

**Library Holds Advanced Position
In Birmingham's Civic Development**

It is only fitting that a village which is to be served by Michigan's first commuter service should be able to boast of a pretentious and well-planned program of civic development of its own, a part of which is already completed, and not the least of which is a public library fully equipped to care for the reading needs of the community for many years to come.

By a margin of 11 votes, Birmingham first became the possessor of a library of 2400 books and an imposing building at the corner of Maple and Woodward avenues in 1927, when the Ladies' Library Association gave the village the opportunity to accept the books it had collected, together with the building, provided a tax of one-half mill on each dollar of assessed valuation be given for its support.

The proposition was presented to the villagers in the spring election of that year and the vote stood 103 against and 111 for it. Mrs. J. Allen Biglow was president and Miss Martha Baldwin secretary of the society at the time.



Nancy E. Thomas

The new building, costing \$175,000, was built and opened to the public in November, 1927. Careful planning made it possible to construct a library large enough to provide a spacious reading room, a reference room, children's room, office and stacks on the ground floor; and an auditorium seating 129 people, a committee room and staff rooms on the second floor.

Provision was made for shelving 25,000 books. It was the aim of the Library Board to create a place modern in every way but one not lacking in friendliness and hospitality. The success of their efforts is acclaimed by all who visit the building.

The village has shown their appreciation of the library by their increased use of it. The first year it was open, 64,000 books were taken for home reading and this number increased each year until 24,000 were taken in 1930. Over half the people in Birmingham have each at the library, many come to read the magazines, and newspapers, and during the winter months the reference material is in constant use.

The administrative unit for the library, called the Library Board, is composed at the present time of Mrs. Retta Barr, president; Mrs. Clarence Velt, vice-president; J. B. Howarth, secretary; Russell Gore, treasurer; Mrs. Lawrence Thomas and Mrs. H. Wellman, Mrs. Nancy E. Thomas is the librarian.

**WOMEN'S CLUBS
ATTRACT MANY**

Organizations Divide Professional, Business And Social Interests

For the woman who feels that life should include more than living "by bread alone," Birmingham offers a stimulating opportunity in its many women's organizations devoted to a variety of interests.

If her taste runs to literature, there is the Woman's Literary Club, founded among women's organizations in Birmingham. The club includes four departments devoted to the study of the World's Work, literature, art and the American home.

Organized in 1924, the club became a member of the Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs in 1929, of the Oakland County Federation in 1933, and of the Detroit Federation in 1930. Mrs. Claude A. Bowls is the new president.

A. A. U. W. Formed in 1920

For the woman who is a university graduate, there is the Birmingham branch of the American Association of University Women, of which Mrs. Harold S. Gray is the new president. The purpose of the branch is to unite college women for work in the educational, civic and social problems of Birmingham.

It was organized here in 1920 by four college women who decided to extend the invitation to others in the village. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Charles J. Shain with attendance of 16. Mrs. Shain was elected the first president, and was retained in office for three years.

The membership today exceeds 150, and the group is one of the most active in the village, including in its interests a college information bureau for high school girls, a conference for high school girls, group study of the preschool, elementary and adult organ child, a fashion show for college girls and other activities along similar lines of thought.

Fixed Common Interest

For the woman interested in gardening there is the Birmingham Branch of the National Farm and Garden Association of which Mrs. John T. Edgerly is president. These women find a common unity of thought in their gardening interest, and do much to beautify their grounds and the village in general.

The Oakland County Council of Women is for the woman who is a woman interested in keeping in touch with county agencies for the promotion of better government and the welfare of those under protection of the county.

The Rotary Ann is a large and influential group composed of wives of members of the Rotary Club. The founding of this organization in Birmingham was the result of an inspiration which came to Mrs. George B. Averill.

Convention Gives Inspiration

With Mr. Averill, Mrs. Averill attended a convention of the International Rotary Clubs in London, Ont. Among the speakers was Sen. Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan, who urged the wives and means through which Rotary Clubs of different lands could promote international peace.

After hearing this speech it occurred to Mrs. Averill that if friendliness could be encouraged in foreign countries by the Rotary among men, a similar organization of women might also carry on the work of promoting international friendship. In the spring of 1925, she held the first meeting at her home, inviting the wives of all Birmingham Rotarians.

The Rotary Ann was organized to develop acquaintanceships as an opportunity for service, to stimulate a greater interest in the life of the community and to assist in the advancement of all the aims of Rotary.

Business Leaders Organize

Mrs. Averill was the first president, and Mrs. Ralph J. Corvay of Arlington road was elected to the office before the adjournment of the club last spring.

For business or professional women there are two active organizations in Birmingham, including the Zonta Club, to belong to which one must qualify as a leader in her business, and the Business and Professional Women's Club, which is affiliated with the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

There is an active branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union for those interested in that type of work. There is also the Birmingham unit of the American Legion auxiliary for the woman whose husband or brother fought in the World War, and

BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY



who is interested in aiding welfare work among disabled veterans and their families.

The local fraternal groups include the Eastern Star, the Rebekah Lodge No. 413, and the Pythian Sisters.

In Those Days Cars Had Temperments

The inauguration of the new Grand Trunk commuter service again brings to mind an occurrence

of about 1897 when the recently discontinued Detroit United Railway was something of an innovation in Birmingham.

It seems that a circus had come to Pontiac for a brief stay. It was a warm Saturday afternoon, just the type of day that appeals to circus-minded folks, and practically everyone in Birmingham had decided to attend. And practically everyone decided to take the same car.

The good-natured motorman allowed them all to enter, but when the power was applied the car failed to budge.

Something had to be done, and done quickly. As might be expected, the passengers began to clamor and shout, for it was very evident that unless something favorable happened quickly to the car's motory holiday excursionists were going to miss the performance.

The motorman tried the effect of a choice vocabulary, but the car only groaned a bit and the springs sagged further towards the ground, almost to the car axle. But still it didn't move.

Finally half of the crowd was transferred to a second car and the procession arrived in Pontiac at 4 P. M., too late even for the finale.

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Ladies' Plain Unlined Coats, Cleaned and Finished	\$1.00
Others \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2.00	Were \$1.50
Ladies' Hats, Cleaned and Blocked	\$0.75
By expert hatlers.	Were \$1.00
Men's Suits and Topcoats, Cleaned and reshaped	\$1.00
Minor repairs free. Valerite, reshaping in different.	Were \$1.50
Men's Sailor Straw or Felt Hats, Cleaned and Blocked	\$0.50
By expert hatlers.	Were \$0.75
Panama and Other Straw Hats, Cleaned and blocked	\$0.75
By expert hatlers.	Were \$1.00-\$1.25
Men's Ties, Cleaned and finished	\$0.10
Three for 25c.	Were \$0.15
Rugs, Size 8' 3" x 10' 6"	\$2.50
Domestic. (We do not use the soap and water shampoo process.)	Were \$3.50
Rugs, Size 9' x 12'	\$2.75
Domestic.	Were \$3.75

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