

[Note: Punctuation, capitalization and syntax are reproduced here to match the original, a mimeographed copy which was too faded to photocopy legibly.]

EAU CLAIRE PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT 1937

Looking back over a busy year the Eau Claire Public Library staff can best describe 1937 as a year of concentrated co-operation. Important educational and civic developments were aided by special shelves, planned bibliographies, or inter-library loans. As has been the policy in the past a reading shelf is maintained for the church reading groups. The usual activities were expanded in 1937 to meet the needs of new and varied groups and individuals. Books for purchase are selected from lists approved by standardizing agencies such as the American Library Association and the Wisconsin Library Commission, and the H.W. Wilson company. Material on very specialized subjects is usually borrowed from the Traveling Library at Madison or from other available sources.

IMPORTANT REFERENCE ADDITIONS OF 1937

Because the rubber industry is one of the vital commercial enterprises in Eau Claire, the library added in 1937 two valuable new reference works on rubber. "Chemistry and technology of rubber" by Carroll C. Davis and "Industrial chemistry" by Emil R. Riegel were the books selected after consultation with the chemists at the Gillette Rubber Company. Subscriptions have been placed for two magazines on rubber for 1938. "India Rubber World" and "Rubber Age" are the titles selected. We hope that all interested persons will find them helpful and useful. Current issues will be available in the reading room and back issues will circulate for seven day periods.

Started in 1928 and completed in 1937 the "Dictionary of American Biography", a biographical encyclopedia, contains no living person. It includes only Americans who have made a significant contribution to American life. There is a brief sketch of the life of the subject, but the stress is placed on the accomplishments which made him worthy of a place in the dictionary.

Other valuable reference books include, "Familiar quotations" by John Bartlett in a new and revised edition. This book is a collection of passages, phrases and proverbs traced to their sources in ancient and modern literature. "Home Book of Shakespeare Quotations" by Burton Stevenson is "a concordance and a glossary of the unique words and phrases in the plays and poems - a permanent reference work indispensable to every reader who desires a manual that puts all of Shakespeare on any given topic at his immediate disposal."

MOST INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL DISPLAYS OF 1937

Early in 1937 the Eau Claire Woman's Club planned a stained glass window contest. A committee from the Woman's Club met with members of the library staff to plan a bibliography on stained glass windows. Later in the spring the windows entered in the contest were displayed in the library. Original, artistic, and lovely were the entries which for several weeks made the library reference room gay with color.

"Favorite Books in Movies" was chosen for a display shelf and proved so popular that it had to be discontinued because there were no books left for the shelf. Through the courtesy of the State Theatre we had an unusual display for the Good Earth. Striking and beautiful was the large colored oil painting which was the center of the display. The State Theatre also cooperated with the library on a bibliography for The Life of Emile Zola. The O'Klare Theatre furnished posters on Shirley Temple's Heidi. The library is a subscriber to the Motion Picture Review Digest which gives a complete history and evaluation of every moving picture produced. It gives the title, producing company, length, date of release, cast, director, music director, and screen writers; also a brief story of the plot followed by newspaper and magazine reviews.

For those who use their radio for education as well as recreation the library maintains a display on America's Town Meeting Of The Air. Advance notices of programs and speakers are posted. The library subscribes to the weekly bulletin which contains the complete speeches and floor discussions of each broadcast as well as a bibliography prepared in the office of the Reader's Advisor of the New York Public Library. These bulletins are as interesting and stimulating as the programs themselves.

Some of the churches of the city sponsored the University Of Life Sunday evening meetings for youth. The



library has maintained a shelf which stressed the idea of Youth Faces The World. Some of the weekly topics for this shelf have been - Stretching the Hours, So You're Going To Be Educated, Where is Youth Going?, Young America Must Choose, and Analyze Yourself.

Children's Book Week was celebrated this year with a book fair. For the entire week the newest and brightest children's books were on display in the children's department.

The instructor in the School For Workers In Industry maintains a shelf for the use of the members of the school. Books, pamphlets, and magazines on a variety of subjects are here easily accessible for the classes.

Never has interest in Civil Service Examinations been more evident or the competition been keener than the past year. Notices of new civil service examinations are posted as they are received from the Bureau of Personnel at Madison. The volumes of the "Civil Service Library", pamphlets, government bulletins, and laws have been in constant demand in 1937 by those aspiring to Civil Service positions.

The urge to draw seized many Eau Claire people the past year. Two new magazines - "Artist" and "Magazine of Art" helped to fill demands for instruction on drawing. New Books on this subject which were well received were - "Pencil Drawing" by Ernest W. Watson and "Free-hand Drawing Self-taught, Pen Drawing, and Sketching As A Hobby" by Arthur L. Guptill.

LIBRARY BRANCH SERVICE

In addition to once a week library service in the Ninth, Tenth and Fourth Ward Schools; a new branch was established in 1937 in the A-Typical School. Eagerly these children awaited the day when the librarians made their first visit. On a preliminary visit the librarian issues library application cards which are returned to the library in time so that each child had a new school library branch card on the first visit of the librarians. Schools which do not have regular visits of the librarians are served by classroom collections which are requested by the teachers.

Miss Louise Yule is in charge of the Junior High School Branch which is open all day every day that school is in session.

In line with new developments in educational policy, the Senior High School Library Branch underwent extensive improvements this past summer in order that approximately

ten per cent of the student population may be seated in the library each period of the day. Miss Ethel Kopp and Ann Carmody are in charge of this branch.

Miss Agnes Tangjerd makes a weekly visit to each of the two hospitals - Luther and Sacred Heart. The book truck with its load of books and magazines is a welcome sight to many patients.

OUTSTANDING BOOKS OF 1937

Fiction

Northwest Passage by Kenneth Roberts

Citadel by A.J. Cronin

Gone With The Wind by Margaret Mitchell

And So - Victoria by Vaughan Wilkins

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