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\*Robert Service

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# Librarian retires

by Jens Andersen

The Librarian to the University - Bruce Peel - will be retiring Sept. 1, 1982.

Mr. Peel has been the head of the University library system since 1955, and an employee since 1951 when he was hired as chief cataloguer following the library's expansion into its first building, what is now Rutherford South.

Mr. Peel has presided over many changes, such as the expansion of the library from less than 200,000 books to more than two million (it took from 1909 to 1949 to accumulate the first 100,000 volumes), the building of the Cameron Library, the Education Library, and the expansion of numerous smaller branch libraries like the Law and Mathematics libraries.

There have been changes for the worse, too, like the development of felt pens (a boon to book desecrators) and the economic hard-times of the 1970's.

Financial worries, Mr. Peel says, will be the main problem confronting his successor. Book and periodical prices, for instance, have risen many times higher than the general inflation rate, and the decline of the Canadian dollar has compounded the problem (over 90 percent of the library's purchases are made abroad). Library funding has not increased proportionately.

An extra \$300,000 budgeted this year, Peel says, "scarcely deals with inflation," and the special grant from the Alberta Heritage Trust Fund - which has supplied



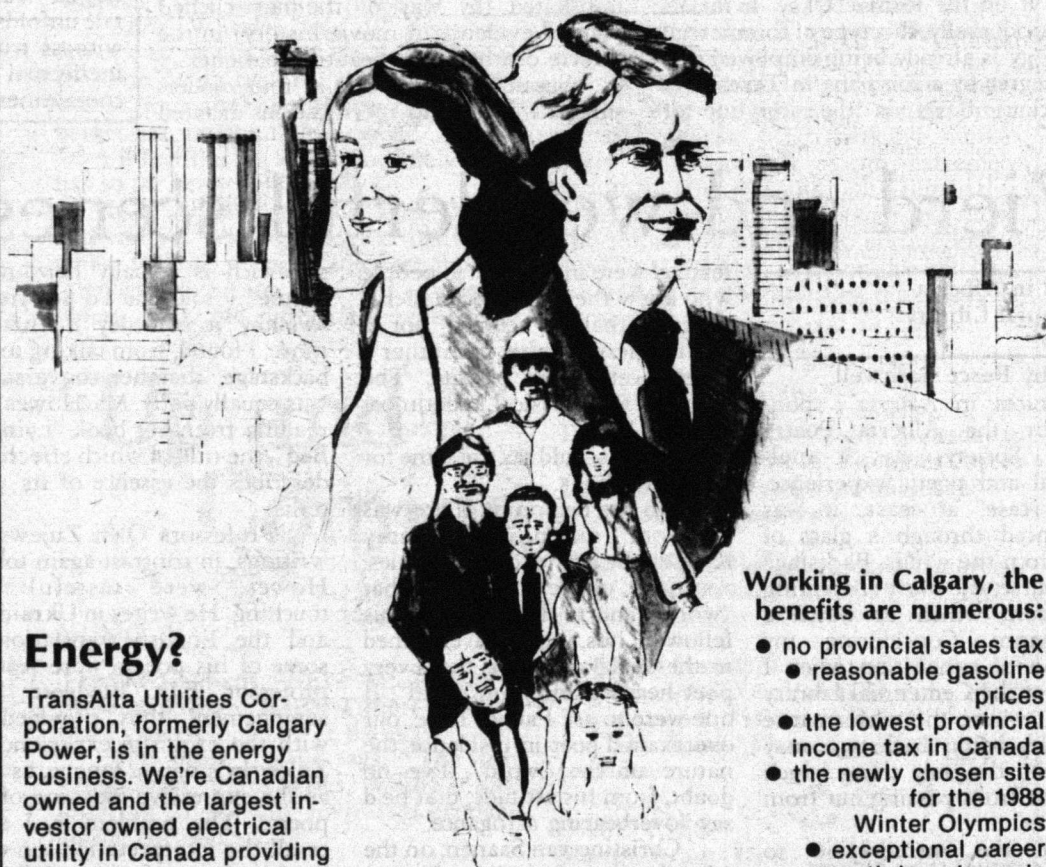
Bruce Peel will leave after 25 years as University Library Head

\$2.7 million to the University libraries over the last three years - expires at the end of 1981-82.

"The Coordinating Councils of the Universities of Alberta have requested that the grant be renewed," says Peel, "but if it isn't, the situation could be critical next year."

The new librarian will be responsible for supervising the changes in cataloguing and library management currently underway, which Peel hopes will eventually

result in the complete computerization of the University library system. Peel himself is the author of many books, including a short history of the University libraries and *A Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces to 1953*, which includes many esoteric items discovered in foreign libraries, like a biography of Father Leduc (whom the town was named after) found in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris.



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