

Travis County Bookmobile Arrives

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This huge vehicle, light yellow with green lettering, soon will be a familiar part of the surrounding countryside. Travis County's brand new "library on wheels," project of the Austin Branch, American Association of University Women, arrived last week.

Here it is being presented to Miss Mary Rice, (left) city-county librarian, by Mrs. C. E. Browning (center) current AAUW president, and Mrs. Addison Lee, last year's president. Beginning Oct. 15 the bookmobile will extend library services from Dessau to Dry Creek, from Pflugerville to Oak Hill,

everywhere there are Travis County citizens who want to read. With a 1,700-volume circulation capacity, it will bring a library wonderland to county children and a store of information on farm and ranch work, housekeeping and child care to their parents.



Mrs. W. T. Mather has more than a passing interest in AAUW's latest achievement. More than a quarter of a century ago, in November, 1925, the organization adopted the establishment of a public library as a project. Mrs. Mather was named chairman of the committee

to secure books. This group worked hard personally soliciting books from other members and interested citizens. As a result, when the original Austin Public Library opened in February, 1926, in the upstairs room of the Slaughter Building, Ninth and Congress, its shelves contained 500 volumes.

Travis County Bookmobile Arrives

BY REBA GRAHAM

Austin Branch, American Association of University Women, last week proudly announced the rounding of another milestone in a journey begun 26 years ago.

The milestone was the arrival of the \$7,250 bookmobile which will take free library service to the farthest corners of Travis County.

The sleek yellow truck will be shown to AAUW members at their general meeting Wednesday at Calceasium Auditorium. Thursday and Friday it will be on display in downtown Austin. AAUW has invited everyone to inspect it.

The bookmobile project actually began for AAUW about four years ago when the 1947-48 future project committee selected it as a suitable undertaking for the branch. But in the thinking of most members the history goes much farther back. It was at an AAUW meeting in the fall of 1925 that Mrs. Grace Delano Clark suggested that the association consider the establishment of a public library as a goal.

Fifteen months later the first Austin Public Library was opened in an upstairs room at Ninth and Congress. It had 500 books, the nucleus for the present-day 75,000-volume collection.

Within the next two years the library became a city project, and in 1928 money was voted to erect a building at Ninth and Guadalupe, the present site.

People now living who were on this first library board are Mesdames Charles Stevenson, W. T. Caswell, Claude Hill, Hubert Jones, W. T. Mather, Ben H. Powell, Arnold Romberg, Aaron Schaffer, Louis Slaughter, E. J. Villavaso, Miss Margaret Robinson, Judge Charles Black, H. H. Luedecke, F. W. Sternberg, W. J. Weeg, Douglas Weeks and E. W. Winkler.

The library was operated entirely with city funds until 1937 when, in the interest of economy and efficiency, the City of Austin and Travis County developed a cooperative library program.

Since then Travis County citizens have been entitled to book cards at the Public Library. Actually few county residents have been able to avail themselves of the privilege because of the distance of the library from their homes. For the vast majority of county children a visit to the library during National Book Week in November has had to suffice.

It was this obvious gap in service that inspired AAUW members to adopt during the 1947-48 year the securing of a bookmobile as a project.

Mrs. A. H. Neighbors was chairman of the project committee that year. Working with her in making an extensive investigation of county library needs were Mesdames J. R. Davis, L. B. Ezell, Tom Lemon and J. G. Umstatt.

County commissioners became interested in the project and agreed to set aside funds to operate the bookmobile if AAUW would purchase it.

By February of this year \$2,300, saved from the profits of the annual children's play series, was available. It was not nearly enough, but AAUW members were afraid that delay might be fatal. The national emergency threatened immediate critical shortages of materials for such vehicles. The impatience of many members was expressed by Miss Katherine Cook who said, "Some of the young people for whom we intended the bookmobile in 1947 are already adults."

Thus in March, 1951, the bookmobile became a county-wide undertaking. AAUW members started going over the county, speaking to P-TAs and at schools. Businesses, clubs and individuals were canvassed. AAUW itself gave a benefit game party in the spring.

Through the hot summer the work continued. The result is that today the bookmobile is here ready to go into use and more than \$6,000 of its total cost has been raised.

The AAUW will, of course, welcome contributions toward the \$1,000 still owed. Donations may be sent to the treasurer, Mrs. James R. D. Eddy, 2404 Oldham.

Mrs. C. F. Arrowood heads the solicitors. On her committee are Mesdames L. G. Blackstock, H. M. Breunke, C. E. Browning, H. P. Burleigh, J. M. Coleman, A. H. Chute, C. C. Craig, A. S. Duncan, Jack Hudson, M. O. Lancaster, Addison Lee, Stuart Long, J. L. Love, G. H. Newlove, L. T. Oehler, Louis Ouden, Edward Priesmeyer and P. B. Watson.

Assisting the committee are Mesdames L. B. Ezell, T. S. Huff, Ernest M. Siegel, John Stullken, C. H. Leinbach Jr., E. L. Galyean, S. H. Womack, Alma Thomas, William O. Parker, J. H. Wheeler Jr. and Miss Mary Catherine Wilcox.

In the bookmobile register which will be kept in the trailer is a list of all contributors. Individuals on this roll are Congressman and Mrs. Homer Thornberry, Mesdames John E. Elliott, Arno Nowotny, J. Frank Dobie, Roger J. Williams, St. John Garwood, Thomas J. Holbrook, Addison Lee, Eric Zimmerman, J. R. Davis, G. H. Newlove, Tom Johnson, R. H. Finetrock, H. N. Holland, J. G. Umstatt, Erwin Prouse, Ernest M. Siegel, A. P. Winston, Charles Craig, J. L. Love, W. L. McGill and L. B. Ezell.

Also Mesdames J. Lux, C. D. Woods, Michael O. Lancaster, L. G. Blackstock, R. W. Warner, John E. Stullken, Tom Lemon, H. P. Burleigh, K. A. Kobe, H. B. Henry, A. H. Neighbors, E. H. Marek, Fancher Archer, Stewart Harkler, Ben P. Atkinson, Leroy T. Oehler, James W. Reynolds, Talbot S. Huff, Louis John Ouden, S. H. Womack, E. W. Priesmeyer and A. D. Mathis.

Also Mesdames Hal Beebe, Frank W. Jessen, W. T. Mather, A. H. Chute, J. W. Coleman, Alma Thomas, Richard S. Schiefelhelm, Stuart Long, C. E. Browning, C. F. Arrowood, Misses Mary Carter Rice, Fannie Andrews, Ada V. Felch, Pansy Luedecke, Sarah Gaskill, Myrtle Beyer, Marcery A. Oleskie, Helen N. Gary and Stella Wilcox.

Also Misses Mary Catherine Wilcox, Lorena Baker, Marlan L. Keller, Mizanette Pearce, Estelle L. Oliver, Louise C. Harwood, Ruth Alben White, Frances E. Thorpe, Mathilda Gunn, Katherine Cook, Geneva Hanna, Kathleen Thompson, Lottie I. Gradick, Beatrice Mohle, Frances Malmberg, Thelma Lockwood and Georgia Lucas.

Also H. E. Kelly, W. S. Drake Jr., E. H. Jerry, Joe C. Carrington, John D. Coler, Ralph W. Varborough, Sammie Joseph, W. R. Smith Jr., Emmett Morse, C. W. Voyles, V. C. Jung, Herman R. (Continued on Part C-12, Col. 2)



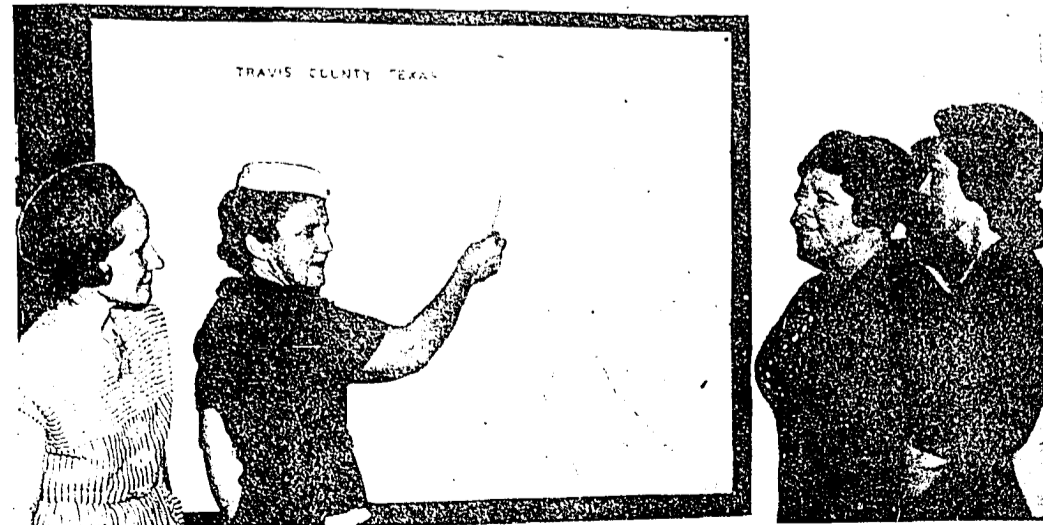
Three AAUW members, who worked through last summer's 100-degree plus temperature gathering funds for the bookmobile are now surrounded by the product of their labor. Mrs. C. F. Arrowood (left) is solicitation chairman, and Miss Mary Catherine Wilcox (center) and Mrs. Stuart Long are committee members. The first \$2,300 of the \$7,250 cost of the book-

mobile was raised by the AAUW-sponsored children's plays. Then last March to speed up completion the project was made county-wide. Since then scores of individuals, organizations and businesses have swelled the fund to \$6,000. The list of contributors, which they hold here, is given in full in the story on this page.



Mrs. Tom Bagley, Travis County bookmobile librarian, sits at her desk in the compactly-arranged trailer, showing some of her "wares" to Carolyn Scott (left) and Marilyn Kay Gustafson of Pecan Springs School. The Pecan Springs

P-TA was the first county group to contribute to the bookmobile project. Carolyn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Felix Scott, and Marilyn Kay's parents are Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Gustafson.



A map of Travis County provides a complete picture of the route the new bookmobile will follow. Mrs. T. S. Huff, (center) AAUW member, traces the path for (left to right) Mrs. L. G. Blackstock, AAUW chairman of county group par-

ticipation; Mrs. Sam Speir and Mrs. Homer D. Owens, home demonstration club members. Mrs. Speir and Mrs. Owens are named by AAUW as the two county women most influential in securing county support for its circulating library project.

County-Wide Campaign Nets Funds for New Bookmobile

(Continued from Part C-1)

Heep, Leslie Crockett, Frank D. Quinn, H. M. Totland, Dr. Torrence Watt, Dr. Will Watt, Dr. Henry L. Hilgartner and Dr. W. J. Battle.

Organizations which contributed are Austin Kiwanis Club, Art Group Two of the Austin Art League, Tri-L Club, Pecan Springs P-TA and Book Trainers Club.

Business houses which made donations are El Matamoros Big Bear Food Stores, Mutual Savings Institution, Willie Kocurek Tire Company, Bridges Farm and Ranch Supply, Cooks Funeral Home, Southern Union Gas Company, First Federal Savings and Loan Association, Western Reserve Life

Insurance Company and Coca-Cola Company.

Also Tarrytown Restaurant, Wholesale Beer Distributors Association, Austin Goodyear Company, Capitol Seed House, Lunk's Chinese Kitchen, Tom Miller Produce, Eddie Joseph Theaters, E. M. Scarborough and Sons, Heep Oil Corporation, Covert Automobile Company, Polar Ice Cream Company, C. B. Smith Motor Company, Steck Company, Walker's Austex Chill Company, Austin Clearing House Association, Capitol Beer Company, Yaring's, T. H. Williams, Walter Tips Company Von Boeckman Jones Company, Tips Engine Works, Commodore Perry Hotel, Interstate Theaters, Hemphill's Book Store, University Co-Op and the Texas Brewers Institute.