

READERS INCREASE, REPORT INDICATES

Literarian Says Circulation During February Was Unusually Large

Circulation at the Baldwin Public Library was unusually large in the month of February, according to the report of Mrs. Nancy B. Thomas. The total circulation was 8,351, which represented a gain of 2,254 over the circulation during the month of February a year ago.

That there was a large registration, numbering 81, was also shown by the report. Of these, 43 were adults, 25 were juniors, and 3 were non-residents. During the month, there were added to the library 95 books subdivided as follows: adult fiction, 34; adult non-fiction, 41; and juvenile, 20.

PAYS OLD SPEED FINE

Mike Johnson, of 235 Jefferson avenue, Saginaw, paid \$20 in Justice Malcolm Hunt's court Thursday, when he was given the choice of the fine or 10 days' imprisonment. Johnson was arrested last September for speeding on Quanton road, and appeared Thursday when a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Eccentricities

By LEO A. DONOVAN

"And in flew a dead duck!" is the latest luff to be used as a descriptive report along the Great Yellow Way. Ted Healy, vaudeville and musical comedy star, is credited (?) with the phrase.

We wonder what's so ideal about the Eleven Mile road and Woodward avenue that prompts the name "Utopia" to that particular vicinity. If the name is justified, say we, Birmingham must be heaven because Utopia's below us.—Who said anything about Detroit?

Now that the basketball season is over, our college athletes will rest on their laurels while studying. Well, maybe. But basketball isn't the only college sport between football and baseball seasons. At the U. of M., for instance, an extensive program of hockey, swimming, wrestling, fencing and track events, (23 in all) are scheduled for eight days during March.

The whaling industry, we learn with regret, is now being conducted on a "big business" basis with radio, big motor boats and, hard on gun, we remember how thrilled we were several years ago when a whaler, one of those old-time three-masted ships, came deep, came placidly into harbor at New Bedford, Mass., the center of the whaling romances in the '40's. And being a child of this shaven age, we were impressed with the leasards of the crew. Sturdy men they were, and bright of eye. And they walked the wharf in their quaint, old-fashioned clothes, and there were women in the crowd wearing calico dresses that reached to their ankles. Earlier in the day I had been through the little town's museum dedicated to that perilous industry. Now I was certainly in the mood for such a sight. Some of the sailors wore patent-leather hats. And among other things, I saw small fish nets hung out to dry, and deadly harpoons on the deck. And the captain had a loud voice. I went nearer. Someone hollered, "Get out of the way, you wart!" And I got out of the way. I had almost walked into the direct line of the moving picture camera.

I once knew a man who was a brilliant student in college. He was awarded honors, particularly for his knowledge of French and Greek. He knew all the rules of grammar. He knew all the words, too (in French, that is). When he was graduated, he made "Le Grand Tour," visiting Paris, of course. In that wicked city (they're holding a "Drink More Wine Week" there now) he made his exit from the railway station, he came in one hand and his portmanteau in the other. It was raining.

Approaching one of the hack drivers (this was in 1910), the honor student in French, attempted to direct the public servant to the hotel where he was expected. Rain, mud, street lights, cobble stones.

"Je desire aller," he said very slowly. "Eh! Hein?" asked the hack driver. "Je day-air away a low-tel day Cap-on-shans," he related. "I continued to rain. 'Quoi?' demanded the driver. This sort of thing went on for several minutes, until, in exasperation, the Frenchman threw up his hands in disgust and drove away leaving the scholar standing in the rain.

"But my knowledge of Greek stood me in good stead a few days later," the scholar told me. "I was riding to Marseilles and another American was in the same compartment. We discussed languages but I did not tell him my embarrassing experience. 'Greek must be a difficult language,' he remarked, just to keep the conversation going. 'Not hard at all,' I said. He was somewhat surprised, and feeling that I was bluffing, wagged I couldn't tell him, in Greek, what hour, day of the week, month and year it was. I began, 'Alpha, beta, gamma, delta, etc.,' and concluded the entire alphabet as fast as I could speak it—with gestures. He paid for our luncheon."

Now the marble season is with us. "Mib" is used to be called. And the Village Commission has been asked by officials of the National Marble Tournament, to sponsor a local elimination tournament. Would not good old P. T. Barnum rejoice in the modern tournament of mibs. What with one of our most famous radio announcers getting things all balled up in describing the contest, like "Young Billy Spivens, freckle-faced shooter from the Georgia Hills, just shot an agate, out of ring No. 2. No, I beg your pardon. It was red-headed Harry Harrison, of Chicago. He just scored a carom with an agate and gained another notch in the boy's junior tournament. The sky is cloudless and a magnificent view of the little fellows, playing as if life itself were at stake, are entering the final rounds of the tournament. . . . etc. . . ." What a world.

Our exchange editor, the gentleman who reads all the various newspapers and magazines to which we subscribe, points out this amusing "typo" from an up-state paper:

Trolley-Auto Crash
KALAMA, 100—Feb. 27—(AP)—etc.

If the linotype operator had just put an "it" after the exclamation point, the story wouldn't have needed a headline, our exchange editor comments.

A blow-torch using powdered aluminum instead of gas has been developed at Syracuse University.

PLAYERS NAME SPECIAL GROUPS

Announcement of special committees for "The Streets of New York," or "The Poor of New York," the 1880 melodrama, which will be presented by the Village Players Mar. 21 and 22 was made today by Mrs. F. Farrington Holt.

Mrs. Ruth Saunders will serve as chairman of the properties committee. She will be assisted by Mrs. Harry Mushman and Mrs. Ernest Chapin. The two wardrobe mistresses will be Mrs. Arthur J. Brandt and Mrs. Charles L'Homedieu. Players will endeavor to borrow authentic costumes from members or other villagers who will be willing to lend them for the purpose.

Due to the great interest shown in the production and the large cast of the play, guest privileges will be extended to Oakland county residents, and the performance will be given on two nights.

LIBRARY NOTES

Five new novels by authors who have been on the "best-seller" lists with former books, have been added to the shelves of the Baldwin Public Library.

"Etille" by Warwick Desping, author of "Sorrel and Son."

"The Woman of Andros" by Thornton N. Wilder, author of "San Luis Rey."

"Down in the Valley" by H. W. Freeman, author of "Joseph and his Brethren."

"Heirs," by Cornelia J. Cannon, author of "Red Rest."

"Pure Gold," by O. E. Rolveng, author of "Giants in the Earth."

Various interests are represented in the non-fiction books.

"Magic Spades," the romance of a chess player, by R. V. D. Magoffin.

"Christ of Every Road" by E. Stanley Jones.

"In Search of Scotland" by H. V. Morton.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

William Putman, chief of Bloomfield police: "Woodward avenue was so slippery Sunday night that within an hour four automobiles broke wheels in skidding accidents when their drivers attempted to stop them for the red signal light at Long Lake road. Several others added onto the car tracks. To prevent accidents we then turned off the signal light."

"Pearl Diver" by Victor Berge, "The United States of Europe" by Paul Hutchinsan.

"The New Education in the Soviet Republic" by Albert P. Pinketich.

The children's department has an interesting book, "The Scout Jamboree," written by 15 boys who attended the affair held in Birmingh., Eng., last July. Over thirty illustrations help to make real the event for the boy scouts who did not go.

GAME LAW VIOLATOR FINED

Earl Schroder, of 105 East College street, Pontiac, paid \$7.50 costs in the court of Justice Floyd S. Buck Friday, for having set lines in a fish house Feb. 17. Brought into court Feb. 18, he pleaded guilty, but was given the small fine by Justice Buck when he said he was out of work.

When the will of C. B. Harris of Yonkers, N. Y., was filed, it revealed a bequest of \$8,000 to his widow, with the notation "With the hope that she may enjoy this bequest more than I have enjoyed our marital life."

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