

A Brief History of the Arlington County Libraries

By JEANNE ROSE

Reference Supervisor, Arlington County Department of Libraries

In the Glencarlynn Branch of the Arlington County Department of Libraries reposes a section of a large tree trunk—strange object perhaps to be seen in a library. Once a great white oak on the western bank of Four Mile Run, this tree was much used as a monumental survey mark. Mentioned in early deeds and in Washington's diary, it saw stirring times and famous men. Its surviving section here in the oldest of the County's libraries reminds us that libraries are guardians, not just of books, but of the spirit and tradition of a community. It forms a link between earliest Arlington and our busy present-day metropolis.

Arlington's libraries themselves have no place in its early history. Mainly rural during the nineteenth century, the County's population started to build significantly only at the advent of World War I. With the influx of Government workers, Arlington began to lose its country ways. As they planned for roads, sewers, and the other appurtenances of suburban life, the citizens began to feel another need—for books. It is significant that three of the present branch libraries started within the eight years after the close of World War I, and a fourth one in 1930.

The pioneers who initiated these libraries were all women—housewives, club members, and mothers. Mostly young-married in the 1920's, these women now look back on their library-organizing days as a glamorous period in their experience and enjoy reminiscing of early difficulties and triumphs. This is fortunate for the library historian. The several libraries were begun so modestly that no formal histories were written for many years. And when finally information began to be collected, names and dates had slipped away. But thanks to the founders, with their memories and archives, many elusive facts can still be traced.

In retelling the history of the County libraries chronologically, one begins with an institution started before the remembrance of all but a few present-day adults. This is the Glencarlynn Library, the building which houses the Washington Survey Oak; its tale is unique among the library histories. Its origins lie before the turn of the century, in a collection of books housed in the Glencarlynn Community's Town Hall, built in 1892. (This building, still standing at 5711 4th Street, S., now houses the Glenwood Cooperative Pre-school and is also used for youth groups and meetings of the Glencarlynn Citizens Association.) The early library, operated by the Young People's Library Association, was kept in cases at the west end of the hall. These

books, all gifts—bound copies of *Chatterbox* and *St. Nicholas*, Horatio Alger, Miss Alcott, the Rollo books—were read and read until they wore out.

The history of the present library, however, begins in 1914, when Gen. Samuel S. Burdett, a leading citizen of Glencarlynn, made provision in his will for the building of a public library “at a cost of not more than \$3,000.” General Burdett, who was born in England in 1836 and held prominent government positions in this country, bequeathed also his own fine personal library as a nucleus.

Dr. W. M. Backus was named trustee of the library funds, but when he died before the library could be built, his son Curtis was appointed in his stead. World War I was on, and materials and labor were hard to come by. Curtis Backus refused to start the building during hostilities, thus arousing considerable controversy in the village. The library was finally begun in January 1922 and was finished by mid-1922. Furniture was installed, the Burdett books were moved from storage in the Backus attic, and new books and magazines were bought. The library opened in the fall of 1923. According to Miss May Schaaff, the first librarian, some of the books on the shelves had been in the old Town Hall Library. “They were mostly children’s books,” she says. “They wore out or were weeded out.” It is unlikely that any still remain in the Glencarlynn collection.

Miss Schaaff, who still lives with her brother in the Glencarlynn area, remembers General Burdett. “A fine man,” she characterizes him, “public-spirited and friendly.” Miss Schaaff presided over the library from 1923 through July 1945. She was followed by Miss Mary Kennedy, August 1945 through January 1946, Mrs. Celina Valentine from February 1946 through January 1949, and Mrs. Mabel Milton from February 1949 through November 1953.

In the early days the library was open only three afternoons and three evenings a week. As with the other libraries, volunteers (recruited by Mrs. Wilhelmina Burch) helped to expand the hours of service.

The Burdett Library joined the County library system in 1936, and for a number of years the County operated the library and rented the building from its Board of Trustees. On April 12, 1959, Miss Constance Backus and Mrs. Charles Stetson, the current trustees, presented to the County the deed to the library building, together with a fund of \$16,834.49. Thus today the Glencarlynn Branch (whose formal name is still the Burdett Library) is a member of the County system, among other branches which began in very different ways. Its library still preserves its unique character. In a leafy neighborhood still almost rural, with the old Carlin family burying ground at its rear, the Glencarlynn Library is a green oasis in bustling twentieth-century Arlington.

The County system’s second library began in a way typical of its successors—with a group of devoted ladies. In this case the organization was the educational committee of the Women’s Civic Club of Clarendon. Formed in

1923 with Mrs. Nat Hynes as chairman, this committee was the force which brought the Clarendon Library into being. Mrs. Hynes, who lives at 1011 North Edgewood Street, remembers the incident which set the ladies to planning a library. It was an act of vandalism, committed by youngsters before their eyes, which made them envision "a library—a place where the children playing on the streets might come and find a new interest, something to hold their thoughts and develop their better instincts." (From a typed history of the library by Mrs. Clyde E. Leighty.) The idea was presented to the Women's Civic Club as a whole, and early in 1924 it voted to found a public library in Clarendon.

The ladies of the Educational Committee—now the Library Committee—had no money, no books, no knowledge of library procedures. Undiscouraged, they assessed each club member a book, then gave a party for the children, with one book the price of admission. It was held in the lower back room of the Clarendon Citizens' Hall, the room where the library later was housed. The Citizens' Hall, which also housed the Fire Department, stood at Clarendon Circle in the "V" where Wilson Boulevard and Fairfax Drive meet.

In June 1924 the library opened. According to the secretary's minutes, preserved by Mrs. Hynes, the date was June 15; a later history gives it as June 20. (Here, as elsewhere in the history of the Clarendon Library, it seems best to follow the secretary's notes, of which a complete set exists, whenever facts conflict with those in later accounts, as the notes are contemporaneous with the events described.) On opening day 35 cards were issued; within a year the library, open Tuesday afternoons and Friday evenings, had 535 borrowers and 1,357 books.

For over three years the library flourished at its first address, money for new books being raised by such means as illustrated lectures, bake sales, and spring and autumn festivals. Then came the first of a series of moves. The Citizens' Association (apparently late in 1927) rented the room housing the library. The library's furniture was stored in a garage and the books on the second floor of the Citizens' Hall. When shortly the hall was sold, Mrs. Hynes kept the books in her own home.

For several months the library was out of operation. Then, in May 1928, the Women's Civic Club authorized Mrs. Hynes to take the initiative in forming an association of people interested in reopening the library. The new group, organized in June, was named the Arlington District Library Association, with Mrs. Hynes as executive chairman. Following a plan drawn up by her, some 20 County organizations contributed, by schedule, to the \$50 a month needed to keep the library going.

The first home under the new plan was a single room at 4 North Clarendon Avenue (now Irving Street), approximately across the street from the side entrance to George's store. In April 1929 the library moved to a small house at Wilson Boulevard and Virginia Avenue (now Highland Street). In

this tiny, smoky building the front room was used as reading and reference room and the center room for children's books; the side room was the adult room, and the kitchen afforded work space.

By the following autumn the depression was beginning to be felt, and funds for the library were low. Mrs. Hynes and Mrs. Lockwood went before the Board of Supervisors and asked that the County pay rent for the Virginia Avenue building. Their request was granted. And, as one account of the library's early days puts it, "that was the beginning of the County's venture into library business!"

Other moves were in store. The little house was sold, and the library again moved to a single room on Clarendon Avenue, this time No. 6. One more move, in September 1936, while Mrs. DeWitt Evans was president of the Association, took books, furniture, and volunteers to the second floor of the Jones Building on Wilson Boulevard. And finally, in May 1940, the Clarendon Library found a County-owned home—when the Clarendon Citizens' Association presented to the County their clubhouse at 1059 North Irving Street. This was formally opened as a library on October 13, 1940. Here the library has stayed for 20 years, faced with the paradox of increasing book stock and service in quarters that seem to grow tinier every year. One calamity has marred these years of progress—a fire in July 1949 which severely damaged the building and necessitated its closing for half a year. In this fire valuable archival material was lost.

The beginnings of the Cherrydale Library lack Clarendon's detailed documentation. Even the year it was started is uncertain. The Library Department's annual report for 1955–56 says "about 1923"; a 1946 article in the *Sun* gives the date as "about 1922." There is no question about the library's first home, however; it was the old Cherrydale School on Lee Highway. And the founding organization was the Cherrydale League of Women Voters, "following a suggestion by Mrs. Samuel E. Cooper, retiring President." Early workers were Mrs. William Van Doren, Mrs. J. H. Walton, Mrs. Thomas Hendrick, Miss Eunice Hance, Mrs. Samuel Cooper, and Mrs. Edward Jinkins; they raised money for books by teas, musicales, raffles, cookie sales, and benefits.

Little more is known about this library until 1931. Mrs. Mildred Blatter's 1937 survey states that it was closed from 1926 until 1931. The 1946 article in the *Sun* says it was closed for one year (apparently 1930), following the dissolution of the local League of Women Voters. At any rate, in 1931 the library, still housed in one room at the school, was placed in the hands of the library committee of the P.T.A. Known as the Cherrydale Community Library, it was kept open one day a week by volunteers.

The first real move toward expansion came in 1936, when a group of women organized the Cherrydale Library Association. Believing both space and book stock to be too limited, they urged that the library find larger quarters where it could better meet the needs of the community. In 1938 the Cherrydale Community Library transferred all responsibility to the Cherry-

dale Library Association, and the library left the school for a new home at 3828 Lee Highway. According to one of the enthusiastic women of Cherrydale who rallied to help make their library a success, Mrs. C. C. Nikiforoff, the little building at 3828 had a leaky roof, right over the desk where books were charged in and out. So the women thumb-tacked blotters over the leak to keep their precious books from being ruined!

Like Clarendon, the Cherrydale Library for a number of years led a peripatetic life. On January 30, 1941, it moved to larger quarters in the Fire Department Building, but conditions were still far from ideal: the new room was inadequate for the increasing number of borrowers who came, and the library was equipped with a stove which smoked so on cold, windy days that the door had to be opened to clear the air. At those times the desk assistants conducted business wearing coats and gloves. The firehouse location, however, had one great advantage, relates Mrs. Nikiforoff. If suspicious characters came in at night, the librarians had only to tap on the wall (a prearranged signal) and a burly fireman would appear to awe the suspect into flight.

On October 2, 1942, shortly after the County took over the Cherrydale Library, it moved again, to 4010 Lee Highway. And in July 1946 came the latest move, to 4006 Lee Highway, a long one-story building which housed a Children's Clinic and the Arlington TB Association. The clinic moved to a new building and the TB Association to the rear of 4006 when the library arrived. Before long the TB Association moved out altogether; but not until October 1952 were funds available to alter the rear room of the building for use as a children's room.

The Aurora Hills Library also began with a club and was housed for a time in a school building. It, however, made fewer moves and found its long-time home earlier in its history than did the Clarendon and Cherrydale libraries. The fullest account of its early days comes from a history of the library written by Mrs. Fred A. Lyons, which is in the possession of Mrs. Robert Livingston. According to this record, the Aurora Hills Library was founded in May 1926 by the Jefferson District Women's Club. It was housed in a small, unheated real-estate office of J. Lee Price on Fraser Avenue (now 23d Street, S.) under the care of Mrs. Frances V. Speek, chairman of the club's library committee.

On January 19, 1928, when the Women's Club disbanded, the library was presented to the Aurora Hills Garden Club. Its library committee, with Mrs. Charles Bohrer as chairman, administered the collection of about 500 books until November of that year. Then the library, still housed in the little real-estate office, was given to the Nellie Custis School P.T.A. In June 1929, newly christened as the Nellie Custis P.T.A. Library, it moved into a vacant classroom at the school—"Miss Glasscock's room," the P.T.A. notes of that year state. When classes began in the fall, the library was pushed out into the hall.

Finally came the opportunity for a separate library building. Through the

efforts of the Welfare and Library Committee of the P.T.A., and the recommendation of Supervisor Edward Duncan, the County Board of Supervisors purchased and remodeled the store building at 23d and Eads Streets. The library, now renamed the Martha Morton Duncan Library in honor of Mr. Duncan's mother, moved into half of the building in March 1930. The Health Clinic moved into the other half.

The P.T.A. now made a concerted drive, with money-raising schemes and solicitations of gift books, to increase both book stock and circulation. Operated entirely by volunteers from 1931 to 1936, the library gradually expanded its hours of opening. Mrs. Frederick V. Waugh, one of the volunteer workers of the '30's, recalls that when she came to the neighborhood, in 1934 or 1935, one joined the library by giving it a book.

Mrs. Neil Hotchkiss of Hyattsville, who became chairman of the Nellie Custis P.T.A. Library Committee in May 1934, also contributed greatly to the development of the Aurora Hills Library. One of her gifts was professional knowledge, as she had a library degree from New York State Library School in Albany. Another active volunteer, who helped greatly in getting the library organized and into the County library system, was the late Mrs. Gretchen Lohr.

The last of the five original libraries, the Columbia Pike Library, began in 1930. The first plans for the Arlington Community Library Club were launched at a meeting in October 1929 in the home of Mrs. George A. Collier. Mrs. J. B. Lowell was the first president, and Mrs. Collier librarian. The club's purpose, according to a 1946 article in the *Sun*, was "to organize a library service to provide good reading for the children of the South Arlington section of the County." The ladies thereupon began looking for a building. According to Mrs. R. E. Royall, an early worker, they were happy that the double garage they found for rent on Bingham Road was next to the Patrick Henry School, as this meant that the library would be convenient for the school children.

In February 1930 the work of refurbishing the building began. The club women, with the help of their husbands, fell busily to work, getting furniture donations, painting, carpentering, and hanging curtains. The books were gifts, or loans from the Virginia State Library. Mrs. Collier in the meantime had sought professional library help. Advised by Miss Leslie Stevens, head of the State Library Extension Department, Mrs. Collier went to Richmond and took a course in cataloging so that, as a 1935 history of the library by Mrs. Lowell says proudly, "When we opened, . . . our books were all numbered and classified according to the Dewey Decimal System." To introduce young people to the library, the ladies held afternoon teas for Sunday-school classes. They also inaugurated a story hour, with Miss Ethel Morrison (Mrs. Walter Handy) the storyteller.

Early in 1933 the garage was sold, and the library moved to the abandoned Columbia School near the corner of Columbia Pike and Walter Reed Drive, which had been rechristened Community Hall. The library room here was

good-sized; but, as at Cherrydale, the ladies had to cope with the hazards of a coal stove. In July 1941 the old school was torn down, and the library's books were housed temporarily on the second floor of the Clarendon Branch.

On December 15, 1942, the library moved to a new store building at 911 South Glebe Road, with an increase in the number of hours open to the public. A part-time librarian was employed, but much of the work was still done by volunteers. The circulation began to increase tremendously, and in 1952 the library expanded into a next-door store, doubling its size. Finally on February 27, 1959, the branch moved into new quarters at 3239 Columbia Pike, with space and furnishings which make it the largest and best equipped of the County libraries.

Tracing the physical history of the original branches has carried us beyond the days of five separate libraries into the period of a county-run system. It is now important to turn back to the 1930's. Before 1932 Arlington County had been divided into three districts, each with its own peculiarities and jealously guarded rights. The citizens' desire for a more united County brought the appointment of Roy Braden as first County manager in 1932. Now the five libraries, which had in the past separately gone to the County government for help, began to realize the advantages which would accrue to each of them as part of a county-wide system. At this critical period in Arlington's library development, two women played key roles. The first was Mrs. Mildred Blattner, a trained librarian and a County resident, who sparked the idea for unity among the County's library workers. The second was Mrs. Robert Livingston, who lives at 3004 Lee Highway and whose memories and papers have been of tremendous help in compiling this history. Mrs. Livingston became the first president of the Arlington County Library Association, founded July 21, 1936. This organization, which was composed of four delegates from each community library and four delegates at large, had as its aim the formation of a County library system.

Impressed by this evidence of cooperation among the libraries, the County Board in July 1936 voted \$3,000 for libraries in the budget. Of this, \$250 in each center was allocated for reference books; now each library could buy two encyclopedias and an unabridged dictionary, as well as other basic library tools. (Some later accounts give the sum granted to the libraries as \$1,500; but records of that year clearly show that the \$1,500 was for books only.) At this time the Association planned two surveys, both carried out by Mrs. Blattner. The first, concerning library standards and the needs and development of Arlington County itself, was published in December 1936. The second, *A Detailed Survey of the Library Procedure and Library Statistics of the Six Volunteer Libraries in Arlington County, Virginia, as of January 1, 1937*, gives invaluable information on the history and growth of the libraries. It shows, for instance, that in 1936 the largest book collection was 4,623 volumes; the most hours any library was open a week was 13; the combined circulation was 19,747 volumes a year; and the libraries each ran on yearly incomes of from \$254 to \$1,010.51.

It will be noted that the title of the *Detailed Survey* speaks of *six* volunteer libraries, rather than the five hitherto discussed. The sixth organization was the Vanderwerken Library, a church group which joined the County system for the 1936-37 fiscal year. Then, feeling that it did not wish to remain under County supervision, it withdrew from the Arlington County Library Association.

In the late 1930's the women of the Library Association performed their greatest services for the County. They succeeded in having \$3,000 for libraries put into the 1937-38 budget; and, at their request, part of this money was set aside to pay the salary of a trained County librarian. At this time the Library became a department of the County government, its librarian a County department head, and the independent libraries library branches. The days of the volunteers were drawing to a close; Arlington's libraries, the women knew, now needed professional help.

County Manager Hanrahan had agreed to hire a County librarian "if you ladies will do what she tells you to." And Eleanor Leonard, who began work in that position on July 21, 1937, evidently had the personality to make cooperation pleasant. Miss Leonard, now Mrs. Donald A. Laird, has been most helpful to me in assembling data for this article. She has mailed to the Library the scrapbook she kept during her two and a half years in Arlington—clippings, the transcript of a radio broadcast, and monthly and annual reports. These library reports and an article Miss Leonard wrote for the *Library Journal* of October 1, 1939, give a vivid picture of her accomplishments in Arlington. Her first task was house-cleaning. Each library had to be cleaned, organized, and standardized. She started with Clarendon, where her office was set up, and went to each library in turn, discarding "hundreds and hundreds of worn-out, obsolete and worthless books." The library workers flinched, of course; it had taken time and effort to build those book collections. But they came to see Miss Leonard's aim, and they cheerfully chauffeured her from branch to branch. Once weeding was finished, she cataloged the remaining books in each library. Within 18 months she had cataloged over 10,000 volumes. Then as each library was finished, it held an open house, preceded by much publicity; and the volunteers had a chance to show their communities what had been accomplished.

In addition to the many overtime hours she spent revising cards and phoning for assistants to fill the desk schedules, Miss Leonard devoted considerable time to arranging publicity for the libraries—newspaper articles, talks to organizations, book displays, a radio program. This last, a question-and-answer interview, was conducted by Arthur Godfrey, then an unknown disk jockey on a D. C. radio station.

The hard work began to pay dividends. The July 1938 book stock was 11,218; number of borrowers, 2,500; circulation, 29,740 volumes a year. By July 1939 book stock had grown only slightly to 12,535, but there were 3,823 borrowers and the circulation was 45,542—which meant a complete turnover of all branch book collections almost four times a year! When Miss Leonard

resigned in October 1939, she rightly felt that her years as "librarian, counselor, janitress, painter, carpenter, fireman, and beggar" had been richly worthwhile.

I have not been in touch with Miss Helen L. Phillips, who was appointed librarian in November 1939, but in an article which she wrote for the *Sun* in September 1940, when the Clarendon Branch moved into its present building, she mentions that at this time the libraries could draw on 166 volunteer assistants! When in November 1940 Miss Phillips married and resigned, her place was filled by Mrs. Frances Henke. Mrs. Henke, a librarian of broad experience, devoted herself to coordinating branch routines with the central office. But she was able to stay only a few months.

The next County librarian, who was destined to serve for many years, was Mrs. Mildred G. Blattner, appointed February 15, 1941. Her name has occurred previously in this history; she had been active in the Arlington County Library movement in 1936 and 1937. Since Mrs. Blattner is now in ill health, it has not been possible to talk to her personally; but tributes from the women with whom she worked show the great debt Arlington libraries owe her for her zeal, energy, and professional knowledge.

Her first task on assuming office was to survey book stocks and branch staffs, with the assurance from the County that the library budget was about to be increased. In July 1941 money became available for a full-time cataloger (Mrs. Dorothy Wilson, still a staff member) and for four part-time paid assistants, one for each branch besides Clarendon. At the same time the volunteers responded to the County's rapid growth and great need for libraries by keeping each branch open longer hours and by beginning to learn how to answer reference questions.

About the end of 1941 or the beginning of 1942 the Arlington County Library Association, which had accomplished so much, discontinued meetings, inasmuch as the Library Office was now organized to perform the liaison work with the citizens and with the County government, which the Association had handled before.

As World War II continued and the population of Arlington increased (from 57,040 in 1940 to 102,000 in 1945) the libraries exerted themselves to meet the demands made upon them. More nonfiction, magazines, and reference books were bought, pamphlet files were started, repairs to the buildings were made. The director conducted an 8-month training class for staff members. In 1943 the Department of Libraries began to receive aid from the Virginia State Library Fund; the larger 1944-45 budget made it possible to secure more full and part-time library workers.

On June 26, 1944, a new branch was added to the library system—the Holmes Branch, for the Negro citizens of the County. This library, located at 13th and South Queen Streets, had opened as a volunteer organization and small library on November 19, 1940, in the George Washington Carver Homes project. Its workers included Mr. and Mrs. Henry Chapman, Mrs. Natalie Moorman, Mrs. Annie Belcher, Miss Kitty Bruce, Mrs. Constance

Spencer, and Norman Robinson. It entered the County system with 1,000 standard books and flourished for several years. In 1950, however, it closed to make way for a Government housing project and never reopened. Its book stock and patrons were assimilated by the other libraries.

As this history approaches the present, detailed year-by-year accounts become less necessary. These years have already been well chronicled. A few events, however, stand out. One is the opening on January 15, 1948, of another branch library—then known as the Fairlington Branch, now rechristened the Shirlington Branch. This library, located on the second floor of the Shirlington Trust Building on Randolph Street, at first occupied only three small rented rooms. Its total book stock was 800 volumes; it had a full-time branch librarian and 50 volunteers drawn from the group of residents who had worked to obtain the Library. Its use increased so heavily, however, that in 1952 two more rooms were rented. Its expansion through the years is vividly illustrated by circulation statistics—in 1948-49, 2,053 volumes went out; in 1955-56, 101,977 volumes!

Yearly reports of the first Shirlington librarian, Mrs. Marian G. Whiteleather, throw interesting light on the community she served. Her branch, the first in an apartment neighborhood, had patrons who wanted books on interior decoration, antique collecting, hobbies that could be enjoyed in a limited space. They had small children—there were few teen-age readers. Then in a few years, as families moved from apartments to homes, came a run on books of house plans and gardening ideas. And the high-school student began to put in an appearance!

Further expansion came in January 1949, when a seventh branch opened in Westover. The impetus for this library had come from the Overlee Knolls-Highland Park Civic Association, which had appointed a committee, consisting of Harry F. Cook, Charles Dunphy, and Mrs. Carl Moser, to meet with Mrs. Blattner to discuss the possibility of establishing a branch library. Thanks to their subsequent efforts, a \$7,500 item for a library in the Westover area was included in the 1948-1949 budget. In the late fall of 1949, two basement apartments at the corner of Washington Boulevard and Longfellow Street were rented, renovated, and equipped with basic library furnishings. Housing a minimum collection of purchased books, augmented by gift books, the library opened with Mrs. Kathryn Uhler as librarian and a staff of volunteers. During the fiscal year 1956-57, an adjacent apartment was opened to give the branch added floor space. And Westover continues as it began, one of the busiest of the County libraries.

As the library system's circulation continued to grow (it was 614,998 in 1951-52), more help was given the administration to cope with the heavy demands upon it. In July 1951 the position of Supervisor of Children's Work was created; in November 1954 the director's task was lightened by the appointment of an assistant director. In the meantime, in February 1953, the administrative office had moved across the street from the Clarendon Library to a rented building at 1028 North Irving. Here the director's own staff had

at least a bit more elbow room; and Clarendon was able to use all its second floor for a children's room.

Other innovations of the '50s included book collections for teenagers, membership in the Suburban Washington Library Film Service, and the installation of the Gaylord charging system in all the libraries. Of great significance was the survey of Arlington libraries made by Dr. Joseph L. Wheeler in 1955-56. Dr. Wheeler, former librarian of Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore and a leading library consultant, praised Arlington for its high standard of culture and its civic pride, but deplored the inadequate library facilities existing in the County. He recommended an extensive land-buying and building program and urged speedy action on his proposals.

Mrs. Blattner retired in mid-1957 after 16 years' service and was succeeded by Mrs. Jane B. Nida, who had been assistant director. In the spring of 1958 a bond issue brought money for the long-dreamt-of Central Library. Now this structure is rising at 1015 North Quincy Street, and a new building for Cherrydale is on the way. It may not be long until Shirlington and Westover, too, have modern library buildings.

So ends this brief history. I want to thank heartily all those who contributed information about the early days of Arlington's libraries and to extend my apologies to all the workers whose names, for reasons of space, I have had to omit. And I urge that anyone who can give further facts, or correct misstatements made in this history, communicate with me at the Library Office, 1028 North Irving Street.

SOURCES

(1) GENERAL:

Arlington County. Department of Libraries.

Annual reports, various statistical reports, publicity leaflets, etc.

Arlington County. Office of the County Manager.

Department of Libraries. Master plan study; background information. 1956.

[Blattner, Mrs. Mildred] A detailed survey of the library procedure and library statistics of the six volunteer libraries in Arlington County, Virginia, as of January 1, 1937. [1937]

A brief résumé of the history of the Arlington County Library, July 1943.

A brief history of the Arlington County Library, 1935-1946. [1946]

Clarendon Library. Book purchasing committee report, Oct. 8th, 1936.

Leonard, Eleanor C. Pioneer library work in Arlington County. *Library Journal*, vol. 64, no. 17. (Oct. 1, 1939) p. 741-743.

Leonard, Eleanor C. [Scrapbook of reports and clippings covering her years as Director of Libraries, July 1937-October 1939]

Newspaper articles: *Courier*, August 5, 1937; *Sunday Star*, November 20, 1936; *Sun*, September 1940; *Sun*, August 30, 1946.

Templeman, Eleanor Lee. *Arlington heritage*. The author, 1959.

(2) BRANCHES:

Typed and manuscript histories of each library, phone conversations and personal interviews with about 25 present and former Arlington County Library staff members.