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# BULLETIN

OF THE

## RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 7.

OCTOBER, 1934.

NO. 3



### TOCKWOTTON BRANCH LIBRARY

FALL MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1934, IN PROVIDENCE  
MORNING SESSION, 10:00 A. M.

Tockwotton Branch of the Providence Public Library  
(Corner of Hope and Power Streets)

Business Meeting

State and National Planning

Frank L. Tolman, Director Extension Division,  
N. Y. State Department of Education

Certification of Public Librarians

Report and discussion led by Clarence E. Sherman, Librarian,  
Providence Public Library

12:00, ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION, 2:15 P. M.

David W. Hoyt Library, Central High School  
(Pond Street)

Joint meeting with the Rhode Island School Libraries Association  
Pretty Problems

Lucile Gulliver, Editor-in-Chief, Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co., Boston  
The Fusion of Literature and Social Studies

James L. Hanley, Principal, Nathan Bishop Junior High School, Providence  
Business Meeting of the Rhode Island School Library Association

**BULLETIN**  
of the  
**RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Published every now and then,  
and designed to be of interest  
to librarians of Rhode Island.

**R. I. L. A. BULLETIN COMMITTEE**

**Josephine A. Hope, Providence Public Library**  
**Annie Kane,**

**Classical High School, Providence**  
**Mrs. Dorothy H. Hellen,**

**Elmwood Public Library, Providence**

Vol 7.      OCTOBER, 1934      No. 3

**THE TOCKWOTTON BRANCH OF THE  
PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The Tockwotton Branch building, originally, about half a century ago, erected for a church, was occupied by the Hope Street Methodist Church until 1927. In 1929 it was remodelled to meet the needs of a library building.

In the lower portion of the building are located the branch rooms, while the upper floor is used to store an overflow from the Central Library. This space will allow ultimately for a shelving capacity of 300,000 volumes. The lower floor is generously lighted by the large windows. An attractive fireplace occupies the centre of one of the walls above which has been placed a bas-relief representing the salutation of the Indians to Roger Williams. "Slate Rock", where this episode took place, is only a little more than a quarter of a mile away.

The story of the salutation runs thus: Roger Williams and Thomas Angell set off on a reconnoitering expedition down the Seekonk. As they neared the shore, they observed a group of Indians watching them from the top of a large slate rock. Thomas Angell wished to turn back, but Williams reassured him. As they approached the rock, they were hailed with "What Cheer, Netop?" ("Welcome, friend!"). They discovered that these Indians were allies of Williams's friend, Canonicus.

This old Tockwotton district of Providence is thought to be named from an Indian word meaning "it is frozen." It may have been the personal name of an Indian who lived on that tract of land.

It is hard to believe, with its array of gas and oil tanks of today, that Tockwotton had once one of the most picturesque water frontages of Providence.

Rather apropos of all this is a new book entitled "Tockwotton eclectics", by Hugh MacMichael, a man whose forty years' employment in Providence newspaper offices has given him a chance to study local persons and places. Everyone who lives in Providence knows where Tockwotton Park is.

This is what the author says on the first page of his book:

"Here in this wee sample of a park called 'Tockwotton' \* \* \* weath-ered and experienced victims of senility (known to the younger element as the Park Commissioners) have among their number men of different nationalities and from many divergent walks of life, including several students with wide experience; most of the assemblage, however, is made up of former hard-working artisans \* \* \* who have not been out of the state in years, nor have they heretofore listened with interest to the discussion of such abstruse questions as are embodied under the general heading of culture.

"These latter men, endowed with wisdom after life-experience, at times assume the role of interlocutors, seeking answers to the riddles of everyday life about them".

It is of these "Park Commissioners", who every day wend their way to the shady benches of Tockwotton Park, that Mr. MacMichael writes.

**HOW TO GET TO THE TOCKWOTTON  
BRANCH LIBRARY**

Governor Street bus—from corner of Dorrance and Westminster Streets to corner of Governor and Power Streets. Schedule: five of the hour, quarter past the hour and 25 minutes of the hour. After leaving the bus walk through to Hope Street and you will find the library right on the corner. This route is perhaps the best if you do not want to change cars or walk up College Hill.

Brook Street bus—Take any tunnel car at the corner of Dorrance and Westminster Streets, and get off at the Thayer Street end of the tunnel. Change to a Brook Street bus, which runs every twenty minutes, beginning three minutes past the hour.

Leave the bus at the corner of Brook and Power Streets and walk through to Hope Street. The walk from Brook Street is shorter than that from Governor Street.

Waterman Street car—any Waterman street tunnel car from the corner of Dorrance and Westminster Streets. Get off at Hope Street and walk down,



right, to the corner of Hope and Power Streets.

#### **RESTAURANTS THAT ARE CONVENIENTLY NEAR**

Abbott Hall Coffee Shoppe, corner of Waterman and Thayer Streets.

L. M. Carr Company, 107 Angell Street.

The Minden, 123 Waterman Street.

Pheasant Coffee Shoppe, 151 Cushing Street.

#### **WHO'S WHO AMONG THE SPEAKERS**

**Frank L. Tolman**

Mr. Tolman has held his present position of Director of the Library Extension Division since 1927. Among other important posts, he has been a member of the White House Conference on Child Health Protection since 1930. He is a co-author of "Current problems in public library finance", edited by Carl Vitz, and contributor to the "Encyclopedia Americana" and Nelson's "Loose Leaf Encyclopedia."

**Lucile Gulliver**

This year Miss Gulliver was appointed Editor-in-Chief of Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Co. In 1910 she was delegate to the International Peace Conference in Stockholm, and, in 1913, to the one at The Hague. From 1927-33 she was head of the Children's Book Department at Little, Brown and Co. She is author of "Over the nonsense road", 1910, "The friendship of nations", 1912, "Daniel Boone", 1916.

#### **NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE**

At the Anne Ide Fuller Library, East Providence, on the evening of October 3, Miss Mary R. Lucas, Supervisor of Young People's Reading at the Providence Public Library, delivered an address on "Books for Children."

The Auburn Public Library has increased its hours. Now the main library is open every day from 3-9 P. M., and the branch is opened one more day. Its schedule is now Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, 3-5:30, and Tuesday and Friday evenings, 7-9 P. M.

The whole main stack of the Brown University Library was reshelfed last spring in accordance with conclusions drawn by Mr. Norman L. Kilpatrick, Assistant to the Librarian, from his study of the "Heights of Books in Relation to the Height of the Stack Tier." Additional shelves were installed, and it is figured that the stack capacity has been increased by ten per cent.

Due to special working scholarships at Pembroke College and to F. E. R. A. aid, the number of student assistants at Brown University has been increased by about 25. Last spring, when the F. E. R. A. aid was first available, 23 students were employed until the end of the college term. They assisted in the catalogue, reference, binding, and order departments, filed music and cards, measured books for Mr. Kilpatrick's study, installed shelves, and then shifted all the books in the stacks.

Brown University Library and Swarthmore College Library have made an exchange of assistants. Miss Margaret E. Drewett, formerly an assistant in the Periodical and Binding Division at Brown, will be in the Circulation Department at Swarthmore, and Miss Martha B. Finch has come from Swarthmore to Brown to be an assistant cataloguer.

Other staff changes are as follows: Mr. Richard S. Currier, assistant at the Loan Desk, has been transferred to the Periodical and Binding Division. Mr. Aubrey H. Smith has been appointed an assistant at the Loan Desk. Mrs. Jessie M. Clarkson resigned her position as assistant in the Order Department, and in her place has been appointed Miss Carolyn Bell.

The Clark's Mills Library at Shannock is starting a story hour in October, to be conducted every two weeks by one of the library staff.

The Elmwood Public Library has been trying out a collection of books based on Professor William L. Phelps's recommendations in his monthly column in Scribner's, "As I like it". The attractive display poster for the collection is labelled "What I like", alongside of Mr. Phelps's portrait.

The vacation reading contest last summer was designed to steer the children away from mystery and western stories and develop a taste for reading a wider variety of books. A book game contest was held each week, involving a puzzle which had to be worked out by the children. The answer was the title of a book, which the child was then to read, and report on at the next meeting. A prize was given, which might be the child's favorite book. An eleven-year-old boy won the contest and chose "Pilgrim's progress" as his favorite book.

Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Austin T. Levy, a new library building has been presented to the town of Harrisville. The library is of red brick, colonial style, a very charm-

ing building, Miss Dorothy M. Cummings, Pratt, 1930, is Librarian, and Mrs. Maud Archer, Assistant Librarian. The library is open daily from 2-5:30 and 6:30-8:30 P. M., with the exception of Wednesdays and Sundays. All residents of the town of Burrillville and the neighboring town of Glocester are privileged to use the library.

On the evening of September 25, Mrs. Alice Collins Gleeson spoke on "The French in Rhode Island", before an audience of one hundred gathered at the Pawtuxet Valley Free Library. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides.

Miss Mary H. B. Wurts, for the past four years Children's Librarian at the People's Library, Newport, has resigned and taken up new duties as Children's Librarian at the George L. Pease Memorial Library, Ridgewood, N. J.

Following the recent resignation of Miss Bess McCrea, Assistant Librarian of the Providence Public Library since 1930, Miss Doris L. Hoit has assumed Miss McCrea's duties. Miss Hoit, a graduate of the University of Washington, 1918, comes from the New York Public Library, where she was the Assistant Librarian in charge of the Central Circulation Branch. Previous to this she was, for three years, associated with the American Library in Paris. Her experience also includes service in the public libraries of Seattle and Cleveland.

Miss McCrea, now convalescing on the Pacific coast after a severe illness last winter, has been on an extended leave of absence but was finally obliged to resign.

The recataloguing of the library is now in order. Miss Edith Snow, formerly Supervisor of Recataloguing at the Public Library, Portland, Me., has recently arrived.

Mrs. Catharine B. Merrick, formerly Librarian of the Wanskuck Branch, has been appointed Librarian of the Washington Park Branch. Miss Aimee F. Draper, formerly head of the Boys' and Girls' Department at the main library, succeeds Mrs. Merrick at Wanskuck. Miss Janet Merrill, formerly Librarian of the Washington Park Branch, is now First Assistant in the Boys' and Girls' Department.

Miss Elinor Clarke, formerly Children's Librarian at the Wanskuck Branch, has just been transferred to the Tockwotton Branch, where she holds the same position.

Miss Amy Wilcox has just resumed her work at the Sprague House Branch, after a year of study at the Carnegie Library School, Pittsburgh. Miss Wilcox was enabled to take this course by the award of the Hewins Scholarship to her.

The annual meeting of the Robert Beverly Hale Library Association, Mattunuck, was held on September 8 and the following officers elected: Thomas E. Steere, President; Miss Caroline P. Atkinson, Secretary; Nathaniel W. Smith, Treasurer. A resolution was adopted and recorded on the death of Mr. Charles Matlack, President of the library association for seventeen years.

The Rhode Island State College Library continues with its staff of three, although the enrollment of the college has increased. A new building has been voted, and the 50,000 volumes of the library must now be moved into temporary quarters while the present building is being remodelled and a new building is being erected. A graduate of the college, trained at the library school of Syracuse, is back doing post-graduate work in English and giving assistance in the library as a student worker. Another post-graduate working at the library has just received a cablegram to take a position in a chateau school seventeen miles from Paris.

During October the Westerly Public Library is exhibiting an interesting collection of water colors by Karl Larsson of Saundertown. Mrs. Larsson is well known to librarians as Marjorie Flack, author and illustrator of several very attractive juveniles.

An unusual collection of art books and periodicals has been presented to the library by Mrs. Charles H. Davis of Mystic, to be known as the Charles H. Davis Memorial Collection. These constituted the art library of Mr. Davis, one of the foremost landscape artists of our day. Many rare and beautiful items are included in the collection.

This past summer the children of the William H. Hall Free Library, Edgewood, made visits to the Inns of Storybook Land. Ten inns were listed to which visits could be made, including Wendy's house, The tavern of adventure, At the Sign of the Globe, and At the Sign of the Ship. For each visit to one of the inns (this of course means for each book read and satisfactorily reported on) the reader received a colored paper key to be used as a bookmark. Forty names were enrolled on the "Visitors' Register" and 352 books were read and reported on, making an average of eight books for each child.