



Miss Blair to Be Honored On Retirement

Fellow workers at the Oregon State library and other friends will honor Miss Mirpah Blair, assistant librarian, Thursday night at the Marion hotel on the completion of her 36 years of service on the staff. Her retirement was effective November 1.

A scroll of appreciation will be presented to Miss Blair by Miss Eleanor Stephens, state librarian. Mrs. Cornelia Marvin Pierce, former librarian, will speak.

Also speaking will be Charles A. Sprague and Miss Myrtle Weatherholdt, Mrs. J. Strum, vocalist and former library employee, will furnish the music.

The dinner will be at 6:30 p.m.

When Miss Blair went to work in 1913 as a cataloguer for Miss Cornelia Marvin, the state library contained a collection of 15,300 volumes and employed six persons.

During those 36 years in which Miss Blair served as cataloguer, assistant librarian, acting librarian, head cataloguer and assistant librarian again, the library has expanded its facilities and functions.

Today the library employs between 40 and 50 persons, houses approximately 500,000 volumes and contains 700,000 cards in the catalogue. In 1948 mail-order patrons alone were thousands greater than all the books and pamphlets loaned by the library when Miss Blair became a staff member at the eve of the First World War.

Then the state library was located on the top floor of the old capitol building, destroyed by fire April 25, 1935.

And there it remained until space became available in the basement and attic of the supreme court building. When the new state library was under consideration and construction, Miss Blair was often consulted by the architects for suggestions that have contributed to the beauty and utility of this structure completed early in 1939.

During depression times Miss Blair recalls that the library filled many requests for literature on gold mining and methods. Today readers are eagerly seeking books on uranium.

Some years ago a letter was received from a widow who outlined her attractions and in view of her allurements requested a book that would inform her of methods for another matrimonial accomplishment.

For years legislative committees and interim committees have requested Miss Blair's assistance in research pertaining to many problems of state. Particularly useful has been the comprehensive and up-to-date material on taxation contained in the state library.

During the past three decades information on scientific and technical has been acquired in like proportion.

Miss Blair looks forward to rest in retirement. She has no definite plans for the future though she is emphatic about remaining in Salem. Gardening is her hobby, and her large lot at 875 Marion street offers interesting opportunities for this diversion.

Born at Marshall, Ohio, February 28, 1879, Miss Blair grew up in a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio, where her father, James F. Blair, was a physician. She received her education at the University of Cincinnati and her library training at Cincinnati public library.

Prior to coming to her present position at the State library, she had been head cataloguer at the Ohio State university library. In 1912 she had come west with her mother to visit a brother in northern Washington. The mother remained in the west and later, when Miss Blair moved to Salem, came here to reside with her.

and, above all, the precious wisdom which surpasses all learning, have made her career a shining success.

Enforced retirement of scholars from schools and libraries is a tragic error. Voluntary retirement after years of service is a happy occasion.

So long as she lives, Mirpah Blair will respond to the baffled librarian's solution — "Let's ask Miss Blair."

I liked the heading, "Buried Treasure," given Mr. Upjohn's tribute to Miss Blair in the Capital Journal. It is a fitting name for any library not made valuable and vital by intelligent, capable librarians who know the books and offer competent guidance in book selection and use. Otherwise, borrowers waste time on obsolete or worthless books and they never do find the clues to legislative history.

The catalog of a large library supplements personal efforts. It is the basis of all library reference work. Cataloging in a great research library, properly done, is scholarly work. It does not consist of making a list of books owned, but it evaluates the contents of books.

We early began, in Oregon, annotation of books and catalogs so that future generations of research workers would have something to build on. They could never master the accumulated mass of material.

The catalog of over 700,000 cards in the central hall of the State Library is Miss Blair's legacy to Oregon and her monument—a permanent monument to her scholarly interests and comprehension of the needs of seekers after truth for generations to come. This catalog and the special classification system worked out over the years are fundamental tools, and they are so well done that they serve as a basis for all future development.

Librarianship offers highly satisfactory careers for fine women like Miss Blair. She has given her life generously, patiently and with utter devotion. Her richly stored mind has given her rewarding contacts with people, and she has always enjoyed lending a helping hand. She has a quiet humor which takes her through days of hard work. Balance and good learning, combined with learning

State Librarian Gives Tribute To Miss Blair, Retiring Assistant

A tribute that contained the highest professional and personal praise was given Thursday to Miss Mirpah Blair, retiring assistant state librarian. Offering the verbal commendation was Miss Eleanor Stephens, state librarian.

Miss Stephens commented: "No library was ever more fortunate in its selection of a first assistant than the Oregon State library, when it acquired Miss Mirpah Blair.

"Miss Blair's fine loyalty and professional attitude of a high quality has done much to build in Oregon the type of institution which is able to meet the book needs of the people of Oregon. It is rarely that one can honestly attribute to an assistant so many of the qualities which one desires in every worker.

"What a joy down the years to do a rating sheet that reads: 'exceptionally accurate,' 'organizes work effectively,' 'cheerful under most trying conditions,' 'can be relied upon even in unpleasant situations,' 'sticks to the job even in difficult and trying circumstances,' 'says the right thing at the right time,' 'can criticize or oppose without offending,' 'sees essentials, thinks logically,' 'unusually high standard of work constantly maintained.'

"Everyone on the staff at the Oregon State library recognizes that we can never actually fill Miss Blair's place. We have organized her work so that her duties will be carried on by other persons.

"Under the staff reorganization, Miss Eloise Ebert becomes administrative assistant, Miss Josephine Baumgartner legislative reference librarian, and Mary Keefe head cataloger.

"There are not adequate words to express our appreciation for Miss Blair's steadfast, efficient and faithful services during her 36 years in the Oregon State library."

The permanent secretariat building of the United Nations, now being erected on New York's east side, will be 39 stories high and have about 20 acres of floor space.

Tennessee Site Airline Center

Washington, Nov. 10 (AP)—The air force announced Wednesday selection of Camp Forrest, Tenn., for a \$100,000,000 engineering development center.

The project will be a research installation for the development and evaluation of air weapons. Camp Forrest is 68 miles southeast of Nashville.

Air Secretary Symington said the site was the choice of the air force and that it had the approval of President Truman, Defense Secretary Johnson and the research and development board.

The site was recommended by Sverdrup and Parcel, Inc., St. Louis consulting engineers, after a three and a half year study of more than 25 possible sites throughout the United States.

The firm in its last report November 7 recommended Camp Forrest. Camp Forrest has 33,000 acres and was used by the army as a training center in the last war.

Several western states were bidding for the big project.



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Clam Chowder Can Be Dynamitel

If Smiley Roberts is a friend of yours, like he is mine, and if you want to keep his friendship, like I do, don't ever let him hear you say that good clam chowder can be made without cream.

In New England, where Smiley comes from, friendships have been broken over tomatoes versus cream in clam chowder. Experts say that south of Boston the tomato reigns supreme, but north of Boston it's cream—or else!

From where I sit, whether it should have cream or tomatoes is simply a matter of taste. This is

plain to anyone who doesn't come from clam chowder country.

What a great world this would be if we could all see that most prejudices are matters of taste only. Some like hot coffee. Some like iced. Some people like a temperate glass of beer. Others prefer ice-cold lemonade. My grandmother used to say, "Prejudice that sees only what it pleases, cannot see very plain."

Joe Marsh

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LEAVING A LEGACY TO OREGON

Miss Blair, 36 Years in Library, Has Built Monument of Catalog

By CORNELIA MARVIN PIERCE
(Oregon State Librarian from 1905 to 1929)

August first is the anniversary of the beginning of the work of the Oregon Library commission which became the Oregon State library when the law library took its more appropriate name, Supreme Court library, in 1913.

On August first, 1905, I sat down to a desk in an empty room in the old State House with the whole state, outside of Portland, practically empty space so far as library facilities were concerned.

On August 1, 1913, Miss Blair arrived — thirty-six years ago. We began an association of fifteen years which I recall with pleasure and gratitude.

Her training and experience in the public library of Cincinnati in the catalog and reference department, and later as branch library organizer, followed by several years as head cataloger at Ohio State university library, ideally prepared her for her work in Oregon.

She came from the fine library of Ohio State university where she had experience in reference work and cataloging—an ideal preparation. She came to a little collection of less than 5000 books, aside from the traveling libraries of fixed units which were, fortunately, always out in the state.

We could not have found room for them in our two little rooms on the third floor of the old State House. Our "stacks" were the shelves in a closet with stairs winding to the roof.

Since Miss Blair came in a spirit of adventure, the primitive conditions of the library may not have been a great shock to her.

Already, we had become notorious for innovations in the library world for "scattering" books all over the state without formal requirements," always meeting needs as they became apparent. The new system was designed to share the slender resources of the library with readers and students throughout a state practically without library facilities outside of Portland.

She entered into the unique system and far-reaching plans with enthusiasm and grew with opportunity. Her experience over the years has given her an unrivaled knowledge of Oregon's political, economic and cultural history and changes.

She was a welcome addition to the small group of professional librarians in the state: Mrs. Frances Isom of Portland, Mrs. Ida Kidder of OAC, and Matthew Douglass of U. of O.

She brought her mother and made Oregon her real home. Mrs. Blair was a friend to us all until her death in 1935.

During the eight years before she came, we had struggled for legislative recognition and support, which came slowly and was a matter of education through demonstration of ways of being useful. We had secured enactment of a working system of library laws, and had put into operation the first mail-order library system in the United States. There was then no parcel post — books went by express so we had to keep packages light of weight.

This brought about the famous and "infamous" Oregon plan of clipping reference books and periodicals for debating teams in high schools. They were selected only because carefully possible material could be

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Your little boy will be the envy of the neighborhood in this bright green Rocket auto. Heavy gauge steel body, undergearing; chrome plated radiator ornament. White enameled windshield, white trim. 8-in. steel wheels, rubber tires. 33 1/2 in. long, 16 in. wide. At Sears today!

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Magic Voice Cries, Sobs, Coos

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24.75

Here's a life size doll to delight any child! Boy doll is completely dressed, ready for play! Comes in, buy now, save!

2.50 Holds 'til Dec. 15

Happitime Doll

With Layette, Carrying Case

Sleeping Eyes

6.95

Drinking, wetting doll, 11 1/2-in. rubber body, unbreakable plastic head. 15-in. Doll with Layette, Case. 15.00 Holds 'til Dec. 15

"Dy Dee" Baby Doll

Has Her Complete Layette

11-in. Tall

16.95

A darling! Really drinks her bottle, wets her diaper. Beautifully molded rubber body, arms, legs. Combed hair.

1.50 Holds 'til Dec. 15

Juvenile Rocker

Red Imitation Leather Cover

15.95

Beautifully upholstered chair just like Mother's! All hardwood construction. Guaranteed against breakage. Choose your own color.

1.50 Holds 'til Dec. 15

Gay Red Tricycle

Chain Drive, Adjustable Style

16-in. Size

25.45

Standard bicycle roller type chain. Adjustable rubber saddle, handbar. Ball bearing wheels. Rubber tires.

Metal Erector Set

See Sears Wide Assortment

Apprentice Size

7.25

The right size to build ferns, wheels, cranes, windmills. Complete with How-to-make 'em Book. Perfect starter set.

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Steel Body and Undergearing

Red Body

14.75

Watch Junior Flash by in this red 33 1/2-in. long Chief's Car! Red and white trim body. Chrome plated bell.

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Lae 28x13x3 1/2 in. Wagon Box

Steel Wheels

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Watch 'em whiz by in this sturdy red and black enameled steel wagon. Semi-inflated rubber tires. Steel handle.

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Tots Junior Bike

Bucket-type Adjustable Seat

Red, Ivory Colors

3.69

Strong 1 1/2-in. steel tubular frame, stamped steel rear step plate. 5-in. double disc rear wheels, 8-in. front wheel.

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Deluxe Velocipede

1 1/4-in. Semi-Pneumatic Tires

12-in. Wheel

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