



Early Irondequoit

1947-1963-1984. A group of concerned volunteers was permitted to make an experiment in the Summer of 1947. To find out whether the people of Irondequoit wanted a public library these volunteers were allowed the use, for the Summer, of an annex behind our old first high school at Titus and Cooper. Here were housed library books from the high school, from Seneca, Dake, and Rogers Schools and from the State Traveling Library. So enthusiastic was the response that a year-round library was then established in the basement of the Lincoln Rochester Trust Company on Titus Avenue. Within weeks came the dedication of a Sea Breeze library. Our 1947 picture shows the participants in the dedication ceremony: (l-r) Dr. John A. Lowe, Rochester Public Library director; Dr. Halford R. Clark, chairman of the board of trustees of the Irondequoit Library Association; Mrs. Marsden Tuthill, trustee in charge of volunteer workers; Mrs. James Christy, chairwoman of volunteer librarians; and Mrs. Joseph C. Golan, volunteer. Later libraries were opened in Laurelton and at Ridgewood. Finally in 1963 these volunteer libraries were merged into one system and housed in two public buildings, one on Cooper Road near Titus and the other on Ridge Road east of Culver. For several years these two Irondequoit library buildings have been extremely overcrowded. One of the steps in their badly needed enlargement was taken this past week when your historian was moved out of the house which has been his office, storeroom, and workshop for the last 13 years, as part of the plans now under way for the enlargement of the Ridge Road library building. -- Town Historian Walter Sassaman.