

Raven  
WISDOM OF THE NORTH

FLIN FLON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL EDITION

1 9 8 1

SERVING

CITY OF FLIN FLON  
POPULATION - 8,500

BOUNDARY AREA  
POPULATION - 408

TOWN OF CREIGHTON, SASK.

POPULATION - 1,746

H.B.M. & S. DORMITORIES

118 MEMBERS

RURAL AREAS

BAKER'S NARROWS - SANDY BAY -

CRANBERRY PORTAGE - PELICAN NARROWS

DENARE BEACH, Sask.

220 MEMBERS

FLIN FLON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD - 1981

Murray Smith      --Chairman  
Val Hedman        - Secretary  
Shirley Boyce     - Council Rep.  
Joe Sattleberger - Creighton Rep.  
Del Baird         - Radio P.R.

STAFF

Dorothy Bridges    - Head Librarian  
Trudie Klause      - Assistant-Permanent Part-Time  
Phyllis Stadnick   - Assistant-Permanent Part-Time  
Rhonda McKinnon   - Permanent Part Time  
Blanche Fisher     - Permanent Part Time  
Maureen Stevenson - Student Aide





FLIN FLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

58 Main Street



LIBRARY HOURS

Monday Through Friday - 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday - 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## FLIN FLON

The name for this community was taken from a dime novel and this in itself is unique as it is believed to be the only City on the North American continent that can boast of having a name derived from such a source.

It all started away back in 1905 when a novel "The Sunless City", written by J. E. Preston-Muddock, was published in England.

The hero in the Sunless City was Josiah Flintabbatey Flonatin, who worked in his father's New York grocery store. When his father died he inherited the business. However, he was more interested in an amateur science group he had joined and because of this was soon bankrupt.

This gave him time to carry out something his group was interested in. They had knowledge of a lake that had no bottom so Flintabbatey Flonatin, or Flin Flon as he was called for short, decided to investigate.

He built a one-man submarine and went down into the lake. Sure enough there was no bottom and he soon found himself in the centre of the earth. Here, everything was laden with gold. The floor, the walls and the roof. Another oddity was that everyone had tails, and worst of all, women were boss and men the servants. The book told of his adventures in this strange land until he finally made his escape.

Around 1913, Tom Creighton, a northern Manitoba prospector, and a party with him, found a copy of The Sunless City, near Churchill, 180 miles north of here. Unfortunately, the last few pages were missing, so they did not know what happened to Flintabbatey.

A year or so later, they were prospecting in this area, and met up with a native by the name of David Collins. Collins produced some ore samples and agreed to show Creighton and his partners where he had found them. The site looked very promising and staking began.

When it came to naming the property, they decided this must have been the hole Josiah escaped from, so they thought of it as "old Flin Flon's mine", and named their claims Flin Flon.

In 1932, Jack Carr, then head of the research department for Hudson Bay

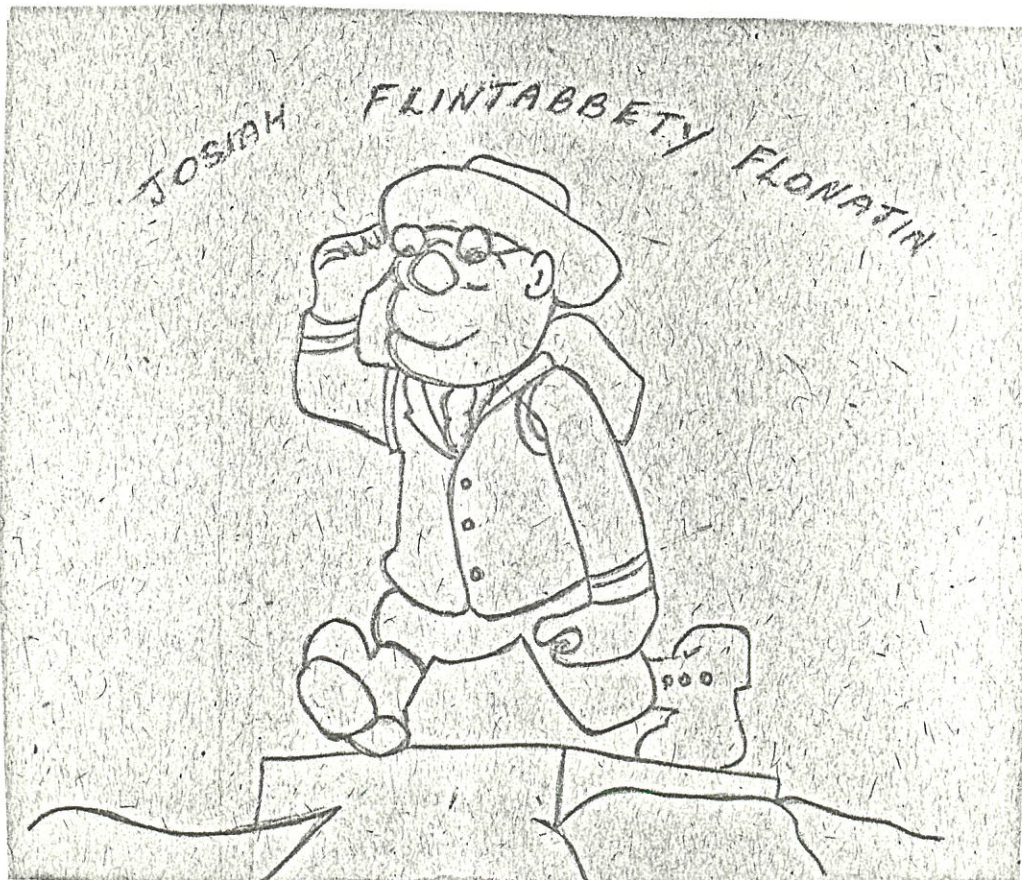


Mining and Smelting Company, which had started to mine the claims in 1928, began the task of trying to find a copy of the book.

It took several years and over 850 letters to all parts of the world before his efforts were rewarded with a copy of this book. At present, there are only three known copies of The Sunless City in existence.

Work was started in 1961 on a statue of Flintabbatey and unveiled at Flin Flon in 1962 during the 50th Anniversary of northern Manitoba's joining the southern portion of the province. The most difficult part of this project was to obtain a concrete design of this fictitious character following the description of his likeness as quoted in the book The Sunless City. After many months of frustrating attempts by a number of good artists, Al Capp of "Little Abner" fame, was contacted and being intrigued by the story and challenge came to the rescue. It was Al Capp who gave this fictitious character living reality.

A large statue of Flintabbatey Flonatin standing twenty-four feet high now guards the main highway entrance to Flin Flon, welcoming the tourists and capturing the imagination of all.



HEAD LIBRARIAN'S REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR 1981

I am pleased to present the 24th Annual Report of the Flin Flon Public Library.

Building maintenance took priority last year. New roofing was installed with Capital Grant assistance.

The placing of a building sign helped to identify the library for tourists and newcomers.

During the summer months the library was given a bright clean look with complete interior decorating.

Something we had not counted on was the necessity to install a new sump-pump.

Varied programming and displays take place during the year - National Book Festival, Visiting Authors, handicraft and art sales, Annual Book Sale and Children's parties.

Christmas is our favorite - tropical trees twinkling with miniature lights - the traditional Christmas tree and Children's Cookie Tree, and carollers - Library Board and staff celebrations - and good wishes of our patrons.

Total circulation shows a steady increase - 48,102 (46,329), with 2,844 books and 10 periodicals added to the collection.

Two new programs, toy-lending and record-lending have given us new holdings of 190 records and 26 toys (Fisher-Price and Tonka).

Overall revenue showed a profit over last year - \$8,221.00 (\$6,081.00)





Guess Who?



Christmas Cookie Tree With  
Cookies Supplied By Staff



### ADULT SERVICES

Combined circulation shows a favorable increase with 48,102 (46,329) with a combined total of 2,844 volumes, and 10 new periodicals and newspapers added to our holdings.

184 records form a beginning for a new record-lending program.

A good selection of 960 non-processed paper-backs are available, with paper-back shelving acquired at a profit to the library.

Fifty Large-Print volumes were purchased to enlarge our collection.

With reliable co-operation from Public Library Services we borrowed 48 books and loaned 6.

University of the North Continuing Education program is a valuable service, making a wide range of reference books available to the community as a whole.

Visiting author Max Braithwaite helped us celebrate National Book Festival with readings from his latest novel "McGruder's Folly".

Scott Young honored us in November, with a talk on his latest book "The Conn Smyth Story", followed by Bob Lowery, Free Press correspondent with his book of the North - "The Unbeatable Breed".

A tour of the library sponsored by the Metis Friendship Centre for new residents, was ably conducted by assistant Trudie Klause.



Our Senior Citizen Friends

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Story-hour was highly successful this year under the careful planning and supervision of staff members, Trudie and Rhonda. Registration increased steadily through the year with a total attendance of 800.

Programming supported by local businesses was variable and imaginative, delighting children and parents!

A new toy-lending program built around educational Fisher-Price and Tonka toys, is highly popular. A representative of the Retarded Children's Association has offered to add to our selection.

Children's records are a part of our new record-lending program, with selections ranging from fitness and folk-tales, to Dr. Seuss and fairy tales.

Children's films are borrowed regularly through Public Library Services and Brandon Film Service for special occasions.

Last year, with this assistance, we were able to supply the School Parent's association with films for a special showing involving 500 young people taking part in a provincial school band workshop held in Flin Flon.

Flin Flon Service Clubs and other associations, rent Christmas films from us regularly for their annual children's parties.

Visits by teachers and school children was high-lighted for us during the Christmas season, by a group of young carollers from McIsaac School under the direction of Mrs. Neubuhr. They truly brought Christmas into the Library - with a promise to return next year!

1,094 Children's books were added to our collection this year, bring our total holdings to 5,785.

Subscriptions to four Children's magazines, covering different age groups, are carried regularly.

We also handle small hand-crafted novelties made especially for children (finger-puppets, bunny pencils, dolls, etc.) at a minimal cost.



STORY HOUR PROGRAMS - 1981

SUPERVISED & PLANNED BY:

Trudie Klause  
Rhonda McKinnon

AGES - 3 - 5 years

REGISTRATION - 32

1. Each child receives a seasonal calendar designed monthly, with weekly programs listed on meeting day.
2. Stuffed toys are borrowed weekly, courtesy of the Bay manager, to highlight stories and games.
3. A tall giraffe became so popular, he was purchased for the children, and given the name "Duffy" in a special "name the Giraffe" contest.
4. Name tags are designed to slip over each child's head. When they are not in use, "Duffy" with his long neck becomes the holder.
5. A "Smile Contest", with the help of our local photographer, gave us individual pictures of each child for a display in the library - captioned "Smile Contest - They Are All Winners!"
6. Christmas cards designed to hold copies of these pictures, and decorated with stars and seals by the children, became surprise Christmas gifts for the parents.
7. Special parties were planned for:
  - Christmas - Santa Claus (Staff member in Bay borrowed suit) handed out mini-puppets. Ice cream and cookies followed film cartoons.
  - Valentine's Day - Valentine's for each child - Heart-shaped cakes (donated by attendants) and hot marshmallow chocolate.
  - St. Patrick's Day - Paddy's Pig - green freshie and Shamrock cookies.
  - Easter - Large Easter bunny highlighted poem children were taught to say to parents. Easter baskets prepared by Trudie and Rhonda.
8. Hat Day - With the help of parents, each child designed and wore a special hat, with an open talk session where they explained why that was their favorite hat.

9. Smurf City Day - Huge Smurf, borrowed from Bay, presided over meeting. Children wore Smurf T-shirts or brought their own little smurfs. Special presentation of Smurf Books to each child.
10. Spring Planting - First day of spring, children received foil-wrapped cups, prepared with earth and flower seeds for planting. The children then proudly placed them on the window ledge in the reading-room. Each week, the children check on the growth. At Story hour wind-up, the children will be given their plants (hopefully flowering) to take home.
11. Final session - Miniature tea-party, with everything including refreshments scaled down to our little story hour members.

Stories, games and films were carefully selected for education as well as fun purposes.

Activities planned called for participation from all the children - one of the favorites was murals on long sheets of brown paper which the children made by pasting on flowers, birds, trees, etc. These were then displayed in the library.

Special thanks go to Trudie and Rhonda for their efforts in making this one of our most successful programs.



Story Hour - Halloween Party



## COMMUNITY SERVICES

With the assistance of Public Library Services and their regular shipments of Large Print Books and "Talking Books", we were able to supplement our own holdings, and thus enlarge our Senior Citizen and Shut-In program.

We continue to supply Flin Flon Lion's Manor, with the addition of Hemlock Senior Citizen Lodge with a total of 100 books, changeable each month.

Art and handicraft displays are a regular feature in the library. A unique art display is the showing of pastels and watercolors by original members of Flin Flon Art Club members, retained by the library since 19-- in conjunction with displays of their recent work.

We are continually striving to promote and sell handicrafts, art work, ceramics, and books by local authors. To mention three of these -

Angelique Merasty	- "Bite" Pictures
Emily Crosby	- "Batik" pictures and Pottery
Betty Carpen	- Author of "Hardship & Happiness"
Bob Lowery	- Author of "The Unbeatable Breed", with a special chapter on Angelique Merasty

Our annual Christmas Book Sale has become a permanent feature by request, with year-round sales of discard books, magazines and plant slips. In addition, this past year we displayed and sold fish-hooks made by Senior Citizens of Cranberry Portage.

Display racks of Consumer Protection material and Alcoholic Foundation information are available and up-to-date.

A travel file with pamphlets and information from world embassies is an available source for travellers (and arm-chair travellers!)

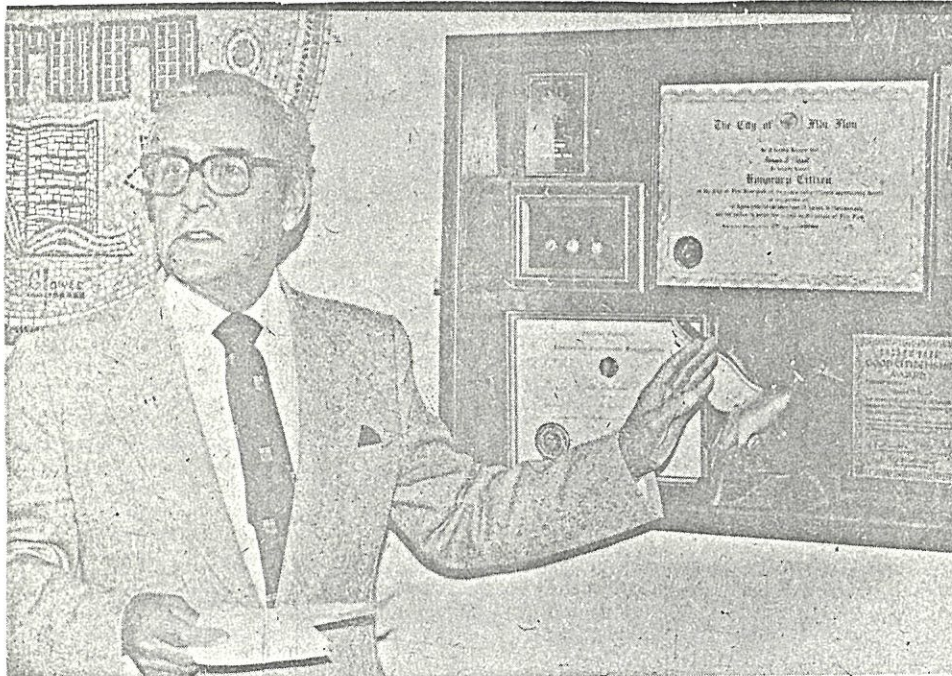
Photocopying and typing for a small fee is a daily service.

Requests for books, magazines and newspapers are noted, and if possible are purchased for library use.



The Library is honored to have been the recipient of numerous awards received by the late Norma Tissot for her years of devotion to the community.

This permanent display was officially presented to the library by former Lieutenant-Governor Mr. Bud Jobin and town representatives.

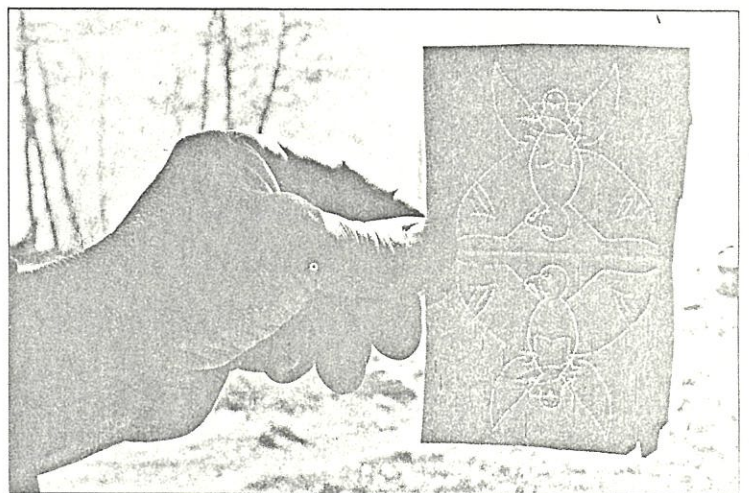
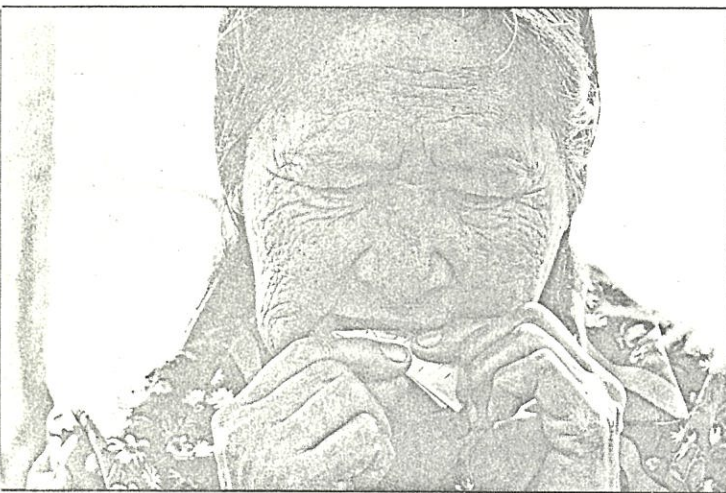


DEDICATION... former Lieutenant Governor F.L. "Bud" Jobin officially dedicated a commemorative display of good citizenship awards bestowed upon the late Norma Tissot at the Centennial Library yesterday afternoon. Miss Tissot was a long time secretary for the City of Flin Flon and a dedicated, hard-working citizen of the community as well as a personal friend of Mr. Jobin.



A selection of children's portraits will be displayed during the week Oct. 22-26 in Flin Flon's Public Library. The color portraits were taken by Glen Campbell of Campbell Studio Ltd. and processed by Winnipeg Photo Ltd.





This Authentic Cree Birch Biting was created by Angelique Merasty of Denare Beach, Saskatchewan. A Specially selected piece of birch bark is folded and the image is formed by gently biting the bark between the teeth. This was a traditional Indian art form but Angelique is the only person still practicing and the only person capable of such sophisticated imagery today. Her images drawn from around her, the bugs, ducks, flowers and all her fantasies reflect a close relationship to the earth and the keen eye of an artist.



## STAFF ACTIVITIES

All the staff members participate fully, whether it is on-going daily work, or the planning and carrying out of special displays, projects and programs.

Staff meetings are held regularly, where problems can be resolved, and new ideas discussed.

With the approval of the Board, all the staff members were able to participate in the seminar held at The Pas Library. This opportunity was much appreciated and enjoyed.

(With reference to the Time Management speech, after late night discussions in our rooms, and an early wake-up call, we felt we were all at the lowest point - No. 5 - for our working day!)

One of the library projects undertaken in the latter part of the year was the typing of new accession books. (The original ones dated back to 1952.) It necessitated much checking, sorting and filing, but we are well on the way to completion. This will give us an up-to-date reference record of our book collection, and simplify inventories.

Photocopying and typing for our patrons is a daily activity, combined with handicraft and book sales.




En Route to The Pas Seminar  
6:00a.m.!!




Library Seminar  
October 5, 1981  
The Pas, Manitoba



Tell Me More!



What's the Joke?



For the Brightest Smile...

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

As in previous years we submit regularly a column of new book reviews to the Daily Reminder, our local paper.

In addition we receive good coverage of interesting library news - articles on visiting authors - art and handicraft displays - special story-hour programs, etc.

This year, with the assistance of Board Member Del Baird, we have added a weekly radio slot to our library public relations programing. Items of interest - displays, new book and record arrivals, special programs are lined up weekly and submitted to Del for our Monday morning program.

Identifying our program is the library logo -

Libraries Have It

Free Reads, Sights and Sounds

Through our handicraft promotion, Flin Flon Library has received recognition in several newspaper articles, in Bob Lowery's new book, and more recently, in conjunction with recognition of Angelique Merasty's "bite" pictures in a Canada-wide publication of prominent native handicraft representing each province.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to our many good friends of the library who support us with book and plant contributions, floral displays, story-hour treats, and excellent media coverage.

To Public Library Services for their work-shop, seminars, and program support; a special mention to Karen Adams for her efforts on our behalf: and a welcome to our new library consultant Georgina, we look forward to working with you.

To our board members for their co-operation, assistance and advice.

To all my staff, for their never-failing support, enthusiasm and hard work, which makes all things possible.

Sincerely submitted,

Dorothy Bridges  
Head-Librarian.



TOTAL COMBINED CIRCULATION

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1980</u>
Adult	38,203	37,143
Children	9,899	9,186
	<u>48,102</u>	<u>46,329</u>

TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS

Family Membership - (2278)	6,573	6,561
Non-Residents -	220	218

BOOK HOLDINGS

	<u>1980</u>	<u>Added in 1981</u>	<u>Withdrawn 1981</u>	<u>Total 1981</u>
Books				
Adult	17,581	1,750	475	18,856
Children	4,691	1,094		5,785
Reference				1,045
Large Prints				156
Bound Periodicals				20
Foreign Language (Ukranian, French, German, Dutch, Norwegian)				175
Paper-Backs (not catalogued)				960
News Papers and Periodicals				104
Film Loops And Film Strips				52
Records and Tapes				190
Toys				26

INFORMATION SERVICES - 1981

An estimated 175 reference requests are received weekly.

FLIN FLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - DEC. 31/1981

<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>1981</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>1981</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>1980</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>1982</u>
Municipal Revenues - Flin Flon - Levy	14,621	14,621	14,259	14,621
- Flin Flon - Grant	23,729	23,729	24,091	23,729
- Creighton - Sask. -	4,777	4,803	4,777	4,803
- Creighton - Sask. -Grant	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Provincial - Operating Grant	40,260	39,632	40,260	39,632
( N.B. - Capital Grant)	--	( 3,550 )	13,990	--
Employment Program	--	--	4,283	--
Sundry Receipts - Pines, Copier, Rentals, Sales, Miscellaneous	14,025	9,003	8,112	10,600
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>99,412</u>	<u>90,238</u>	<u>111,772</u>	<u>95,385</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>				
Audit	550	575	525	600
Bank Charges	50	122	--	75
Copier Supplies	2,000	782	2,031	1,000
Express and Freight	150	163	141	100
Furniture & Equipment	2,000	886	2,841	100
Insurance	2,500	2,444	2,220	2,500
Janitorial - Contract	3,570	3,570	3,380	3,780
- Supplies	350	392	341	350
N.B.- Maintenance - Building & Equipment	3,825	28,420	4,543	4,300
Materials - Books	16,500	15,880	10,493	13,000
- Book Sale Purchase	2,000	1,638	1,615	--
- Periodicals	1,050	854	965	700
- Records, Tapes & Toys	692	918	--	100
Memberships	90	25	80	75
Miscellaneous	6,035	986	1,122	805
Publicity	600	443	444	600
Salaries and Emp. Benefits	45,550	49,855	39,734	55,500
Stationery and Library Supplies	3,000	1,533	3,770	2,000
Telephone	450	433	409	450
Travel & Conference	600	542	441	600
Utilities - Heating - Hydro - Water	7,850	6,807	6,615	8,750
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>99,412</u>	<u>117,278</u>	<u>86,242</u>	<u>95,385</u>
		\$ 27,040	\$ 25,530	

N.B. - Capital Grant Overestimated 1980 - Reversed - 1981

N.B. - Net-Loss - Revenue Transferred Special Reserve



FLIN FLON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BALANCE SHEET - DEC. 31/81

GENERAL FUND

CURRENT ASSETS

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1980</u>
Cash in Bank	15,684	14,857
Acct's Rec.	<u>2,426</u>	<u>416</u>
	<u>18,110</u>	<u>17,250</u>

LIABILITIES

Acct's Payable	3,959	6,154
Due Special Reserve	<u>14,151</u>	<u>11,096</u>
	<u>18,110</u>	<u>18,110</u>

CAPITAL ASSETS

Books	100,503	85,098
Furniture & Equipment	33,750	32,864
Records, Tapes, Toys	918	--
	<u>135,171</u>	<u>117,962</u>

SPECIAL RESERVE

ASSETS - Cash in Bank	1,355	26,181
Deposit - F.F. Credit Union	1,157	9,845
Term Deposit	10,103	--
Grant Rec. Prov. of Man.	--	3,498
Due From General Fund	<u>14,151</u>	<u>11,096</u>
	<u>26,766</u>	<u>50,620</u>

RESERVE

N.B. Balance - Beginning of Year	50,620	24,236
Add Interest Income	3,186	854
Net <sup>Loss</sup> <sub>^</sub> Revenue	<u>^ 27,040 ^</u>	<u>25,530</u>
BALANCE - End of Year	<u>26,766</u>	<u>50,620</u>

See Notes

LIBRARY DUST - 1981

"Comments overheard from Library Staff"

1. Inspecting an incoming badly treated cookbook, complete with dough-stuck pages, and Rice Krispie crumbs - "Why didn't they just press the cake in it!"
2. Staff, suffering from laryngitis - voiceless, whispering to youngster returning book - and child - deadly serious - whispering back!
3. Batchelor returning popular book, with fairly explicit sex description - "Reading for Relaxation" doesn't apply to this one - I couldn't get to sleep all night!"
4. An ivy plant, guilty of partially obscuring a sign on office window, led to this curious comment by a library patron -

"What does that sign say?"

Firm reply "The Happy Bookers!"

5. Senior citizen after a quick nap punctuated by light snoring in the reading area - "Was I sleeping?"

Young staff-member, smiling "Yes Sir, We heard you!"

6. Colorful old-time resident carrying shopping bag, rapping on counter sharply - "Young lady - I need some assistance"

"Yes Sir - What book are you looking for?"

"None!", pushing shopping bag at her, "I need these wrapped - It's my wife's birthday!"

7. Library policy enforcement:

Young staff member - to inebriated native Romeo, demonstrating Human Rights to his two lady friends -

"Sorry sir - you cannot sleep in the reading room!"

Hearing the clink of a bottle in the washroom - through the keyhole -

"Drinking is not allowed on these premises!"

Finally moving to the vestibule entrance,

"Hey! You can't (hysterically!) fight in here!"

Muttered parting reply - "Can't have any fun in here!"

8. Staff-member during the roofing construction - re the large vat of bubbling hot tar at rear entrance - "I think I really get the feeling now what it would feel like to be tarred and feathered!"



9. Staff member to male library patron unable to pay book fines - jokingly -  
"Don't worry - we'll take it out ---- Dead pause as she became fully aware of what she had been about to say. Hearty laughter from the gentleman, sent an embarrassed Trudie rushing for the kitchen, with the explosive comment "count me out!"
10. Librarian, with Christmas candle burning on desk, down on her knees searching a low desk drawer, surprised by board member's comment,  
"What are you doing? Praying?" Startled reaction - "Should I be?"
11. High Noon - on crowded Main Street - staff members struggling to hoist paper-back racks on truck -  
Doubtful comment - "Are you sure it was a woman that started the Liberation movement?"
11. Rejuvenation from small boy to story-hour attendant:  
"Lady, why don't you have babies?"  
Delighted silent reaction - "Thanks kid - but flattery won't get you another doughnut!"
12. Wishful comment from staff member on a bitterly cold day -  
"If anyone tells me to go to the fires of hell today -  
I'll go gladly!"

Things we appreciate:

A good sense of humor, honest criticism, the occasional pat on the back, Library patrons that do not rush in at closing time with a huge pile of over-dues, smiling faces, sunny days, and especially - Kay and Maureen's coffee hour treats of hot buns, cakes and tarts!

Library Dust has become a regular addition to our annual report, intended to be a light-hearted "off the record" account of funny things that have happened - in the library and among the staff.

The title was born when our local cleaner informed us that he had cleaned drapes from every type of establishment, but Library dust was a unique brand of it's own. (Because of book worms?)