

DUTTON ADVANCE requesting that people having any of the desired information, contact the librarian.

Mr. Herb Campbell, editor of the DUTTON ADVANCE published an article written on this subject by the librarian. This was followed the next week by an editorial written by Mr. Campbell. Later, in its column called, WEEKLY EDITORS' NEWS COMMENT, the LONDON FREE PRESS mentioned the efforts of the Dutton Library to collect this historical information. It said, "It has long been recognized that those who make history seldom realize the value of their contribution. They find it hard to believe that any act of theirs may be of value in the years to come. If they did and some one recorded the events as they occurred, there would not be a scarcity of such material in the years to come." As a result of all this publicity, a number of people called offering much wanted information.

Another notable event occurred in October, the library had as guest speaker, HOPE GARBER, hostess for the AT HOME SHOW seen daily on Channel 10, CFPL - TV, London. The hall was packed and it was a most successful affair. Mrs. Garber invited Mrs. Herb. Green to appear on Channel 10 to be interviewed about the history of Dutton and Dunwich, which she was compiling. This took place early in November.

When the annual meeting was held early in 1960, it was found that the Dutton Library had reached its highest financial peak in its history. The receipts totalled \$1422.16 with the expenses being \$868.66 leaving a balance of 553.50. The results from the library tea, plus the receipts from the three lectures amounted to \$ 90, which accounted for its affluent condition.

Rev. C.E. Beacom remained chairman; Miss Frances Beacom became assistant librarian. The Board remained the same. Mrs. B.E. Downey Mrs. William Blain and Rev. C.E. Beacom were authorized to purchase for the library a new colored Canadian print. They selected a stark winter landscape showing a woods of white birch bark trees. When framed, this picture cost the library \$25.00 Miss Angela Armitt, of the Western University, London, gave another lecture. Her other lecture had been so successful. Unfortunately, the night proved to be the worst of the winter, consequently the attendance was poor. There was a photograph display by the London FREE

PRESS, which drew much attention. Also a reading lamp was purchased for the librarian's desk. During the year Miss Maude Fleming resigned. The County Bookmobile was now firmly established and charged \$25 dollars a year for its services.

In 1961, the library was still progressing. Miss Tena Thomson was added to the Board. Two new fluorescent lights were installed which added greatly to the appearance of the library.

In 1962, the Library Board regretfully parted with Rev. C.E. Beacom and Miss Frances Beacom, who were moving to Arva. A presentation was made to them. This year the Board lost through death one of its longest and most faithful members in the person of A.E. Cantelon, who had been a member of the Dutton Library Board for more than 40 years.

William Blain became chairman, and Mrs. Colin Morrison and Z.E. MacCallum were added to the Board. George Mortin became auditor, and remained in that position till the end of 1965.

A library tea was held and an Indian Collection, owned by George Johnson, was exhibited. Mr. Walter Bazely, newly returned to Canada after 12 years in Africa gave a lecture, with slides, on that country. In addition he exhibited a number of native novelties to the delight of his enthusiastic audience. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Dinkar Balkrishna Deshpande, just arrived from their native India. They had met the Bazeley's in Africa where Mr. Deshpande was teaching English in Uganda, East Africa. Mrs. Deshpande wore a very colorful sari. It was a happy reunion for them. Mr. Deshpande is now teaching English at West Lorne High School. It was a most successful and exciting evening.

The year 1963, was very quiet for the library. A stepstool was purchased for the library. Merle Tingley, of the London Free Press, gave an educational lecture on his recent trip to Africa. Unfortunately, Mr. Tingley had created an image as a cartoonist and the very excellent crowd was unwilling to accept him in any other role, especially the teen-agers. Thus this was more or less a flop, and there have been no lectures since.

In 1964, the old radiators were removed from the library and in their place new shelves were erected. At a Board meeting some of the members wished to purchase various things for the library

but Mr. Keedwell, the treasurer, pointed out that, because most of the library grants were received at the end of the year, it gave a false sense of affluence. This bank balance had to last most of the year. As a result, only some very necessary redecorating and improvements were done. Additional shelves were installed and the librarian's salary was raised to \$40 a month. As Mrs. M.G. Graham, who had been on the Board for over 25 years, was moving away, a presentation was held for her at the home of Mrs. B.E. Downey in July. In October, the sad news came that Mrs. Graham had passed away.

The possibility of starting an IN MEMORIAM SHELF was discussed but nothing was definitely done about it.

Another Board member, Miss Tena Thomson, also passed away this year.

In 1965, Rev. J.W. Shaver, pastor of St. John's United Church, became chairman and Mrs. Kenneth Leitch became treasurer. Rev. D.B. Cram, Miss Catherine Livingstone, Mrs. Mary Johnston, and Mrs. Alex McWilliam, were added to the Board. The Dutton Women's Institute donated \$25 to the Library Board.

There was a feeling of uneasiness and change in the air. A number of the Dutton Library Board attended a banquet in St. Thomas, sponsored by the Elgin County Library Board, to hear Dean Kent, of the London Library, explain what was entailed by the proposed new County system for the consolidation of the small libraries in the County of Elgin. Reeve B.E. Downey, appeared before one of the Dutton Library Board meetings to further explain this regional system. All the libraries were loath to lose their own freedom and identity.

The libraries were given a vote in the matter, and if 75% of the II libraries in Elgin voted in favor, it would become law. However, this was a vote that really was not a vote. For libraries that voted in the negative would be closed as there would be no more government grants to libraries. So it was either vote "yes" or close the doors.

According to agreement all rent, light, and heat would be paid for by the County. All cataloguing would be done at the County library. All librarians and assistants would be paid from there.

The new regime was due to start on January 1st. 1966. At that time all funds which a library possesses must be placed in trust with the County Library. Any purchases had to go through the County library and be deducted from the trust fund. This money would be entered on the County books and qualify for a grant as an expenditure.

Miss Ruth Prowse of the County Library was invited to attend a meeting of the Dutton Library Board, to explain the situation in more detail.

This move for the consolidation of the small libraries of the County originated with the Provincial Department of Education at Toronto, under William Davis, and Mr. Roedde, head of the Department of Provincial Libraries. Thus it was felt advisable to consolidate the 11 small libraries of Elgin County with the Elgin County Library at St. Thomas under a single Board with one director.

The salaries of the librarians hinged on the volume of business during library hours. The insurance of the libraries was taken over by the County Board and given to the James Cowan & Company of St. Thomas, and was apportioned out by him to other insurance companies. The purchase of books and magazines was also taken over by the County Library.

Mrs. Blain, a Board member for over 25 years, passed away in October. It would seem as if a change was due, the old order changing, giving away to the new. So many of the old reliables passing on. Mr. Harold Keedwell resigned in November and Mrs. Kenneth Leitch became treasurer. Two new fluorescent lights were installed, making four in all. Mr. Walter Hull charged \$99 for the lights and some new shelving cost \$52.

The Dutton Board had naturally counted on the grants due in December to meet their expenditures. These expectations were doomed to disappointment. The Dunwich Council absolutely refused to give their usual grant of \$50. Their excuse was that they did not want any of their money going to St. Thomas.

The Dutton Council, with B.E. Downey as reeve, at first refused their grant also. But later reconsidered when it was explained that the library board required the money to meet their bills. However, the Board did not get the whole \$250 on which they were

counting. At the orders of the Union Gas Company, the Council had purchased a new gas stove for the library. The Board had not even known about it. But the gas company apparently had forced the issue. So the Council deducted the price of the stove, \$162.00, from the library grant. As a result, the Board just made the expenses, and the library had to go into the new set-up without any money to put in the County Library Trust Fund. The Dutton Council, too, did not want any of their money going to St. Thomas.

As of January 1st 1966, the Dutton Library became known as ELGIN COUNTY LIBRARY - DUTTON BRANCH. The library board of 1965 became a library committee to look after library matters of local concern, but they have no say in the actual running of the library. That was the business of the Elgin County Library Board with Sidney Glover of Aylmer, as chairman.

Thus ended 73 years and one month of the Dutton Library.

The Library Council Members for 1966 were, Rev. J.W. Shaver, chairman, Mrs. Kenneth Leitch, treasurer, and Mrs. Herbert Green, secretary and librarian. Board members were; Rev. D. B. Cram, Mrs. James McPherson, Mrs. Alex McWilliam, Miss Catherine Livingstone, Mrs. Mary Johnston, Mrs. B.E. Downey, and Z.E. MacCallum.

Thus ended the era of the Dutton Library as such.

DUTTON LIBRARIANS 1892 -- 1965.

From the opening of the Dutton Library in 1892, Nov. 18th, the various members of the library board took turns at acting as librarian as they had no money to pay a librarian. It was not until 1898 that they did have sufficient funds, to hire a librarian. The first librarian was a Miss McCallum (1898) and she received a salary of \$40 a year.

In 1904 Miss Christie Jordan became librarian for a number of years. A Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Tesky are mentioned as librarians. Then there was a Miss Love and a Miss Ada McKillop. The system of acquiring a librarian was very loose. They were glad to get anyone to do the job. The minutes were very sketchy.

The first librarian who regarded her job earnestly was Mrs. Snell who became librarian in 1920 and remained until 1926 when she moved to Toronto.

She was followed by Mrs. John Bambridge, a very excellent and interested librarian. She resigned in 1946, and Mrs. Donald Ford became librarian until 1948. In the meantime, Mrs. Bambridge had taken a Library Short Course in London and obtained her "E" certificate in librarianship. This meant a grant of \$100 every year from the Provincial Government, in addition to her salary of \$20 a month. Sometimes she had to wait a considerable time for her salary. Mrs. Robert Reddall became assistant librarian in 1950. She resigned and moved to St. Thomas. Mrs. Bambridge remained librarian until 1951, when she again resigned on account of ill-health.

In April, 1951, Mrs. Herbert Green was appointed librarian. She took a Library Short Course in London, and obtained her "E" certificate. She has now been librarian for over 15 years, (1966) and still retains her position.

In 1952, Mrs. Stanley Wheeler became assistant librarian and remained until 1954 when the family moved to Brantford.

Miss Betty McGregor followed her as assistant librarian and remained from 1954 to 1958.

She was followed by Miss Kathleen Cook, who resigned in 1959.

Miss Frances Beacom then assumed the position and remained un-

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til 1963, when the family moved to Arva.

The library was without an assistant librarian until late 1964, when Miss Mary Lou Mantle was given the position and still holds it. (1966)

DUTTON LIBRARY BOARDS 1892 - 1966

In the course of its 74 years the Dutton Library has had many Boards. As revealed by the minute books they are as follows.

- 1892 Nov. 18th
 L.J. Willson, chairman; Neil A. Campbell, secretary; J.E. Saunders, treasurer; Rev. Thomas Wilson, Rev. C.T. Scott, Rev. J. Hill, Rev. H. Randall, Dr. J. Cascadden, Dr. J.A. Shannon, James Poole, D.S. Skinner, J.D. Blue. The above Board continued in office until 1896.
- 1896 A. Patterson succeeded Neil A. Campbell as secretary.
- 1898
 Rev. J. Steven became chairman, succeeding L.J. Willson. J.C. Payne became secretary, and Albert Patterson, became treasurer. A little later Rev. Mr. Powell became chairman, and Rev. T.B. Howard, secretary. Board members were, W.H. Barnum, Dr. Cameron, Dr. Cascadden, and Dr. Paton. The library was then closed for 5 months. No reason was given. Apparently there was only one Board meeting in 1902 and 1903.
- 1904 W.J. Robinson became chairman; Rev. T.B. Howard, secretary. The rest of the Board remained the same.
- 1908 M.S. Smith became chairman, and remained in that office until 1911.
- 1912 To 1920, nothing of interest was recorded. Notes very sketchy.
- 1920 John Ford became chairman, and E.A. Tesky, secretary. The Board members were; S.C. Kirkland, William Patton, A.E. Roberts, C.J. Curtis, Dr. Patton.
- 1921 A.E. Roberts, chairman; E.A. Tesky, secretary-treasurer; Members of the Board; A.E. Cantelon, S.C. Kirkland, S. Howell, W.H. Cape, William Patton, J.A. Snell. John Fry.
- 1923 A.E. Cantelon, chairman, S. Howell, treasurer.