



Honored for 36 Years of Service-Miss Mirpah Blair, retiring state librarian, will be honor guest at a dinner Thurs-day night in Salem in recognition of her 36 years' service with the library. Associates and other friends will join in the tribute to her. (Jesten-Miller studio photo)

LEAVING A LEGACY TO OREGON Miss Blair, 36 Years in Library, Has Built Monument of Catalog By CORNELIA MARVIN PIERCE

State Lib

(Orecon State Linearian treem 1985 to 1983) August first is the anniversary of the beginning of the work the Orecon Library commission which because the Orecon 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

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, had. This made feasible wide meatically empty space so for use of the central state library practically empty space so far use of the central state library. as library facilities were con-Miss Blair's careful work in ractically empty space so far use of the central state library facilities were con-s library facilities were con-brind. Miss Blair's careful work in this field was an important ac-this field was an important ac-or August 1, 1913, Miss Blair tivity while books were not being rrived — thirty-six years ago, added so rapidly as to require We began an association of her full time.

We began an association of her full time. We began an association of fifteen years which I recall with pleasure and gratitude. Her training and experience in the public library of Cincin-nati in the catalog and reference demotive training and reference in the public library of Cincin-nati in the catalog and reference demotive training to recall that the parcel post was brought into Senator Bourne and that our Congress the library post. These training training to recall that the parcel post was brought into senator Steiwer pushed along in monial accomplishment. For years legislative commit-

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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.

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 tempted legislative reference bish in Wisconsin. Miss Blair an ideal preparation of less then and decomparing the previous of the state library. During the past three decades information on scientific and tempted is a previous of less then and an ideal preparation. She came early made a practice of index tempted is a blair there are and the previous of less then and the previous of less the previ to a little collection of less than ing documents so that there was 5000 books, aside from the trav-made available essential aids eling libraries of fixed units for busy legislators.

which were, fortunately, always out in the state. No one else has the special-ized knowledge to make the lib-We could not have found rary serviceable during the hurry room for them in our two little and pressure of law-making, rooms on the third floor of the old State House. Our "stacks" and Miss Blair will be needed

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 no-torious 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 a state practically without libr ary facilities outside of Portland. She entered into the unique system and far-reaching plans.

Miss Blair to State Librarian Gives Tribute To Miss Blair, Retiring Assistant A tribute that contained the highest professional and per-sonal 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: Incl. of work constantly main **Be Honored**

"No library was ever more and of work constantly main-fortunate in its selection of a tained." Fellow workers at the Oregon

first assistant than the Oregon "Everyone on the staff at the will honor Miss Mirpah Blair, as-sistant librarian, Thursday night at the Marion hotel on the com-pletion of her 36 years of serv-ice on the staff. Her retirement wiss Blair's fine loyalty and professional attitude of a high organized her work so that her

was effective November 1. A scroll of appreciation will be presented to Miss Blair by Miss Eleanor Stephens, state li-brarian. Mrs. Cornelia Marvin

Pierce, former librarian, will It is rarely that one can honestly speak. attribute to an assistant so many Also speaking will be Charles of the qualities which one de A. Sprague and Miss Mystle size in accurate in works. Mary Keefer head cataloger.

Also speaking will be Charles of the qualities which one de-A. Sprague and Miss Myrtle sires in every worker. Weatherholdt, Mrs. J. Strum, vocalist and former library em-ploye, will furnish the music. The dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. Mary Keefer head cataloger. "What a joy down the years 'exceptionally accurate,' 'organ-izes work effectively,' 'cheerful under most trying conditions,' and faithful services during her 'be work in the organ state 'and faithful services during her 'be work in the organ state 'be work in the organ state

p.m. When Miss Blair went to work in 1913 as a cataloguer for Miss Cornelia Marvin, the state libra-ry contained a collection of 15, thing at the right time,' 'can 300 volumes and employed six persons. During those 36 years in leading,' 'sees essentials, thinks les high and have about 20 acres her the transmission of the transmission

During those 36 years in which Miss Blair served as ca-taloguer, assistant librarian, actlogically," 'unusually high stand- of floor space.

ROEBUCK AND CO



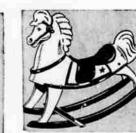
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technical has been acquired in like proportion. Miss Blair looks forward to rest in retirement. She has no definite plans for the future though she is emphatic about remaining in Salem. Gardening is her hobby, and her large lot at 875 Marion street offers in-

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Rocking Horse Saddle Has Built-up Back 12%-in High 5.35 olded body and head en Blue saddle, red bridle.

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

Tennessee Site

The project will be a research installation for the development and evaluation of air weapons. Camp Forrest is 66 miles outheast of Nashville.

Air Secretary Symington said he site was the choice of the air force and that it had the ap-proval of President Truman, De-

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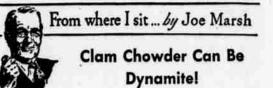
it today.

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fense Secretary Johnson and the research and development board. The site was recommended by Sverdrup and Parcel, Inc., St. 000 acres and was used by the Sverdrup and Parcel, Inc., St. but acres and was used by the Louis consulting engineers, aft-army as a training center in the er a three and a half year study of more than 25 possible sites throughout the United States. bidding for the big project.



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

LIONEL SCOUT TRAIN

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

be if we could all see that most prejudices are matters of taste

mly. Some like hot coffee. Some

like it iced. Some people like a tem-

perate glass of beer. Others prefer ice-cold lemonade. My grand-

mother used to say, "Prejudice that sees only what it pleases,

Joe Marsa

cannot see very plain."

What a great world this would

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system and far-reaching plans with enthusiasm and grew with opportunity. Her experience books owned, but it evaluates and, above all, the precious wisover the years has given her an unrivaled knowledge of Oregon's political, economic and cultural annotation of books and catalogs shining success.

history and changes. She was a welcome addition to the small group of profession-something to build on. They is a tragic error. Voluntary real librarians in the state: Mary could never master the accumu-Frances Isom of Portland, Mrs. lated mass of material. is a happy occasion. Ida Kidder of OAC, and Mat-thew Douglass of U, of O. She brought her mother and State Library is Miss Blair's leg. Discrete State Library is Miss Blair's leg.

made Oregon her real home, acy to Oregon and her monu-Mrs. Blair was a friend to us all until her death in 1935. During the eight was before of the needs of

During the eight years before seckers after truth for genera-she came, we had struggled for tions to come. This catalog and

legislative recognition and sup-port, which came slowly and worked out over the years are was a matter of education fundamental tools, and they are through demonstration of ways so well done that they serve as of being useful. We had secured a basis for all future developenactment of a working system ment.

of library laws, and had put into operation the first mail-order Librarianship offers highly operation the first mail-order Librarianship offers highly library system in the United satisfactory careers for fine States. There was then no par-cel post — books went by ex-press so we had to keep pack-ages light of weight. Librarianship offers highly library system in the United satisfactory careers for fine women like Miss Blair. She has given her life generously, pa-tently and with utter devotion. Her richly stored mind has give

ages light of weight. This brought about the fa-mous and "infamous" Oregon plan of clipping reference books and periodicals for debating ther richly stored mind has giv-en her rewarding contacts with people, and she has always en-joyed lending a helping hand. She has a quiet humor which the books and the books of the books of the books of the books the books of the and periodicals for debating She has a quiet humor which teams in high schools. They takes her through days of hard were possible only because care-fully selected material could be ment, combined with learning

and pamphlets loaned by the li-

prary when Miss Blair became staff member at the eve of the

Then the state library was lo-cated 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 su-preme court building. When the

new state library was under con-

First World War.

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