



Grenada

Mississippi

2008

Grenada & Surrounding Counties

**Welcome
to our
Community...**

**Great Schools
Great Recreation
Great Health Care
Great People**

**Inside
20 more reasons
to love Grenada**

**A Publication of
The Daily Star**

From Humble Beginnings ...

... to modern *Elizabeth Jones Library*

Staff Report

From its humble beginnings in 1929 with three book stacks and magazine rack, Grenada's public library has a lot to offer Grenada readers in the twenty-first century.

The Elizabeth Jones Library, Grenada County's library, was established in 1929. Mrs. John Keeton Sr. was president of the Twentieth Century Club and was already interested in improving the intellectual quality of the community when one of the members, Mrs. E.B. Provine, decided the club should start a public library. With the help of citizens and the Boy Scouts 500 books were collected and stored at the home of Mrs. Keeton until a building could be found to serve as a library.

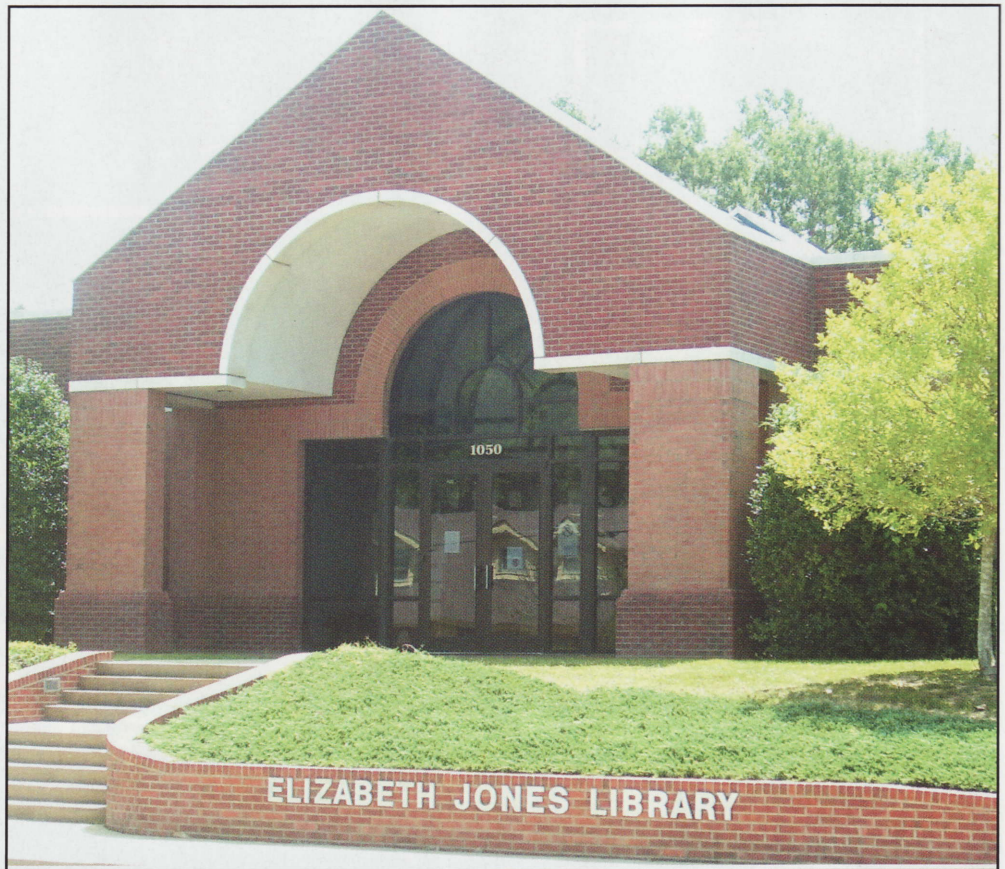
A play called "Aunt Lucia" was performed by local talent and the club raised \$125 for the library. However, during the next few years progress was hindered by the Great Depression.

On Feb. 9, 1934, with aid from the WPA Library Project, the official Grenada County Library opened in an upstairs room in a building next to the Grenada Bank. The new library held three book stacks and a magazine rack. A table and chairs were donated and old books were mended. A few new books were bought. One source said the new educational institution opened and was ready for business with more enthusiasm than books.

In 1936 the Community House was built on Line Street as a project through WPA. Part of the building became the new home of the library.

In 1938 the library began a bookmobile service and stopped at seven schools and 14 stations every two weeks and Grenada Industries at noon once a week. In 1970 the service was discontinued as transportation to the library was no longer a problem for most people.

Several librarians and WPA workers worked for the library until Miss Elizabeth



The library is located on Fairfield Avenue.

Jones was named librarian in 1941 for a salary of \$55 a month.

In 1963 the city of Grenada gave the entire Community House to the library and the building was remodeled. Jones retired in 1966 and the Grenada County Board of Supervisors changed the name of the library to the Elizabeth Jones Library.

In 1989 the library moved from the Community House to a new 12,740 square-foot building on Fairfield Avenue.

The library's operations became computer operated in 1993. At this time there are a total of 13 computers for patron use. Three are solely devoted to the use of OPAC, the Online Public Access Catalog. Patrons can also access OPAC from any computer with internet access through the library's website. The remaining six have programs such as Excel, Word and Publisher and internet access.

The library also regularly hosts "book talks" with local authors or reviewers who come in to discuss their work or readings with the public. A regular favorite is native Nancy Ashley who chooses a Mississippi

authors works and life to "come home" in August and discuss with her hometown people.

Book sales are held two times a year; November during Children's Book Week and April during National Library Week. Monies from the sales fund the children's programs in the summer.

This past year an overwhelming amount of support from the community allowed the library to get the Puppet Arts Theater to perform "The Princess and the Pea" which brought 168 kids to the library.

"The traffic flow of young readers to the library this summer increased, and I give all the credit to the additional programs we were able to have because the community supported us significantly," said Crystal Osborne; Director.

During the school year, the library participates in the "Kidsconnect" program of the Grenada Elementary School and Story Time with Head Start.

"We enjoy having these programs and encourage others to contact us, if they would like us to do a program," she said.