

Speaker 1: In Rapid City, as I entered that position as the Director, I was pretty young and actually Ned had, had a more traditional career up to that point than I had. So I came in as his boss but really I had never worked in an actual public library for the first 10 years of my career. I'd worked in library co-operative agencies. So I came in and initially I thought Ned was somewhat suspicious of me both because we were kind of peers and my career was moving in a little bit different direction. And secondly because I didn't have any direct experience working in a public library and now I was going to run one. But we began to develop a great relationship and worked together and almost as soon as I got that job, the city decided to build a new library and it was a wonderful, the exciting project. And Ned is very interested in Architecture and always has been and he was of all the other staff members the most interested in that project and the most kind of involved and so we started working closely together then.

After the new library opened, we suddenly kind of had a flowering [phonetic] [00:01:06] in the library that we had a building, now they could let us do things we couldn't even dream of before. And so the library began to do all kinds of innovative things and we had an amazing literacy project. We had free baby sitting in the library once a week, so parents could research and leave their kids with somebody. But just had a ton of stuff and we went to a conference and saw all these people get all these awards for things that were nowhere near as close of what we were doing. So, we said to ourselves, "We need to write articles and make speeches". But instead what we saw was an opportunity to write a proposal for the National Library of the year. And Ned and I wrote it together. And then one day, I got a phone call from the Editor in Chief of Library journal to tell me that we have been selected. So I have to let Ned, tell rest of that story if you remember that day.

Speaker 2: Yeah, you'll probably remember better than I. I just remembered when she announced it, it was so exciting because what was nice about this, we didn't have a separate grant writer anything so a few of us on the staff worked on the proposal and what our point was that we were really well rounded, medium-sized library, and did everything well. It's not like we had one particular grant, but we did all these things well so several of us contributed. But, so it was really like group ownership of it and then when it was announced, I guess what I did was I went on the loudspeaker to announce to the whole library that we are just...

Speaker 1: And actually he announced it and burst into song which is a very Ned like thing.

Speaker 2: But the song was good.

Speaker 1: So I will always remember that day. I ran into his office to tell him and he immediately got on, you know, come to announce it throughout the whole library. And then after announcing it, the joy at the moment was such that he burst into a song.

Speaker 2: *Laughs*

Speaker 1: And it was to me one of the great moments of my career and I'm sure of his. There were a lot of celebrations after but that particular moment when we knew that what we had dreamed of kind of had happened. And my other favorite moment about that was that we put a big banner out that's a National Library of the Year. And one day I was in the library and two little boys walked by and they saw the banner and one says to the other, "See that, we're the best library in the country". And it was so great because, you know, it wasn't an award for the library staff or an individual librarian. It was truly the whole community in the whole library.

Speaker 2: But when you got the job here, you know, San Jose's reputation was really not too great....

Speaker 1: That's true. I almost didn't take the job for that very reason.

Speaker 2: And I thought to myself, "Why would she want to go to San Jose?" It was a big system but it was sort of known as sort of the loser system with no vitality to it, but you knew that.

Speaker 1: You know, one of the things about both of us is that we both truly love libraries. We love libraries in the abstract for what they can be and what they represent. And we love them for their reality of what they actually are in the day to day interactions and what happens in a library. But I sometimes call myself a loving critic, and I think in some ways we both are, we love it but we question, you know, some of the ways in which the profession acts and say it could be better. It could be better and we both, you know, have this great loving respect for the institution and our careers and what we have done but we don't rest on the laurel than we say and so how do you make it better? How do you keep it even more important?

And now, I feel we are right on the profession just as we were 20 years ago with the internet when the profession just, at least public librarians didn't know what to do with it. It was scary and people knew more -- costumers sometimes knew more on how to use these things than we did. And yet at a certain point, you know, we kind linked arms and leapt into that, but now we have a similar challenge I think with digital media and e-books and another huge wave of change that's coming. And that it's going to be those kinds of bed rock mission things and an attitude of kind of loving criticism and adventureness to say, "We can go forward and we will go forward". We'll still be here, that are profession, really is...

Speaker 2: Yeah. That's not the end of libraries. That's actually; I think it's a great time for libraries.

Speaker 1: And so it's....

Speaker 2: Even though I'm not technically too smart but I think people are and I think libraries still are like they said the basic television time.

Speaker 1: Yeah, so it's kind of an interesting time for us to be leaving that profession...

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Speaker 1: At the cusp of this thing but I'm confident that the profession will cope or move forward and thrive.

Speaker 2: Yeah and hopefully there will be leaders like you behind them.