

## Baseball Painting a "Hit"

by Jan Schultz

A large painting called "Home Field" has been donated to Bismarck Public Library. Painted by artist Ric Sprynczynatyk, it depicts children playing baseball on a vacant lot north of Bismarck High School, circa 1938. The painting was copied from an old photo published in the Mandan Daily Pioneer.



*Jack and Ann Lynch visit with Ric Sprynczynatyk.*

Sprynczynatyk is well known for renditions of local homes and businesses. He also painted the sky mural in the Children's Library. At a reception honoring him, October 21 at the Library, he said the original photo was very gray, but as he walked through the neighborhood, he decided to use bright colors.

Baseball was a great diversion near the end of the Great Depression and prior to World War II. However, the children in the 1938 photo (see page 8) remain a mystery. Anyone able to identify them is asked to call the Library Foundation at 355-1494.

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## Tom Jones Leaving Library Well-Positioned for the Future



*Tom Jones*

After leading Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library for 35 years, Tom Jones has announced he will retire May 1, 2011.

Tom first saw Bismarck from the window of a plane as it landed in the November twilight in 1975. He had come to Bismarck to interview for the position of Library director. Once on the ground, he liked the signs he saw of a progressive city.

The Library Board of Trustees at the time included Murray Pearce, Jane Lauer, Charles Mitchell, James Meisner and Bill Tillotson. They liked Tom immediately and offered the position to the young Pennsylvania native.

His arrival marked the dawn of a new era for the Bismarck Public Library. The community was growing and Tom helped the Library grow with it. His first project was to get the bookmobile rolling. That involved gaining the support of Burleigh County residents.

"I remember walking over a 6-foot snow drift to visit a lady about the bookmobile.

*...continued on page 4*

# My First Library Experience

by Jan Schultz



*Patty Sandness*

Patty Sandness comes from a family of librarians. Two sisters and a niece have library credentials. Patty worked as a reference librarian at the N.D. State Library for 11 years and as Media Specialist for the Bismarck Public Schools for 17 years. She is currently a member of the Library Foundation Board.

Patty said her fraternal grandmother came to this country from England, bringing a love for the Beatrix Potter Peter Rabbit stories, which inspired reading in her older sisters and later in Patty.

“I was lucky to have the Valley City Carnegie Public Library across the street from our grade and high school buildings,” she explained. “It was a great place to hang out, read, do homework, socialize and wait for a ride home.” Older sister Mary worked at several libraries in Valley City. “I guess you could say she was instrumental in my reading development,” Patty said.

Patty said the children’s section of her hometown library was cheerful and colorful, with cartoon murals around the room. Upstairs the adult area was dark and scary, but with cool furniture. “The adult librarian was a beautiful, classy woman who didn’t seem to smile very much, which added to the scariness.” Patty said that if she forgot her library card, she simply used her dad’s, which she still has.

Patty remembers that her years with the Bismarck Public Schools offered some real challenges. One controversy led to many students reading books from the nationwide lists of banned books. Today libraries observe Banned Book Week by displaying books previously censored by different organizations.

While working at a Bismarck middle school, Patty had the opportunity to meet several young adult authors: Katherine Paterson, Marc Talbert, Jerry Spinelli, Ben Mikealsen, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor and Barbara Robinson. These authors were in Bismarck as part of Patty’s work with the annual meetings of the North Dakota Library Association.

Recently, Patty read Valley of the Moon by Jack London. “I was inspired to read this after being at his (Jack London’s) farm in Glen Ellen, CA, near Santa Rosa—where he actually wrote his novel!” She added that as a middle school librarian her reading was focused mainly on the young adult genre. “Now I enjoy picking adult novels and have more than one book going at a time.”

## The Book Mark

*Target Donates \$2,000*

The Library Foundation received notice that Target has made a \$2,000 donation to the 2011 Summer Reading Program. Thousands of children take part in the Summer Reading Kickoff at the State Capital each June. Hundreds more join weekly reading activities at Bismarck Public Library in the summer. “The Target grant will really help provide quality activities,” said Traci Juhala, Children’s Librarian. This will be the fourth year Target has supported the Summer Reading Program.

*Can Drive a Success*

2

The Library Foundation received a check from Gerdau Ameristeel this summer for \$1,857. The Bismarck recycling center has donated proceeds from its June purchase of aluminum cans for several years.

“We really appreciate Gerdau Ameristeel and also the people who take their aluminum cans in for recycling,” said the Foundation’s Gayle Schuck. The 2010 donation topped the 2009 gift by almost \$400.



*Gerdau Ameristeel manager Kris Hickman presents a check to Gayle Schuck.*

# Bismarck Library Foundation Donors

The Bismarck Library Foundation Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges gifts from the following supporters.  
April 1, 2010 through October 31, 2010

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## **Peppermint Mocha at the Library!**

Seasonal drinks Peppermint Mocha and Apple Chai top the list of Holiday treats at Red Roaster Coffee Co.

Try our delicious soups!

Located in Bismarck Public Library.



*Karrie Bauman and Taya often attend Story Hour.*

*...continued from front page*

We didn't see that kind of snow in Pennsylvania or Ohio," says Tom, who first attended college and later managed a library branch in Cleveland, Ohio.

His efforts with the Burleigh County Bookmobile were successful and, in the coming years, Tom would steer through a series of campaigns that helped expand Library building and resources. The current building was completed in 1988.

Tom calls it "Bismarck's Living Room." Indeed, the reading area near the sunny bay window is where many people come to read newspapers, magazines or books.

Technology is at the heart of 35 years worth of changes for Bismarck Public Library. Back in 1975, every book had a card pocket in the back. The filing system was complex. "Returned books sometimes took days to process," says Tom. Circulation was computerized in 1984.

Today between 1,000 and 1,500 people a day come through the doors. Only 25 percent of them check out items. In 2009, e-mail and Internet-access computers generated \$23,000 in income at 25 cents per 15 minutes of use. Patrons also use eBooks, eAudiobooks and other electronic resources. Technology also allows Bismarck Public Library to lead the Central Dakota Library Network, which connected over 20 libraries in a 5-county area.

Still, books are firmly a part of our culture. Over half a million books and other items are checked out of the Library each year. Bismarck residents encourage their children to read by attending dozens of Story Hours and other packed-out children's activities held each month.

Under Tom's recent leadership, the elegant coffee shop and bright, updated Children's Library help make the Library a welcoming destination in the 21st century. They came through the efforts of the Library Foundation, which was reenergized by Tom in the 1990s. Another hallmark of the Library is the Used Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Library each spring and fall. The popular and successful fundraiser draws thousands of people.



*Orlin Jacobson likes to read and research genealogy at the Library.*



*Nick Hummel is one of the younger employees at the Library.*

Decades after getting the first bookmobile on the road, the Library is home to a sophisticated bookmobile that makes dozens of regular stops in Bismarck and Burleigh County each month.

The steady hand and wisdom that helped Tom lead the Library through 35 years of growth and change is reflected in the low turnover rate for staff. Still, times are changing. As staff retires, a new generation of leadership is rising.

A recent strategic planning session was poignant with the understanding that through it Tom was laying a path for the next director. All five of the current Library Board members were in attendance. They are Mary Maichel Guler, Liz Lucas, Dave Ripley, Joan Severin and Dick Weber, who chairs the board.

The various Library departments, as well as the Foundation and the Friends, were represented by a mix of seasoned and relatively new staff members. The

strengths, trends, challenges and opportunities for the future were discussed.

"I'm encouraged about the future," Tom said, at the close of the session. And he should be; he's leaving the Library well-positioned for the future.

An open house to honor Tom Jones will take place April 28 in Room A of the Library.

Dick remembers playing ball on the field north of Bismarck High during the 1940s.

“We’d go there and play ‘work-up.’ My dad used to fix up bats for us because no one had any money for new equipment,” Flurer said.

Reception attendees Jack and Ann Lynch once lived in the yellow house, shown in the painting. Jack taught at Bismarck High.

“A lot of the houses on that street were homes of teachers,” Sprynczynatyk said.



...continued from front page

Several local residents interested in baseball history attended the reception and spoke of their memories and knowledge of semi-pro baseball in Bismarck, including Dick and Doris Flurer.

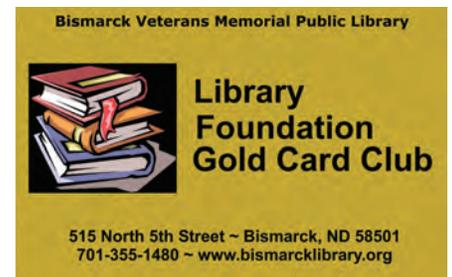
Donors who contributed to the \$3,000 cost of the mural include Dr. Walter and Carolyn Frank, Tara Holt, Mary Golden, Paul and Patty Sandness, Sue Sorlie, Helen Tracy, Carol Russell, Liz Lucas and Tom Mayer.

The colorful 4x7 foot painting can be viewed in the Children’s Library near the computer section.

## Join the Gold Card Club today!

[www.bismarcklibrary.org](http://www.bismarcklibrary.org) and click on “Support the Library” icon.

Membership in the Gold Card Club provides a unique gold library card and invitations to Library Foundation events. Membership is \$250 per year, with a 3-year membership requirement. When applying for membership, please include your date of birth for verification to produce your card. Only one person’s name may be included on the card.



## Farewell to Founder

One of The Library Foundation, Inc., founders, Murray Pearce, died July 5, 2010.

Mr. Pearce was born Aug. 18, 1938, in Valley City to William R. Pearce and Jean Katherine Pearce. The family moved to Bismarck in 1941. He attended Purdue University and the University of North Dakota and served in the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps. A CPA, Mr. Pearce was with Pearce & Durick law firm from 1970 to 1998. The Pearces moved to Gilbert, Ariz., in 1998.

As an avid supporter of Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library, he served on the Library’s board of directors, where he was instrumental in hiring Tom Jones as director. He helped found the Library Foundation in 1975.

Mr. Pearce is survived by his wife, Delores, his son, Steven, and daughter, Karen Batts, and their families; and his brothers, William P. Pearce and Harry J. Pearce.

As part of his legacy, Mr. Pearce asked that memorials be directed to the Library Foundation. Friends and family contributed over \$7,000 in his name. A memorial plaque has been placed on the donor wall near the Library’s entrance to honor him.

# WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

By Carol Russell

A legacy is something of yourself you leave behind for the future. For most people, their legacy is their children or their lifetime accomplishments. It can also be a gift to an institution, a community, or a memorial to someone important to a donor. What will be your legacy?

Our library thrives on people's support and, yes, their legacy giving. Bismarck's Library Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, was started in 1975 by people who loved the library and wanted to ensure its excellence and growth to benefit Bismarck for generations. They saw needs beyond the library's tax base. Over the years, the Foundation's efforts have paid off.



Carol Russell

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library is a great resource for our community. You can honestly say our library now transcends its walls. Computer technology is an integral part of our library services—a technology that must be continually updated to compete with the rest of the world. Close to 250,000 computer uses have been logged annually for the on-line catalog, internet access, and word processing.

The Library has over 41,000 card holders including 12,000 children, a staff that handles over 367,000 individual visits a year, close to 15,000 books loaned to other libraries, over 13,000 children counted for story hours. The list goes on: author talks and book signings, computer and writing education, photo contests, complex reference searches, a bookmobile that reaches our surrounding rural communities, and more. In summary, our library is a robust community center with the technology to access the world.

A recent achievement was the renovation of the Children's Library, which enriches the lives of our area youth and adds dramatically to the fun and work of raising readers. The Children's Library Campaign slogan voiced what we all know: "The more you know, the farther you go." The Library Foundation is deeply involved in continuing this story.

There are many opportunities for giving for the future. A simple way is to designate memorial gifts to the Library Foundation. Recently, the family and friends of Murray Pearce did just that. The outcome was a generous gift and a tribute to Mr. Pearce's love of the Library.

Tax benefits are a part of several giving vehicles, including charitable annuities. For more information or to discuss legacy giving with someone, you can reach Gayle at the Foundation office at 355-1494. In addition, Foundation board members are willing to visit with you informally and confidentially. A list of board members can be found on this page in the **Who's Who** section.

## Who's Who

### The Library Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors

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*The Limited Edition* is published twice annually by the Library Foundation, Inc. This newsletter is mailed to all donors and others concerned about the continued

growth and enhancement of Library services. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please call Gayle Schuck at (701) 355-1494.



# The Library: Luxury or Necessity? by Gayle Schuck

*Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information on it. – Samuel Johnson*



Gayle Schuck

The year 2010 marked a large increase in the number of news stories about libraries reducing hours or locking their doors forever due to budget concerns. This stimulated pithy Internet conversations:

- Comment from Texas:

“I’m personally willing to pay a little more to have the luxury of a nice library.”

- Response: “At least you realize a library is a ‘luxury.’ ”

You might be lulled into thinking a library is a luxury if you have a Barnes & Noble discount card, a wall

of books at home and time to discourse about the luxury of libraries. Libraries aren’t a luxury to a child without the means to purchase books. Libraries aren’t a luxury to undergraduate and graduate students using resources that can’t be accessed any other way. Nor to those who read a variety of newspapers and magazines rather than relying on media-fed information.

Libraries aren’t a luxury, unless we become careless about learning. To a person, the Library Foundation Board of Directors agrees that outstanding Library services are a necessity for Bismarck. That is why, with the sheet rock dust hardly settled from the Children’s Library renovation, the board is already focused on completing the goal of raising the Endowment to the \$1 million level through private donations.

Everyone who believes in Library services for the 21st century is invited to thoughtfully consider making a gift to the Library Foundation. Brochures are available in the Bismarck Public Library lobby.

**7** While we can’t fix the library budget problems in New Jersey, California or Texas, we have the opportunity to brighten the corner where we are, by backing Bismarck Public Library with private support.

*“A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life.” Henry Ward Beecher*



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Gifts to the The Library Foundation, Inc. can be designated for specific purposes. All gifts are tax deductible and deeply appreciated. Designate my gift for:

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*Season's Greetings*  
from the  
Library Foundation Board and Staff



**CAN YOU NAME  
THESE PLAYERS?**

The large Sprynczynatyk baseball painting that hangs in the Children's Library is based on this 1938 photo of a game being played north of Bismarck High School. Are you in the photo? Is someone you know swinging the bat, holding the glove or watching the game in the background? If you have information, please contact the Library Foundation at 355-1494.