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An interesting experiment is being tried in the program for May 11 in the forum dialogue on “The menace of mediocrity.” The plan is to be developed much as it is worked out in the popular Town Hall of the air. Two contrasting speakers will present the arguments pro and con regarding the purchase of books for a library. At the conclusion of their talks the meeting will be open to questions from the audience, which may be directed to either speaker through the chairman. It is the time to think up all of those puzzling arguments which have been directed at libraries by the citizens of Rhode Island and to refresh them in the form of questions for the forum.

THINGS TO SEE IN WICKFORD
During the noon hour extra time is planned for visiting some of the delightful and interesting places in the charming village of Wickford. Several of the old houses will be open for inspection. Wickford, the old McKerron church erected on McFarren Hill in 1707 and removed to Wickford in 1800, will be open, and the old silver presented by Queen Anne will be on display.

The Wickford House is famed as the second oldest English settlement in Rhode Island. It was here that Roger Williams set up his trading post. This, Howard M. Chapin of the Rhode Island Historical Society thinks, may have been in the first year of his abode at Providence, color to the theory being afforded by the fact that the founder of the city reached the bank of the Moshassuck River late to do much planting in its first year.

Whether or not Wickford antedates Providence, Newport makes no difference, of course; the Dutch were trading in Rhode Island territory for some time before the English occupied the land, at least a century before the Dutch Island probably at Corneting Island in Wickford Core, and on the Warees shore.

The closely built village to which the name Wickford now attaches is actually less ancient than its appearance suggests. Richard Smith, who bought William’s holdings in 1651, had constructed a spacious house overlooking the harbor. This house and a wharf, one of which is still there, was credited with owning a strip nine miles long and three miles wide.

On his death this passed to his children and grandchildren, a sandstone with a little ledge like, becoming owner of most of the present village site. It was not until 1790 that he platted and began selling this property, and the village properly may be considered to date from that year.

The name, however, had been given nearly half a century earlier to the entire countryside now included in the western part of North Kingston and extending to the northern end of South Kingston. The Council for the Colony of Connecticut thus christened the section July 30, 1663, choosing the name in honor of Elihu Wickford, son of John Wickford of Connecticut, who had been born at Wickford, England.

The Council couldn’t be bothered to outline the presumably new township. The name itself is one of the few surviving reminders of the long struggle between Connecticut and Rhode Island for jurisdiction over southern Rhode Island.

Updike, the real estate man, changed it to Updike’s New Town, and so it was called until within the nineteenth century. He laid out a road, or thereabouts it was the main street, the present Main and Water streets, from sideway to "the country road," otherwise the old Pequot Path which now is the Post Road.

Two or three lively periods of real estate speculation ensued, purchasers buying solely with a view to reselling at a profit. This accounts for the diminutive lots and crowded housing along old Main street.

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During the noon hour extra time is planned for visiting some of the delightful and interesting places in the charming village of Wickford. Several of the old houses will be open for inspection: the Chapin farm, the old McG serven church erected on McG serven Hill in 1707 and removed to Wickford in 1800, will be open, and the old silver presented by Queen Anne will be on display.

Following the afternoon session arrangements have been made to have the Barn Museum and the Gilbert Stuart House open for guests. Since both of the museums are surrounded against many odds to maintain themselves financially, the usual admission fee of 25 cents will be charged at each place. You will be served at the Gilbert Stuart House for 25 cents. Many members of the Association will not only welcome the opportunity of visiting these places but will be glad of the opportunity of helping in a small way toward their maintenance.

LUNCHEON

Arrangements have been made with the management of the Wickford House to serve a special luncheon to members of the Rhode Island Library Association at 75 cents. The following menu has been selected:

- Tomato juice
- Chicken pie
- Two vegetables
- Rolls
- Coffee

The Wickford House is located throughout Rhode Island as a good place to eat, so that luncheon should prove one more attractive feature of an interesting day on May 11th.

The name, however, had been given nearly half a century earlier to the entire countryside now included in the western part of North Kingstown and extending to the northern end of South Kingston. The Council for the Colony of Connecticut thus christened the section July 10, 1663, choosing the name in honor of Elizabeth Wal, wife of John Winthrop of Connecticut, who having been born at Wickford, England, the Council couldn't be bothered to outline the presumably new township. The name itself is one of the few survivals of the strong struggle between Connecticut and Rhode Island for jurisdiction over southern Rhode Island.

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Two or three lively periods of real estate speculation, council, purchasers buying solely with a view to reselling at a profit. This accounts for the diminutive lots and crowded housing along old Main street.

Wickford is not out of imposing antiquity, certainly it has preserved its charm more closely than almost any other village in Rhode Island.

The Barn Museum, however, has been in the first year of his abode at Providence, color to the theory being afforded by the fact that the fathers of the city reached the bank of the Moshassuck also to do much planting in their first year.

Whether or not Wickford antedates Newport makes no difference, of course; the Dutch were trading in Rhode Island territory for some time before the English occupied the land, at least in the Dutch Island Colony at Corneling Island in Wickford Cove, and on the Warre shore.

This closely built village to which the name Wickford now attaches is actually less ancient than its appearance suggests. Richard Smith, who bought Williams' holdings in 1651, had built Congestion, probably on the site of William's trading post, and had collected actual evidence and souvenirs there. In 1790 he was credited with owning a strip nine miles long and three miles wide.

On his death this passed to his children and grandchildren, a grand­ son-in-law of the late, becoming owner of most of the present village site. It was not until 1790 that he platted and began selling this property, and the village properly may be considered to date from that year.

Mrs. Joseph Warren Greene, Board of Trustees, North Kingston Free Library,

R. L. A. BULLETIN COMMITTEE

Mrs. E. M. H. Bird, Chairman

Elmwood Public Library, Providence

Miss Alice McGovern, Providence Public Library

Miss Mildred Bradbury, Elmwood Public Library

Vol 9, May 1937, No. 4

WICKFORD

By J. Earl Clason

Wickford, where the Rhode Island Library Association will hold its May meeting, has an undocumented claim as the second oldest English settlement in the New World. It was here that Roger Williams set up his trading post.

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in Europe, and Mrs. R. W. Cross.

Special Notice to Members

It is proposed to amend in part Section 5 of the Constitution of the Rhode Island Library Association. The paragraph three of this section now reads:

"There shall be a committee of three on relations with the Rhode Island State Board of Education."

This is to be amended to read:

"There shall be a committee of three on relations with the State of Rhode Island."

Library Notes

Anthony Free Library

The Anthony Free Library is open throughout the year, on Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 6 P. M. No difference in the schedule during the summer months.

The pupils from the schools are our steady patrons. We are able to include a goodly number of Junior Library guild books, adding them each month. I am pleased that the circulation is keeping up well and hope to add other new books shortly.

Myra S. Anthony, Librarian

Apponagansett Free Library Association

Apponagansett Free Library has established a very successful Story Hour during the past winter. The program has been in operation on every other Wednesday afternoon, at 3:30 P. M., under the supervision of Miss Ernestine Baxter, WPA story teller. Many times 150 children have attended. Plans are being made for a larger room as children come from three primary schools in the neighborhood.

A new magazine stand of current magazines for adults and juveniles is being established so no report can be made at this time. This library has promoted Publicity features outside the library as follows:

1. The Elmwood Public Library has endeavored to develop community interest in the library, by conducting a course of six travel lectures, illustrated by lantern slides and maps, during the winter months. The audience was taken on tours of interest with our speakers: To the Philippines on the "China Clipper"; To Germany by the dirigible "Ludwig"; To Russia, Hungary and Romania; To the Orient stopping off six weeks in Japan; and a five weeks tour of our own great and wildest of National Parks, Glacier Park, Montana.

2. By distributing posters in the Elmwood section of Providence calling attention to the Library with these words: "Locom walked 20 miles to borrow a book. The Elmwood Public Library has more and better books than you ever knew. Are you using the Library?"


4. Consultation and advice about Vacations and reading interests.

5. Counselor service through the advice of Miss Margaret Morey, who meets young people who are out of work, on Wednesdays from 3-5 in the afternoon and on Thursdays and Saturdays in the morning of May 15th unusual Sundays.

The Elmwood Public Library reports no changes on its Staff this year with the exception of Mr. Charles E. Dennis, librarian in the class of 1926, who became Mrs. Henry Howland last January and continued her work in the library until April 1st. Mrs. Howland has been a member of the Staff since May 1930, first as assistant to the Director of Libraries; later in charge of Periodicals and Serials and assisting in general Loan Desk and reference work.

Mrs. Howland's resignation was accepted with deep regret as her gracious personality, willing cooperative spirit and capacity for efficient service, have won unusual place in the hearts of her fellow-workers and patrons of the Library.

The Providence Athenaeum

Miss Helen Howland, assistant at the Providence Athenaeum, was married to a fellow librarian on February 13. Miss Barbara Hubbard, a graduate of Pembroke and Brown University in the class of 1936, has been appointed to succeed Miss Davy.

Elmwood Public Library

Summer plans are not definitely formulated so no report can be made at this time. This library has promoted Publicity features outside the library as follows:

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The People's Library, Newport, R. I.

The picture collection is being revised prior to the Changing Exhibits of permanent files.

The Children's department in cooperation with the local Boy Scout office is working on a Scout reading program, with the hope to be able to extend the various activities throughout the city.

The People's library is now a deposit station for the Merchant Marine Library Association.

Louise Cotrell

Rhode Island State College Library

Our summer plans are chiefly the move in to the new library building, Green Hall, which will be ready sometime in June.

Miss Florence Kemison, my secretary, plans to be married in June and hopes to continue on the library staff. She marries Mr. Bruce Fisher of the Psychology Department.

F. P. Allen, Librarian

John Hay Library

The staff of the John Hay Library held a luncheon and staff meeting on April 6. The luncheon was held and annually among the guests were President Henry W. Wris­ton, Mr. H. L. Koopman, Librarian Emeritus and Mrs. Koopman, and Mrs. H. B. Van Hoesen. The meeting was held at the Faculty Club. Papers were to be delivered by Mr. Koopman on the History of Brown University and by Mr. Peter K. Hristov, a graduate student from Bulgaria on Educational Systems in Europe, and Mrs. W. W.
Mrs. W. E. Cross.

by Prof.

first as assistant 1930, since May Staff student from Bulgaria on Educational program feature of our growth of Brown University Library, K. All arrangements for this delightful Dinners on the Library lawn in the Whists and Sales, have Food Owners of which have graciously con­

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Deborh Cook Sayles Public Library

Miss Grace P. M., Choute an assistant at the Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library has resigned. She was married to Joseph L. Sylvester on April 10th, 1937.

An increase of circulation has led the Board of Trustees to open the Darlington Branch on Saturday morning, formerly the Branch was opened only on Monday and Thursday, from 8 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For the third time in as many years the Review Copine for the Pawtucket Library has been increased, this year's appropriation being about fifteen hundred dollars above last year's expenditures.

Frank E. Greenw

Auburn Public Library

We have not done much along the line of "promoting" beyond posters, and displays of books on special subjects. We are now trying to build up and round out our book collection. And we have no regular book fund other than what we receive from the State, it is not an easy task.

Largely through funds donated by the Aubrun Library Club, a very active women's organization here in Auburn, we have: 1. developed a collection of books for young people of junior and senior high school age; 2. purchased a number of books for use in working with the schools; and 3. added many books to our special shelves, which until recently have been neglected for years. Before we try to stimulate children's reading, we feel that we must have more and better books to offer.

Then, too, a large section of the library has to be reclassified, and a smaller section reclassified, and this work is being carried on as rapidly as possible.

Kath. B. Raymond, Librarian

William H. Hall Free Library

We plan to have a Coronation Exhibit of pictures for the circus in June. We will start a project on "Traveling through New England," which will consist of pictures on the various sections of the coast, Cape Cod, Maine, etc.; of the mountains, of sports that may be practiced in the various parts of New England, an exhibit of the more common shells and seaweed to be found at the seashore and of plants and flowers that grow inland. There will be suitable books to supplement the pictures and exhibits.

"Grabs, Grabs, each one free and warranted to give pleasure"—this will be the caption that will hang over a large bag in the Children's Room this summer. When a grab is pulled from the bag, the child will find that it is a small, colored paper book. On one leaf there will be a note telling what kind of a book it is to be read: biography, history, etc., and on the other leaf there will be space for the title of the book the child chooses to read. When the book has been read and returned, the child may keep the grab, which makes a very nice book mark. When the child has ten of these grabs his name is placed on the library Honor Roll.

Annette E. Mitchell

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Harriet M. Briggs, Chairman, Watchemoket Library, East Prov. Clara B. Mowry, Providencia Athenaeum Sara E. Sherman, Elmwood Public Library

DONT FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Myron A. Hawkins, Librarian, Harmony Library, Chepachet, R. I.

"REVIEW COPIES"

Librarians will find the following article quoted from The New Yorker, for Jan. 30, 1937, of interest:

"Books no doubt mean to you what they mean to Christopher Morley and to us—old friends, companions of long summer afternoons and winter evenings, of which we grow fonder and fonder as they become dog-eared with use. It will give you to learn what the professional book reviewer does to do with the copies given him by publishers for review. They take them right down to Mr. Schulte's Book Store is, we are told by his wife, "We do not blame them. He does his best to make them by refusing to take advance orders for new books; best lays them out on tables, on a first-come-first served basis. Best customers are small public libraries: working on a slender budget, they find that it pays them to shop around at Schulte's.

"Schulte's buys the review copies of Lewis Gannett, Harry Hansen, Irita Van Doren, Isabel Paterson, Herbert Van Ghell, Franklin P. Adams, Will Cuppy and William Soskin, to name just a few. The Schulte collection of second-hand theological works is famous, and you'll always see a divine or two looking around. (Come to think of it, we have seen very few first-hand theological works.) Mr. Schulte has had all sorts of dealings with the great, including Mr. Rockefeller, Sr., Mr. K's secretary called up once and said that he wanted a certain hymnal which he had used in Sunday school, long ago; no expense was to be spared in getting a copy mailed over to his ten-cent shelf, picked out the hymnal, and sent it around to Mr. Rockefeller with a bill for ten cents."

PUBLICITY SERVICE UNCERTAIN

(Reprinted from A. L. A. Bulletin, April, 1937)

Less than 500 libraries have subscribed to the cooperative publicity service which the A. L. A. Publicity Committee proposes initiating if 1,000 advance subscriptions can be secured. How soon the project can be launched depends largely on the profession. To librarians want publicity aids—12 post-

(Continued on Page 8)
Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library

Miss Gertrude M. Chase, an assistant at the Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library, has resigned. She was married to Joseph L. Sylvester on April 10th, 1937.

An increase of circulation has led the Board of Trustees to open the Darlington Branch on Saturday mornings, formerly the Branch was opened only one day a week, and Thursday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For the third time in as many years the Library Association for the Paxtucker Library has been increased, this year's appropriation being about fifteen hundred dollars above last year's expenditures.

Frank E. Greene

Auburn Public Library

We have not done much along the line of "promoting" beyond posters, and displays of books on special subjects. We are now trying to build up and round out our book collection. And as we have no regular book fund other than what we receive from the State, it is not an easy task.

Largely through funds donated by the Auburn Library Club, a very active women's organization here in Auburn, we have: 1 developed a collection of books for young people of junior and senior high school age; 2 purchased a number of books for use in work with the schools; and 2 added many books to our adult shelves, which until recently have been neglected for years. Before we try to stimulate children's reading, we feel that we must have more and better books to offer.

Then too, a large section of the library has to be reclassified, and a smaller section reclassified, and this work is being carried on as rapidly as possible.

Kath B. Raymond, Librarian

William H. Hall Free Library

We plan to have a Coronation Exhibit of pictures for the soldier boys. In June, we will start a project on "Traveling through New England," that will consist of pictures on the various sections of the coast, Cape Cod, Maine, etc., of the mountains, of sports that may be practiced in the various parts of New England, an exhibit of the more common shells and seaweed to be found at the seashore and of plants and flowers that grow inland. There will be suitable books to supplement the pictures and exhibits.

"Grabs, grabs, each one free and warranted to give pleasure"—this will be the caption that will hang over a large bag in the Children's Room this summer. When a grab is pulled from the bag, the child will find that it is a small, colored paper book. On one leaf there will be a note telling what kind of a book is to be read: biography, history, etc., and on the other leaf there will be a space for the title of the book. The child chooses the one he wants. When the book has been read and reported on, the child may keep the grab, which makes a very nice bookmark. When the child has ten of these grabs his name is placed on the library Honor Roll.

Annette E. Mitchell

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Harriet M. Briggs, Chairman.

Watchemoket Library, East Provi. Clara B. Mowry, Providence Athenæum

Sarah E. Sherman, Elmwood Public Library

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Myron A. Hawkins, Librarian, Harmony Library, Chepachet, R. I.

"REVIEW COPIES"

Librarians will find the following article quoted from the New Yorker, for Jan. 30, 1937 of interest:

"Books no doubt mean to you what they mean to Christopher Morley and to us—old friends, companions of long summer afternoons and winter evenings, of which we grow fonder and fonder as they become dog-eared with use. It will give you to learn what the professional book reviewers do with the copies given them by publishers for review. They take them right down to 80 Fourth Avenue, before there's the least chance of their becoming dog-eared and sold to them to Mr. Schulte. Mr. Schulte invariably pays one-quarter the list price of a book, and buys any thing—hate, loves, children's, books, the latest Huxley or Maugham, expensive limited editions, detective stories, or technical expositions.

The monthly income of a busy reviewer who sells all his review copies is about enough to pay the rent of a small apartment. We know all this because Mr. Schulte has told us his story, which we have been told by Mr. Schulte's place, which is just above Tenth Street.

Shankland hands with Mr. Schulte and his silent partner, Mr. Peasly, and inspected, superficially, his stock of a million odd-second-hand volumes (not all review copies of course)."
ers a year and 12 monthly issues of “Publicity Tips”—enough to pay $6 a year for the service? If 500 more librarians promptly agree that they do, the service can be launched this fall in school, college, and public libraries, and state library commissions are now on the advance subscription list. Some libraries are taking a subscription jointly. Branch libraries—public or school—may subscribe for $4 a year if the main public or school library has a $6 subscription.

More publicity is essential, leaders inside and outside the library profession agree, if libraries are ever to have better understanding and support from the public. "Permanent growth and improvement must grow out of an informed public opinion and the duty is upon those assuming leadership to create such opinion," said Marion A. Wright, chairman of the South Carolina Library Board, speaking at the Richmond conference.

Library objectives can be accomplished "only when citizens in sufficient numbers determine to extend and improve an essential service which is essentia lly their own," Secretary Ickes told the same conference. "Librarians and library trustees cannot do the job alone."

For only fifty cents a month the proposed non-profit publicity service offers to aid librarians in their efforts to increase citizen interest and support of their libraries. One usable idea a month should be worth much more than the subscription cost—and a monthly poster would be received for good measure. Why not pledge an advance subscription today? No money will be collected until the service is started. Address the A.L.A. Publicity Committee, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

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**The Ballad of the Elmwood Elms**

There was discussion in our town, Petitions there were many, Full much as a hundred names were signed From Anthony down to Denny. "They want to cut our fair trees down, They want to spoil their beauty! To law, to law," the cohorts cried, "And on, then on, to duty!"

But came the men with timber saws, Came men with ropes and axes, Came down the trees, and end to shade, As sure as death and taxes! And now upon a moon-lit eve, A lass—her poor brain turned, Goes up and down the avenue, From stump to stump, so spurned! She clasps a tape-line in her hand— Now is she up to tricks? Ah, no, you'll hear her mutter low, "A perfect thirty-six."

Dorothy H. Hellen

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**NONSENSE**

A lady sez to me, sez she, Her eyes a-glint and-twinkle, "I'd like a very snappy book," (Her face had many a wrinkle.) I charmed her with Boccaccio, Contes Drolatiques, (Balzac) She read them both, with zest and verve. (My Gawd! she's coming back!) Please bring me the shoe-horn and talcum, Please shake me down well in my clothes, If I get in this two-way-stretch girdle, There won't be much left, goodness knows! There won't be much left for I'm melting, Into tiny finousel streams, With humidity taking me off—at the hips, I'll soon be the girl of your dreams!

Dorothy H. Hellen