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Helen B. Hoffman Plantation Library

Dee Anne Merritt

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Florida Library History Project

Helen B. Hoffman Plantation Library

The Plantation Library, with Mrs. Abram Hoffman as Chairman, Was founded in 1961. This volunteer effort, in conjunction with the Plantation Woman's Club, assisted students with reference questions. We occupied the sixth grade room in Peters Elementary School four nights a week. Standard reference volumes were bought through the Stranahan High School librarian with funds from the Woman's Club and Civitans.

In 1963, the library was taken over as a city department, and a space 30' by 30' was given to it in the Community Center. In one year the space was increased to 30' by 70'.

The Board of seven members, with Ms. Dee Anne Merritt as Chairman is selected by the Mayor with the advice of the Library Director and ratified by the City Council. The Board roster is reviewed for re-appointment or replacement yearly on June 1.

In 1968, on October 6, our Library of 9,700 square feet was dedicated. Since that time we have added 1,280 square feet in the Non-Fiction Room. A new Children's Wing of 2,000 square feet was dedicated April 13, 1980 and is proving very functional as well as beautiful. The Library now has a total of 13,000 square feet.

On January 14, 1981, the Council by resolution renamed the Library "THE HELEN B. HOFFMAN PLANTATION LIBRARY." The Library houses over 72,000 books. We have a large collection of video and audio cassettes. Beginning in June 1996 we began developing our CD collection. There are many famous art reproductions which can be circulated.

The library has several computers available for patron use. In addition to preset programs, there are two computers set for word processing.

We now have 14 positions on our staff, 10 of whom are full time and 4 who work less than 20 hours weekly.

DEE ANNE MERRITT, Library Director
March 1998