

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN SHOULD AID MOTHERS, SPEAKER SAYS

Helping the mother is one of the most important services of the children's librarian, according to Miss Elizabeth Knapp, head children's librarian, Detroit Public Library, who spoke Thursday afternoon at the annual meeting of the Michigan Library association held in the auditorium of the Baldwin Public Library.

Miss Knapp showed how this could be done by the librarian answering questions about children's books and loaning the mother books concerning children, and by creating an atmosphere in the children's reading room which would arouse interest in reading. To do this the children's librarian must have a thorough knowledge of children's books, Miss Knapp said.

Working with the teacher makes for ideal educational co-operation. Miss Knapp believes reading lists to supplement courses could be used even more than they now are, said Miss Knapp.

In closing, Miss Knapp described the modern trend of too much fiction and no dreaming among children. "By showing them books which are equal to their dreams," Miss Knapp concluded.

Dorothy Canfield Fisher's "Why Stop Learning?" was discussed.

Following this the library board served tea to their guests.

The morning program at 11 a. m. included Miss Ethel Kellow, librarian of the Ocus branch library in Detroit, who was in charge of the meeting, and Mrs. Fred Farrar, state chairman of education of the A. A. U. W. who spoke on "Child Study Groups and the Public Library." Following this talk the meeting adjourned for lunch.

CIVIC CENTER HISTORY

(Concluded from Page 1, Part 2) Originally purchased for both purposes, and upon which has since been erected a beautiful new Baldwin Public Library, costing \$150,000.00.

It then became necessary, due to the probability of widening Woodward avenue, and also on account of the high value of the old library site, to find another place for municipal offices; attention was then turned by Commissioners Shain, Bingham, and Bell to the other two blocks along the ridge directly east of the new library block, and at that time occupied for the most part by cheap and not very new houses.

Accordingly, a double house suitable for temporary Village offices was purchased and the work of effecting satisfactory settlements was begun through Mr. J. B. Howarth, a member of the library board and also of the Birmingham Real Estate Board. Charles A. Bingham had now retired from the Village Commission and his place taken by David H. Ladd. Mr. Howarth was successful in acquiring seven of the eight corners involved, at terms satisfactory to both the seller and the Village Commission, and enough more parcels to give the Village a majority holding in the two blocks.

A bond issue in the meantime had been approved by the voters by a splendid majority, amounting to \$200,000, the estimated cost of the entire two blocks.

Later, through a subsequent bond issue of \$65,000.00, added to the \$125,000.00 received through the sale of the old library property, a new Village Commission composed of Village President H. T. Ellery, Scott Hersey, Hope E. Halbert, J. H. McBride, and W. W. Henry, started their plans to build the beautiful municipal building where we are holding these services today.

In July, 1927, the Commission directed the firm of Burrows & Eulich, Architects who also built the new library, to prepare plans of a preliminary nature for the new municipal building, including quarters for the police and fire departments. These two departments were to be included in such a manner that should the future development of the village require their quarters for offices, they could be removed to other locations without excessive expense to the Village.

Disagreement of Opinion Between the months of July and December of 1927, at which latter date the architects were instructed to prepare final plans for the municipal building, a difference of opinion existed on the Village Commission regarding the completion of this project. A portion of the commission held that the people had voted for the new building on the Civic Center, while the rest of the commission although believing the municipal building not seriously necessary at this time, objected to the combining of the police and fire departments in the municipal building.

This strife continued for several months, during which time both sides sought respective substantiating opinions from the Attorney-General's office in Lansing. Also, a trio of local citizens sought to

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stop the entire proceedings in the Pontiac Circuit Court, but lost when they failed to carry their case in Court; the Court gave the Village a decree favorable to the completion of the project.

On January 16, 1928, the Village Commission awarded the building contract to the Henry S. Martens Co., of Detroit, at a total cost of \$177,980.00. At the annual Village election in March, 1928, the electors approved a bond issue of \$60,000.00 which sum was used to purchase the two remaining parcels of land in the municipal building block, and to augment the \$125,000.00 received from the sale of the old library property, thus completing the financing of the entire project.

Ground for the municipal building was broken the latter part of January 1928, and the building will be ready for occupancy in October of this year.

The completion of this municipal building will give Birmingham complete possession of two blocks of the Civic Center, one the site of this building and the other the site of the new Public Library. There still remain several unperched parcels of land in the center block of the Civic Center; plans of the Village Commission call for the making of this center block into a park area at some future time.

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