

C O N T E N T S

VOLUME 2B - MUNICIPAL SUPPLEMENT- TWEEDSMUIR
HISTORY - OLDCASTLE WI.- EARLY
BEGINNINGS - AND DATED IN THIS VOLUME
FROM 1951 to 1980.

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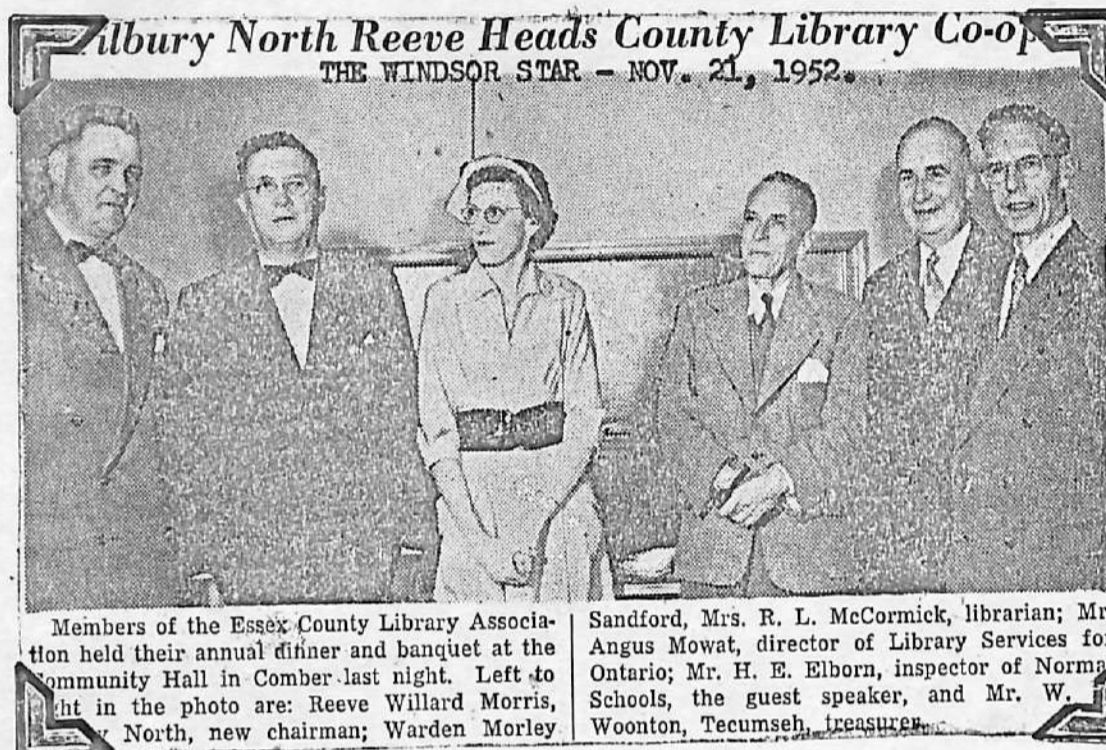
The Essex County Library Co-Operative began in 1935 as an exchange system initiated when six small libraries - Amherstburg, Cottam, Essex, Harrow, Kingsville and Woodslee - decided to contribute \$25 each to a central fund. It received grants from Essex County Council since 1940. In 1947 new provincial legislation provided the impetus for the formation of a co-operative and by 1966, 18 of the county's 21 member municipalities had joined.

November 17th, 1952 - The County Library extends service at new headquarters in the Essex County Office Building, Sandwich. It moved from cramped quarters in the town of Essex. Pictured in The Windsor Star release below are new officers.

To provide books for the reading public, most Canadian libraries figure on spending upwards of .80¢ per person per year. The city or town dweller comes to the library, chooses his books, and the cost of service comes, fairly painlessly, out of taxes.

Divide the cost per person figure by one-thirteenth, and a delivery service for books, take out the painful element in the payment, and you have the Essex County Library Co-Operative, whose 15,000 volumes are constantly in circulation from 223 distribution points to the county.

Mrs. R. L. McCormick, chief librarian, figures out her \$13,007.98 budget for 1951 among the 216,045 persons in the county at about .06¢ per person per year. For this most county residents are offered a reading choice from between 100 and 450 books every three months. The service did not offer delivery service right to the door, but it did put books virtually on the doorstep - in public and high schools, deposit stations and libraries through the county.



Members of the Essex County Library Association held their annual dinner and banquet at the Community Hall in Comber last night. Left to right in the photo are: Reeve Willard Morris, North, new chairman; Warden Morley

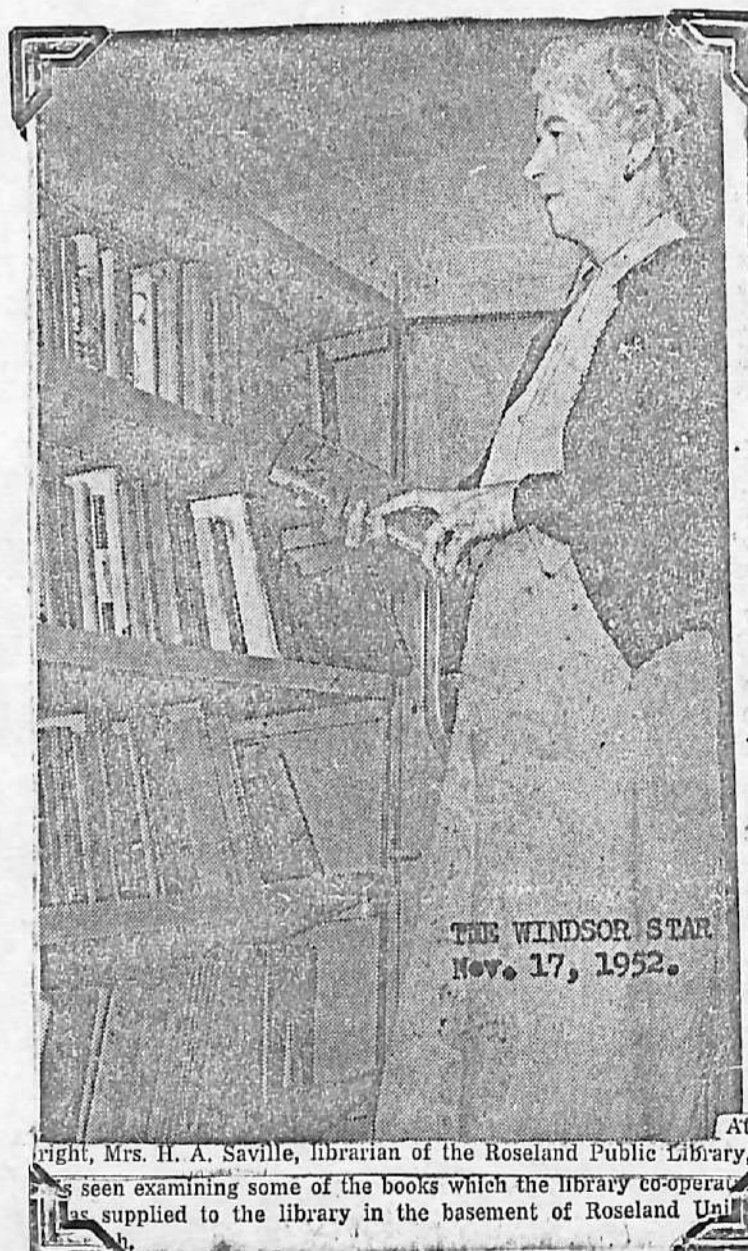
Sandford, Mrs. R. L. McCormick, librarian; Mr. Angus Mowat, director of Library Services for Ontario; Mr. H. E. Elborn, inspector of Normal Schools, the guest speaker, and Mr. W. Woonton, Tecumseh, treasurer.



THE WINDSOR STAR, NOV. 17, 1952.

New headquarters for the Essex County Library Co-operative, in the county office building in Windsor, has replaced the co-op's old cramped quarters in the town of Essex. In the picture

above, Miss Margaret Bennett, assistant librarian, is seen at work in the new stock rooms at the county building.



THE WINDSOR STAR
Nov. 17, 1952.

At right, Mrs. H. A. Saville, librarian of the Roseland Public Library, is seen examining some of the books which the library co-operative has supplied to the library in the basement of Roseland Unit.

THE WINDSOR STAR, MARCH, 1951

County Councilors Look Over Their 'Library on Wheels'

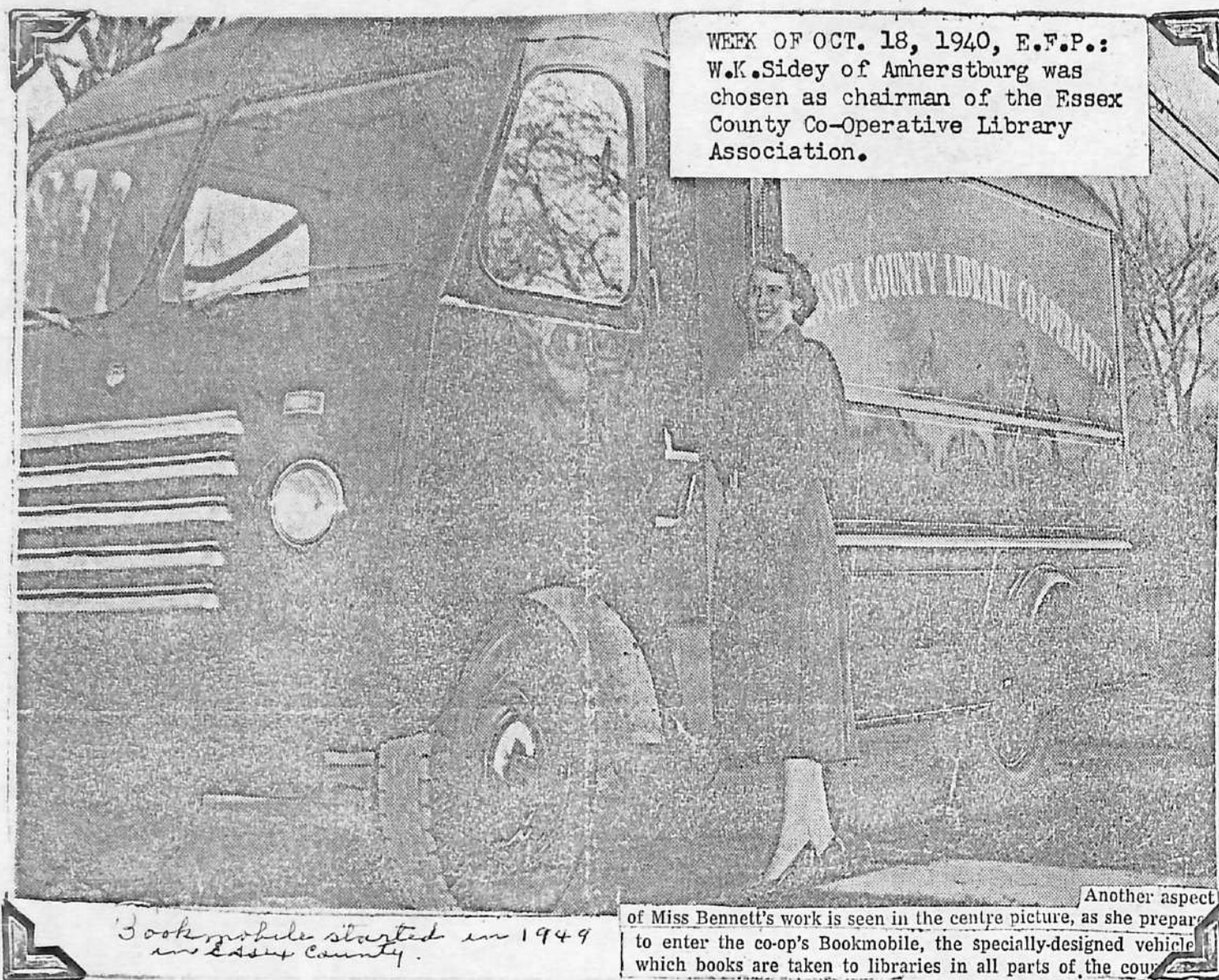


The Essex County Library Co-operative bookmobile was a feature attraction at yesterday's session of the Essex County Council and councilors took the opportunity to ask librarians about service throughout the county. Circulation has doubled in the past year. The bookmobile has brought library service into many county communities for the first time. The bookmobile carries a stock of 1,500 books and librarians tour county centres on a regular schedule.

Shown above with the bookmobile are, left to right, Reeve Willard Morris, Tilbury North, board member; Mrs. Grace Burke, deputy reeve, Leamington, also a board member; Mrs. R. L. McCormick, Essex, librarian; Miss Margaret Bennett, assistant librarian; Warden Barry E. Atkinson and Reeve H. A. Bruner, Gosfield South, chairman of the library board.

(Star Staff Photo.)

Essex County Library Co-operative Extends Book Service at New Windsor Headquarters



WEEK OF OCT. 18, 1940, E.F.P.:
W.K. Sidey of Amherstburg was
chosen as chairman of the Essex
County Co-Operative Library
Association.

Bookmobile started in 1949
in Essex County.

Another aspect
of Miss Bennett's work is seen in the centre picture, as she prepares
to enter the co-op's Bookmobile, the specially-designed vehicle
which books are taken to libraries in all parts of the county.



Director of the Essex County Library Co-operative is Mrs. R. L. McCormick, chief librarian. Mrs. McCormick is seen above at her desk in the co-op's new offices in Windsor. In addition to work in the offices, Mrs. McCormick is co-pilot of the Bookmobile, visiting the co-operative's member libraries through the county several times a year.

223 Points Distribute 15,000-Volume Supply

THE WINDSOR STAR, NOVEMBER 17, 1952.

Cost Per Person Estimated at Six Cents;
Bookmobile Carries Literature to Areas

By PAT WHEALEN

To provide books for the reading public, most Canadian libraries figure on spending upwards of 80 cents per person per year. The city or town dweller comes to the library, chooses his books, and the cost of service comes, fairly painlessly, out of taxes.

15,000 VOLUMES

Divide the cost per person figure by one-thirteenth, and a delivery service for books, take out the painful element in the payment, and you have the Essex County Library Co-operative, whose 15,000 volumes are constantly in circulation from 223 distribution points in the county.

Mrs. R. L. McCormick, chief librarian, figures out her \$13,007.98 budget for 1951 among the 216,045 persons in the county at about six cents per person per year. For this, most county residents are offered a reading choice from between 100 and 450 books every three months.

The service does not offer delivery service right to the door, but it does put books virtually on the doorstep—in public and high schools, deposit stations, and libraries through the county.

Two persons, Mrs. McCormick and her assistant, Miss Margaret Bennett, handle the work of the co-op, which includes purchasing, cataloguing, and distributing the books. They spend several days a week in their new headquarters in the county office building, packing books for distribution and loading them into the Bookmobile, a vehicle familiar to most county residents.

TO 223 POINTS

The biggest part of the librarians' work is on the road, delivering books to the 223 points from which they are distributed. Most of the points are visited four times yearly, some only three times.

Books are delivered regularly to 10 libraries in communities throughout the county, 204 classrooms in primary schools, two deposit stations, and seven high schools.

Library Boosts Its Circulation

STAR - JAN. 18/61

OLDCASTLE—Roseland Library, which has been receiving an annual grant of \$200 from Sandwich South Twp., reported a circulation of 13,018 books in a letter which also sought the usual grant for the year.

The circulation is 2,000 above 1959, or an increase of close to 20 percent.

Budget for the year has been set at \$600, the letter said.

The greater part of the transportation of the books is handled by the Bookmobile, a specially fitted truck which is loaded with a selection of books suitable for use in the particular library to be visited.

For the member libraries, the librarian chooses the books, to be kept at the library for distribution for three months. Teachers, with the prompting of the pupils, make the selections at elementary schools.

Of the 13 county library co-operative services in the province, the Essex County Co-op began in 1935 as an exchange system between several county libraries. It generally expanded, receiving grants from Essex County Council since 1940 and provincial government grants since 1947.

Under the present financial setup, the co-op receives most of its funds from county and provincial grants, with a small amount from membership fees of member libraries. The Ontario department of education matches, dollar for dollar, the county grant, and adds a further \$1,000 yearly toward the salary of a trained librarian.

In addition to the grants, the co-op also receives a yearly membership fee of \$25 from libraries, \$5 from elementary schools, \$15 from the two deposit stations in Stoney Point and Walker road, and \$10 from high schools.

CAREFULLY CHOSEN

The books provided for members are carefully chosen, many of them being expensive volumes which the individual library could not ordinarily afford. Two years ago the co-op began allocating part of its new budget for the purchase

of French language books for use in bilingual schools.

Last autumn, the library service changed its headquarters from old cramped quarters at Essex to new rooms in the county office building in Windsor. Two rooms, one formerly the headquarters of the Windsor detachment of the Provincial Police, were renovated and repainted. The addition of bookshelves and desks gave the co-op the most convenient quarters it has ever had.

Plans for the library service, still in the distant future, include the inauguration of a wider distribution service which will make books available in quantity to every Essex County resident. "We teach the reading habit to students in the schools," said Mrs. McCormick, "and we want to extend the service so that there is no lapse in reading after the student leaves school."



Mrs. Flora Saville Prepares for Library Closing

Mrs. Flora Saville, who has worked with the library since it opened, says annexation is mainly responsible for the closing.

"When we go into the city, we will no longer be able to receive books from the Essex County Library Co-operative," she said.

"This makes it impossible for us to carry on." The co-operative loans the library 1,000 books every three months, but this service will end with annexation.

The library was forced to move into the Women's Institute building at the first of the summer after its former quarters on Cabana Rd. were sold.

A group of volunteers established the library in 1944 using a \$25 donation from a former Sandwich South reeve, Joseph Hennin, to buy membership in the Essex Library Co-operative.

In its early days, it was housed in a white frame building being used as temporary quarters for the Roseland United Church. When a new church was built, the library moved into its basement.

Ten years later it located in a rented building on Cabana Rd. It now has 750 members, 500 of whom are children. For the past several years, the library has circulated as many as 25,000 books annually. It has 2,000 books of its own.

Until five years ago, staff members worked on a voluntary basis. Then they started getting a salary of 50 cents an hour. Looking back over the library's 20 years of service, Mrs. Saville and another librarian, Mrs. F. W. Poulson, recalled some humorous situations.



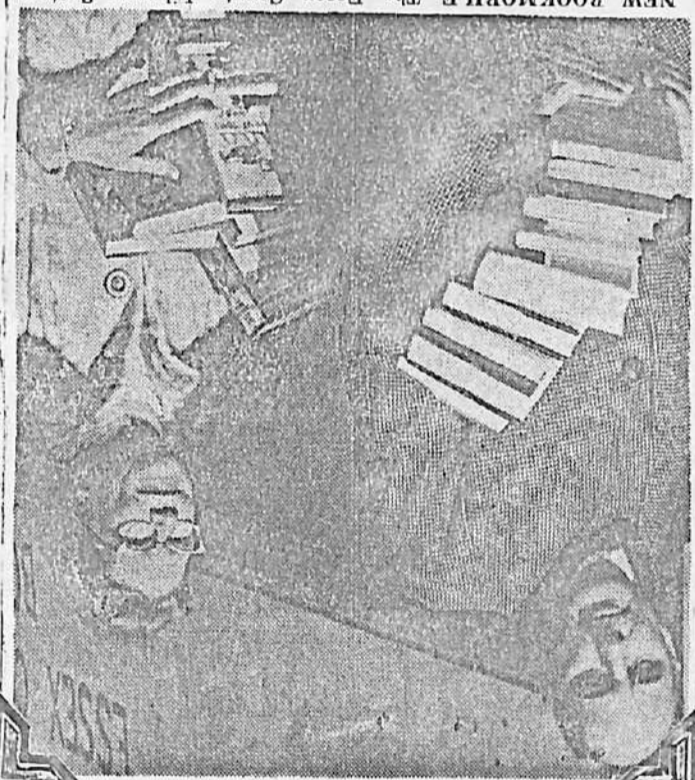
Books Being Closed Annexation Overtakes Library

Two decades of devotion end this month. After 20 years of service to readers in Sandwich West, Sandwich East and Sandwich South, the Roseland Association Library will close its doors at the end of the month.

Annexation and Windsor's building shortage are combining to force it out of existence.

The library is presently housed in the Roseland Women's County Library has initiated bookmobile service for rural areas of the county. Stops are being made on a bi-monthly basis. Annexe is bookmobile operator. He is seen at the end of the month.

NEW BOOKMOBILE—The Essex County Library System has purchased a new \$19,000 bookmobile. The vehicle was designed by Wells Corp., Windsor. It will hold more than 3,000 books. Chief County Librarians Mrs. Hilda M. Brooke and Richard Burford are seen here loading the vehicle. The bookmobile will service remote areas of the county.



THE WINDSOR STAR - Feb. 24, 1967

Essex County Public Library
BOOKMOBILE SERVICE



STAR - JUNE 16, 1967

The bookmobile carries 3,000 books. Don't miss it when it comes to the children of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wellwood with South Township. The youngsters are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wellwood with South Township. The youngsters are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wellwood with South Township.

Record book use in '66

600,000 borrowed from county system STAR - FEB. 24/67.

A record number of books were borrowed from the Essex County Library in 1966. A year-end report compiled by Hilda M. Brooke shows that nearly 600,000 books were taken out by residents during the 12-month period—an average of 8½ per person. The per capita cost to residents was \$1.16.

Mrs. Brooke's report stressed the importance of better library service to the county residents. She said books increased substantially during the past year. She said the average price of biographies was \$1.16.

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May 25th, 1966 - Mrs. (Thomas) Hilda Brooke, Essex County head librarian addressed the Oldcastle Women's Institute regarding establishing a library bookmobile on the Township Hall grounds. Clyde O'Neil was Sandwich South Township library representative on Essex County Council and they were co-operating to make this a reality and so have library services here in Oldcastle.

At June 6, 1966 meeting, Mrs. Brooke explained a library is not just a "frill", it is an educational facility that is playing an increasingly important role in the education of our citizens; too many people are ignorant of the true importance of a library. It provides services for all persons in the community. The new Essex County Library has united all the smaller libraries into one strong and effective system. This year the library board hopes to make a real start toward improving services, especially in rural areas. She reported a new bookmobile had been ordered and said the County Library hopes to play an important role by seeing that no resident is handicapped in his search for knowledge and information.

Myra Bennett and Jane Haas from our township was on the office staff at Essex.

Bookmobile for Essex

Rural route stops begin next week

ESSEX—Essex County is to have a branch library on wheels.

Next week the Essex County public library will begin bookmobile service to readers in rural areas.

Plans call for 16 bookmobile stops.

Tuesday the bookmobile will stop at Mersea East Central School from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and at Lakeview Snack Bar on Pelee Drive from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday it will be at Albert's Texaco station on Highway 18A at Colchester from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and at Malden Township hall from 6 to 8 p.m.

Thursday the bookmobile will stop at Branch 594 Royal Canadian Legion parking lot at Huron Line and Todd Lane from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and at Sandwich South Township hall from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday it will be at Colchester North Township hall from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and at Knights of Columbus Hall in McGregor from 6 to 8 p.m.

The following Tuesday it will be at Blytheswood School from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and at Ruthven School from 6 to 8 p.m. June 21 it will stop at Maryland Park in the Oliver Farms subdivision at Highway 3 and Howard Ave. from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and at Sandwich West Township Hall from 6 to 8 p.m.

The bookmobile will be at St. Bernadette School at Staples from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. June 22 and at Rochester Township Hall from 6 to 8 p.m. June 23 it will be at Rochester Telephone office in South Woodlee from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and at Chauvin's Market in Emeryville from 6 to 8 p.m.

The schedule will then be repeated with stops being every second week at each municipality.

The bookmobile will carry 3,000 books. There will be 1,200 non-fiction, 1,200 novels and 600 children's books. Readers will also be able to request and borrow any of the 125,000 books in the main library or tap the book resources of the Southwestern Region Library Co-operative.

Renovations under way County library moving June 1

ESSEX—Moving day for the Essex County Library has been set at June 1.

Assistant County Librarian Richard Burford said work has begun on renovations to the new headquarters building in the Town of Essex and predicted workmen will have "little trouble" getting the structure ready for occupancy by the target date.

The library board has taken a five-year lease on the old Essex Theatre Building on Talbot St. Members feel the new location will result in "considerable savings" and will give the added space "so necessary for efficient operation."

The library has operated out of a building on University Ave. in Windsor. The space available is not adequate for needs and a division of work areas has made it difficult to arrange an efficient flow of work.

The lease will expire in the spring and board members feel this will be an ideal time to make a change.

The new location will be closer to six of the 10 branch libraries and to 12 of the 16 bookmobile stops. There will be parking space for eight to 10 cars and a loading ramp for bookmobiles.

The building is to be completely renovated by the owner and he is to construct a 44-by-36 foot concrete block addition for inside parking area for bookmobiles.

Mr. Burford said present schedules will remain in effect until the changeover. He predicted that the switch will be made without any interruption of service.

Library costs climb \$35,000

It will cost \$211,125 to operate the Essex County Library System this year—about \$35,000 more than in '67.

Main reasons for the increase are the cost of new books and added wage requirements.

Wages will cost \$102,500 and new books \$54,600. Corresponding totals last year were \$89,618 and \$38,948.

It will cost \$1,200 to renovate and repair buildings; \$3,500 for bindery and mending supplies; \$600 for periodicals and newspapers; \$6,800 for supplies; \$3,000 for equipment and furniture; \$13,200 for rent and payments in lieu of rent; \$3,500 for casual help and \$4,500 for fringe benefits.

Utilities will cost \$3,500; janitor's supplies \$250; insurance \$1,500; express and postage \$1,250; memberships \$175; board expenses \$2,500; travel, conference and mileage \$1,800; bookmobile \$2,200; audit \$500; bookkeeping services \$2,700; sick leave gratuity fund transfer \$350 and miscellaneous \$1,000.

The library will receive \$114,776 from the county; \$87,000 from provincial grants; \$6,011 from surplus; \$2,000 from fees and fines; \$1,200 from Wheatley contract service and \$165 from Pelee Island grant. Last year bindery and

mending supplies cost the library \$4,138; periodicals and newspapers \$795; supplies \$6,432; equipment and furniture \$3,255; rent and payments in lieu of rent \$9,873; \$1,248; casual help \$2,272; fringe renovations and repairs \$1,246; casual help \$2,272; fringe benefits \$3,967; janitor's supplies \$110; insurance \$1,377; express and postage \$1,242; utilities \$3,981; memberships \$163; board expenses \$1,754; travel, conference, mileage \$1,731; bookmobile \$1,538; audit \$500; sick leave gratuity fund transfer \$200 and miscellaneous \$1,107.

Essex library to be opened on Wednesday

THE WINDSOR STAR - SEPT. 23, 1968.

ESSEX—Official opening ceremonies will be held Wednesday night for the new Essex County Library Co-operative offices in Essex.

County Warden Ray Hunter and town Mayor Edmund Michael will head the list of those taking part in ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

Representatives of county council, local municipalities and area library boards have also been invited to participate. Rev. M. D. Monaghan of Essex will give the blessing and board chairman Fred H. Cada of St. Clair Beach will review the growth of the system.

The new offices are located in the old Essex Theatre building on Talbot St. The structure has been renovated and a 44-by-66-foot cement block addition erected to provide garage space for library bookmobiles.

The library formerly operated from a building on University Ave. in Windsor.

The new location is closer to six of the 10 branch libraries and 12 of the 16 bookmobile stops. There is parking space for eight to 10 cars and a loading ramp for bookmobiles.

Library board members, other than Mr. Cada, are: Warden Hunter; Deputy Reeve Reginald Blanchard, Maidstone Township; Deputy Reeve John Duplessis, Tilbury North Township; Howard Bruner, Gosfield South Township; Walter Sidey, Amherstburg; and Aaron Wright, Harrow.

Mrs. Hilda M. Brooke, head county librarian, predicts the new site will result in considerable savings to the county. The official opening ceremony is to begin at 7:30 p.m.

Library opening

Fete on Sept. 25 for co-op offices

ESSEX — Official opening ceremonies will be held Sept. 25 for the new Essex County Library Co-operative offices in Essex.

Representatives of county council, local municipalities and area library boards are expected to be at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The new offices are located in the old Essex Theatre building on Talbot St. The structure has been renovated and a 44-by-66-foot cement block addition erected to provide garage space for library bookmobiles.

The library formerly operated from a building on University Ave. in Windsor.

The new location is closer to six of the 10 branch libraries and 12 of the 16 bookmobile stops. There is parking space for eight to 10 cars and a loading ramp for bookmobiles.

Library board members feel the new site will result in "considerable savings" to the county.

Mrs. Hilda Brooke, head county librarian, said plans are being made for tours of the new facilities.

Library office to move

The Essex County Library headquarters will be re-located in the Town of Essex.

County Council has approved a board recommendation that a five-year lease be taken on the old Essex theatre building.

Board members said the new site will give the library "badly needed space."

They said the building will be completely renovated by the owner. He will also construct a 44-by-46 foot cement block addition for inside parking area for bookmobiles.

The library has operated out of a building on University St. in Windsor. The space available is not adequate for needs and a division of work areas has made it difficult to arrange an efficient flow of work.

The lease will be up in April and the owner has indicated he will ask for an increase in rent.

Board members said the Essex location will be closer to six of the 10 branch libraries and to 12 of the 16 bookmobile stops.

They noted the location would result in "considerable savings" to the county.

The new building will be ready for occupancy by the time the lease expires on the present headquarters.

There will be parking space for eight to 10 cars and a loading ramp for the bookmobiles.



MOVING DAY—The Essex County Library has moved into its new headquarters building at 10 Talbot St., Essex. Seen putting books shelves at the new quarters are, from Mrs. Shirley Templeton, Mrs. Hilda M. Brooke and Mrs. Pat Horvath. The former headquarters was in Windsor. The Essex site is closer to branch libraries and bookmobile sites.

From Windsor to Essex

County library home

ESSEX—The Essex County Library has a new home. It

New library in central location

ESSEX—The new Essex County Library Co-operative headquarters building on Talbot St. is proving to be a perfect location. The site is close to all county branch libraries and bookmobile stops and has sufficient work space to meet every need.

The library has 7,372 square feet of floor space. At the moment there are some 20,000 volumes present. These are used to answer branch requests, refresh and restock branch collections and to supply books for children served by the Essex County Library School Service. The remainder of the collections (130,000 volumes) is on loan to branches and schools throughout the county.

The library has 1,320 square feet of garage in addition to office space. This houses the bookmobile which serves 15 locations throughout the county and the van used for branch deliveries and school service.

Fluorescent lights and combination heating and air-conditioning has been installed.

The ceiling was lowered by putting in a suspended ceiling of acoustic material. What had been the projection room was converted to a board room and staff lounge.

has moved into quarters at 10 Talbot St., Essex.

The site is closer to branch libraries and bookmobile stops than the old headquarters building and officials feel it is an "ideal location" for their operation.

The Library formerly operated out of quarters on University Ave., Windsor.

The new quarters has more than 8,000 feet of work space. It has been completely renovated and a garage has been built to provide heated space for bookmobiles.

Mrs. Hilda M. Brooke is head county librarian. She said the new building is more efficiently laid out than the old one and predicted personnel will be able to process books much more rapidly than in the past.

She said the library staff has reviewed the county book collection. Duplicate and worn out volumes have been discarded.

There are 11 branch libraries in Essex County. These are at Amherstburg, Comber, Cottam, Essex, Gosfield South, Harrow, LaSalle, St. Clair Beach, Stoney Point, Wheatley and Tecumseh.

The county bookmobile

The headquarters has 11 workers on its full time staff. Five are from the Essex area—Mrs. Myra Bennett, Miss Ginna Lee Brown, Mrs. Jane Haas, Miss Joan Hall and Mrs. Shirley Templeton.

JUNE 26/69.

makes stops twice each month at Mersea East Central School; Point Pelee Dr.; Colchester; Malden Township hall; Branch 594 Legion hall, Todd Lane; Sandwich South Township hall; Knights of Columbus hall, McGregor; Colchester North Township hall; Blytheswood School; Ruthven School; Maryland Park in Oliver Farms Sub-division, Highway 3; Sandwich West Township hall; St. Bernadette School, Staples; South Woodslee telephone office; Emeryville and Rochester Township hall.

Mrs. Brooke said no county resident is more than 15 minutes drive from library service.

She said persons who find it impossible to get to a library can obtain reading material by contacting the library headquarters and asking to be added to the letterbox mailing list.

The library has more than 125,000 books.

THE WINDSOR STAR—Reading record

The Essex County Public Library System loaned out a record 742,915 books to county residents during 1968.

School children borrowed 438,015 books; branch library members, 269,287; and bookmobile users, 52,665.

Amherstburg branch was the busiest. Adult members took out 22,881 books and juvenile, 22,327.

Essex branch distributed

County library opened

ESSEX — Official opening ceremonies were held Wednesday night for the new Essex County Library Co-operative in Essex.

Board chairman Fred H. Cada, St. Clair Beach, and Essex Mayor Edmund Michael headed the list of those taking part in ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

Representatives of Essex County Council, local municipalities, the provincial library service and area library boards also participated.

The new offices are located in the old Essex Theatre Building on Talbot St. The structure has been renovated and a 44-by-66-foot cement block addition erected to provide garage space for library bookmobiles.

The library formerly operated from a building on University Ave. in Windsor.

The new location is closer to six of the 10 branch libraries and 12 to the 16 bookmobile stops. There is parking space for eight to 10 cars and a loading ramp for bookmobiles.

The county library system was initiated in 1935 when representatives of six small libraries—Amherstburg, Cot-

tam, Essex, Harrow, Kingsville and Woodslee—decided to contribute \$25 each to a central fund. In 1947, new provincial legislation provided the impetus for the formation of a co-operative and by 1966 18 of the county's 21 member municipalities had joined.

Mr. Cada said 33,966 books were added to the collection last year and another 14,468 recatalogued.

He noted more than 60,000

books have been borrowed from bookmobiles since service was initiated last year.

Library board members, other than Mr. Cada, are: Warden Ray Hunter; Malden Township Deputy Reeve Reginald Blanchard; Tilbury North Township Deputy Reeve John Duplessis; Howard Bruner, Gosfield South Township; Walter Sidey, Amherstburg; and Aaron Wright Harrow.



SNIP—Ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held for the new Essex County Library Co-operative offices in Essex. From left, Reeve Fred H. Cada of St. Clair Beach, library board chairman, and Essex Mayor Edmund Michael.

Essex library expansion seen

ESSEX — Expansion of the Essex County Library system is foreseen.

Mrs. Hilda M. Brooke, head librarian, has requested that county council give thought to obtaining permanent branches at McGregor and Emeryville and to extending facilities at St. Clair Beach.

Mrs. Brooke said allowance will have to be made in the 1969 budget if better service is to be provided and recom-

mended that the matter be given "careful consideration."

She said many libraries are "far too busy" for space available.

Mrs. Brooke also recommends that thought be given to the employment of another professional librarian, noting it is "almost impossible" to

give branch-staff members proper training at present.

She said the shortage of professional librarians is particularly acute in the children's field.

It has also been recommended that thought be given to lengthening hours at branches.

STAR - JULY 4/69. Renovation plan for libraries

The Essex County Library Co-Operative is planning a long-range renovating program for branch libraries.

It has appointed a special property committee to view present facilities and decide on priorities.

Work will be spread over several years.

During May, 712 new books were added to the county collection and 1,019 recatalogued. There were 31,324 books borrowed from branch libraries and the bookmobile during the month — about 6,000 more than during May, 1968.

Requests are, particularly heavy at the new Emeryville and St. Clair Beach branches.

Essex County Library

Reading record in '68

37,535 books; Comber 7,929; Cottam 19,419; Gosfield South 8,445; Harrow 19,205; LaSalle 16,786; St. Clair Beach 14,766; Stoney Point 7,640; Tecumseh 32,191; Lake Erie Beach deposit 322; and Wheatley 7,497.

There were 2,090 books issued from library headquarters; 1,487, Pelee Island; 1,416, letterbox library; and 620, Sun Parlor Home.

The library gave out 675,291 books in 1967.

Officials are predicting 1969 will be another "busy and productive" year.

Plans are well advanced for integrating Kingsville library into the county system and for relocating the busy St. Clair Beach and Emeryville branches.

These changes should "strengthen and improve" service.

\$174,257 total THE WINDSOR STAR
JAN. 29, 1968
**County library costs
listed for year 1967**

It cost \$174,257 to operate the Essex County Public Library during 1967, county librarian Mrs. Hilda M. Brooke reported.

A year end report shows \$89,618 was spent to meet salaries, \$38,948 went for new books and \$9,873 was paid out for rent and payments in lieu of rents.

Bindery and mending supplies cost \$4,138; periodicals and newspapers \$795; library supplies \$6,432; equipment, and furniture \$3,255; renovation and repair to buildings \$1,246; wages \$2,272 and fringe benefits \$3,967.

Janitor's supplies amounted to \$110; insurance to \$1,377; express and postage to \$1,242; utilities to \$3,981; memberships to \$163 and board indemnity and mileage to \$1,754.

Travel, conference and staff mileage totalled \$1,731; bookmobile expenses \$1,538; audit \$500; sick leave gratuity fund transfer \$200 and miscellaneous \$1,107.

The library received \$84,145 in county levy, \$77,281 in provincial grants, \$4,405 in grant adjustment, \$7,900 regional grants; \$2,093 in fines and fees

and \$165 in Pelee Island grants.

Other revenues were: sale of books, \$1,718; sale of supplies, \$12; surplus, \$1,191 and miscellaneous, \$1,356.

There is a Committee being formed in Sandwich S. to bring better Library service to the Maidstone area. The old Town Hall is to be moved, that the County Library now occupies. The building has to be relocated on account of improvement of Hwy. 3 by the D.H.O. The Committee will be canvassing for donations for this worthy cause, in the future. Some interested volunteers have offered their services in the renovations. The public is invited to a meeting in the former town hall, Oldcastle, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 20th. Mrs. Hilda Brooke of the Library Board will answer questions about the new Library in Maidstone. FEB. 12/75

Essex County Library THE WINDSOR STAR
JANUARY 30, 1968
**Borrowing of books
up 85,000 in year**

More than 675,000 books were borrowed from the Essex County Library during 1967, according to a report compiled by Mrs. Hilda M. Brooke, head librarian.

This is an increase of nearly 85,000 books over 1966 and, according to Mrs. Brooke, is most notable in view of lower circulation apparent in many public libraries.

Busiest libraries were those at Amherstburg, Tecumseh and Essex. The new bookmobile also proved highly successful.

Mrs. Brooke said there were 8,405 new borrowers registered during the year and that special requests increased from 2,436 to 3,744.

The letter box library, providing books by mail to those unable to use a branch library, continues to grow and, according to Mrs. Brooke, an average of 100 books a month are being mailed to county residents.

The head librarian described the new bookmobile as an "unqualified success". She said more than 1,500 county residents

have borrowed nearly 25,000 books from its shelves since it went into operation in June.

She said stops at Emeryville, McGregor and South Woodslee are so busy that "very serious" consideration must be given to establishing new branch libraries. Stops at Ruthven and Sandwich West are also proving extremely busy.

During 1967 the library staff undertook to produce a number of new book lists for distribution to children and adults. It also added a number of large print books to its collections to meet needs of older citizens.

**New home
found for
library**
STAR, MAR. 3, 1976

Plans are under way to provide a new home for the Oldcastle branch of the Essex County library system.

Sandwich South Township Reeve Robert Pulleyblank has announced that the ministry of transportation and communication will rent the former Oldcastle post office building to the township.

The township, in turn, is expected to rent part of the building to the library.

The library closed its branch in the former Oldcastle townhall late in December, and the hamlet has been receiving bookmobile service one day every other week.

The old branch location was closed because extensive repairs were needed to the townhall, which the library leased from the ministry.

If the township acquires a lease on the old post office and variety store, located just east of the former townhall, it plans to sublet another commercial portion of the building, and apartment located at the back of the old post office.

Terms of a lease between the ministry and the township still have to be worked out, and some repairs are needed on the building.

The ministry owns much of the land in Oldcastle along Highway 3 because of a proposed overpass across the railway tracks which runs through the hamlet.

**Oldcastle library
quarters negotiated**

JAN. 20, 1976

Negotiations are continuing between Sandwich South Township and the ministry of transportation and communication to provide a new home for the Oldcastle branch of the county library.

The library closed its branch in the former townhall in Oldcastle late in December, and the hamlet is now receiving service one day every other week.

The old branch location was closed because extensive repairs were needed to the townhall, which the library leased from the ministry.

Sandwich South is now trying to lease another building in Oldcastle from the ministry, with the intent of allowing the library to sublet a portion of the building.

THE WINDSOR STAR

The building in consideration is the former post office and variety store, located just west of the old townhall. If the township acquires the lease, it wants to sublet another commercial portion of the building and an apartment located at the back of the old post office.

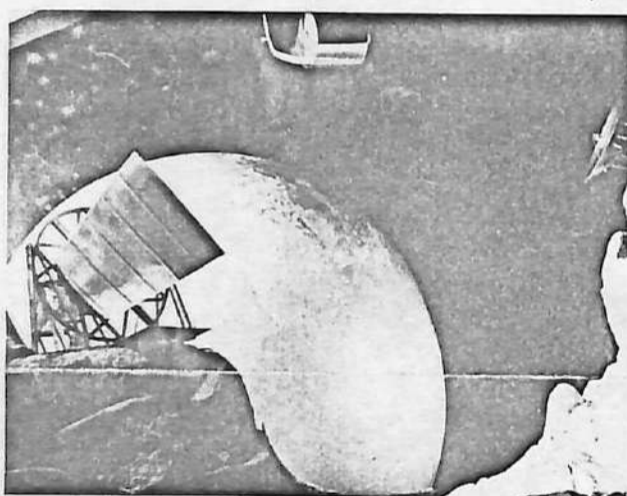
Reeve Robert Pulleyblank said that the township could recoup most of its rent to the ministry by subletting the apartment and commercial area. This way, the library would be charged only a nominal fee for renting the other commercial portion of the building.

Terms of the lease between Sandwich South and the ministry are now being worked out. Some repairs must still be made to the building.



TELEPHONE NEWS

JUNE 1968



TOMTOMS TO LASERS

Would you believe 50,000 years of communications history could be lived and experienced in just about an hour? Our new Panorama of Progress in Telecommunications has opened a door to yesterday and to tomorrow. It is ready to welcome guests on a fascinating journey through time.

One section of Panorama transports our visitors back to the turn of the century. There, on a cobble street, you enter an old chemist shop, com-

plete with patent medicines and Victorian decor. In the corner, seated at a tiny, primitive switchboard, is "Central" the young girl, who, when not selling friar's balsam or other medicaments, would operate the small telephone exchange.

The guttural roars of Neanderthal man's first attempts to make himself understood, throbbing tomtoms, painstaking hieroglyphics, exhausted runners, Pony Express riders, even carrier pigeons convey the spirit of adventure that accompanied each milestone in getting messages from one point to another. Many of the display techniques familiar to Expo 67 visitors help us tell the complex and fascinating story of telecommunications.

Naturally, the telephone and its telecommunications offspring are emphasized in the Panorama, from the earliest telephones, so far removed from the types we use today, to communications devices of the future. These latter include a demonstration of the laser principle—a beam of controlled light no thicker than a pencil, that eventually will be able to carry 900 million telephone calls at the same time, and a telephone worn like a wrist-watch that might one day give instant communication to anyone anywhere in the world.

We hope you can plan a visit soon to our Panorama. It's located in Bell Canada's headquarters building in downtown Montreal and is open Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

YOUR DUTY...YOUR PRIVILEGE—VOTE JUNE 25

Salaries main reason

WINDSOR STAR
FEB. 6, 1969.

Essex libraries cost \$25,000 more in '69

Increased salary and supply costs have forced a 10 per cent hike in the Essex County library system's 1969 budget.

County council has approved a record \$233,525 expenditure — nearly \$25,000 more than in 1968.

Salaries will require \$122,000, books \$46,400, rent and payments in lieu of rent \$15,000, janitor service \$5,000, library supplies \$5,000 and bindery and mending \$4,000.

Other expenses: pension contributions \$4,500; periodicals \$800; express and postage \$1,800; unemployment insurance \$400; miscellaneous wage \$2,400; Windsor Medical \$600; Ontario Hospital \$750; Green Shield \$250; provisions for sick leave \$500; bookkeeping fees \$2,700; board expenses \$2,000; mileage and travel \$2,500; memberships \$200; audit \$500; utilities \$4,500; janitorial supplies \$400; repairs and renovations \$1,500; insurance \$2,500; bookmobile \$2,300; equipment purchases \$3,500; and miscellaneous \$1,500.

Last year, salaries cost \$96,666; books \$54,382; rent and payments in lieu of rent \$14,169; supplies \$5,322; utilities \$3,774 and miscellaneous expenditures \$3,987.

Express and postage required \$1,734; periodicals \$765; miscellaneous wages \$2,796; unemployment insurance \$351; Windsor Medical \$487; Ontario Hospital \$619; Green Shield \$213; pensions \$3,483; provisions for sick leave \$350; bookkeeping fees \$2,715; board expenses \$1,444; staff mileage

and travel \$2,472; memberships \$165; audit \$500; janitorial supplies \$360; repairs and renovations \$1,137; insurance \$2,276; bookmobile \$1,863 and equipment \$2,507.

The board expects to receive \$143,428 from county levy this year; \$75,000 in provincial grants; \$520 from regional grants; \$165 in Pelee Island grant; \$2,500 from fees and fines and \$11,926 in surplus funds.

ESSEX FREE PRESS
JUNE 2, 1972.
OLDCASTLE

CALLING ALL BOOKWORMS!

The Oldcastle branch of the Essex County Library is waiting to serve you. What would you like to know? Something about baseball, art, geography, auto mechanics, bicycle riding, fashion, diet, swimming or boating? Whatever you want, visit the library. Chances are the answer to your questions can be found on its shelves. We're open from 6 until 9 every Thursday and 1 until 4 on Saturdays and we've got books for all ages, from pre-schoolers to senior citizens. Do come in and have a look around our shelves. Remember — it's yours, and it's free! We're in the former Sandwich South Township Hall — next to the tracks at Oldcastle, and we're looking forward to seeing you and your family very soon.

Library open at Oldcastle

The Essex County Library Board has established a new Branch Library at Oldcastle. Located in the former Township Hall, the library will be open on Thursday evenings from 6 until 9 p.m. and on Saturday afternoons from 1 until 4 p.m. Mrs. Jane Haas has been appointed Branch Supervisor.

Through the efforts of Reeve Bob Pulleyblank and the cooperation of the Sandwich South Township Council, the

County Library to Relocate

ESSEX TIMES

When the new Sandwich South Hall is completed the Essex County Library will use the present township hall as its headquarters after the building is vacated on North Talbot Road. Opening date of the new township hall has been tentatively set for March 18.

The library will move the present bookmobile stop from Oldcastle to Maldstone after the move to the present township building. The agreement is subject to 90 days notice from both parties. MARCH 1, 1972.

former Township Hall was made available for library use. Mrs. Hilda Brooke, Chief Librarian of the County system, announced today that approximately 3,000 books for adults and children have been placed in the Oldcastle Branch. Although the collection is small, borrowers are not limited to the books in the branch and requests will be taken for any title not available at Oldcastle. The book or books requested will be supplied from other branches so that persons using the branch will have access to the total book collection of the County Library—more than 150,000 volumes.

Formerly served by bookmobile on a bi-weekly schedule, it is hoped that the establishment of this small branch will better serve the needs of area residents for information and recreational reading.

For further information, call County Library Headquarters between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The number is 776-5241.

Library Co-op use rose 25% in 1969

The Essex County Library Co-Operative loaned out about 590,000 books during the past year—about 25 per cent more than in 1968.

Bookmobile service was most popular with area residents borrowing 57,670 volumes.

The Amherstburg branch loaned out 41,621 books, Essex, 39,973, Kingsville, 26,276, Tecumseh, 34,447, Cottam, 20,576, Harrow, 18,479, LaSalle, 15,431, St. Clair Beach, 19,426, Comber, 8,520, and Emeryville, 10,219.

Gosfield South library gave out 11,642 books, Stoney Point, 7,803, Lake Erie Deposit, 485, Wheatley, 6,244, headquarters, 2,001, letter box library, 1,389, Leamington, 3,688, Pelee Island, 535, and Sun Parlor Home, 500.

The library loaned 246,720 books to county elementary schools and 16,500 to secondary schools.

Corresponding figures for 1968 are: Amherstburg, 45,208; Essex, 37,532; Tecumseh, 32,191; Cottam, 19,419; Harrow, 19,205; LaSalle, 16,768; St. Clair Beach, 14,766; Comber, 7,929; Gosfield South, 8,145; Stoney Point, 7,640; Lake Erie Deposit, 322; Wheatley, 7,497; bookmobile, 52,665; headquarters, 2,090; Pelee Island, 1,487, and Sun Parlor Home, 620.

A program of branch renovation and repair was initiated during the year. At Kingsville, which became part of the system Jan. 1, 1969, shelving was repaired and rearranged, the front entrance replaced, wiring modernized and window air conditioners installed.

Exterior trim of the Essex branch was painted, grounds cleaned up, adult area redecorated and new furniture and shelving purchased. St. Clair Beach branch was moved to larger quarters in more convenient location and hours of service extended.

A new branch was opened at Emeryville in March; the roof and boiler at Amherstburg library were repaired; an air conditioner was installed at Stoney Point and the roof repaired and exterior painted at Comber.

There are now 15 bookmobile stops in the county. Several are busy enough to be considered for increased service or a permanent branch location.

Sandwich South Township Council has agreed to allow the Essex County Library to use the present township hall in Oldcastle after the building is vacated early next month.

The agreement is subject to 90 days notice from both parties. The library has indicated it will shift its present bookmobile stop from Oldcastle to Maldstone when the move to the township building is made. WINDSOR STAR, FEB. 24, 1972.

WINDSOR STAR ★ ★ ★ ★ MAY 4, 1972.

County residents borrowed some 31,900 books from the county library system in March, bringing the total number of books borrowed this year to 86,471. Increased borrowing was reported at Cottam, Harrow, St. Clair Beach, Stoney Point and Tecumseh. At Harrow, in spite of restricted service, area residents borrowed 1,102 adult books and 901 juvenile books.

Requests for elementary school special material and specific titles increased 200 per cent during the year, while secondary school requests were about 30-per-cent higher.

There were 18,096 registered borrowers in 1969—about 4,000 more than in 1968.

Essex County approves \$263,611 library budget

ESSEX—Essex County Council has approved a \$263,611 budget for the county library system—\$16,980 greater than in 1968.

This will necessitate a net \$6,845 increase in the Essex County levy. The library will receive grants from the province to make up the balance.

Largest proposed expenditure is \$410,000 for salaries.

Books will cost \$44,286, rent and payment in lieu of rent, \$16,200 and library supplies, \$5,000.

The 1970 budget calls for the library to receive \$150,273 from county levy, \$82,000, provincial grant, \$520, regional library grant, \$165, Pelee Island grant, \$3,000, fees and fines and \$27,652, surplus to revenue.

THE WINDSOR STAR - JUNE 8, 1970.



LIBRARY SALE 'BOOKED'—The Essex County Library Co-operative will hold its annual sale of surplus and outdated books Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Essex library garage, 1000 Laird Ave. Branch librarian Jane Haas examines some of the 4,000 volumes to be sold. Price will be 10 cents each.

County library reports increases

ESSEX TIMES
APRIL 12, 1972.

Essex County Library Board reports an increase in book borrowing for February. Essex was among the

towns which showed a substantial increase in the number of books borrowed which totalled 2,265 in February, an increase of 10 per cent over the same month last year.

Reports show that the average cost of a juvenile book has risen by 84¢ in the past 4 years while adult fiction books have increased by \$1.18 each and recreational type books by \$2.71 each on the average. In 1967 the average price of all classes of books was \$8.43, by 1971 it had risen to \$13.25.

STAR, APR. 3, 1972

An increase in borrowing of 2,265 more books in February over the same period last year has been reported by the Essex County Library Board. County residents borrowed a total of 30,073 books with substantial increased borrowing reported in Kingsville, Tecumseh, Stoney Point, Essex, and Harrow. A decrease at Amherstburg is accounted for by the fact that the library was only open for part of the month this year. Book prices continue to increase the library board reports. The recently released 1971 figures show that the average cost of a juvenile book has risen from \$3.39 in 1967 to \$4.23 last year. Adult fiction has increased from \$4.80 to \$5.98 in the same period and books on sport and recreation from \$7.29 to \$10.20. Average price for all classes of books was \$13.25 in 1971 compared to \$8.43 in 1967.

THE ESSEX TIMES, JANUARY 12, 1972.

Opportunities Provided by Essex County Library

Services for every need

In 100 B.C. Marcus Tullius Cicero, the Roman statesman and orator, wrote in a letter to a friend: "If you have a garden in your library, nothing will be lacking..." Nowadays, not many people have a real library in their homes and we would phrase it differently: "If you have a coloured T.V. in your home, nothing will be lacking..." The need for an expensive, privately owned library has almost disappeared, in Essex county, for instance, we have a well organized and growing library network, which tries to stay abreast of the information explosion by planning carefully as to which books should or should not be bought.

What does the Public Library do for us?

The objective is, to serve a community, so every resident can get the book he wants, when he needs it. A housewife, wanting to learn how to type more efficiently, got the books from the library, a farm laborer, wanting to upgrade his math, borrowed the necessary books. A young girl, deciding to make her own sewing patterns, got the information from the library. What is

your hobby? Want to stretch your mind? There are books about practically every subject: quilt-making, photography, how to build a Martin house.

The Public Library serves communities in cities and larger towns, but what is done for the smaller communities in the county? That's where the Essex County Public Library comes in.

Mrs. Hilda Brooke, the Chief Librarian of the Essex County Public Library feels very strongly about the need to serve people who live in isolated parts of the county. She is proud of the progress the County Library is making to reach a high standard of service.

Since 1935, when the county library unofficially had its start, many improvements have been made. In that year, six small libraries in the county got together, among them Essex, Harrow and Amherstburg. The library board members put in \$25 each, to buy \$150 worth of books. The books were shared among the six libraries and were transferred every few months.

The principle of sharing the books to have a wider field and to reach people, is still the same, but the services have expanded vastly, some of them are:

THE BOOKMOBILE: This service makes sixteen stops in two-week-periods, visiting the far-out regions, where people have received the books with open arms. It takes requests for any book not carried. Since it started its services in 1967, it has gained statistical information on which they base library-development in Essex County. For instance, from the start McGregor, South Woodslee and Emeryville were such busy stops, that they were seriously considered for permanent branch libraries and in 1969 Emeryville opened its new branch.

SCHOOLSERVICES. The bookmobile serves elementary schools and high schools in the county too. Elementary books will still have one exchange a year; however, the need for this service is diminishing as more and more schools have their own library and employ their own librarians. Teachers can still borrow individually for their classes, if the need arises.

LETTER BOX LIBRARY. This is a mail service for older residents and shut-ins. These handicapped people fill out a card, to provide information about their pre-

ferences in reading; four books at a time are mailed out to them for a month period. A visiting Public Health nurse informs the people about the service, but Mrs. Brooke believes she could reach more people. "If anybody knows about a person who would want to use the letter-box library, by all means, have them give me a call at County Headquarters - in Essex, (776-5241)". At the moment about 1200 books are mailed out monthly. Besides this service, book deposits are made at nursing homes, as the Sun Parlor Home in Leamington and Essex Nursing Home.

TELEX INSTALLATION. The Telex was installed in headquarters in 1970 and helps speed up communication between the larger libraries. Mrs. Brooke feels the Telex has proven most useful:

"We can dial libraries across the country and receive written replies, sometimes in a matter of minutes." Books for special requests have come to Essex County residents from Acadia University in Nova Scotia, as well as the Universities of New Brunswick and Victoria, among others. In a report of the Essex County Library of 1970, Mrs. Brooke wrote: "No matter where he lives, the reader can enjoy the wide-ranging experience of a trip to the moon, or visit an English Pub. His life can be en-

riched by an inspirational essay, or a humorous poem. He can be informed by a study of mechanized farming, or the structure of Canada's government. He can experience the rigors of an Arctic winter, or be an eyewitness to riots in London-derry. He needn't miss a thing...if he has a library card. And library cards are FREE, so what are you waiting for?

MAY 12, 1972 EFP Bookmobile Service at Maidstone

Beginning Thursday, May 11, the Essex County Library Board will provide bookmobile service to Maidstone area residents. The Bookmobile stop will be on a bi-weekly basis, from 6 until 8 p.m. but hours may be extended if the Stop proves as busy as is anticipated. The Bookmobile will carry a full range of adult and children's books, and will supply special requests for books not taken for any title not available in the Bookmobile collection. The County Library Board hopes that area residents will take advantage of the new service, and is grateful for the cooperation of the Sandwich South Council and St. Mary's Church in setting up the new location.

The new service will begin Thursday, May 11, and continue every second Thursday thereafter - May 25, June 8, 22, etc. For further information, phone County Library Headquarters between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The number is 776-5241.

ESSEX FREE PRESS
MAY 5, 1972.

Special services offered Library more than fiction

By MIKE McATEER

ESSEX — With 325,000 books circulated during 1972 you'd think that just about everyone would know by now that the Essex County Public Library stocks more than just fiction books.

Not so, says county librarian Mrs. Hilda Brooke.

Recently she was asked by a county resident if the library carried any non-fiction books.

"The majority of our stock is non-fiction", Mrs. Brooke explains. "Although generally people no longer look on the library as just a place to pick up a love story or a western, we've still got a job to do to reach more people."

The general trend in libraries, Mrs. Brooke says is towards a decrease in the number of books borrowed by patrons but a tremendous increase in the use of the library as an information centre.

"There's an upswing of interest in hobbies, crafts... art in general. People tend to have more leisure now and are interested in activities that will improve the quality of life. They want background information. If they borrow a record they want to know about the music... about the composer."

The county library's large stock of non-fiction and reference books and the special request service are "real selling points" in increasing the library's popularity, Mrs. Brooke says.

Membership of the southwestern Ontario Library Region has brought the stock of libraries across Canada within reach of Essex patrons: A county library patron can, for instance, borrow a specially requested book from the University of New Brunswick's library.

During 1972 the Essex County library board operated the 12 branch libraries, the 15 bookmobile stops throughout the county and the library's headquarters in the Town of Essex on a

\$330,000 budget. There are 17 full-time and 15 part-time workers employed by the board as well as about 20 high school students on a part-time basis.

Mrs. Brooke describes the year as "generally quite successful."

She sees the year's highlights as: the re-opening of the Amherstburg branch after complete renovation; the re-opening of the LaSalle branch after renovations; the opening of new buildings in Tilbury West and Harrow; and the installation of telephones in all branches to improve service to borrowers.

At the four largest branches — Amherstburg, Essex, Kingsville and Tecumseh — small collections of records were made available for loan without charge. The initial collection was provided by the regional library system but if the service proves popular the collections will be enlarged and the service extended to other branches.

The four branches also have a collection of 8mm films which have been made available to library patrons.

During 1973 Mrs. Brooke expects extension of hours at most branches, renovation of the interior of the Kingsville branch and removal of the LaSalle branch to a more suitable location.

One of the most satisfactory and successful programs of the year, says Mrs. Brooke was the series of story hours and puppet shows held at various branches. She hopes to see an extension of these programs during 1973.

Construction of a new home for the county's administrative staff is likely to start next year. When completed the county building will also accommodate the library headquarters. The lease on the present headquarters in Essex comes up for renewal next year and County council, at its final 1972 session, advised the library board to seek a two-year lease or failing this to rent on a monthly basis.

Bookmobile service at Maidstone

ESSEX TIMES
MAY 11, 1972,

Beginning Thursday, May 11, the Essex County Library Board will provide bookmobile service to Maidstone area residents. The Bookmobile Stop will be located at St. Mary's Church, Maidstone. For the time being, service will be on a bi-weekly basis, from 6 until 8 p.m. but hours may be extended if the Stop proves as busy as is anticipated.

The Bookmobile will carry a full range of adult and children's books, and will supply special requests for books not in the Bookmobile

collection. The County Library Board hopes that area residents will take advantage of the new service, and is grateful for the cooperation of the Sandwich South Council and St. Mary's Church in setting up the new location.

The new service will begin Thursday, May 11, and continue every second Thursday thereafter -- May 25, June 8, 22, etc. For further information phone County Library Headquarters between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The number is 776-5241.

THE WINDSOR STAR JULY 10, 1972 Oldcastle hall renovated to become branch library

OLDCASTLE — Visitors to the old Sandwich South Township Hall on Highway 3 will find little external change, but will hardly recognize the interior.

The council desk, chairs and public seating are gone and in their place are rows of books — 3,500 in all. A new coat of paint has given the old hall a new sparkle. It's all part of a new service

by the Essex County library board replacing a bi-weekly bookmobile stop at the same location. The bookmobile stop has been transferred to Maidstone where it operates every second Tuesday between 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Library hours at the board's 12th branch are from 6-9 p.m. Thursdays and from 1-4 p.m. Saturdays. It is hoped to offer summer programs at the new branch.

THE WINDSOR STAR, MAY 4, 1972.

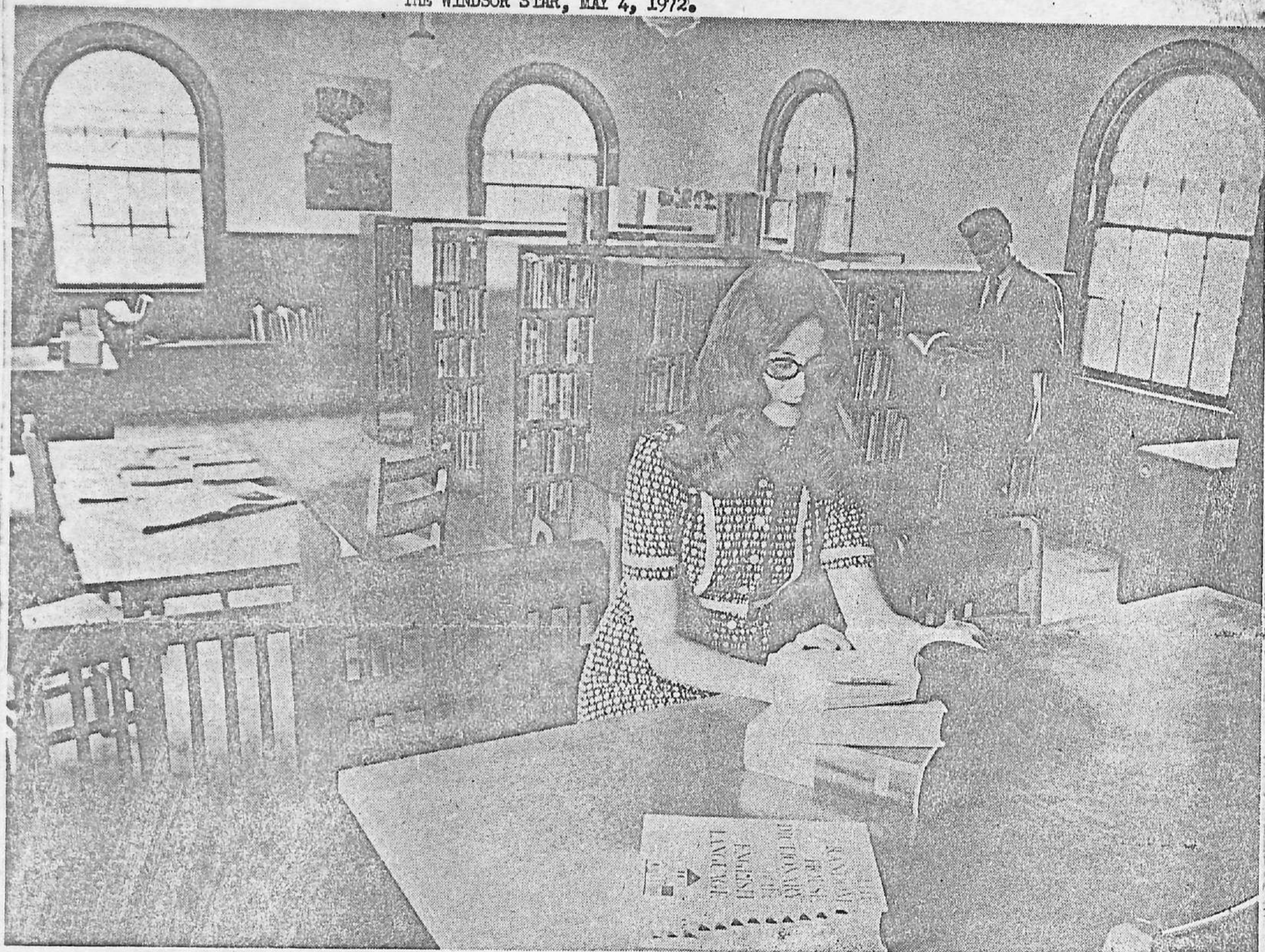


Photo by Mike McAteer

Jane Haas who will be in charge of the branch and assistant county librarian Bill Partridge, in library

County library moves into Sandwich South Township hall

OLDCASTLE—The old Sandwich South Township hall, vacated two months ago by township council, has a new occupant.

Essex County library has moved into the spruced-up building on Highway 3 and is operating a branch library there six hours a week. It has become, temporarily, the

library board's 12th county branch.

The new service replaces a bi-weekly bookmobile stop at the same location. The stop has now been changed and the bookmobile service will start operating May 11 at St. Mary's parish hall, Maidstone.

County librarian Mrs. Hilda Brooke says there is a collection of some 3,000-3,500

volumes at the new branch and area library patrons are offered the same services as other branches and can draw on the county library's total stock of 160,000 volumes.

Mrs. Brooke is hopeful that this summer the new branch will be involved in the library's general program including story hours for children.

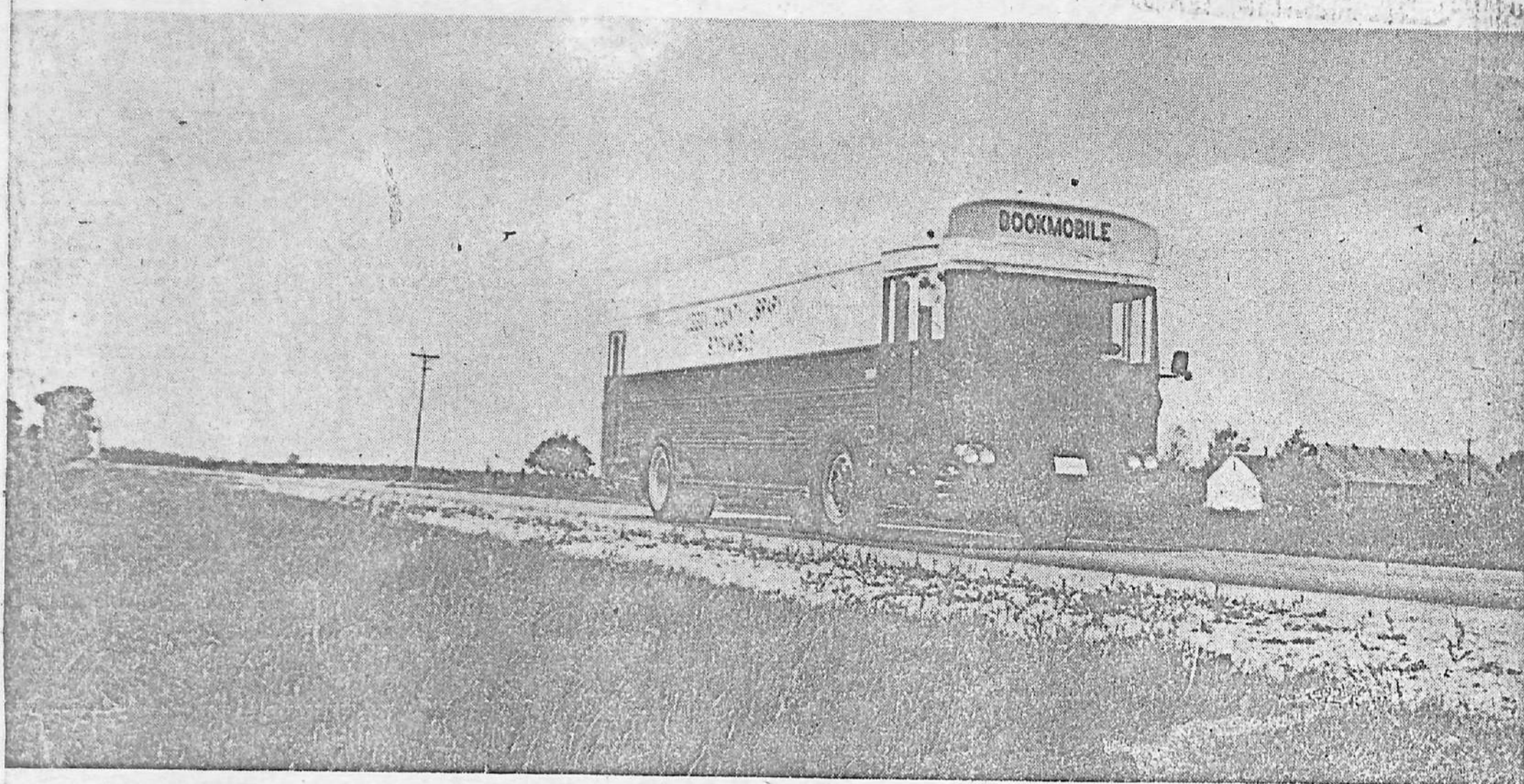
Mrs. Brooke says the new branch is made possible through the co-operation of the township, which is leasing the hall to the library board for \$1 a month. The township also painted and cleaned up the building ready for occupancy.

The old hall will likely be purchased by the department of Transportation and Com-

munications to make way for an overpass at the site in general reconstruction plans for Highway 3.

Library hours at the new branch are 6-9 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays. A member from the county library's headquarters in Essex is in charge and will be assisted by a local high school student.

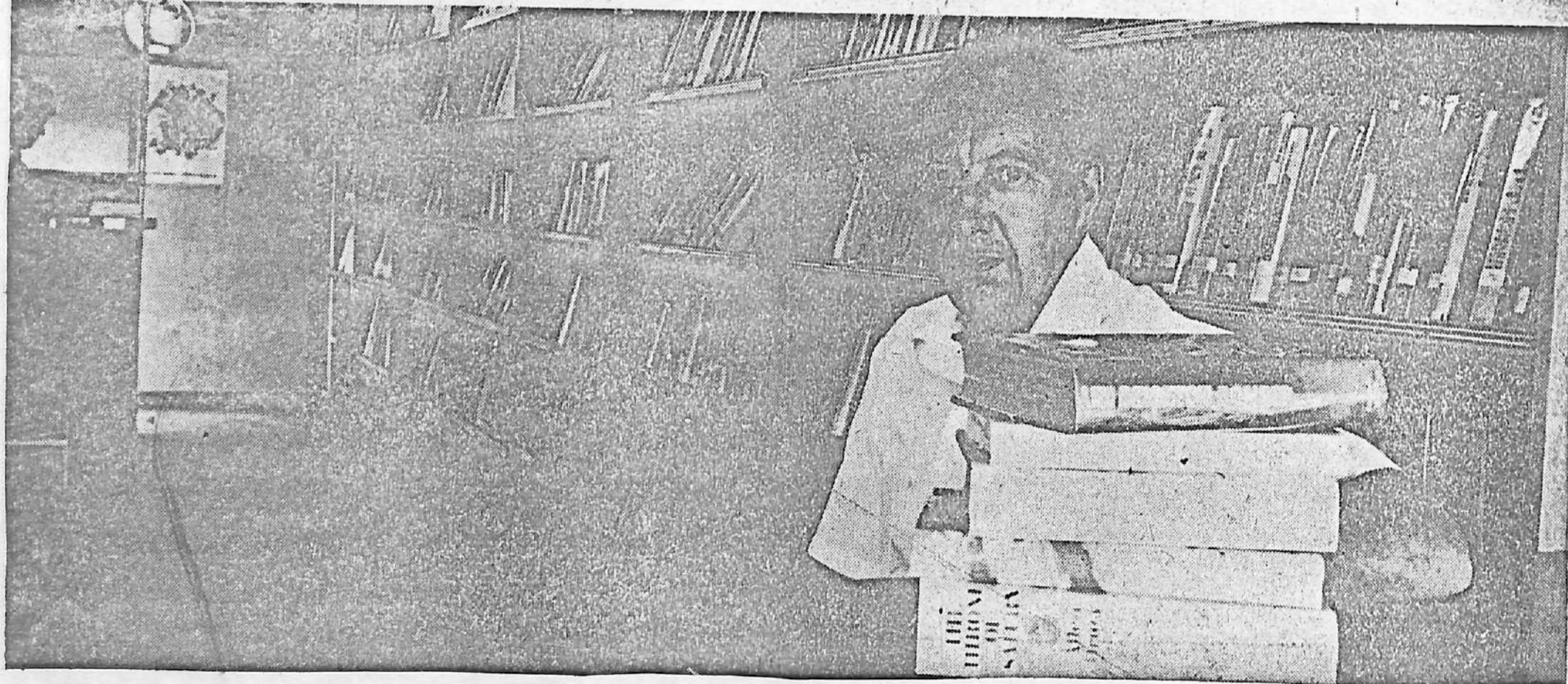
★ ★ ★ ★
The Essex County library's bookmobile stop at Maidstone will start operating May 11 at St. Mary's Church parish hall. Hours of operation will be between 6 and 9 p.m. every second Thursday. The library is also operating out of the old township hall near Oldcastle. The library is open here Thursday between 6-9 p.m. and Saturdays between 1-4 p.m.
★ ★ ★ ★ MAY 3, 1972.
★ ★ ★ ★ WINDSOR STAR



Destination Staples—Andy Rae takes bookmobile along County Road 8

Travelling the county's literary circuit

ANDY RAE, INSIDE THE BOOKMOBILE



PHOTOS, STORY BY MIKE McATEER

STAPLES—Just before two o'clock on a sunny Thursday afternoon Andy Rae backed the large bookmobile in beside Rivest's general store.

Unreeling a heavy power line from the back he plugged it into a hydro socket. The lights went on in the bookmobile and Essex County Library's travelling branch was open for business.

Parked almost level with the gas pumps outside a country store on a dusty county road the bookmobile was making its regular bi-weekly stop at the hamlet of Staples.

Mr. Rae, a county library employee for 19 years, has been driving the bookmobile and supervising its operation since inception of the service in 1967.

Working out of the county library's headquarters in Essex and with the help of an assistant, he has brought library services to the less populated county areas, fanning out in regular bi-weekly stops to 14 locations and a weekly evening stop at McGregor. The bookmobile makes afternoon or evening stops at the various locations and stays for two-and-a-half hours.

"Hate the hours but love the job," says Mr. Rae now studying for his masters degree in library science. "Wouldn't want to work anywhere else."

"You build up a fabulous rapport with the community. There's a special personal relationship that you would not find in other jobs. And there's the added satisfaction of bringing a service to the people that they really want."

"I see them coming to the bookmobile on foot, horseback, bicycle, go cart and tractors. One lad I remember could only have been about 10 was plowing in the fields when I arrived at the stop. He unhitched the plow, drove over, changed his books went back, hitched up again and started plowing again."

Mr. Rae says the bookmobile tries to provide all the services of a regular library branch.

"It has its limitations but we counteract this by rotating the stock on a day-to-day basis. If we haven't got a book the patron can ask for it and we try to have it next time round."

"Once had 37 requests for books on Canadian history and we were able to fill them all," he says proudly.

The bookmobile, specially built for the county library in 1967, carries a stock of 2,500 adult books and 600 children's books.

Averaging 8,000 miles during its 50 weeks-a-year service it follows a route that's been specially mapped out to eliminate possible obstacles and links stops between near Wheatley, St. Joachim, Sandwich West Township hall and Colchester Village.

In the more than five years of operation the library has only cancelled the service three times. The bookmobile arrived at the stop but piled up snow made it impossible to connect the power line with the hydro socket.

"But activity is mainly dictated by the whims of the seasons rather than the whims of the weather," Mr. Rae says.

"Take this stop at Staples. Won't see a man in here all afternoon—they're all out on the farms. The wives will pick out the books for them . . . and of course we will have the children."

County librarian Mrs. Hilda Brooke says the bookmobile is one of the library's most popular service. "The yearly circulation is higher than many of our smaller branches and we have less problems there too."

Total circulation for 1968 — the first full year of operation was 46,605. Last year it was 62,512.

"Each stop is different and Andy has built up a special relationship in each place."

"You see them waiting in the rain for him to call."

Permanent library plan studied in Sandwich S.

THE WINDSOR STAR, FEB. 26, 1975
OLDCASTLE — There may be a permanent library in Sandwich South.

It depends on the economic feasibility of renovating and moving the former town hall.

The building now serves as a temporary substitute for the bookmobile of the county library services. It has to be moved from its present site by Highway 3 where it served until recently as the township hall, to make way for the proposed overpass over the Chesapeake and Ohio railway crossing at Highway 3 at Oldcastle.

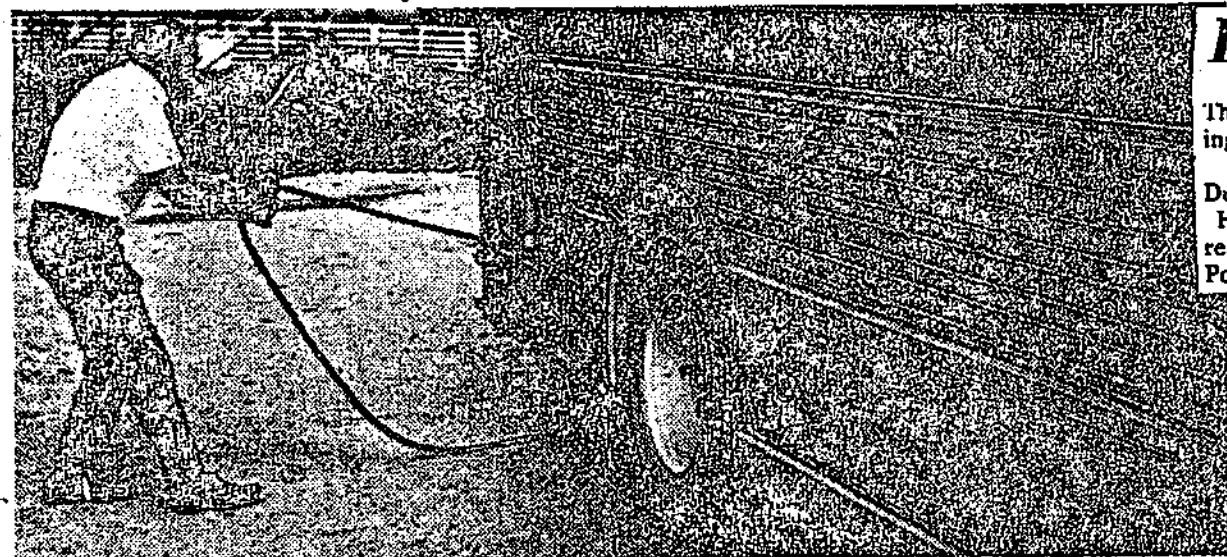
Sandwich South council has agreed to investigate the possibility of handling the expenses of moving and renovating the hall.

Councillor Wayne Dupuis and Mrs. Hilda Brooke of the Essex County Library reported there was enough enthusiasm expressed at a recent meeting to warrant further planning. A second meeting is being planned in the hope of involving more of the residents of Sandwich South in the decisions concerning renovation and meeting the costs.

"We would like to preserve the hall and a library would be a fitting use for it, but costs are very important," Coun. Dupuis said.

He reported there is a possibility of getting a loan through the ministry of colleges and universities to assist in establishing libraries.

PORTION OF NOV. 4, 1972 WINDSOR STAR FULL PAGE FEATURE ON LIBRARIES.



Andy Rae pulls out power line from bookmobile

Essex County Library news

THE ESSEX TIMES, DEC. 5, 1974
The Bookworm is Coming!!!
Dear Santa:
How much does it really snow at the North Pole? You won't get snowed in this Christmas, will you? I hope not because I have something very special I want for Christmas this year. The South-Western Regional Library, where I live, is letting me march in the Santa Claus parade on Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. near you and then I'm going to spend the rest of the day visiting all my good friends at the Essex Public Library across from the Post Office. But I was wondering if you and your elves could bring me a name of my very own. I've never had a real name before. All the boys and girls can help too; if they can find a name I REALLY like, my friends at the Essex County Library will give them an early Christmas present. Please hurry because without a name, I can't sign this letter.
P.S. When you think of a name, just give it to my friends at the library across from the post office.

March 8, 1968 — It would cost \$211,125 to operate Essex County Library System in 1968, about \$35,000 more than in 1967. The cost of new books and wage requirements were the main reasons for the increase. The library would receive from the county \$114,776; from provincial grants \$87,000 and from surplus \$6,011; from fees and fines, \$2,000; from Wheatley contract service, \$1200 and from Pelee Island grant, \$165.

February 8, 1969 — Essex County Public Library System loaned out a record 742,915 books to county residents during 1968.

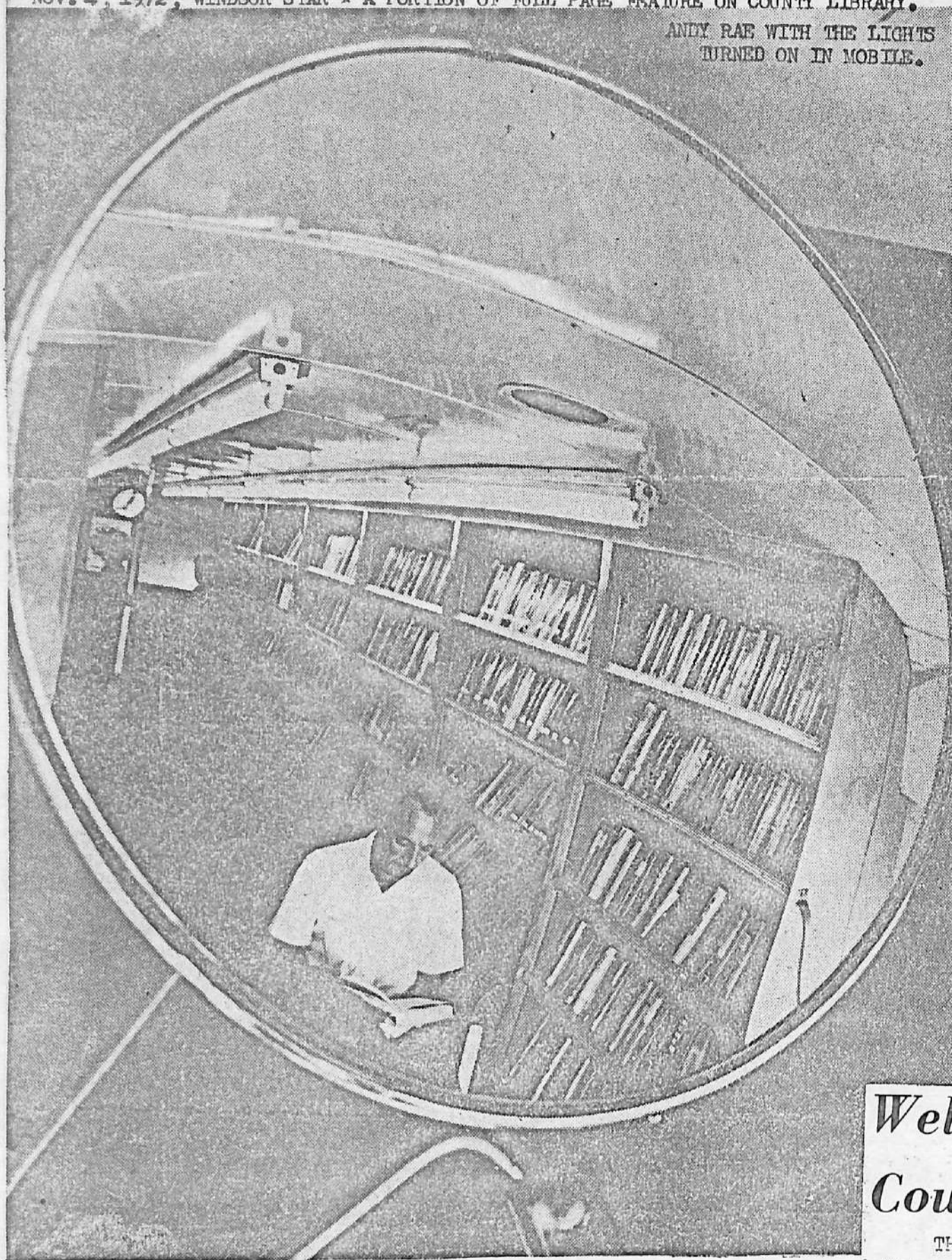
WINDSOR STAR, MAR. 2, 1972
The Essex County Library board will meet with Sandwich South Council to consider taking over the township hall for library purposes. The township hall at Oldcastle will be vacated by the end of March when new quarters will be ready for occupation by the municipality. The old town hall will eventually be torn down by the department of highways to make way for the Highway 3 overpass.

WINDSOR STAR, MAR. 23, 1972
Completion of work on the old Sandwich South Township hall to convert it into new quarters for the Essex County Library is expected to be completed within two weeks. The county library is to start a summer program for area children and open the new library several evenings a week. The present bookmobile stop at Oldcastle is to be transferred to Maidstone.

★ ★ ★ ★
County residents in January borrowed 24,487 books, a decrease of 2,650 from January of 1971. One of the reasons for the decrease was that the Amherstburg branch had been closed during that month for renovations.

In other business, the question of whether it is economically feasible to preserve the old township hall by moving it, is being considered by the Essex County Library Board, which is now using the building. STAR, 1/23/75

ANDY RAE WITH THE LIGHTS
TURNED ON IN MOBILE.



A new branch of the County library has moved into Sandwich South Township Hall. There is a collection of some 3,000 to 3,500 volumes at this new branch and area library patrons are offered the same services as other branches and can draw on the County Library's total stock of 160,000 volumes. Library hours at the new branch are 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday and 1 - 4 p.m. Saturdays. Mrs. Jane Haas will be in charge and will be assisted by a local high school student.

During February county residents borrowed 27,772 books from branch libraries and the bookmobile according to the latest library report from Essex County public library's Mrs. Hilda Brooke. Special requests for the month totalled 819 compared with 681 for the same month last year.
APR. 14/73 -TIMES

Welcome to the County Library

THE ESSEX TIMES, MAY 16, 1974

We've got books for you...and your family... and all your friends and relations! The Branch library you use may be small but your library card is your key to our collection of almost 150,000 books. You may have any title sent to your local branch.

There is **NO CHARGE** for membership!

In addition to books all Branches have magazines and local newspapers.

Some Branches have records, 8 mm. films, and projectors which may be borrowed without charge.

If for any reason, you are unable to visit a Branch, our Letter Box Library Service will deliver books to you by

mail, without charge.

Our Bookmobile makes fifteen stops throughout the County and you may obtain a current schedule by phoning County Library Headquarters.

The County Library has hundreds of books on almost every subject. How to do things, and how to make things... easy-to-read largeprint books for the senior citizen and picture books for the youngest reader...books on child care, politics, horse training, business, hobbies, painting, home decoration, coin collection, needle-work and gourmet cooking.

Whether you enjoy mystery stories, hair-raising adventures,

sports or romances, the County Library has something for you...and if we haven't the book you ask for, we'll get it for you.

What are your interests? What would you like to know? There is almost no end to the information the library can supply...how to write a letter, build a boat, plan a special diet, make duck decoys. How to fix your Ford or Chevrolet, or motor-cycle...How to reupholster a chair, decorate a cake, or plan a party.

Visit your local library soon...you'll find something for everyone in your family on the shelves...and it's free.



STORM RIPS
ACROSS ESSEX
COUNTY - JUNE
28th, 1973.
FORMER SANDWICH
SOUTH TOWNSHIP
HALL.

Mary Beth Cope, poses beside the flag pole in front of the Oldcastle library where she works. The flag pole was bent at nearly a 45 degree angle by the wind on Tuesday night.

Following the County Book Mobile

by Barbara Ford

Somewhere in Essex County, at this very moment, a large vehicle which looks like a school bus, but not quite, is parked and hooked up to the nearest electrical outlet. It doesn't have many windows since the interior is stacked floor to ceiling with the very latest in reading material. Of course we are speaking about the Bookmobile which is under the jurisdiction of the Essex County Library Board with headquarters on Talbot South (not to be confused with the branch library on Gordon Street). Every weekday afternoon, except Mondays, the driver and clerk Howard Kneale of Windsor and supervisor Mrs. Rebecca Tait, of Canada Street in Sandwich West, arrive to plan their day. Howard, incidentally, is studying for his Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Windsor and he says that the chief librarian Mrs. Hilda Brooks has been very lenient in arranging hours for him.

The only time the Bookmobile doesn't head out is the period of two weeks around Christmas and New Year's. Certain books are loaded and unloaded every day according to interest, school projects and seasonal demands. Mrs. Tait says that she gets to

know what the children are studying in school and prepares for it. "For example, if they're studying insects, we make sure we have books on insects loaded for that day." Then of course, the children are looking for books on hockey in the winter, and ghost stories around Hallowe'en, and good fiction at any time. Since stops are made every two weeks at a certain spot, they must stock Christmas books early. Mrs. Tait allows about a six week start on books about baking and Christmas decorating.

Books can be lent out for two weeks, although they are lenient about a month's borrowing for a summer vacation, or if a person is going into the hospital, they can get the books they want to take with them, as long as they choose books that aren't in constant demand. "We get to know our people" Mrs. Tait says. "As we are driving out from headquarters we'll say such things as 'Mrs. Smith will be coming in today and she'll want such and such a book.'"

When the truck is parked at a school, they usually find big line-ups after school and there is a big rush to take care of everybody. As Howard says "We can't stay overtime very long at a

stop, or we won't have time to get our dinner and make it to the next stop on time." What does help their packed schedule is the fact that at some stops the children come out at recess and they have processed books for 300 children in half an hour. These children often are looking for books for the whole family and they will say such things as "My mum wants a book like the one she had last time"....another good reason for getting to know the people and their likes and dislikes. In the rural areas the farmers and their families are often too busy to read much before harvest time, and their reading is mostly caught up in the winter months.

What about emergencies? When Mrs. Tait is away, usually on Thursdays, vacation, she is replaced by Mrs. Jackie Soulliere from St. Clair Beach and on the rare occasions when Howard can't come, he is replaced by a spare driver. If the truck breaks down and can't be fixed the same day, a van goes out to the regular stop for pickups and people are told they can keep their books for an extra two weeks. Very seldom do they miss because of bad weather. Mrs. Tait can remember only two days in the past four

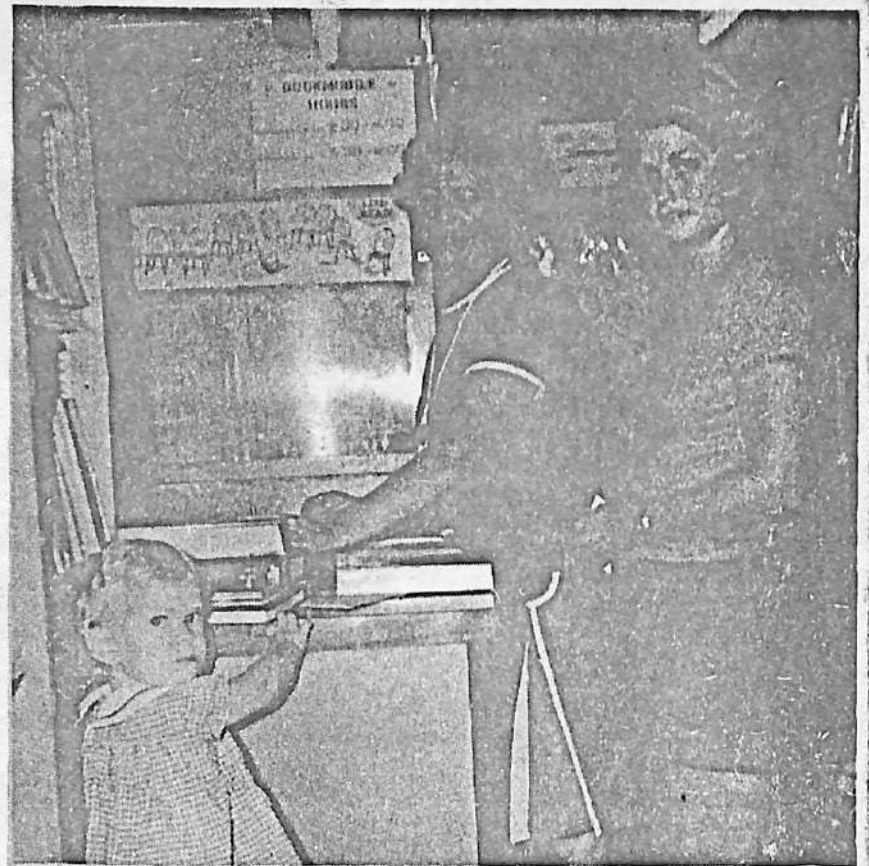
years that she has not been travelling with the Bookmobile.

Afternoon stops are between 2 and 4:30 p.m. and evening stops are between 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. Each place is visited every second week, with the exception of McGregor which receives a weekly stop.

This is the schedule they follow (the first place named is visited in the afternoon and the second is their evening stop). Tuesday: East Mersea School and Mersea Park at Point Pelee. Wednesday: Colchester Trailer Park and Malden Township Hall. Thursday: Huron Line at the Legion Hall and Maidstone at St. Mary's Church. Friday: Town Hall at Gesto and K of C Hall at McGregor.

The next week they would be at Blytheswood Public School and Ruthven Public School on Tuesday, Oliver Farms area (Maryland Park) and Sandwich West Town Hall on Wednesday, Staples School and St. Joachim Town Hall on Thursday, Woodslee Town Hall and K of C Hall in McGregor on Friday.

Visit them some time, you'll find expert help in choosing books and its one of the few free things we have left to enjoy.



Mrs. Rebecca Tait, middle, librarian on the Essex County Bookmobile, helps Mrs. Marilyn Jackson to select a book from the well-stocked shelves. Baby Carol Jackson came along to look at the pictures in the books.



Driver of the Bookmobile and clerk, Howard Kneale, is on the job every weekday.

PROFILE

HELEN

Helen Brooks — People and books

The stereotype of the librarian tip-toeing around telling people to whisper is past, according to Mrs. Helen Brooks, Chief Librarian in Essex County. When one enters the Essex



WH.

Her friendly and sincere approach towards people requesting information or specific books had lead her to the respected and responsible position she now holds. Mrs. Brooks was born in Winnipeg and came to Windsor when she began Grade 7 with her parents and younger sister. She has been with the library for 40 years, 16 of those spent as the Chief Librarian of the Essex County branches.

She became interested in books at an early age and she came to the conclusion that since she was "crazy about reading" and spent alot of her time in the library she might as well get a job there. That was when she was 12 years old and she still loves it. She knew from an early age that she wanted to be associated with lib-

rary work and still enjoys her job and the library. Because Mrs. Brooks enjoys dealing and talking with people she finds it "terribly satisfying to bring books and people together."

"We feel able to satisfy most needs of the people" she added. "It is most satisfying to give them information which they request."

Mrs. Brooks looks at libraries as "primarily information centers," where one can come and get a book concerning a particular topic, whether it be for pleasure or research.

She feels that libraries don't get as much use as they should because people aren't aware what the "modern public library can offer." In the Essex County system they have 170,000 volumes in their research centres, she added. Pe-

ople may also order books from all over the country by their telex machine.

Mrs. Brooks graduated from the University Of Toronto with her Master's degree in Library Science. Her attainment of such a prominent degree is just another indication of her devotion and knowledge in the library field. She feels more money would enable the libraries to increase their numbers of books, records and films. "Everything boils down to money," she remarked. With the extra funds, she added, the libraries would be able to service the people more fully because they would be able to have longer hours and advertise their facilities to the public. "Everyone should have access to a library," she feels. The County Library currently offers a service called the Book Mobile which circulates throughout the smaller communities in Essex County. If one cannot receive the book they are looking for from either the library or book mobile "we'll try everything to get it for you." Books can also be mailed to people, free of charge, who are unable to get to a library.

"Frankly the most interesting part of being a professional librarian is deciding and reading what books to obtain for the libraries," she said. One looks at the budget and then works from there as to how many and what books to buy. Mrs. Brooks added, "I look at the community, and try to foresee what the people want. I have the responsibility to get all shades of opinions for the people." They are careful as to what books younger children take out but she pointed out that it is mainly the parents who should "guard their reading."

On the topic of women's lib she explains that "I'm not a militant women's liber" but added that in some areas "women are discriminated against." For instance, she said, in salaries and in job advancement "they do sometimes experience

discrimination but, in libraries she has never been confronted or seen this. Sometimes women bring this upon themselves, Mrs. Brooks added. "It is a man's world, changing though in some respect, and women have to learn that they can't put their personal life ahead of their job, generally women tend to be more emotional and get more involved." The trend and wave of different thinking, she feels, is brought around by the

women's role in marriage changing. Most women today want "to keep an identity of their own." Society she added, "is much more open and this is part of the changing pattern of life."

With the availability of information the young are growing up very quickly, she feels. "they are studying so much more in schools today." With T.V. especially you can't help but be better informed, she added.

Books provide one



"Society is much more open and it's a part of the changing pattern of life."

with so much Mrs. Brooks feels, recreation, information and a source of education. It is one of the "most satisfying pursuits" and "is something you can do all of your life." She explained that whatever happens one can read about it. "I can't imagine life without books."

After talking with Mrs. Brooks I can't imagine any of our county libraries without her, or more importantly, our County. She gives us much more than just guidance and knowledge, it is called a genuine concern.

Library to be named after Dr. Leddy

THE TIMES - MAY 25, 1977

The University of Windsor Library is to be named "The Leddy Library" in honor of the President of the University, Dr. J. Francis Leddy, the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Robert J. Tebbs, announced.

Dr. Leddy has announced that he will be retiring in 1978, when he reaches the regular age of retirement for members of university staff.

"The Board of Governors' unanimous decision to name the library in Dr. Leddy's honor pays tribute to his brilliant and devoted years of service to the University of Windsor," Mr. Tebbs declared. "It is a tribute to his scholarship, his leadership, and his invaluable services during nearly a decade and a half of the University's history."

A formal ceremony of naming is planned for the early autumn.

John Francis Leddy, O.C., D.Phil., D.Litt., D. es L., LL.D., D.C.L., will have served as President of the University of Windsor 14 of the 15 years of the University's history when he retires. He is the University's second president, as the Rev. Eugene Carlisle LeBel, C.S.B., C.D., LL.D., served the initial year of the University's incorporation.

The 13 years of Dr. Leddy's presidency to date have seen rapid growth and solid development of the University of Windsor under his guidance. Full-time enrolment has grown from 1,800 to 7,500 in the period, with a full-time academic staff of 500.

With this enrolment has come a notable expansion of educational opportunities offered at the University. Among additions of faculties, schools and departments during Dr. Leddy's tenure have been Law, Social Work, Education, Human Kinetics, Computer Science, Fine Arts, Music, Drama and the general expansion of Graduate Studies which has brought a commensurate increase in research grants and scholarships.

The University Library system's holdings have grown in this period to where they now stand at the equivalent of more than 950,000 volumes. Among them are two special collections which are the gift of Dr. Leddy over the period of his tenure.



"I'm not a militant women's liber but in some areas women are discriminated against."

It was a moving experience for the county library staff

THE WINDSOR STAR, NOV. 8, 1975
By ROB VAN NIE

Moving about 100,000 books from one building to another in one week is no easy matter.

But for a library system which operates 13 branches spread around Essex County, it isn't all that hard either.

"We've done extremely well," said Essex County librarian Hilda Brooke, sitting in the vacant library headquarters on Talbot Street in Essex.

About a mile away, alongside the Essex Highway 3 bypass, her staff was sorting books in the new headquarters located in the Essex County Civic and Education Centre.

Baird Moving and Storage, a company experienced in transporting large amounts of books, started the move on Monday and all the books were delivered to the new building and ready for sorting by Wednesday afternoon.

The new centre is now the seat of Essex County government and headquarters of the county public and separate schoolboards. They moved there from their old home on Sandwich Street in Windsor last month.

"It will be very helpful to be in the same building as the county administration. We work very closely together," said Mrs. Brooke.

The library operates autonomously, but it is funded by the county.

The new headquarters will be open for business Monday.

With the new layout and additional space, Mrs. Brooke hopes that administrative work can be streamlined to provide better service to the 13 branch libraries.

The county library also operates a bookmobile, which

travels to small centres where branch libraries are not available.

"Never say no to anybody," is the motto that Mrs. Brooke would like to see operating as approximately 15 full-time and 25 part-time workers watch over the 170,000 volumes in the county library collection.

The library system's aim is to "make sure that nobody in the county goes without information he needs or knowledge he requires just because he lives in a rural area," Mrs. Brooke said.

Never saying no means that the library will search across Canada, and sometimes the United States, for a book a patron wants.

"If you've never had access to good information you have to be made aware that no matter what you want, you can get it," said Mrs. Brooke.

If the library does not have a book or know where it is available, she will telex the national library in Ottawa to find out who has it.

"We are tied into the collection of every major library in Canada," Mrs. Brooke said. "No library today can exist on its own."

Mrs. Brooke remembers when the library borrowed about 25 books from various Canadian universities for a Peleg Island minister who was working on his doctorate degree.

Although the library staff is happy to leave the 10,000-square-foot headquarters on Talbot Street in favor of the new 14,000-square-foot library, Mrs. Brooke said the staff thought the Talbot Street building "was gorgeous" when the library moved there seven and a half years ago.

Page 14, Wednesday November 26, 1975

Essex County Public Library

Rural and suburban residents have the same kinds of economic and job problems and the same need to understand national and international events that urban dwellers have. Their curiosity is stimulated by the same newspapers, magazines, radio and television programmes. They have the same cultural interests.

In the past, people dependent on small community libraries received a significantly lower level of service than those who had access to the resources of large urban library systems. To lessen this gap, and as part of its contribution to the well-being of the individual and to the enrichment of the quality of life in Essex County, County Council established the County Public Library in January of 1966 to replace the earlier Essex County Library Cooperative which was a loose

federation of independent municipal libraries.

In the intervening years library service has been improved and extended. With a collection of more than 160,000 volumes, the County Library Board now operates thirteen branch libraries in towns and villages. Fifteen bookmobile service points are located in rural areas, and the "Letter Box Library" provides postage free books for those unable to use library facilities because of age, illness or physical disability. No County resident is more than three miles from a branch library or bookmobile stop.

The Essex County Public Library is people-oriented, serving the informational, cultural, educational and recreational needs of our citizens -- from preschooler to senior citizen.



LINING THE SHELVES — Essex County Library employees Pam Greaves (foreground) and Linda Breault (rear) fill the shelves with

books at the library's new headquarters in the Essex County Civic and Education Centre. The library has just moved all its books — 100-

000 of them — to the centre, and has 14,000 square feet of space, 4,000 square feet more than the amount in the former headquarters.

Area groups get \$29,308 in lottery grants

THE WINDSOR STAR, FEB. 8, 1977

Wintario grants totalling \$29,308 have been awarded to five Essex County groups, it was announced by Culture and Recreation Minister Robert Welch.

Mr. Welch said the grants are part of the Wintario program for the support of cultural and recreational facilities.

A grant of \$25,000 has

been awarded to the Essex County Library Board to assist in the purchase of shelving, furniture and equipment.

The Tecumseh-St. Clair

Beach Minor Baseball Association is to receive a grant of \$2,251 to share in the purchase of baseball equipment.

A grant of \$1,300 will go

to the Association des Abeilles in Belle River for the costs of a winter festival featuring multicultural activities.

The Harrow District Archers will receive a grant of \$535 to aid in the purchase of archery equipment and a grant of \$222 is to be made to the Windsor and District Basketball Association to assist in the purchase of basketballs and a timer.

The ministry has allotted \$94.5 million in Wintario grants to more than 6,410 groups and projects across the province.

Principal interest is that Essex County's new bookmobile will begin rolling on an expanded schedule on May 17. The library on wheels which is replacing the county library system's aging bookmobile will make 27 stops every other week instead of the present 15 stops. Also on May 17, the library will reopen its Oldcastle branch located adjacent to the Oldcastle Post Office on Highway 3. The librarian at the new branch will be Jane Haas, 5/13/77

These books have wheels

By ROB VAN NIE

A loose jack and tire iron rolled down the highway, and the books were late getting to Comet.

But it didn't matter. No one came the first time Essex County's new bookmobile wheeled into this tiny hamlet on Highway 18A near Colchester.

Gerry Diemer, driver of the county's library on wheels, had to retrieve the tire repair equipment after it fell from the side of the vehicle onto the road from the Essex County Civic and Education Centre.

On the second day of its experimental, expanded schedule of stops, the recently-purchased bookmobile was 15 minutes late arriving in Comet, a vacation spot on Lake Erie where cottagers are beginning to winterize their summer homes in an attempt to escape high city taxes.

Nobody showed up for the half-hour stop at Belcree General Store in the hamlet. But bookmobile librarian Rebecca Tait wasn't concerned.

The new stops that don't attract enough customers for the bookmobile can be dropped, she said, and the schedule molded to the needs of the community.

"You have to get out where the people live," says Hilda Brooke, county librarian.

The Essex County Library's 15 branches and 27 bookmobile stops ensure that no county resident is more than three miles from a branch or library on wheels stop, she said.

The green and white bookmobile was purchased this year for \$46,000 to replace the county's aging library on wheels which has logged about 150,000 miles since 1967, when the bookmobile was inaugurated.

The new vehicle is more mobile and can easily make the 27 stops, instead of the old schedule of 15, in such tiny hamlets as Comet, Deerbrook, Gore Hill and Oliver Farms because it is totally self-sufficient.

"What I find nice is that before we always had to climb a pole or wrap a cable in all kinds of weather to plug in," said Mr. Diemer.

The old bookmobile was 32 feet long — four feet longer than the new one — but had to be plugged into a power source. Even then, the librarian and driver said they nearly froze in winter and sweltered in summer heat.

The new machine, a converted motor home, is ultra-modern right down to the air conditioning, heavy insulation and a washroom.

But the bookmobile retains its friendly, rural atmosphere, according to Mrs. Brooke.

"You get to know your borrowers and what type of material they like," explained Mrs. Tait.

"We have a lady who reads nothing but German, so we bring her German books."

Through the bookmobile, county residents have access to the library's collection of almost 200,000 books, films and records, and to just about any book available in Canada.

If the library gets a specific request for a book not in the county's collection, it will search through regional and national libraries for it.

"If it's available, we make a very determined effort to get it," said Mrs. Brooke.

THE WINDSOR STAR, MAY 28, 1977



Essex County's new bookmobile makes a stop in Colchester Village

About the only requests for books that can't be filled, are for rare and valuable books or those that are out of print.

Mrs. Brooke doesn't think the bookmobile is an out-moded method of providing library services.

"Not everybody has two cars. We are taking service to women and children at home."

"There is some discussion of whether bookmobile

service is economically viable, but it seems to me you can serve more people with the same staff than you could with a number of smaller branches."

The bookmobile operates year-round, visiting each stop every other week.

For a location of a bookmobile stop or library branch near you, call the county library in Essex at 776-5241.

Being chief librarian for Essex County has been fun, says Hilda Brooke.

Fun it may have been and the realization of all her youthful hopes as well. It also carried great responsibility.

Hilda Brooke has been at the helm of the Essex County Library since it was organized in 1966. Before that she was head librarian for the Essex County Co-operative library service, the nucleus for the county library - since 1958. She is retiring this fall.

In the twelve years since the county library was formed new branches have been established, the bookmobile service extended for direct service at 27 stations, new concepts in story hours introduced, talking books and large print books made available, book service provided for nursing homes and senior citizen apartments, book mailing service organized for shut-ins, a record library established.

Hilda says she is not responsible for all the new innovations and she doesn't say which of them were her idea but from wherever the idea came, Hilda had it in use immediately.

She has selected all of the 200,000 volumes that are on the shelves of the Essex County library.

I'm book oriented. It's my particular interest that our book collection should be good.

The collection covers a very wide range of interests. Each one of them was selected for some specific interest or need of the reading public. Hilda has some knowledge of each one.

"I do a lot of the reading at home," she commented. Her 40 year backlog of knowledge of authors and publishers provides much of the information needed in selecting books.

Her close relationship with the librarians in each branch has provided the initiative and enthusiasm for special programs.

"We encourage them to move into special programs for children. We try to have in-service training programs.

Those kind of programs and the addition of a variety of programs by the southwestern regional library services bring people to the library.

"An important thing about libraries, Hilda says, "Is to be able to give people things they want. Fundamentally we are to serve the public."

To do that better Hilda has met regularly with the county librarians to share ideas. She has also thrown open the

lines of communication with Essex County council which funds our county library. A copy of every library meeting is provided county council and Hilda attends the council meetings to explain any request for renovations at branches, programs to be introduced, expenditures. Thus understanding and trust has been established and Hilda says she has the best support from the county council of any librarian in her position that she knows.

"Our relationship with County Council is probably the best in the province. I don't take the credit. We have a good board. We also have a great staff in all our branches and bookmobiles. They are always enthusiastic and they are the people who make the county library, who make us look good," Hilda said.

That kind of response is generated from Hilda's chair.

Many of her ideas have come through conventions - in turn Hilda has passed on new ideas to others.

The first county librarian to be president of the Ontario Librarians Association was Hilda Brooke. The Canadian Book Publishing Council gave its first special plaque for an outstanding career as a librarian to Hilda Brooks. She was a founding member of the Institute of Professional Librarians of Ontario and held various offices in the Ontario Librarians Association and its Canadian counterpart as well as the County Association.

Hilda has spent her life in libraries, starting in the Windsor Public Library as a student and graduating from the University of Toronto library school in 1934.

"It's one of the most interesting jobs. You are in contact with books, in contact with people," she said.

When a branch library was built in Windsor, Hilda says she reasoned high school girls worked at the main library so she applied to work in the branch library. When she graduated during the depression, only 2 of her class of 52 had a position in a library. Hilda was one of those two.

"The library was full of people that were unemployed. Men would be waiting outside at 9 because they had no place else to go."

She was moved to the children's branch as librarian, then to cataloguing books for public use.

Hilda left her work when she married in 1940 but was asked to return a year later. In 1942 she was made head of technical services but again quit when her husband returned from the war.

"The library kept calling me to come in for a day. Since I had done everything, desk clerk, children's librarian, cataloguing, no matter who was off they figured Hilda could do it," she laughed.



HILDA BROOKE

The Brookes lived in Cottam at the time.

In 1951 she was asked to run a branch library in the John Campbell school in Windsor and she agreed to do it for a year. There was no end to that year - only promotions from then until she became chief librarian. She went to the Seminole Street library, then was made head of the library co-operative of the county in 1958, which later became Essex County Library.

In the 20 years as chief librarian, the budget she administered grew from \$30,000. to \$568,000. per year; the staff increased from 4 to 60, including 20 part-time helpers.

"In those days (1958) we were a county library co-operative of Comber, Cottam, Amherstburg, Essex Harrow and Kingsville." Each paid \$25 yearly and bought \$150 of books that were rotated among them.

Each got the use of all the books and had twenty-five of their own at the end of the year.

"It was in the depression and there was no money. Everywhere they were scraping to get books. So they paid the twenty-five dollars to belong to a co-operative library service."

Eventually county council gave a grant for \$1,000. In the early forties those six libraries came under provincial legislation and received provincial and county grants.

When the Essex County Public Library was establish-

ed in 1966 all but three county libraries joined. Free service to book borrowers meant an increase in demand, especially from school classrooms. New branches were established and the county took over payment of librarian's salaries and the maintenance of the buildings. As chief librarian, that was part of Hilda's responsibilities.

She began updating the books, discarding those that were out of date.

The bookmobile covers the county with 27 stops where there is no library and at schools. The number of books loaned through the bookmobile is almost as high as the number from larger libraries.

Hilda says most people don't know all the services available and the amount of information to be found in libraries.

"We still suffer in rural areas from the picture of a place where Mama goes to get a romance, or there's a western for Dad and picture books for the kids. We've got information for everyone."

Being a librarian is a very satisfying life, she says.

"If I were going to start over again, I can't imagine doing anything other than I have done. I've had real fun."

Hilda is looking forward to more fun - compiling a history of LaSalle, travelling, and lots of time reading.

Bookmobile to roll

Essex County's new bookmobile beginning on an expanded schedule on May 17.

The "library on wheels," which is replacing the county library system's aging bookmobile, will make 27 stops every other week instead of the present 15 stops.

Also on May 17, the library will reopen its Oldcastle branch, located adjacent to the Oldcastle post office on Highway 3.

The librarian at the new branch will be Janet Haas.



Mrs. Hilda Brooke, Chief Librarian for the County of Essex and Mr. Clair A. Keeley, County Clerk for the County of Essex are both retiring. Mrs. Brooke has been with the county for 21 years and Mr. Keeley has been with the county for 31 years. A retirement dinner in their honour will be held November 3, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in McGregor. All of their friends are invited to attend. Tickets for the dinner may be arranged by phoning 776-8441 ext. 324.

THE TIMES - OCTOBER 18, 1978

Essex Free Press, April 27, 1979 Essex County Library Changes

An application has been made to Employment and Immigration Canada for a Young Canada Works Program to hire three people to index the Tecumseh Tribune from 1958 to 1978.

The project was announced by Librarian Edward George.

Mrs. Leonora Paetkau has been hired as the assistant at the Harrow Branch. She has worked at the libraries of both the University of Western Ontario and the University of Waterloo.

Mrs. Eunice Gaynor, the Supervisor, has resigned and Mrs. Barbara Munger has been hired to fill the position.

Mrs. Hilda MacDonald has been employed in order to operate the expanded facilities at the Kingsville library.

The book collection has been rearranged.

In order to determine which business telephone plan would best suit the needs of the branches, a survey of the total number of local telephone calls made from each branch was conducted for the month of March.

A new schedule for several bookmobile stops goes into effect March 30th. This is in

response to the use of the bookmobile as shown by circulation statistics, the opening of the McGregor Branch and the closing of the Oldcastle Branch.

A major reorganization of staff responsibilities has taken place at headquarters to provide the basis for placing more emphasis on local history, automation, and audiovisual services. Mr. Andrew Rae has been named co-ordinator of Technical Services and Mrs. Pat Horvath, co-ordinator of Adult Services.

Mrs. Myrna Shantz has resigned in order to take a job in the new County Planner's office. Mrs. Barbara Gagnon has accepted, this position but retains some of her previous responsibilities. Therefore, Mrs. Jean Gresik and Mrs. Myra Bennett have taken the remaining duties of the position while Miss Susan Anderson has been hired to fill the junior clerk position in Technical Services.

Hilda is putting her books away

By Rob Van Nie

Hilda Brooke says she has been hanging around libraries ever since she learned C-A-T spells cat.

Some 60 years later (she won't say exactly how many), Mrs. Brooke is retiring as head of the Essex County library system.

In the past 20 years as chief county librarian, Mrs. Brooke says her main goal has been "to bring people and books together."

But that wasn't her original concept of a librarian's job.

"I always thought all you did as a librarian is sit and read books. But most librarians hardly have time to read," Mrs. Brooke says.

Mrs. Brooke was born in Winnipeg and moved to Windsor at age 10.

As a high school student during the Depression, she started working part-time in a Windsor public library branch.

She was paid 25 cents an hour.

"I was filthy rich in those days. That was real money."

"When I graduated, I was getting \$60 a month and men were raising families on \$15 a week at Ford."

Mrs. Brooke graduated from the University of To-

ronto's library school and worked for the Windsor library system in a variety of jobs.

In 1958, she was appointed head of the Essex County Library.

The county library had started in the early 1930s as a co-operative with six participating communities.

Each community decided to contribute \$25 for books, which were then rotated among the participants.

Later, this co-operative grew to provide books to local schools before county-wide school boards were established.

The library became a county tax-supported system in 1966.

Before this, each branch "could really do what it wanted," she recalls.

For example, one library would spend about one-third of its \$100-a-year budget on archeological books because a board member was interested in that field.

She says the library has received good co-operation from county council. The library budget has grown from \$30,900 when she started in 1958, to \$568,400 this year.

A fiction book which cost about \$1.65 when she started now costs about \$11.

The system has 200,000 books, 14 branches and a bookmobile that makes 27 stops every two weeks.

But when you step into even the smallest branch, you're actually tapping into the library collections throughout Canada.

"If you really want it, we're going to do our damndest to get it," says Mrs. Brooke.

"That's the function of the library. Bringing people and books together."

The Essex library system can borrow books from libraries across the country, she explained.

As libraries become larger, a new breed of librarian is taking over.

"My kind of librarian is probably on the way out," she says, adding that more business experience is necessary to oversee a large system.

"I'm a book person."

After her retirement in December, Mrs. Brooke plans to do some travelling and volunteer work.

The county's new chief librarian will be Ed George, a graduate of the University of Toronto's library school who has worked for the Essex County library for about a year.



Photo by STAR STAFF

Hilda Brooke at her library

THE WINDSOR STAR, APRIL 23, 1979
**Ceremonies initiate
 two Essex libraries**

McGREGOR — Two branches of the Essex County library were officially opened Saturday.

McGregor now has a library branch to extend the services formerly offered by the book mobile.

Although official ceremonies were held Saturday, the branch has been operating for more than a month and 1,600 items were loaned in March. That is about 1,000 more than were borrowed from the bookmobile in an average month.

Ruth MacLachlan of Oldcastle, the McGregor librarian, has been providing craft and game programs and special story hours for children 3 to 5.

The library has almost 2,000 books and offers films, records and magazines on a lending program, according to county chief librarian Ed George.

An official reopening of the Kingsville library after extensive renovation was held Saturday morning.

The basement, formerly used for storage, has been renovated as part of the library for children's books, language collection and adult fiction. Another 1,000 books have been added to bring the total to about 2,500.



Chief Librarian of the Essex County Library, Edward George, holds the door at the Official Opening of the McGregor Branch on Saturday. As Pat Hayes (far right) of ESSEX FREE PRESS, APRIL 27, 1979.

the Library Board, cuts the ribbon. Warden of Essex County, Omer Oriet, Reeve of Anderdon Township Martin Beneteau and Reeve of Gosfield North Township Ernest Martin assist.

Horticultural Books for Library . . .
 THE ESSEX FREE PRESS, FEB. 2, 1979



A gift of \$150 from the Essex Horticultural Society provided about 30 books for the Essex and Cottam libraries on gardening and plant growing. Meyrick Stanton, president of the Essex society and James Hatt, past president, presented the books to Joanne Read, Cottam Library supervisor and Mildred Eldridge, supervisor of Essex Library. Hilda Brooks, former county librarian (between Joanne and Mildred) selected the books.

The Essex & District Horticulture Society met on Jan. 24, 1979.

The annual report of 1978

was read by Susan Wallace and the treasurer's report of 1978 was read by Harry Pettypiece.

The Society presented books on Horticulture to Mrs. Hilda Brooks, Mrs. Mildred Eldridge and Joann Reed, the county librarians. The books are very interesting and are now available at Essex and Cottam libraries.

WINDSOR STAR
BROOKE—Hilda M., suddenly on Feb. 15, 1980 while vacationing in England, late of Riverside Drive W.; predeceased by her husband Tom (1977). Beloved sister of Phyllis McIndoe; dear sister-in-law of Mrs. James Calder and Jean Brooke. Mrs. Brooke was retired Chief Librarian of Essex County with 20 years of service. Cremation took place in England. A memorial service will be held in the chapel of the Don Morris Funeral Home, 68 Giles Blvd E., on Friday, Feb. 22, 1980 at 1:30 p.m. Rev. Norman Hovland officiating. If you so desire donations may be made to the Ontario Heart Foundation 2/15/80

A film was shown called "Growing Together" on how Horticulture groups get together and what they can do in a community.

It was very enjoyable. The next meeting will be held Feb. 28th. Memberships for 1979 are now available. If you desire one call 776-6092 or 776-5941.

McGregor Gets a Library

ESSEX FREE PRESS, APRIL 27, 1979

There were two official opening of branches of the Essex County library on Saturday.

The village of McGregor now has a branch to add to

the services formerly offered by the bookmobile. Although official ceremonies were held on Saturday the branch has operated for more than a month and 1600 items were loaned in March. That is about 1000 more than were borrowed from the bookmobile.

Ruth MacLachlan of Oldcastle, the McGregor librarian has been providing craft and game programs and special story hours for children 3 to 5.

The library has almost 2000 books and offers films, records and magazines on the lending program, according to Chief Librarian of the County, Ed George.

The official re-opening after extensive renovation of the Kingsville library was held Saturday morning. The basement, formerly used for storage has been renovated as part of the library for children's books, language collection and adult fiction. Another 1000 books have been added to bring the total offered around 2500. Mrs. Hilda MacDonald has been hired as an assistant. The 3-9 p.m. schedule has been changed to 3 to 6 p.m. on Friday and to 8 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Cost of the alterations was \$10,000.

Warden of the county, Omer Oriet, County Administrator Rene Vanden Brande and library board member Pat Hayes and County Librarian Edward George, attended both opening events.

**Resolution To
 Drop JULY 20/79
 ESSEX FREE
 PRESS
 Library Fees**

The Essex County Library Board supported a resolution opposing charges for library services.

Circulated by the Southwestern Regional Library board it would eliminate any charges for admission to a public library, use of library materials, or borrowing books for home reading.

Another resolution for increased spending for libraries through the Experience '80 program of the government was also supported. It was circulated by the London library board.

A bookmark listing the new hours of each branch of the county libraries is being distributed. A brochure explaining the talking book service and a monthly calendar of events is planned.

Essex and Cottam libraries are two of the branches selected for a survey on public library services for children in the tri-county area.

The Southwestern Regional Library service has received a grant of \$15,000 from the ministry of culture and recreation to conduct the research study.

Other libraries in the study are Harrow, Kingsville and Stoney Point branches.

Library changes complete

Story and photo
By LEE PASLER

ESSEX — Grants have played a large part in the life of the Essex branch of the county's library system.

Originally built in 1914 with funds from the Carnegie foundation, recently-completed renovations to the library were partly paid for by money from Wintario, the provincially-run lottery.

Now, after several months of planning and almost \$7,000 in renovations, the branch is ready to officially reopen. An open house will be held Tuesday, from 7 to 9 p.m.

According to county library co-ordinator Andrew Rae, about 2,000 books were added to the branch collection, bringing the total to 11,000.

"Of course, there are 60,000 more just a few minutes away in the headquarters pool," he said.

The county system has 186,000 books spread across 14 branches and a bookmobile that makes 27 stops.

The Essex branch has been remodelled with carpeting on the main floor, new window drapes, new furniture and new shelving.

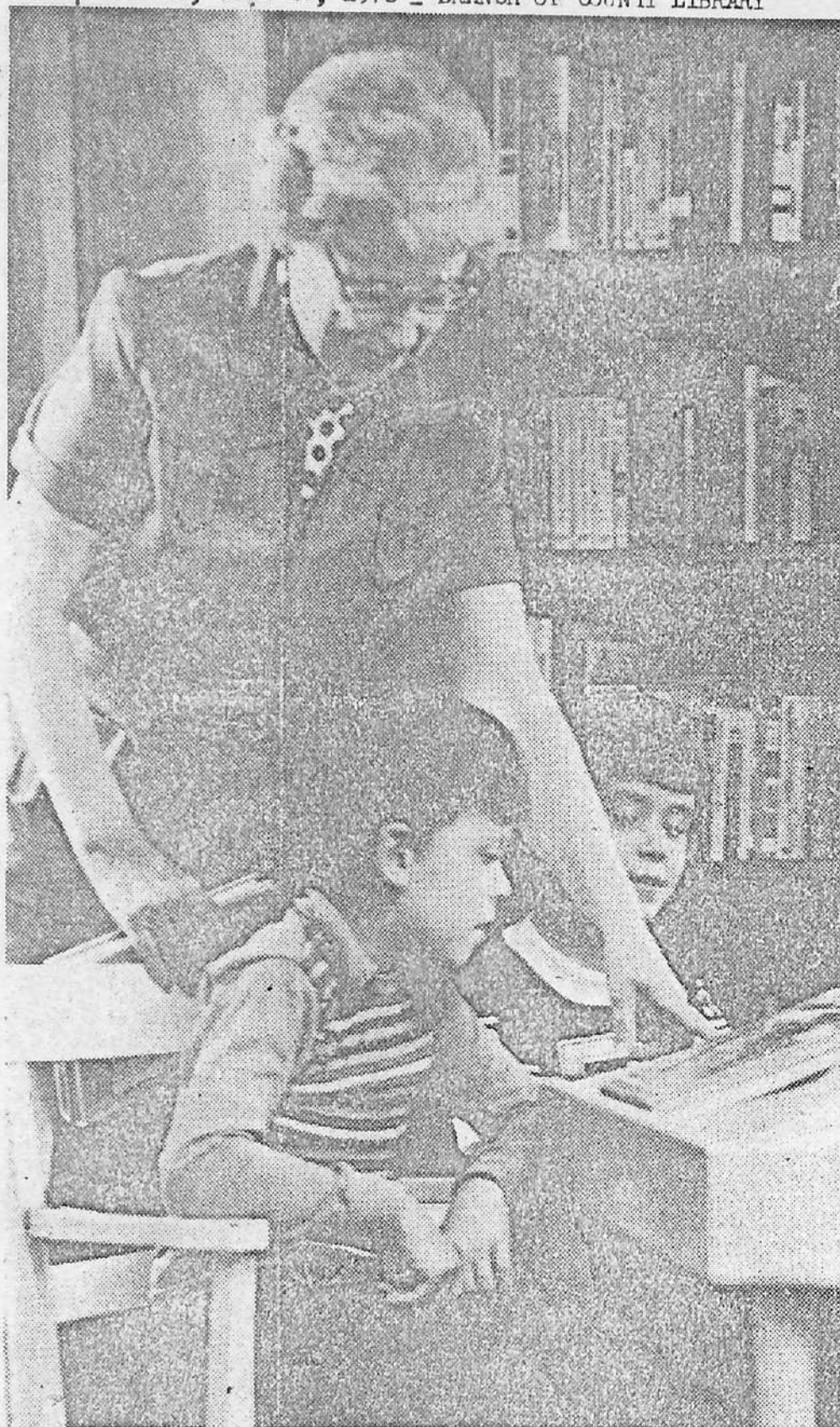
New lighting has been added to the ground floor, and adult fiction and children's picture books are now located there.

"We renovated a few years ago — made it into two levels," said Rae. "Now we've changed the layout around completely."

"We've put a lot of effort into it. Much of the work was manual — we did it ourselves."

Hanging drapes was one of the chores Mrs. Mildred Eldridge, chief librarian at the branch, and the staff, undertook themselves.

The library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Mildred Eldridge helps Vincent Halford (left) and Mathew Halford
FORMERLY RESIDENT OF SANDWICH SOUTH TWP.

Memorial set Friday for ex-head librarian

THE WINDSOR STAR, FEB. 21, 1980
A memorial service for Hilda M. Brooke, chief librarian of the Essex County library system until she retired in 1978, will be held Friday at 1:30 p.m. at Don Morris Funeral Home, 68 Giles Blvd. E.

Mrs. Brooke, who began a lifelong career in library work as a part-time employee in Windsor during the Depression era, died Feb. 15 while on vacation in England.

Mrs. Brooke was born in Winnipeg and came to Windsor when she was 10.

As a high school student during the Depression, she got her start in library work with a part-time job at a branch of the Windsor Public Library.

She later graduated from the University of Toronto

In 1958, she was appointed the county's chief librarian.

During her 20-year tenure, the county library grew from a small, co-operative arrangement among several communities to a county tax-supported system.

The library's annual budget — \$30,900 when she began in 1958 — grew to \$568,400 in the year she retired.

Mrs. Brooke, who lived on Riverside Drive West, was cremated in England.

Predeceased by her husband Tom in 1977, she is survived by a sister, a sister-in-law and a brother-in-law.

Donations may be forwarded to the Ontario Heart Foundation.

JULY 19, 1978
ESSEX COUNTY LIBRARY

Serving you through 27 bookmobile stops and 14 branches including the Essex Library. Open Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 3-9 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

776-8962

Bargains Galore At Annual Library Sale

ESSEX FREE PRESS
JUNE 6, 1980



There was still a bargain to be had on Saturday when the Essex County Library held its annual book sale with hard-covers going for 10c each, paperbacks for 5c and encyclopediae for the fabulous sum of 50c. A total of about 6000 discards.

This year some 500 records were offered for the first time. They brought 10c each and sold out in record time (Pardon the pun).

The number of buyers was down slightly this year but the books were just as eagerly sought.

Library services co-ordinator, Andre Rae, said the money from the sale would go into library funds.

Saturday morning crowd making selections of bargains at the Essex County library sale of discarded books and records.

Cottam

Library Gets New Cover Added Facilities

Oct. 31, 1980
Essex Free Press



Deputy-Reeve of Gosfield North, Lyle Miller, offers a bit of advice as chairman of the Essex County library board, Pat Hayes, cuts the ribbon to open the Cottam Library. Assisting are Essex County Warden Terry Wright and Chief Librarian of the County, Edward George.