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Linwood Library Gazette

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

Vol. 2 No. 7



APRIL 1937

RANGIORA FREE LIBRARY

By J. M. FRASER, A.I.A. N.Z.

Town Clerk, Rangiora

The Library at Rangiora was for many years controlled by a Library Institute. The Institute had its own building, and since its formation in the early eighties had collected a large number of volumes. The income was solely from subscriptions, and there were about 200 members. In 1925 the building was burned down and most of the contents destroyed.

The Council was approached and took over the control of the Library. Two members of the Library Committee were elected by the subscribers. In 1929 the Council took over full control, and subscribers' members were no more. The Library was open for exchange of books on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m., and on Tuesday afternoons. The cost to the Council after deducting revenue was about £200 per annum.

Last year it was decided to get a report by the Town Clerk on a reorganisation scheme. Crs. W. C. Prosser and E. W. Whitworth were very keen to bring about improvements, and as a result a complete change in the system was made. It was found, when inquiry was carefully made, that it would not cost the Council a great deal more to make the Library free to Borough residents. It was also found that the best results could be obtained by mak-

ing a complete change, including staff, hours, and location of the books.

The Council is fortunate in having a very large, airy upstairs room about 70 feet long by 23 feet wide, well lit by windows every few feet, and with plenty of indirect electric light. This room was previously used for a reading room and contained papers and magazines. The Library itself was in a small downstairs room and was becoming very full of books and shelves.

After some opposition from one or two members of the Council, and also from a small section of Library readers, the change was made in August last year. The change over has been a very complete success. Two Librarians are employed instead of one. Mr Bell of the Canterbury Public Library very kindly took these girls under his charge for a fortnight in order to give them some ideas on library management.

The Librarians work on alternate days. The Library is now open every week day from 10 to 12, 2 to 4, and 7 to 8 p.m. This meant that instead of being open seven hours a week, it is now open for 30 hours a week. The number of readers has increased from 220 to over 800, and in the juvenile section from 22 to 190. The books had to be removed upstairs, catalogued, and with the pocket system of exchange have pockets and cards fitted. This work was done with the help of Councillors who worked very long hours every night over the week that the Library was closed down.

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Arrangements were made with Mr Bell for him to purchase new books, and it was decided to build up the non-fiction side of the Library by making purchases 30 per cent non-fiction, 60 per cent fiction, and the balance reference and children's books.

A weekly Library column is published in the local newspaper, giving items of information re new books, and other matters of interest to readers. Arrangements were made with the local High School to show each fortnight on the walls of the Library, copies of famous paintings from the Carnegie Institute Art Gift to the High School. Most of the world travel and tourist agencies were written to for a supply of travel posters, and these are displayed every fortnight on the walls of the reading room. Some hundreds of posters came to hand as a result, and the Leys Institute of Auckland very kindly forwarded their collection of Art Travel posters for display.

One or two other items may interest readers of the Linwood Library, but probably these are already in use.

We cut the paper new book covers and paste these on to sheets which are hung over the Librarian's desk. We also paste in each book short reviews of new books. We also collect maps of all kinds, and have these backed in calico and varnished, and filed in a large map cabinet. We change the flowers every week in the Library. We made a complete change in the magazines purchased, and now get these direct from London, thus getting them six weeks, and sometimes two months earlier than by the old method. We have stopped purchasing magazines such as "Strand," "Pearson's," "Wide World" and so on, and now get periodicals like the "Woodworker," "Homes and Gardens," the "Studio," "Current History," "Geographic," "Walkabout," "National Geographic" and so on.

We very fortunately got a friend of the Library to rebind all the magazines without cost, and we now take off all the outside covers, back them with stout manila, and paste this on again after the book has been sewn with strong thread. Magazines so treated last a very long time and when

the readers are no longer taking them out, we sell them in quite good order.

We have a waiting list and charge 4d. to cover the cost of postage and we allow extra books to be taken out up to any number for payment of 3d. per book. Each household is allowed two free Reader Cards. Each card allows one book or two magazines to be taken out. Books can be changed as often as desired. All books in the fiction section are kept together in strict alphabetical order according to authors. We received a very great deal of help from Mr Norrie and Mr Perry of Wellington, and from Mr Bell and Mr Collins of Christchurch. In fact, every Librarian that we have approached for help has been very good to us. We are quite proud of our Library and although a great deal yet remains to be done, we feel that we have improved our Library conditions 100 per cent.

The cost at the end of seven months has not been £20 over the cost when the Library was a subscription one, and it is a treat to visit the Library and find everything in first class order.

We hope next year to include the County Readers in the new system and if the County Council will make us a grant, then we can extend the free Library facilities into the country round about. One point about making the Library free that I have not touched upon is the help from the public. We have had given to us a very large number of readable and valuable books of all kinds.

At the recent Annual Meeting of our Library, the chief speakers were, as usual, the visiting City Councillors and Librarians. They made the usual complimentary remarks concerning the management of the library and everybody went away quite happy. Perhaps our own subscribers are too bashful to speak in public or possibly they are content to let the Library Committee manage affairs without comment. We would again remind all our members that these columns are open to suggestions or helpful criticism. The Linwood Library belongs to all members and it would indeed be pleasing to the management committee to receive expressions of opinion from individual subscribers.

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Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the
Linwood Public Library

Vol. 2 April 1937 No. 7

Another step forward in library affairs has been made in the formation of the Canterbury branch of the New Zealand Library Association. It is generally acknowledged that the goal to be aimed at is a National Library System and one of the first steps to be taken in so far as our own local libraries are concerned is that of co-ordination. It is to be hoped that by bringing together the various libraries of Christchurch or Canterbury, the spirit of co-operation will soon result in great benefit to each separate unit. It is felt in some quarters that suburban libraries will lose their individuality if they become linked up with the central library. We do not view matters in that light; on the other hand we believe that nothing but good can come from a unified system. As we see it, each suburban library would, under the new system, still retain direct control of its own affairs, the voluntary librarianship that has been so successful in the past would be helped in its good work by close contact with trained librarians and their more efficient methods of administration.

As an indication of the esteem in which suburban libraries are held it may be mentioned that our own President, Mr A. Brettell, has been elected President of the Canterbury branch of the Dominion As-

Our readers' opinions upon any matter relative to Library matters are welcomed.

Address all correspondence to "The Editor,"
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periences in an equally remote country. Leaving Moscow by rail she travelled to Kazalinsk on the Aral Sea, then by camel or donkey on to Tashkent, Issik-kal, the mountains of Tien Shan, to Samarkand, Bokhara, Khira, Chimtra back to Kazalinsk and Moscow. Nearly a year of hardship, enlivened here and there by contact with friendly peoples. Many of the descriptions given are lovely pen pictures. Crossing the Kashkassu Pass she writes: "The lakes follow each other strung together like a chaplet with great glaciers stretching down to the very water; two glaciers face each other and almost join, their steep black moraines overhanging a lake of unimaginable turquoise green in which the shimmering outline of the glaciers are mirrored. The unequalled beauty of colouring dazzles and ravishes the eye, satisfying them so wholly that they cannot tear themselves away from it. The perilous track disappears when the lake overflows, turning into the dwelling of a giant enraged, who holds in captivity an immortal creature whose snowy body undulates amid tresses of billowing wayward turquoises."

A strange and changing country through which we have had a most enjoyable and interesting journey with the author.

Away from it All: An Escapologist's Notebook. By Cedric Belfrage. In case there are any who do not clearly comprehend what is an "escapologist" let us give Mr C. Belfrage's own definition: "Like all Englishmen on the sunny side of the social fence and a large number on the rainy side, I was trained from the cradle up to be an escapologist. I would define an escapologist as a person who looks the facts of life in the back of the neck, by sheer force of imagination conjures them out of existence, or, runs away from them." Further on he says: "An English gentleman is the perfect flowering of the escapologist; he is the man with the Nelson touch, others need eau-de-cologne in varying quantities to drown a bad smell under their nose."

So there we are, satirical, cynical and ironical, at times forthright in its outspokenness, and often the flash of humour is appealing and enjoyable. One finds that the escapologist's conclusions very often harmonize with one's own.

Read this book—it is well worth while.

Flight to Hell. By Hans Bertram. This is the story of a flight where the position was lost, the directions from Darwin being either misunderstood, or faulty, with the result that the plane was blown out of the correct course over the Timor Sea, finally landing in the deserts of North Australia.

The sufferings of the airmen are graphically told and when one has read the book one will feel inclined to agree with Mr H. Bertram that a kindly Providence had a share in their final rescue.

Pacific Flight: The Story of the Lady Southern Cross. By P. G. Taylor. A book with a strong appeal to all. Mr Taylor tells the story clearly

and with such a vivid touch of reality that the reader is able to follow through the preparations, and actual flight and to share the thrills, which to those in the Lady Southern Cross were a most nerve-racking experience.

NEW BOOK BY T. E. LAWRENCE

£100,000 per copy

Headlines in the London Times on December 18 last announcing that a new book by the late T. E. Lawrence of Arabia had been published in America at the price of £100,000 per copy, made one realise that Lawrence's power to galvanise the book world did not cease with his death.

"The Mint," by "352037 A/c. Ross" has recently been published by Messrs Doubleday Doran. Under the terms of Lawrence's will the book is not to be generally published until 1950, but, in order to secure the copyright Doubleday Doran have issued an edition of twelve (12) copies, of which two are in the Congressional Library at Washington, while the other ten copies are offered for sale at the price of £100,000 per copy.

"The Mint" is a book of some 200 pages and is an account of Lawrence's life at the Royal Air Force depot at Uxbridge after his enlistment in 1922 as aircraftman. Under two general headings, "The Raw Material" and "The Mill," the author describes his own experiences and those of his fellow recruits.

SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED NOVELS

A.B.C. Investigates "Ephesian"
The Admiralty Regrets Reginald Campbell
All That Swagger Miles Franklin
Bad Apache Robert A. Bennett
Bandits of Bedrock Chas. H. Snow
Bats in the Belfry E. C. R. Lorac
The Case is Closed Patricia Wentworth
The Child in their Midst May Edginton
Confetti for a Killing Charman Edwards
The Cowards' Club Francis D. Grierson
The Door Between Ellery Queen
The Dragon's Jaws Frank L. Packard
The Dumb God Speaks E. P. Oppenheim
The Endless Path Joseph Delmont
Follow a Shadow Ruby M. Ayres
Galetta Emmeline Morrison
The Gambler Annie Meredith
Girl on Her Own Dierdre O'Brien
Horse-shoe Range Michael Crowley
Hot Lead Tex Curran
The House on the Nile Anne Duffield
In an Alpine Valley Isabel C. Clarke
I Would be Private Rose Macaulay
Keep on Dancing F. E. Bailey
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The Mystery of Mr Mock R. A. J. Walling
Mystery on the Queen Mary Bruce Graeme
Peach Orchard Jane England
The Porch Richard Church
Rusty Geo. Owen Baxter
The Screaming Lake S. Fowler Wright
The Secret War Dennis Wheatley
Silver Morning Kathleen Rhodes
Spies in Spain J. M. Walsh
Star Stuff Annabel Lee
The Stolen God Edison Marshall
The Street of the Fishing Cat .. Jolanda Foldes
Sullivan's Boy Roy Bridges
There is No Love Phillippa Preston
The Tiger in Men Dennis Robin
Unlucky Dip John Glyder
The Western Way Daniel Ward
Yang and Yin Alice Tisdale Hobart

If Twelve Today. Ernest C. Tanton. This is an imaginative novel, its theme being a Britain in a state of chaos owing to the Communistic and Fascist sections of the people gaining much power. A religious body, bearing close resemblance to "The Oxford Group" is brought into being and the story deals extensively with the organisation of this group, known as "The Templars."

The opening chapter describes a camp of 50,000 Blackshirts encamped within five miles of the cenotaph in London. The National Government is in power and the leader of the Fascists demands repressive action against the Reds. The mob arrives at the cenotaph as Big Ben strikes eleven on Armistice Day. Then a twelfth note sounds, a shot, and the leader falls dead. Richard Golvers, chief of staff, accepts the mantle. He has an old grudge against the Jews, and is a hater and a hard hitter. The assault on parliament was abortive, but Fascism grew. The Church had lost control of the people and Conservatism lost Church support. THEN—Peter Knowles began in a small way to gain adherents to his cause, which was a thorough fellowship of Christian people. The Soviets were out to crush religion and Peter believed that God could change the tide of human affairs. He met Paul Matson, a leader of the anti-religionists and led him back to religion. And so we see Peter and Paul, as in days of old, leading a crusade to win the people to Christ. Eventually, they gathered other disciples, making twelve in all, and the story tells very graphically of their trials and persecutions, and of their successes in the cause which was to gain political power and make England a kingdom of God.