

Dedicated Lives:

The roles played by Miss Sue Judd and Miss Pamela Reid in the growth and development of the Natal Society Library

Two of the strongest and most influential and most dedicated personalities to affect the growth and development of the Natal Society Library were Miss Sue Judd and Miss Pamela Reid. In the years of their involvement with the Natal Society Library, it grew from a small subscription library for whites only, to a large new modern multiracial free library.

Sue Judd

In September 1950, Miss Ursula Judd was appointed Chief Librarian of the Natal Society Library. She preferred to be known by her nickname, Sue, rather than by her Christian name. Sue Judd was born in England in 1917 and arrived in Pietermaritzburg on her thirty-third birthday. Her mother was South African and her family had lived in South Africa from 1919 to 1925, and she had wanted to come back to her childhood home. She finished her schooling at Ackworth School in England and went on to obtain her Diploma in Librarianship at London University in 1941¹. She worked for the Westminster Public Libraries in London, and was put in charge of the



Sue Judd

Buckingham Palace Road Library after the premises had been damaged in an air raid, as she was such a capable and efficient person. In 1948 she joined the British Council for international service and was sent to Helsinki, Finland, Jamaica, and Lagos, Nigeria. In 1950 she joined the Natal Society Library, where she was to stay for the next 24 years².

When Miss Judd arrived she found a small subscription library which had been functioning for almost a hundred years as the only library in Pietermaritzburg, the capital city at that time of Natal, South Africa. Up until 1949 the Natal Society Library had been battling with insufficient funding – their income having come from a combination of members' subscriptions, a Corporation grant, and a very small Provincial Council grant. Fortunately, in 1949, a delegation from the Natal Society Council, under the President, Mr J.W. Hudson, had approached the City Council and the Provincial Executive

Committee. Additional funds were not forthcoming in 1949, but the contributions for 1950 were increased. Staff salaries were increased and for the first time they were able to participate in a pension scheme. The Natal Society library building was at that time on the corner of Theatre Lane and Longmarket Street, consisting of the old block in Theatre Lane, originally built in 1876, and the 'new block' which had been added on in 1929, in Longmarket Street. It was a pleasant building, but it was overcrowded with books and periodicals, the library was understaffed, there was insufficient storage space for the Copyright Collection, and insufficient staff to classify it.



The Lending Department in October 1954, just before the new entrance was made.

Miss Judd was the first qualified librarian to be appointed to the Natal Society Library. Her first major task was to completely re-catalogue, reclassify and overhaul the Lending stock of 60,000 books, which she undertook with characteristic energy. In order to cope with the neglected Copyright Collection, she turned the Members' Room into a Reference Department, and appointed the first Reference Librarian, Miss Margaret Brownlee, and staff. An effective classified Reference catalogue was begun at this stage. Under her direction, the staff attempted to replace copyright material which had previously been discarded due to lack of space³. Additional storage rooms scattered around town were rented to store the copyright material⁴.

Miss Judd's efforts over the 24 years of her employment were to change the Natal Society Library from a small, cramped, struggling institution, to a major library, on a par with the best libraries in the rest of the country. She was the prime mover of the proposal for a free library. She was known for her dedication to her work, and she expected the same high standard of commitment from her staff. She was able to step into the shoes of any absent staff member and perform tasks at all levels. One former staff member said of her:

...for myself, she taught me an attitude to work that will never change, an integrity and responsibility that I am glad she was there to teach.⁵

Shortly after Miss Judd's arrival, the Natal Society celebrated its centenary. On 7 May 1951, Dr William J. O'Brien unveiled a centennial plaque in the Library. On 9 May 1951, the actual foundation date, Prof.G.H. Durrant was the guest speaker at a civic reception held at the City Hall. Prof Hattersley gave a radio broadcast on the history of the Society, and wrote a brochure on the subject⁶. This brochure was reprinted in various publications, and is still in use in the Reference Library today. There were four performances by the Natal Society Drama Group of *The Linden Tree* by Priestley at the Rowe Hall, the proceeds being donated to the Society. From 7 to 12 May, an exhibition of books, photographs and items concerning the history of the Society was on view at the Library. To honour the Natal Society's centenary, the South African Library Association (SALA) Conference was held in Pietermaritzburg in September 1951⁷.

Two years later, a milestone was reached by the Drama Group, which had developed out of the Play Reading Group, when they built their own theatre, through the efforts of Mr Donald Spencer, the group's chairman, and the members. The Cygnet Theatre was opened on 20 October 1953 with the production *Man and Superman*, produced by Mrs Ian Fraser, wife of the Natal Society Council president from 1938–1946.

Pamela Reid

It was through the drama group that Miss Pamela Reid initially came to be involved with the Natal Society. She had returned from a trip to England, feeling heartsore from a broken engagement, and was encouraged by her mother to take part in the Drama Group's Nativity Play⁸. This led to other roles in Drama Group productions in the newly built theatre.

Pamela Reid was born in Pietermaritzburg in 1925, and attended first Girls' Collegiate and then Girls' High School. She then studied agriculture at the Boschetto Agricultural College, and then at the Statens Forsgaard in Denmark. Her career was not in agriculture, however, and she returned to Maritzburg to join the family furniture transportation business, and then opened her own record shop. She became the youngest city councillor ever elected in October 1953. She first attended Natal Society Council meetings, not as a member of the society but as the City Council representative, from 1953 to 1959.

Other cultural activities which took place in 1953 were the monthly meetings of the Natal Society Recorded Music Group, who possessed "a very fine record-player imported from England"⁹. Miss Judd attached a typed note to a Programme of Free Gramophone Concerts' notes, to say that it had been a delightful evening, although cold, with a cosy fire and dimmed lights¹⁰.

The Natal Society Library became headquarters for the Natal Branch of the South African Library Association. Their most important meeting in 1953 was Dr E.H. Brookes' address on 'The political philosophy of Dr Johnson'¹¹.



Pamela Reid

In 1955, the Natal Society Writer's Group began. The group's aim was to assist writers by criticism of their work, and to help them find the best market for publication of their work. They met monthly in the Natal Society Committee Room. Their members did well in submitting stories to short story competitions and having articles published in magazines¹².

In 1953 structural alterations were made to convert the Members' Room into a Reference Department and to construct a smaller room elsewhere for members. It was decided to amalgamate the reference books with the copyright material as neither were available for home reading and both groups were closely related. A scheme for cataloguing the entire Copyright Collection was started, the periodicals were methodically displayed, listed and filed; the Government Gazettes were bound; and the maps were placed in a new fitting¹³.

A major fund-raising event was held in 1954. Miss Sue Judd and her great friend Miss Ruth Lundie were in charge of the 'Petticoat Lane' fete, which was held in Theatre Lane on Saturday, 4 September 1954. Many hundreds of members gave their services and contributions. Many stalls were set up, including books, stamps, white elephant, sweets, flowers, cakes, toys and music. There were sideshows, including a pavement artist, a balloon woman, an Italian ice-cream seller, a shoe-shine man and a puppet show. A profit of £511 was made, which provided half the funds needed for the alterations¹⁴.

In 1954 an attractive new entrance was built facing onto Longmarket Street, much improving access to the library. This was made possible by a donation of £500 by the City Council to mark the occasion of the Borough Centenary, and the £511 raised at the September fete. A new up-to-date issue desk was also provided, the shelving in the Children's Section was improved, and a much needed staff workroom was provided¹⁵.

Mr J.W. Hudson, President of the Natal Society Council, wrote a letter on 27 November 1954, in praise of Miss Judd's efforts:

I would like you to know how much I congratulate you personally on the culmination of your fine efforts for the library. It was a fortunate day for the Council when it engaged you as Librarian. I hope that you will feel that the work has been worth while and that you will want to stay with the Society for many more years. 'By their deeds shall we know them.' These improvements at the Library might well be known as the 'Judd developments'¹⁶.

Miss Reid was becoming increasingly involved with developments at the Natal Society Library, and was to be very much involved with the next development project, which was the opening of the Market Square Branch. As library services in South Africa were still segregated in the 1950s, and the Natal Society Library was for whites only, the 'non-whites' living in Pietermaritzburg were without library facilities. For this reason, the Natal Society Council gave consideration to a scheme for the provision of library services for 'non-Europeans', as they were then known. A Committee was set up, consisting of Mrs D. Goodwin, Miss P. Reid, Mr C. Hallé, Mr W. Martin and Miss U. Judd. Miss Ruth Lundie was later co-opted as Hon. Treasurer¹⁷.

The initial functions of the committee were to raise money for a non-European library building and to negotiate with the City Council for a site and for an annual main-

tenance grant so that once the building was erected a regular income would be ensured. The City Council proved sympathetic and the Committee thereupon threw itself into fund-raising for the building.

As time went on it became clear that the City Council was having difficulty in securing a suitable site, and in 1957 a local businessman, Mr L.G. Wilson, offered his premises at 268 Longmarket Street (facing the Market Square) as a gift to the Natal Society. This magnificent gesture required long and careful consideration, not only because the building, valued at about £14,000 carried a bond of £7,000 which would become the responsibility of the Society, but because this offer opened up possibilities of an impressive service on a scale not previously envisaged. Moreover there were intricacies of law and official policy regarding services for non-Europeans which required careful probing¹⁸.

Lambert Wilson was the son of a wealthy sugar farmer in Zululand. However, he rebelled against his family as he hated inherited wealth. He was politically frustrated in South Africa, and he was pleased to be offering black people a chance to upgrade their education. He had been running a branch of the International Club in the Longmarket Street building, but had lost interest in that. Lambert Wilson moved to Pretoria, where he was imprisoned for destroying 'Whites Only' signs in his frustration with apartheid. After this, he emigrated to Australia¹⁹.

He gave Miss Sue Judd a fright on Christmas Day of 1957 when he phoned her to tell her that he had changed his mind about giving the building to the Natal Society. However, a few days later, he changed his mind again, and the offer held²⁰.

The upstairs offices had to be rented out in order to pay for the bond. They were rented to the Liberal Party, which had the offices facing the street where the Canadian Room is now. Selby Msimang, a black lawyer, also had his offices upstairs, and there were other tenants²¹. Miss Judd was a member of the multi-racial Liberal Party, which was forced to disband in 1968 by the apartheid government. Miss Judd and Miss Reid both felt strongly that blacks deserved a better deal than they were currently receiving in South Africa. Sue Judd was a foundation member of the liberal women's group, the Black Sash, which made silent protests against racial injustice and unfair legislation in South Africa²².

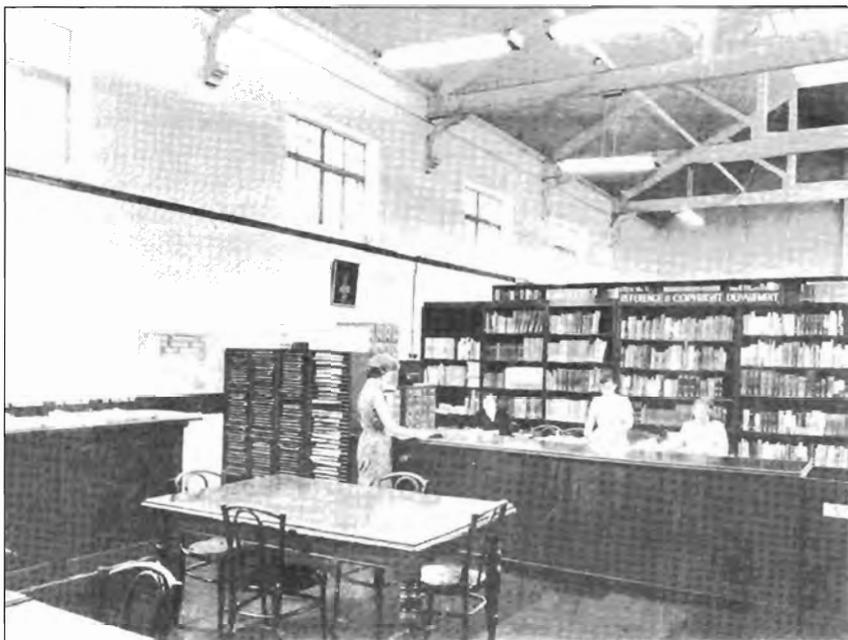
The Market Square Branch, which later came to be known as the Lambert Wilson Library, came complete with chairs and tables. Mr H. von Klemperer generously donated timber for the shelves and counter, and Mr Martindale at Odell Timbers undertook to do the joinery at a very reduced rate. Volunteer helpers stained the shelves and painted the walls²³. Books were supplied by public donation. Suitable books were put into stock, while others were sold at monthly booksales, bringing in funds. Donations of cash and books were received from Messrs. Eddels and Shuter & Shooter. Many other donations of books and money were received from various organisations and individuals, from as far afield as the United States²⁴.

The completed library was open for general inspection on 28 and 29 March 1958; it was blessed by the Revd Ross Cuthbertson on Sunday 30th, and formally opened to new members on Monday 31 March 1958.

The registration fee was two shillings per adult and one shilling per child per annum. The library was staffed by one part-time paid library assistant and one full-time cleaner/messenger only. Miss Mary Lee was the first library assistant in 1958; Mrs P.J. Hawes

took over the post of Branch Librarian in 1959. A rota of volunteers helped to keep the library going. To start with, the library was open to the public for only three hours each weekday afternoon, and three hours on Saturday mornings²⁵.

At the end of 1958, membership had reached 1 573, of whom 1 385 were Asiatics, 102 Coloureds and 86 Africans. By age, 415 were adults and 1 158 were children. During 1958, 26 459 books were issued. Bookstock for the year was 6 271, all in new condition. Many subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals were donated. The Council thanked the devoted band of workers on the Sub-Committee who had given so much time, effort and energy to the cause they had so much at heart. Particularly, the Council wished to record its appreciation of Miss Judd's work and interest in the matter; undoubtedly she it was who launched the idea and by constant devotion to the promotion of its development inspired all who helped²⁶.



The Reference and Copyright Department in January 1962.

During the 1950s and 1960s, storage space for the copyright collection became an increasing problem. At the end of 1959, the municipality asked that the library's store-room at 328 Longmarket Street, (the 'old Pastorie'), be vacated as soon as possible. They offered the City Hall basement as alternative accommodation.

Seven rooms containing thousands of files of unbound periodicals and newspapers were therefore shifted in one day, and straightening the resulting chaos in rather grim surroundings called for all the ability and cheerfulness that an overworked staff could muster during the trying December month²⁷. These publications were put into order during the first few months of 1960.

An unforeseen problem arose in 1961. This was the attitude of some influential members of SALA towards the copyright privilege of Natal and the Orange Free State.

They felt that when the Act was revised, the privilege should be either withdrawn from the smaller provinces, or modified. Surprise was felt that SALA, whose duty it was to advance libraries, should be attempting to deprive them²⁸. At the June conference of SALA, the profession fortunately decided to drop the idea of pressing for the exclusion of Natal and the O.F.S. from the copyright privilege²⁹. The Copyright Act was revised, and the Natal Society continued to receive copyright publications.

In February 1963, a deputation from the Society met with the Administrator and Executive Committee. The result was that the copyright grant was increased from R7 000 to R12 000 for 1963. This enabled the Natal Society to employ an additional staff member and to lease the Weinronk extension for Copyright storage, and to install there new steel shelving to the value of R2 000³⁰. This was a warehouse which was owned by Mrs Weinronk, hence the name. The move to the Weinronk extension at 111 Commercial Road took four long days in March 1963. The City Hall basement and the YMCA rooms were cleared first, and it was then possible to get all periodicals and newspapers housed together in four sequences. The extension was not open to the public, but a constant shuttle service was in action, taking current periodicals each day to the store-room and bringing back readers' requirements and files for binding. A large tricycle carrier was used, and a telephone installed. Mrs P.J. Adams was in charge of the Weinronk building³¹.

The National Conference of Library Authorities, held in November 1962, was to have an important effect on South African libraries in general and on the Natal Society Library in particular. Representatives who attended from the Natal Society Council were Mr A.C. Mitchell and Mr R.A. Brown. Mr Michael J.C. Daly attended as a City Council representative, with the Town Clerk. Provincial officials also attended.

The topic of the Conference was a 'Programme for future library development in the Republic of South Africa'. The programme provided for wide library co-operation on a regional and national basis, instead of individual libraries working ineffectively in isolation. Some of the ideas to come out of this Conference which had a positive impact on South African libraries, were co-operative book buying to avoid expensive duplication; a speedier Inter-Library Loan (ILL) service; the preparation of a central catalogue; and a national approach to the chronic shortage of trained librarians. The two most important points for the future development of the Natal Society Library were:

- 1) that it be recognised and accepted that public libraries ... are the joint responsibility of the State, the Provincial Administration and the local authorities; and that provincial authorities be required to accept the principle that all public libraries, *irrespective of size*, should be assisted....
- 2) that such aid should be subject to conditions; *the services of the local library should be free*, and the responsibility for the maintenance of these public library services, to all races, should rest primarily with the local authority (with the assistance of provincial administrations).³²

The next important project to involve both Miss Reid and Miss Judd, was the 'free library' principle. By 1963, the Reference and Copyright Departments of the Natal Society Library were free to the public, as they always had been; the Children's Library had become free; and the Market Square Branch was free. The Adult Members of the Lending Library still had to pay a subscription, and a discussion took place at the AGM

of 1963 on the 'free library' principle. Most members were happy with the principle, but some were anxious about possible loss of the Natal Society's identity and control³³. In 1964 negotiations were held between Miss Pamela Reid, Miss Sue Judd and officials of the City Council on the one hand, and the Provincial Administration on the other³⁴.

On 11 March 1965, the City Council approved the following resolutions:

- 1) That the City Council declares its willingness to take over the assets of the Natal Society Library to establish a free library in Pietermaritzburg and to assume authority as a library authority.
- 2) That the planning of a suitable library building be commenced as soon as possible in consultation with the civic centre development committee and the Natal Society Library Council.
- 3) That the administration of such free library service in relation to the corporation's municipal service be investigated....
- 4) That arrangements be made for a deputation consisting of His Worship the Mayor (Cr. H.C. Franklin), the Chairman of the finance and general purposes committee (Cr. C.W. Wood) and Cr. Miss P.A. Reid to make representations to the provincial administration for financial assistance.³⁵

With regard to the free library service, nothing further could be done until the Provincial Administration had made a decision. With regard to the new library building, the City Council decided to give priority to the removal and re-erection of the Market before making provision for a new library.³⁶

However, on 8 September 1966, the Finance and General Purposes Committee met with Miss P.A. Reid, with Mr A.C. Mitchell and Miss U. Judd in attendance. Within a week of the meeting the City Council resolved:

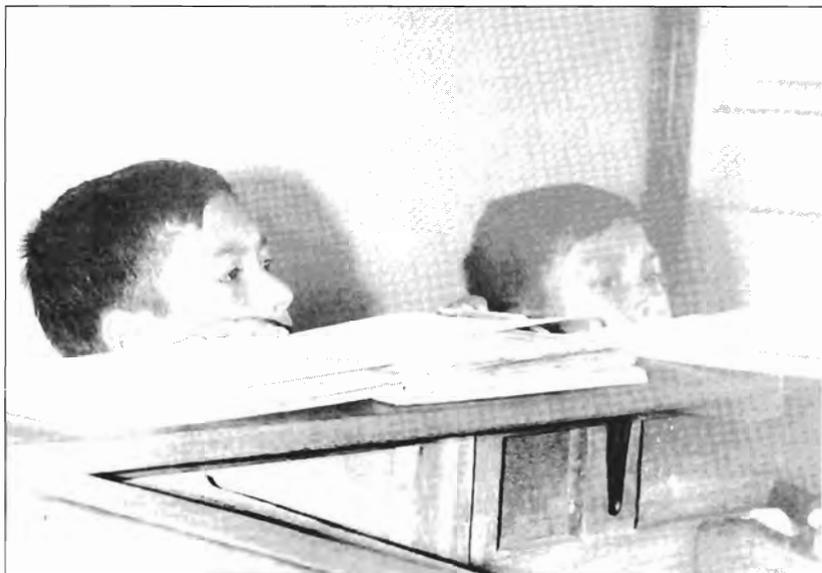
- 1) That items (1) and (3) of the Council's resolution dated 11 March 1965, be reviewed and rescinded.
- 2) That it be agreed to support financially by means of an annual grant-in-aid, on conditions to be formulated, the conversion of the Natal Society Public Library into a free library to be conducted in all other respects on the present basis, such increased financial assistance to commence as from 1st August 1967.
- 3) That when the new library building is available for occupation, the immovable assets owned by the Trustees of the Natal Society Library be transferred to the City Council in consideration of the Library's occupation of the new library building.³⁷

The Natal Society Council gladly accepted these resolutions but did not include the Market Square Branch Library building in the offer to hand over assets, unless library facilities for non-Europeans became available elsewhere. The issue of a library for all races was not dealt with at this stage, but when a new library was built it was to be multi-racial.

Planning for the new building went on in the special planning committee, with the powerful influence of the two forceful personalities, Miss Reid and Miss Judd. In July 1969 Mr B.R.H. Knappe was officially appointed as architect.³⁸

In 1964, Miss Pamela Ann Reid was elected to the position of President of the Natal Society Council. She was the first woman, and only woman so far, to hold this position.

She was a well-known figure in municipal political circles, and a member of the Pietermaritzburg City Council for many years, first as the youngest City Councillor ever elected and then as Mayor³⁹. She first attended Council meetings, not as a Natal Society Council member, but as the City Council representative, from 1953 to 1959. In 1959, she resigned from the City Council and her record shop to travel⁴⁰. In 1960 she was elected to the Natal Society Council. She stayed on the Natal Society Council until 1986, which meant that she had been involved for a total of thirty-three years⁴¹. She also rejoined the City Council from 1960 to 1965, and again from 1970, where she became Mayor of Pietermaritzburg from 1980 to 1984. After her Mayoral office ended, she became Director of the Pietermaritzburg Chamber of Industries⁴².



Enquiring minds at the Market Square Branch, October 1972.

She was made a Freeman of the City of Pietermaritzburg, and a Fellow of the Natal Society⁴³. She was also given the highest recognition in the library world when she was awarded an Honorary Membership of the South African Institute of Librarianship and Information Science (SAILIS)⁴⁴. She was involved in politics, first as a member of the Liberal Party before it was banned, and then of the Progressive Party, which became the Democratic Party⁴⁵.

Miss Reid was very involved in the planning and building of the new Library Building. She influenced the City Council to pay for and go ahead with the building when others thought it was an unnecessary luxury. In 1964, when she became President, the membership of the Society was 10 767; the bookstock stood at 109 434; and the annual book issue was 341 841. By her resignation at the end of 1986, the membership had grown to 35 538, the bookstock to 398 945, and the book issue to almost 1,1 million. Miss Reid put an enormous amount of effort into promoting the growth of the organisation, not least of which were her efforts to enable the Library to move from an old cramped building to a new spacious one⁴⁶.

In 1967 the plans for a free Lending Library came to fruition. Subscriptions were abolished in the Lending Library at the end of July, and, on 1 August the doors opened to a free service. The Natal Society Library had been run as a subscription library for 116 years. For most of these years the subscriptions had been the main form of income, and the library had often battled to keep going. It was only due to the greatly increased municipal and provincial grants that this transformation could take place, as a direct result of national policy changes made in 1962 at the National Conference of Library Authorities, and with a co-operative City Council, greatly influenced in their decision to support free libraries by Miss Pamela Reid, backed up by Miss Sue Judd and Mr Alan C. Mitchell.

The subscription membership had stood at 3 583 on 31 July 1967. By the end of the following financial year (changed from January–December 1966 to August 1967–July 1968) there were 8 438 registered free members. The step of becoming a free library had thus more than doubled the membership in one year, although ‘non-whites’ were still not allowed to join⁴⁷.

To meet the expected rush additional staff were taken on gradually, the Lending counter was extended, and new books were bought. The former paying members had been asked to register in advance so that the old tickets could be easily substituted for the new⁴⁸. Two thousand applications for membership had been completed and ten thousand tickets prepared in advance to make the changeover easier⁴⁹. A ‘Readers’ Adviser’ was appointed for the first time – Miss Bond. This service was usually provided in bigger libraries, but had not been offered at Natal Society Library up to this time⁵⁰.

Vol.1 No.1 of the Society’s new journal, *Natalia: Journal of the Natal Society*, appeared in September 1971. The first editor was Prof. Colin de B. Webb. The first editorial board members were Miss Pamela Reid, Dr John Clark, Mr R.A. Brown, Miss June Farrer and Miss Sue Judd. Miss Judd’s ‘History of the Natal Society, 1845–1865’ appeared in serial form in volumes 2–5 of *Natalia* under the title ‘The Origin of the Natal Society’⁵¹. *Natalia* has become a well-known and respected journal, with a high standard of articles, and a valuable reference tool for students of Natal history.

After the establishment of the free library principle, the next important step in the development of the Natal Society Library was the new library building. By 1971 the plans for the new library building had been passed and funds were made available for building to go ahead⁵². The project was to cost R1 485 000⁵³.

On 16 November 1971, the City Council held a meeting at which the new library building was discussed. A motion was put to the meeting that the building should be started sooner than originally planned. Councillor B.F. Hughes opposed the building of the library until the financial position of the Corporation had improved, but ...

Clr. Miss Pam Reid said that Pietermaritzburg would never be able to afford a library, or a civic centre or theatre, if every time culture was mentioned it was linked with roads, water and sewage works.⁵⁴

The motion to move forward the start of building operations from June 1973 to September 1972 was carried by ten votes to five in favour. Various ratepayers wrote in to the *Natal Witness* at this time, some supporting Miss Pam Reid and the need to go ahead with the new library building, and some baulking at the cost to the ratepayers^{55 56}.



Above and right:
The Reference Library in 1985

space for reading newspapers or periodicals, or for researchers to work. The Legal Deposit collection was in the Weinronk building, which was full. There was no space for the valuable Africana or Nataliana collections. She finished by quoting one of her favourite sayings: 'If you have two pence, spend one that you may live, and the other that you may have something to live for.'⁵⁸



The building project went ahead, and in August 1972 tenders for the erection of the new building were invited⁵⁹. The City Council Finance Committee recommended that a tender from LTA Construction for R1 265 140 be accepted – the lowest of seven tenders received. The contract called for the completion of the building in two years. The second lowest of five air-conditioning tenders was recommended for acceptance – for R128 700, from Air Conditioning and Engineering Co. Ltd.. Messrs E. Geiser (Pty) Ltd. were recommended as sub-contractors for R70 725. A provisional amount of R30 640 was recommended for the purchase of furniture⁶⁰.

On 8 November 1972, the building site was handed over to the contractor. The Mayor of Pietermaritzburg, Clr. Cecil Wood, and Clr. Pamela Reid, as President of the Natal Society, turned the first sod at a ceremony on that day⁶¹.

A ceremony was held to lay the Foundation Stone on 27 August 1973. This was again done by the Mayor, Clr. Cecil Wood, and Clr. Pamela Reid, and was followed by a celebration in the Supper Room of the City Hall^{62 63}.

Library fittings were considered by Miss Judd, the architect and municipal officials – they would cost about R30 000⁶⁴. Library signs were colour coded by floor.

By 27 March 1974, roof level had been reached. There was a 'pouring of the last load of cement' ceremony on that day. It was cast by Miss Judd, who had a fear of heights and had to be coaxed for half an hour to reach the top of the building. She was helped by Mr B. Parker, the project architect, and Mr B.R.H. Knuppe, the senior architect. Also present were Clr. Pamela Reid and Miss Jenny Whitelaw (who became

Miss Sue Judd replied to these correspondents in a letter to the editor entitled 'In Defence of Pmb Library Go-Ahead'⁵⁷. She explained to the public that the cramped Lending Library in Longmarket Street was not the only problem. The Children's Library was being housed in an old church hall with uncertain tenure. There was no

Lancaster)⁶⁵. Miss Judd and members of the construction team drank a toast to the occasion and to the fact that construction was eight days ahead of schedule⁶⁶.

Miss Judd and Miss Reid had worked together for the betterment of the Natal Society Library for the last twenty years. Unfortunately, pressure had been building between the two forceful personalities, and Miss Judd had a disagreement with Miss Reid and the Natal Society Council in June 1974. The chief disagreement was about the poor pay received by the Library staff. Miss Judd had asked Miss Reid for improved salaries for staff, to which Miss Reid replied: 'Your staff are in clover.'⁶⁷ According to the Annual Report for 1974, Miss Reid and the City Treasurer had prepared new salary grades for submission to the City Council. It was hoped to reach parity with Municipal scales. Unfortunately the City Council Finance Committee rejected the scales and no increases were allowed. This was a bitter disappointment to Miss Judd, who sent in a letter of resignation on 12 June 1974. A special meeting of the Council was called, where...

It was agreed that the resignation be accepted with immediate effect in view of the urgency attendant upon a re-appointment to ensure the removal of the Library to the new building in December 1974.

The Council regrets that Miss Judd saw fit to resign and places on record the capable manner in which she carried out her duties.⁶⁸

The Council asked her to leave within 24 hours, instead of giving her the 3-month notice period she was due⁶⁹. She resigned, and

Sadly she was never to see over the new completed library building on Churchill Square, but it may well stand as a memorial, incorporating as it does so many features specifically planned by her. In recognition of her services to the Natal Society, the third floor of the new building was named the Judd Floor.⁷⁰

After this, Miss Judd worked for Shuter & Shooter until her death from cancer on 4 January 1976 at the age of 58. She had felt both angry and sad about having left so suddenly and so unnecessarily. Her great sadness was that instead of being on hand for the day of the great move into the building for which she had fought and planned so hard for so many years, she found herself in hospital having a mastectomy⁷¹. The irony of the situation was that in fact new salary scales *were* approved after all, and they came into effect in February 1975, just before the move into the new building⁷².

Many years later, after being Mayor for four years, and being Director of the Pietermaritzburg Chamber of Commerce, Miss Reid returned to the services of the Natal Society Library in a humbler capacity. For several years in the late 1980s and early 1990s, she worked as Curator of the Music Library on the second floor of the new library building, where she presided over the records and tapes of her beloved Italian opera and other classical music.

In her leisure time she went on birdwatching expeditions, and enjoyed visiting Itala Game Reserve. She also enjoyed sailing in her little boat *Nutshell* on Lake Merthley near Greytown, and enjoyed trout fishing. Pamela Reid died on 13 June 1996, after a short and unexpected illness, at the age of 71⁷³.

Natal Society Library has much to be grateful for, to Miss Sue Judd for her 24 years of dedicated service as Chief Librarian, and to Miss Pamela Reid for her 33 years of involvement through the Natal Society Council. It was through their dedication and inspiration, and that of other staff and Council members, that the Natal Society Library was propelled from the past into the present.

JEWEL KOOPMAN
(Reference Librarian 1992–1999)

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