

was promised when the new Bobier Convalescent Home was opened under the direction of Mrs. Charlotte Wilson, who later became Mrs. Harry Montgomery. The Home opened January 21st, 1950 and the library presented a program over CHLO, St. Thomas with Rev. Walter Nichol as the speaker.

In 1950, the Board members were; Rev. Walter Nichol, chairman; Mrs. John Ross, Treasurer, and members, Mrs. William Blain, Mrs. Hill Hamilton, Mrs. Herbert Green, Miss Jessie McColl, Stanley Wheeler, Mr. Bauman, Mrs. B.E. Downey, A.E. Cantelon, . C. Reddall became assistant librarian. On Feb. 12th, John Bambridge, husband of the librarian passed away. In June there was the first record of the bookmobile calling at the library. Miss Dorothy Steele, high-school teacher had a display in the library of Grade nine work. And in September, Mrs. Cryderman of St. Thomas, gave an interesting lecture on the making of silver articles.

In 1951, Rev. Walter Nichol was again chairman, and Mrs. John Ross treasurer. Board members were Mrs. William Blain, Miss Jessie McColl, Mrs. B.E. Downey, Mrs. Robert Bruce, Mrs. Othetto Partridge, Stanley Wheeler, Paul Bauman, and R.E. Fraser.

Mrs. Bambridge resigned again and was made an honorary member of the Board. Mrs. C. Reddall, who had been assistant librarian, moved to St. Thomas. In April Mrs. Herbert Green was appointed librarian. In June Mrs. Green attended a Library Short Course, in London and obtained her "E" Certificate in library science. Mrs. John Ross acted as librarian in Mrs. Green's absence. The Board received a letter from Mr. Donovan, instructor of the Course, advising them that Mrs. Green had passed the course with honor and distinction. This meant that Mrs. Green was entitled to \$100 Government grant every year in addition to her salary, which was \$20 a month.

On Oct. 12th, Mrs. Bambridge was invited to the library board meeting and was presented with a bouquet of mums and a handsomely bound copy of "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayan".

The library also received a gift of 4 beautifully colored Bird Charts given by the West Elgin Nature Study Society. At the end of the year when all bills were paid, there was seven dollars in the treasury.



In 1952, Rev. W. Nichol asked to be relieved of his chairmanship because of ill-health, and Stanley Wheeler was appointed as chairman. The Board remained the same with Mrs. John Ross treasurer and Mrs. Herb. Green, librarian and secretary. The librarian was empowered to order such books as she deemed necessary. In February, Dr. McNeil, of the Western University of Western Ontario, gave a lecture. Mrs. Robert Bruce resigned as her husband was being transferred to another church, and Mrs. Fred Taylor was added to the Board.

In November, the library celebrated its Diamond Jubilee, sixty years of bringing books to the populace. It was indeed a gala occasion. The Board staged a contest for the school children of both the public and high schools. Each group had to write an essay on the library. The judges for the public school were, Mrs. John Ross, Mrs. B.E. Downey; for grades 9 and 10, Mrs. Stewart Kirkland and Mrs. C.C. Crawford; and for grades II, 12, and 13, Rev. Russell McGillivray and Miss Donald McKerracher. The prizes in each class were \$5.00, \$3.00 and \$1.00.

The talent of Mrs. Serle Lucas was enlisted in arranging a program. Mrs. Lucas wrote a special play for the occasion entitled "Pen Parade." In this nearly all the children and teen-agers of the village had parts. The play was directed by Mrs. Lucas, assisted by Mrs. James Bennett and Mrs. Stanley Wheeler. Mrs. Herb. Green looked after publicity,

The play was presented for two nights to full houses and the receipts were \$676.25. The effort on the part of the Dutton Library Board caused quite a stir as no library had ever attempted anything like it. It received excellent write-ups, not only in the DUTTON ADVANCE but also in the St. Thomas TIMES & JOURNAL and THE LONDON FREE PRESS. On the night of the event photographers were present from the three papers and this elaborate library project was a huge success, not only financially but also from the wide publicity that the library received.

An editorial appeared in the LONDON FREE PRESS pointing out what could be accomplished by any small library if it really made the effort. A write-up of the event also appeared in the LIBRARY



REVIEW, a magazine published by the Department of Education and giving outstanding news about all the libraries of Ontario. As a result of PAN PARADE the library was able to pay all its bills and has remained out of debt ever since.

The year 1953 was quiet, following the very active previous year. Mrs. John Ross resigned as treasurer and Mrs. Othetto Partridge took her place. Miss Jessie McColl, Mrs. B.E. Downey, R.E. Fraser, Rev. C.E. Beacom, Lloyd Doan and Mrs. Frost Hockin comprised the Board with Stanley Wheeler as chairman. A motion was passed to the effect that if any of the Board members proved inactive, the other members had authority to replace them. To convenience the chairman, the Board members held their meeting at 4.30 in the afternoon instead of at night. Afternoon meetings proved popular and the library board continues to hold them at that time.

Dr. Crane, late of London, had moved to his home farm at the end of Shackelton Street, and was invited to join the library board.

The question of insurance was reviewed and the Board learned that the contents of the library were insured in three places; with Roy McNeil for \$1500 at a cost of \$12.25 for 3 years; with Gordon McKellar. This was at his death taken over by Miss Edna Anguish, and when Miss Anguish moved to California, Eugene Mann and his wife. Mr. Mann died and for a time Mrs. Mann operated alone. Then she married Z.E. MacCallum and they took over together. The amount involved was \$1500 at \$12.75. It was also insured with A.E. Cantelon for \$1500 at \$12.75.

In November, Mrs. Fred Taylor resigned and moved to Uxbridge. ~~Miss Betty McGregor became assistant librarian.~~ Due to the improved financial an increased number of books was purchased this year.

The year 1954 saw considerable changes in the Board. Mrs. Frost Hockin and Mrs. Fred Taylor resigned from the Board and Mrs. Victor McMillan resigned as auditor. George Mortin became auditor and Mrs. Gordon Hall, Rev. Ripley Parsons, the new Anglican minister, were added to the Board. In March, Dr. Gwynne-Timothy of the history department of the Western University presented a lecture which was well attended. The outstanding event of the year was a lecture and cartooning given by Merle Tingley, editorial cartoonist for the



LONDON FREE PRESS. The hall was packed, the audience enthusiastic, and the financial returns beyond all expectations. Another popular event was a garden tea held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Blain.

The year 1955 proved to be most unsettling. Mrs. Harry Humphries and Harold Keedwell was added to the Board, with Mr. Wheeler as chairman, and Rev. Ridley Parson, treasurer. Miss Ilene Wallace, the first librarian of the Elgin County Bookmobile had resigned to go to England. She had been succeeded by John Wilson. Endeavoring to extend his circulation, he arranged book stops throughout the County one of which was at Wallacetown. Unfortunately this cut into the circulation of the Dutton Library.

In February the Dutton Library Board was informed that the Dutton Council wished them to trade rooms with the Post Office, which claimed it did not have enough space. This came as a shock, for the library room had been specially designed for the library and with it went a contract for free light, heat. The possibility of using another room was investigated but all were too small for the library. Reeve George Walker suggested that the Library Board approach the County Council for a grant of \$200 to finance the library removal. This was refused. Mr. Walker then had the brilliant idea to give the library a cheque for \$500 and then charge them for rent, light and fuel. This meant that a great portion of the Dutton Council's grant of \$250 would have to be used in this way. The Library Board refused as it was felt that in this way their contract would be broken and the library would always be saddled with these extra expenses. Instead they requested their usual grant of \$250.

Through the years it has been found that none of the members of the governing bodies were readers and so they have no appreciation of books, the library or the work it is trying to do. The same holds true right up to the present. (1966)

At the end of the year Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wheeler resigned as they were moving to Brantford. Miss Betty McGregor became assistant librarian. The Catholic Women's League of St. Helen's Church at Wallacetown presented the library with a number of books.



In 1956, Rev. C.E. Beacon became chairman of the Board, and Rev. R. Parson, treasurer. Miss Maude Fleming, A.E. Roberts, and Mrs. M.G. Graham were added to the Board. Miss Betty McGregor moved to London and Miss Kathleen Cook became assistant librarian.

In August, Mrs. William Blain gave a very successful garden tea for the library, and in the fall Merle Tingley, Free Press cartoonist made a repeat visit and played to a capacity audience which filled the Memorial Hall. The children of Public School, S.S. #1, Dunwich, under the direction of their teacher, Mrs. Serle Lucas, presented several fine numbers, while the students of grade 7 and 8 of the Dutton Public School, under the direction of their music teacher, Mrs. Eugene Saunders, sang several fine choruses.

Later Dr. Peitchinis, also of the University of Western Ontario, gave a lecture on the situation in the Balkans. As Dr. Peitchinis was a Greek, he spoke of the situation with authority.

This year the Board had the librarian's desk resurfaced with Arborite.

In 1957, Mr. and Mrs. Belleperche and Mrs. James McPherson were added to the Library Board. Rev. Walter Nichol retired on account of illness but he was retained as an honorary member of the Board.

Miss Angela Armit, of Western University, gave a humorous talk and showed slides of her recent trip to Ireland. The students of Dutton Public School, under the direction of Mrs. Eugene Saunders, presented several choruses, and Frances and Susan Beacom favored with a piano duet. In the summer Mrs. Blain gave another successful tea for the library, at her home.

Through the good offices of James McBain, M.P., the library received the Parliamentary Guide, Nato, copy of the Canada Year Book, and also copies of Hansard.

Due to the fact that the furnace at the Hall was out of order, The Dutton Council gave the library a gas heater which heated the library much better than the furnace ever did. The Library Board then decided to make some much needed improvements to the library. Leonard Welch was hired to paint the walls and ceiling a pale green, the windows, white, to varnish the tables and to paint the Library sign on the windows. When completed, the room was very attractive.



In 1958, the Board remained the same except for the addition of Mrs. F.A. Gadd, wife of the Anglican rector.

Early in 1959, the library gave a tea in the library itself in an effort to familiarize it to the people. In an effort to interest the students of the public school, the Board staged a poster contest, for grades 7 and 8 of the Dutton Public School. Students of Mrs. Audrey Leitch's School, S.S. I, Union took part also. The tea was well attended and some remarked that it should be an annual affair. Mrs. B.E. Downey displayed two landscapes which she had painted. Mrs. Mac McGeachie exhibited a very lovely and unusual picture of the LAST SUPPER, embroidered in beautiful colors on white satin. In its deep white frame it was outstanding.

Another exhibit of special interest was a map in color of Elgin County drawn and painted by James Burch and Ronald Horn, grade 8 students of Dutton Public School. This was framed by Herbert Green, to preserve it as long as possible.

The Dutton Library has always had two definite goals. First to acquaint the public with the many fine services which it has to offer, and second, to co-operate with the schools by providing stimulus and information for various projects. The presence of the many guests at the tea attested to the popularity of the event.

Later in the year, Wilfred Jury, archaeologist, of Western University, gave a lecture on "THE INDIANS BEFORE THE WHITE MAN CAME." Still later, Dr. F.S. Maime, also of the Western University, gave a very interesting lecture on THE ROMANCE OF THE ROADS.

For all the events staged by the library, posters were made by Herbert Green, and to these the Board credited much of the success they enjoyed.

At a Board meeting, the librarian drew attention to the fact that there was practically no information available in the library on the early history of Dutton and the area round about. The Board realized that such information was rapidly becoming more difficult to obtain as the people familiar with the period passed on. It would soon be impossible to obtain. The Board authorized Mrs. Herb. Green to attempt to compile such a history of Dutton and Dunwich. In hopes of stirring interest in the project, a notice was placed in the