

# TREASURED TESTIMONIALS

"My mother drew a distinction between achievement and success. She said that 'achievement' is the knowledge that you have studied and worked hard and done the best that is in you. Success is being praised by others, and that's nice too..."

*Helen Hayes (1900-1993) First Lady of the American Theatre*

Of all the compliments that we've received in regard to our work, these are among some of the ones we treasure most ... (These items are produced full size in the Letters of Recommendation & Testimonials section)

"What sheer joy these buildings are! I feel almost jealous that I don't have the chance more often to simply enjoy them for what they are."

"Its (the Poland Library's) reputation has apparently spread across Ohio."

"What cheers me most is that these libraries (in Poland & Austintown) seem to be loved by the people. I've heard so many stories of how they have attracted many people to using the library that had not thought of doing so for years. They always seem to be busy."

"All of you at 4M have done a wonderful job for us. Thank you for all your time, talent and dedication."



**The Library**

IN LOCATIONS ALL THE WAY  
WWW.LIBRARY18181.ORG

The Public Library of  
Youngstown & Mahoning County

Carlton A. Sears,  
Director

December 30, 2002

Robert Mastrizana,  
4M Company Architect  
4251 Glenwood Ave.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44512

Dear Bob:

Even though this is addressed to you, please know that it is equally for Paul, Jim and Laura.

Over the holidays I took several days off to relax with my family and had the opportunity to simply sit as a customer in the Poland and Austintown libraries. I think this is the first chance I've had for this since either building was completed. What sheer joy these buildings are! I feel almost jealous that I don't have the chance more often to simply enjoy them for what they are.

I have two stories to relate to you. The first is from a staff member in Austintown. She had been telling her daughter from Washington, DC that she must come home for the holidays to see what had to be the nicest library anywhere. She tells me that her daughter expressed some disbelief at this, citing the Library of Congress and other world-renown library treasures DC. Apparently when she saw the Austintown Library she agreed with her mother that it was every bit as beautiful if not more so than any library in our nation's capital.

Another staff member visited family in Rochester, Michigan over the holidays and went to that city's library. The Rochester Library is in an upscale suburban area of Detroit and has a very good reputation in the library business. When our staff member shared with them where they were from, they discovered that library staff in Rochester, Michigan knew all about the Poland Library and its many wonderful features. Its reputation has apparently spread across Ohio.

As I reflected on these stories it occurred to me that I had never taken the proper time to just say thank you. What cheers me most is that these libraries seem to be loved by the people. I've heard so many stories of how they have attracted many people to using the library that had not thought of doing so for years. They seem always to be busy.

All of you at 4M have done a wonderful job for us. Thank you all for your time, talent and dedication.

Sincerely,

Carlton Sears  
Director

Cc: Dr. David R. Gehic

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## The Vindicator

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER

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President of Publisher | Betty H. Jagnow

General Manager | Mark A. Brown

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2001

### HOW WE SEE IT

#### Public funds, private support create a thing of beauty

In a true public-private partnership, the people of Poland as well as artists, craftsmen and businesses from throughout the Valley have joined the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County to create what must surely be one of the most beautiful public library buildings in the nation.

With more than \$800,000 in grant funds and private donations — including \$1,040 from Poland schoolchildren and their teachers to purchase new books — the new facility will be more than bricks and mortar. It is a testament to a book-loving community with vision and dedication.

When Gov. Bob Taft attended a "sneak preview" of the facility last week, he said that he was "absolutely amazed" at its beauty and noted that the "new facility, built extensively with recycled products, combines two of our greatest resources, the environment and books."

Looking at the exquisite building, it's hard to believe that, in fact, the new Poland Library is one of the foremost "green architecture" projects in the region. The Recycling Division of Mahoning County provided a generous grant of \$400,000 to support the use of recycled construction materials. And the 4M Company designed the library.

**Ultimate in recycling:** The siding is made of cement and recycled wood fibers, the roofing of recycled tires, rubber and plastics. The historic structure located next to the library — the former Poland Union Seminary dormitory — was incorporated into the new structure. The wood flooring uses hardwood planks from old New England barns.

Even the parking lot is made of recycled asphalt and recycled tires. The windows and door frames are made of 95 percent recycled aluminum, and 15 percent of the glass content is also recycled.

While the private funding and the work of local artisans have contributed to the beauty of the new library, the long-range planning process of the library's board of trustees and the careful husbanding of state and local resources made the project possible.

**More to do:** There's still work to be done before the library can open to the public.

More books need to be put on the shelves — the new library can hold 75 percent more than the old. A lower-level bookstore must be completed. The bookstore and the county's first library café, which will open with the library, will be privately operated but will generate income for the library.

The first Poland Library, dedicated more than 66 years ago, was located in a small room in the Poland Town Hall and held 1,377 books. The new library comprises 35,619 square feet and was designed to hold a collection of 70,000 items. In the most recent Poland Library, 15 patrons could seem like a crowd. The new facility includes a meeting room that seats 300 — as well as plenty of room for readers.

And readers — young and old — are those for whom free libraries are established. In the new Poland Library, the cause of literacy has been advanced magnificently.

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