroom, beyond textbooks and teachers. In the library a student's curiosity can lead him down endless roads that wind through the world of man's knowledge.

The library also serves as a center for arousing and stimulating intellectual curiosity and the desire to learn.

The High Point library is a repository for information, history, the products of research and scholarship and opinion. It provides a record of the accomplishment and failures of vanished civilizations. It presents the philosophies and the principles of the past and the present. In education and research, the scholar must base his work on full knowledge of what has already been achieved. Similarly, the citizen is charged with basing his decisions, both for his own and the general welfare, on a full knowledge of alternatives. For these reasons access to the library and its sources is vital and can save much experiment and repetitive effort for the people of the community to read, to learn and to understand.

The High Point Public Library is rooted in the American heritage of freedom of thought and provision of equal educational opportunities found in a democracy.

A democratic form of government can work well only when the people are well informed. The High Point Library along with schools in the community are the first line of defense in holding and strengthening our democratic way of life.

Above all, the High Point Public Library assumes this deep responsibility. Therefore, as a growing community we must work for more libraries and fuller library services throughout the city of High Point. We must cooperate with others in this community and in the surrounding areas to see that books and information are made easily available to everyone who wants and needs them.

FLOYD WEATHERSPOON

12th Grade

T. Wingate Andrews High School
High Point, N. Carolina