

WASHINGTON IRVING BRANCH
Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Washington Irving Library, located on the corner of 18th Street and Arlington Avenue, will pay tribute to fifty years of operation January 9, 1977, 1-4 p.m. The program will feature activities for children and adults - stories, poetry readings, -travlogue on Japan, music by the students from Mt. Vernon Junior High and performances by a girls' dance group from the community and refreshments. Exhibits will include highlights from the branch's history, scenes of activities through the years, and crafts by both children and adults.

The West Washington Improvement Association initiated plans to build a branch at its present location during the early twenties. On October 9, 1922, the corner lot was purchased at a cost of \$4750. Since more land was needed, the adjacent lot was acquired October 12, 1925 at a cost of \$9000. An additional \$1300 was appropriated for the removal of the house which occupied the adjacent lot. Total cost of the land was \$15,050. *Cost of building, furniture & equipment was \$37,063*

The building was completed and opened for service December 13, 1926, but the formal opening ceremony was held January 10, 1927. The name Washington Irving was suggested by Mr. Guy Bowerman who was connected with the Security National Bank. It was unanimously adopted by the Association. Washington Irving was an early American writer and the first American literary figure to gain recognition in Europe.

During the first year of operation, the book collection was 4273 books-juvenile and adult. These had to be supplemented by books borrowed from Central Library. Currently, the book collection is numbered at more than 30,000.

Mary D. Brooks
Branch Librarian