

Dutton was justly proud of its new hall, which was outstanding at the time it was built, and the Dutton Library ranked high in the small library field.

In 1925, A.E. Roberts was succeeded as chairman by A.E. Cantelon and S. Howell became treasurer.

In 1926, Mrs. Snell resigned as librarian and moved to Toronto. Mrs. John Bambridge was then appointed to the position of librarian and secretary.

Mr. S. Howell was chairman of the board for 1927. Then S.C. Kirkland was chairman from 1928 to 1936, when A.E. Cantelon became chairman until 1942.

There is again a lapse in the records until 1932 when S.C. Kirkland was chairman, Mr. Balfour, treasurer, and members of the Board, Mrs. S.C. Kirkland, Miss Agnes McNeil, Dr. MacDonald, A.E. Cantelon and Miss Donalda McKerracher.

In 1933, H.B. Hockin and Miss M.G. England were added to the Board. During this year the Township Council was interviewed concerning a grant to the library, but no decision was reached.

The Young People's Society of St. John's United Church put on a play entitled "Ducks", and gave the library part of its proceeds. In November, the library Board sponsored the Jubilee Singers and thus added to their funds.

In 1934, C.W. Taylor and Mrs. Edward Docker were added to the Board. In November the Township Council gave a grant of \$25.00 toward the upkeep of the library.

The highlight of the year 1935, was the beginning of the presentation of the Drama Festival, which continued for several years. It was held in November and \$25.00 was given in prizes. The board this year was the same as the previous one.

In 1936, Miss Minnie Gow was added to the Board. Again the Drama Festival was sponsored. S.C. Kirkland donated a silver cup for the best actress and the Board donated one for the best actor. Mr. George Morley was adjudicator.

Mr. A.W. Blue of Montreal donated to the library twenty-one volumes on Canadian history, entitled, "Makers of Canada" from the library of his father, the late J.D. Blue of Dutton. The library also paid the estate of Mr. Blue \$5.00 for thirteen volumes chosen

from his library.

In November the Board sponsored an amateur contest with prizes up to \$20.00, depending on the size of the house. In December the first reference was made to the possibility of holding a story hour. It was unfortunate that in June of this year (1936) that the Board suffered a loss by death of one of its most active members, in the person of S.C. Kirkland.

In 1937, the same Board was in office with the addition of Mrs. M.G. Graham and R.E. Clunas. A.E. Cantelon was chairman with Miss Agnes McNeil treasurer, and G. Wright, auditor. Arrangements were made for the Drama Festival and two silver cups were donated; one for the best actress by Mrs. S.C. Kirkland, and one for the best actor by H.B. Hockin. Dr. Finlay was named adjudicator. Miss McNeil resigned as she was moving to Toronto and R.E. Clunas was appointed treasurer in her place.

In 1938, J.A. Bosman and C.H. Pethick were added to the Board. The Drama Festival was held with Mrs. McPherson providing the music. In July Mr. Pethick was transferred to the Royal Bank at Bracebridge.

In 1939, the first reference was made about the Dutton Library joining the Elgin County Library Association. This meant paying \$25.00 a year and receiving a couple of hundred new books which could be exchanged every three months. Discussions on the matter were very heated and bitter. The most strenuous opponents of the plan were Mrs. S.C. Kirkland and H.B. Hockin. They resigned and have never come to the library since. They felt that joining the library Association would ruin the Dutton Library. Instead it has been the making of the library.

W.D. Roberts and C.C. Craven were added to the Board. The Drama Festival was held April, 4th 5th and 6th with Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Bambridge donating silver cups. The records do not show how successful this was. In October Mrs. Edward Docker resigned because of ill-health and she died in November. Mr. Clunas, being moved to Dundalk, resigned.

In 1940 J.A. Bosman resigned and Mr. Moffatt and Miss Jean McCallum were added. It was in this year that the magazine auction started. A notice was placed in the paper giving the cost price of

the various magazines. A box was placed on the desk at the library to receive the tenders. Half the purchase price was considered fair. This was enthusiastically received for a number of years and then there was no interest shown. Of late few bids were received.

The matter of joining the County Library Association again came up for discussion. It was approved unanimously. At first the books had to be packed in boxes and transported back and forth to St. Thomas. The motion to join was made by W.H. Fowler and seconded by Rev. R.C. Capper.

The Board agreed to again sponsor the Drama Festival but as ~~there~~ there were only two entries the decision was made to drop it.

In 1941, Rev. Walter Nichol, Rev. R.C. Capper and William Blain were added to the Board. E.C. Craven became treasurer and Miss Edna Anguish became auditor. The Town Council this year entered into a contract with the library to give free room, free light and free heat and a grant of \$250.00 a year. In February, The library Board decided to donate new curtains for the stage in the auditorium of the hall and a change in the lighting of the library was proposed. In September Mrs. Garfield Ross donated a framed picture of the 91st Battalion, taken at the Barracks in St. Thomas, to the library. It with the Roll of Honour was hung on the south wall of the library.

The 50th anniversary of the library occurred in 1942. Mrs. Bambridge, the librarian wished to mark the occasion in a big way but was balked by the Board of which William Blain was the chief antagonist. Duncan McArthur, Minister of Education, and an uncle of Mrs. Bambridge had planned to be present at any ceremony, free of charge. But when that was not possible, he presented the library with an autographed copy of "The King's Grace," written by John Buchan, in honor of the anniversary. Mr. Blain's opposition to having a celebration was due to the fact that he refused to be convinced that the Minister would come for free.

In November, C.C. Craven resigned as he was moving to Ridgetown. Mrs. M.G. Graham, W.D. Roberts, and A.E. Cantelon resigned. Mr. Cantelon's resignation was not accepted.

In 1942, the library pursued the even tenor of its way with nothing of not happening.

In 1943, Miss Jean McCallum resigned to take a teaching position in Paris, and Rev. R.C. Capper was transferred to Walkerton. Members of the new Board were; J.T. Johnston, chairman; Mrs. John Bambridge, librarian and secretary; and William Blain, treasurer; Board; H. Fenton, Miss Doris Brown, C.W. Taylor, A.E. Cantelon, Rev. G.A. Barnard, Miss Margaret Leitch, and Rev. Walter Nichol. Except purchasing new cutains for the windows, the year was purely routine.

In 1944, the members of the library board were; B.E. Downey, chairman; Mrs. Victor McMillan, auditor, and Mrs. Donald Ford and Rev. Thomas Fraser were added to the Board. J.T. Johnston resigned This year. In October steps were taken to improve the lighting in the library. The Board had to borrow \$100 against its town grant of \$250.00. In December, Mrs. Bambridge was presented with a ten-dollar bonus. Her salary at this time was \$20 a month, paid very irregularly.

In 1945, Rev. Thomas Fraser resigned, and Mrs. Hill Hamilton was added to the Board. Rev. Walter Nichol was chairman, Mrs. Donald Ford, treasurer, and Mrs. Victor McMillan, auditor. County Council raised its grant from \$25 to \$50. Again the Board had to borrow \$125 against its Town grant. Of this money \$25 was applied on the librarian's salary which was in arrears.

This year was the first time that the sponsoring of University Extension Lectures was discussed, but owing to the difficulty of transportation the matter was dropped. It was decided to open the library on Thursday afternoon and evenings instead of on Wednesday in order to better suit the public. In an effort to obtain funds, the Board sponsored the appearance of the London Male Choir at a cost of \$125 plus transportation. Unfortunately the event was not well attended and the Board barely made expenses.

In 1946, John Fry and Glen Galbraith were added to the Board. B.E. Downey resigned and H. Fenton accepted a teaching position in Rodney Public School and moved away. Rev. Walter Nichol resigned as he had retired from the ministry and expected to move from

Dutton. Mrs. John Ross, who often acted as librarian, was added to the Board. Rev. Nichol did not move away and he resumed his position as chairman. In the summer Mrs. Bambridge tendered her resignation as librarian but the Board laid it over till September. In October, Mrs. Donald Ford was appointed librarian for November and December. In December, Mrs. Bambridge's resignation was regretfully accepted, and it was agreed to pay her two months extra salary. Mrs. Ford was appointed librarian at \$20 a month.

Again it was necessary to borrow from the Dutton Council against the \$250 grant. To help the library finances, the Young People of Grace United Church, St. Thomas, put on a play, sponsored by the library.

In 1947, the library board members were; Rev. Walter Nichol, chairman; Mrs. Donald Ford librarian and treasurer; board members were; Mrs. William Blain, Mrs. Ralph Bailey, Mrs. Hill Hamilton, Mrs. John Ross, A.E. Cantelon, Miss Jessie McColl., Mrs. J.A. Bosman, Mrs. Stanley Wheeler.

It was a year of frustrations and disappointments. Attempts to raise money failed. The Board tried to revive the Drama Festival but there were no applications.

Mrs. Norman Welch was staging a Musical Festival and it was hoped that she might share the money with the library if they sponsored the event. However, Mrs. Welch refused to co-operate. The possibility of getting the Young People of Shedden to put on a play for the library was investigated, but the cast had disbanded.

A notation appears in the records as to disturbances in the hall during library hours.

During the summer, Mrs. Elona Bambridge attended a Short Course at Library School at London, and obtained her "E" certificate in librarianship. For this she received \$100 a year extra salary from the Ontario Government. Toward the end of the year Mrs. Ralph Bailey resigned because of ill-health and Mrs. Donald Ford asked to be relieved of her duties as librarian. The only bright spot in the year was when Rev. Walter Nichol appeared before the Dunwich township Council and obtained a grant for the library of \$50.

In 1948, Mrs. John Bambridge returned to the library as librarian and secretary of the Board with A.E. Cantelon as chairman, and Mrs. John Ross as treasurer. The Board members were; Stanley Wheeler, Rev. Russell Gordon, Rev. Hill Hamilton, Miss Jessie McColl, Mrs. B.E. Downey, and Mr. Wilhelm, a teacher.

Mrs. Bambridge was named to represent the library on the Hall Board. In September, new shelves were built in the front corner of the library, by the door by Mr. Kendall, and painted by Stewart McGaw. In October two new blinds were purchased for the library windows. This added greatly to the appearance of the room.

On Nov. 29th, Dr. Pleva, of the Extension Department of the Western University, London gave the first such lecture in the Dutton Library. The receipts of admission amounted to 19.70 and the expenses were 11.25.

In 1949, Mr. Cantelon retired as chairman of the Board and Rev. Walter Nichol became chairman with Mrs. John Ross as treasurer. Board members were, Mrs. William Blain, Mrs. Hill Hamilton, Mrs. Herbert Green, Miss Jessie McColl, Stanley Wheeler, Mr. Bauman, Mrs. Bert Downey, and Miss Margaret Leitch. Apparently the only event of interest was a lecture by Dr. B.H. McNeil, of the University of Western Ontario at London, on "Manners, Morals and Mental Health." The receipts were \$19.30 and the receipts, \$13.20.

In April the library presented an art exhibit by Mrs. Archie Malcolm. In an effort to boost finances, the library board contacted Mr. Donald Wright, of London, with a view to having him bring his choral group, "The Don Wright Chorus" to Dutton for a concert. However, he wanted \$300 for an appearance which was far too expensive for the library.

It was in the fall of the year that a new set of the Encyclopedia Britannica was purchased for the library for \$180.48. The real price was \$240, but an educational discount of 20% amounting to \$48, brought the price to \$192. A six per cent discount for cash, amounting to \$11.52, brought the total cost to \$180.48.

Mrs. Herbert Green had been approached by Mr. Peterson of radio station CHLO, St. Thomas, in regard to arranging a series of broadcasts entitled, "Your Community And You," She invited the library Board to participate. After some consideration, co-operation