



Automation Arrives

Hard at work, the new object of amazement among Baldwin public library users is operated by Mrs. Willard (Florence) Adams, (left), registration librarian.

New Assistant Amazes Baldwin Library Users

By JULIE CANDLER

It's like the weather. Everybody's talking about it. "It" glows with an eerie light. Then "it" purrs and clamps a yellow sponge over cards at Baldwin public library's check-out desk.

Borrowers stare and ponder how "it" works. "It," say the staff at the library, is like a new member of their staff. "Miss Brodac," they call her, because the automatic book charger was manufactured by the library supply firm, Brothart Industries. Miss B. is so new that only a few libraries in the country—including An Arbor—have such mechanical marvels.

This automated assistant, explains Head Librarian Jeanne Lloyd, is on trial. Miss Brodac was called in to see if she could eliminate a veritable bookjam that stacked up at the library's return desk too frequently.

"IT GOT SO PAUL," said Carol Roberts of the library staff, "that sometimes when return books were pouring in the bins were full, the trucks were full, and you had books in your hand and didn't know where to put them."

As many as 2,000 books a day come pouring back to the library from its 14,000 borrowers with active cards.

Before Miss Brodac came along two weeks ago, each returned book meant librarians had to pull from the files the proper book card for each volume. Until the card could be slipped into the returned book, it stayed at the return desk. Sometimes it was a day or two before the staff could thin out a heavy bookjam.

Now returned books go back on the shelves immediately.

HERE'S MISS BRODAC'S efficient system: When you present your book and your card to the librarian at the check-out desk, she pulls a "transaction card" from a stack near the machine. She places the transaction card, plus the card

she takes from your book, and your library card face down on a piece of sensitized paper. Then she simultaneously pushes two buttons. That's when Miss Brodac hums, an infra-red light turns on and the yellow sponge clamps down to hold the cards firmly.

The cards mustn't move, because they're getting their picture taken, via the same process that operates Thermo-fax duplicators.

THEN THE librarian places the transaction card and book card back in your book. She doesn't need to keep them on file now, because she has a photographic record bearing your name, the name of your book and the number of the transaction card.

When you bring the book back, she puts the transaction card with other returned cards.

Once a week a librarian keys the transaction cards to check for overdue books.

IF YOUR transaction card isn't there—she knows you've slipped. You'll get a reminder in the mail. And there again Miss Brodac is clever. She arranges for the sensitized paper bearing the record of your transaction to be photographed. Then the copy of it is slipped in a window envelope, already addressed to you.

Miss Brodac a success? She's still leased on a month-to-month trial basis, says Miss Lloyd. Right now she's a little slow at serving the line of people often waiting for books on a busy day.

BUT THAT'S because she isn't twins. She replaces two machines formerly used for charging out books.

If she works, out, the library

These Are Your Remaining Festival Events:

FULL NINE DAYS OF FESTIVAL

Dates	Event	Time	Place
May 17 through May 25	B'ham branch WNPGA, Flower arrangements exhibit	continuous	Baldwin Public Library
	Annual exhibit B'ham society of Women Painters	continuous	BAA building
	Eights anniversary exhibit	continuous	Little Gallery
	"Pot Sale—outdoor sale of ceramics"	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Craft court, Cranbrook Academy of Art
	An exhibit of students of Mrs. Paul Schaffer	2 to 5 p.m. except Tue. thru Fri. 1 to 5 p.m.	Little Yellow home, 256 Martin

SEVERAL DAYS

Dates	Event	Time	Place
May 19-24	Crafts exhibit (open house May 19 1 to 9 p.m.)	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	League of Handicapped shop
May 20-21-22	Outdoor photography exhibit	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Shain Park
May 21-22-23	B'ham School exhibition—crafts Creation in action	Daily up to 5 p.m. 7:30 to 9 p.m.	Baldwin school audit.
May 23-24	AAUW—Hobby Painters and Painter's Workshop exhibit	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	W. A. P. John garden on Tooting Lane
May 23-24-25	Art exhibit of Progressive Arts Group of Detroit	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Shain Park
May 21-22-23	"LaStrada" "Tears for Simon"	8:35 p.m. only 7 and 10:30 only	Clawson Playhouse

SINGLE DAY

Dates	Event	Time	Place
May 22	Singing Choral and Instrumental Concert	8 p.m.	Torry School
	High School Choir and Glee club	8:15 p.m.	BHS gym
May 23	Village Players—Open house and play "Comedy of Roses"	8:15 p.m.	Playhouse, 752 Chestnut
May 24	AAUW Puppets exhibit and play Junior League play "Box of Smiles"	10 a.m. 1 and 2 p.m.	Community House Baldwin school audit.
	"Arts in Action" pilgrimage (by reservation only at BAA building)	3:30 p.m.	BAA building
	"La Strada" "Tears for Simon"	6:30 and 10:25	Clawson Playhouse
	"The Animal Farm"	Midnight	Cranbrook Greek Theater
May 25	St. Dunstan Guild open house. "Inherit the Wind" rehearsals Birmingham Musicale concert	3 to 6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Community House Clawson Playhouse
	"La Strada" "Tears for Simon"	6:30 and 10:25 8:30 only	Clawson Playhouse

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
25				22	23	24

plans to have two Miss B's at work.

Meanwhile, the staff says, they deeply appreciate their borrower's understanding and patience.

As Miss Lloyd says, "Some new system which will not necessitate the handling of each returned book had to be found. There are lots of libraries in big cities that aren't doing as much in their main libraries as we do here."

On a busy Saturday, Baldwin library charged out from 1000 to 1700 books a day.

If Miss Brodac makes a success of herself, she's going to be busy.

Judge Gaffill Advances Date Of Retirement

Municipal Judge John J. Gaffill's official resignation was "accepted with regret" Monday night by the Birmingham city commission, which then praised Gaffill for his 12 years of service to the city as its chief judicial officer.

In his letter, Judge Gaffill asked that he be permitted to leave June 1, a month earlier than he originally requested in his public announcement last week.

City Attorney James Howlett has been asked to define the next provision which says a new judge must be elected "at the next municipal election."

THIS COULD BE the fall state election, or Birmingham's annual city election next April.

Judge Gaffill recommended that Associate Justice John C. Emery be appointed to the temporary vacancy.

Registration Date June 2 is the last day on which persons may register in order to be eligible to vote in the annual election. All registrations must be taken before 5 p.m. of this date.

The Birmingham Eccentric Public Library, Thursday at Birmingham, Michigan, Woodward Ave., at Birmingham Eccentric, Inc. Telephone: 2-1111.

George B. Averill, president, Editor and Publisher Paul N. Averill, Vice-President and Secretary George W. Averill, Secretary

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This & That

(Continued from Page 1-A) cost of various federal government's bond issues.

There's current talk about an income tax for Michigan. "If the people accept such a tax, will the Legislature eliminate some of the burdensome existing taxes?" is a question asked by many citizens.

If tax history repeats itself, the answer is an emphatic NO! Can you quit recall situations where professional politicians have been willing to abandon an existing method of reaching into your purse?

Vice-President Dick Nixon certainly was mistreated during his recent visit to Peru. What appeared to be a Communist-led student uprising against him took place. (Gardner and rocks were thrown at him. Why did not the heads of the Peruvian government prevent this clash? They should have known of its possibility of happening. Questions is granted only the evidence of future expected generosity?)

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Daily Exercise

Susan Ward (left) and Marilyn Shrover (middle) receive directions on proper form for body exercise from Lois Youngen, physical education instructor at Michigan State University. The girls are performing a swing-sit-up exercise in the university's posture and body mechanics class.

300 More Beds

Recommended for Beaumont Hospital

Addition of 300 beds at William Beaumont hospital, Royal Oak, has been recommended by the greater Detroit area hospital council as one of several moves needed to bring hospital facilities in seven east-state counties up to acceptable standards.

New construction, additions and modernizations in the overall council recommendation would cost \$30,000,000.

Addition of beds to Beaumont would relieve Pontiac's currently "tight" situation in hospital availability. Erection of a new 300-bed hospital in south Macomb county also would help the Pontiac problem.

The council believes 1,500 new

beds should be made available in eastern Michigan to replace some 2,100 present beds considered unacceptable. Today's estimated cost per bed for new hospital construction is \$20,000, according to council president Allen W. Merrill.

Postmaster Prexy At a meeting of the Oakland county chapter of the National Association of Postmasters held recently in Waterford township, Birmingham Postmaster Roland W. Reese, 1847 Webster, was elected president for the fiscal year 1958-59. Rochester Postmaster Cole Neuman was named vice president.

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RICHARD BENSON Birmingham Jaycees Elect Engineer As '58-9 President A young engineer with General Electric was elected president of the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce this week. He is Dick Benson, 983 Brooklawn, Birmingham.

Vice presidents elected are Robert Glavin, Birmingham recreation director, and Robert Wilson, Jr., sales manager, Vermont tap and die company.

Royal Wilson, sales engineer with Union Twist Drill, and Charles Meyer, of General Motors, were elected treasurer and secretary.

Directors are Robert Reason, Clarence Weston, Jim Martin, and past president Richard Ernst.

The new officers will be sworn in at the inaugural ball June 21 at Glen Oaks country club.

Young Jaywalkers Busy This Season, Police Chief Warns Accidents this year are down 25 per cent below the number for most of 1957, according to Birmingham Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley.

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