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Mu Chapter of Alpha Beta Alpha Newsletter, April 1962

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TRIP TO REGIONAL CONVENTION

The ABA regional convention was held this school year at Terre Haute, Indiana, on November 4, 1961, on the Indiana University campus. A very sleepy group of students left ISNU at 6:00 a.m. and reached Terre Haute about 9:30. Our transportation was provided by Miss Speer and Mrs. Fagerburg, who drove their cars.

As soon as we arrived, we went to registration in the Student Union building lobby. Here everyone was interested in seeing each chapter's name tag and rating them with his own, for the chapter with the most original and attractive tag was to be awarded a prize at dinner. The name tags of Mu Chapter were very eye-catching, although they did not win.

Our activities after registration were a coffee hour in the library classrooms, a general session in the Student Union, and a short business meeting over which national president Judy Flagg presided. We were then divided into different "circles-of-information" discussion groups. Each group met in a separate room and had an instructor as its leader to discuss such topics as recruiting, getting to know national, regional meetings, values of professional development, and projects-programs-finances. These discussions certainly proved successful, judging by the lively interest displayed.

A lovely dinner followed in the Union ballroom. Mrs. Carolyn Speakman presided and Dr. Haynes McMullen, Associate Professor of Library Science, Indiana University, spoke on "Why Go On to a Graduate School."

Before everyone started home, pictures were taken on the Union steps and Mu Chapter took a tour of the University library, where we admired the large paperback collection and the well-supplied audiovisual department. Everyone left with anticipation to renew acquaintances at the 1962 regional meeting.

PROFESSIONAL SATISFACTION AS OUR GOAL

Spring is finally here, after a tiresome winter which I'm sure none of us will soon forget. Just as such a winter allows us to more appreciate the spring, so should our present difficulties and experiences in library study help us to realize what potential joy and satisfaction lies ahead of us in library work. The promise of our future occupation should shine on us as new sunlight warming the earth.

Perhaps you are having difficulty with your courses or are growing weary of constant work. Then consider this philosophy: no amount of toil should be too great for you if you consider librarianship worthwhile. This is not only true in college, but even more so after you graduate and your job is secure. There are many criticisms by members of the profession today who complain that a library position is not filled by giving the challenges and satisfaction of the job but rather by citing the salary, the benefits, and the future raises in pay. The critics' point is that librarians should not look for personal comfort and material values in their work, but at how they can best help others by offering materials to promote awareness and learning. There are many soul rewarding opportunities in the profession and the material rewards are not negligible.

Why struggle to get through school if the only goal is financial security? Money can be made in other occupations with less rigorous training. However, if the goal is happiness and satisfaction in your work, today's difficulties will be forgotten.

It has been cold, but spring holds much promise.

--Judy Rockwell

THOSE BIG BIOGRAPHIES

The best-selling lists of 1961-62 have been dominated by biographies of both fictional and non-fictional content. Colorful characters of history have been re-examined, and more fact and fancy have been added to their legends.

One of the first to top the lists was The Agony and the Ecstasy by Irving Stone. Using the theme of a great man being first of all a human being, Stone describes the life of Buonarroti Michelangelo by using dynamic characters and significant events which are by necessity fictionalized because of the scarcity of facts known of the artist's life.

Another big book of an artist which soon followed this one was Rembrandt by Gladys Schmitt. She tells of the talented youth of a humble background who moved out of his class into precarious honor and wealth. She describes his ill-advised marriage to the beautiful heiress Saskia who made him happy in love but couldn't bring him the stability that his unruly nature needed. Many conflicts are presented, including the burgher society of Amsterdam, his family, and the struggle within himself as he slowly deteriorated both in mind and talent until he isolated himself from everyone. But it was because he was able to reconcile himself with the world that his last paintings became the ultimate of his masterpieces. Although this, too, is fiction, the research and historical background is accurate.

The artist biographies were followed by two portraits of contemporary men. These are both currently on the best-selling and most-popular lists. Citizen Hearst by W. A. Swanberg tells of the flamboyant millionaire who influenced everything he came in contact with, from the Spanish-American War to modern art collecting. Sinclair Lewis, An American Life by Mark Schorer is larger, if possible, than any of the previous biographies, and encompasses a huge amount of detail in the familiar life of the writer. The tone is casual and personal, so that the result is a touching description of one of our country's most popular storytellers. This realistic account doesn't try to hide the true side of Lewis throughout his poignant but colorful life.

Some of the newest life descriptions on the scene are very intimate portraits of Robert Frost and of Ernest Hemingway, the latter written by his brother. Probably the most significant of the new books is Scott Fitzgerald by Andrew Turnbull. This is partly because of the recent surge of popularity all over again for Fitzgerald's books, which take the reader so completely back into the 1920's that if he looks up from his reading momentarily he receives a shock at the present. Also, however, the biography is significant because the man is finally viewed as more than an alcoholic.

Each of these books is worthwhile, if only because it leaves a definite picture of a famous human being in the public's mind.

--Judy Rockwell

SHELVES OPENED TO STUDENTS

It is with mixed emotions that the students of Illinois State Normal University have seen the shelves or "stacks" opened at Milner Library this semester. The most common complaint comes from the person who is uninformed about library classification and cannot find what he wants, but there are some who are just lazy and would rather have others climb the stairs for them.

The majority of the students, however, are delighted with the opportunities this freedom involves. The open-shelves system is much more efficient for the student, who can see which book he wants and does not have to depend on the catalog, and for the library assistant, who doesn't have to waste his time hunting for books which aren't there and can get more technical work done. An unexpected advantage is that carrels are on each level. These are havens for the person who needs quiet to study.

It is probable that the students who are now having trouble finding material will in time become familiar enough with the shelves to find the system an advantage.

NATIONAL NEWS

High on the list is the planning for the installation of a new chapter of ABA at Morehead State College, Morehead, Ky. This will be the 27th chapter, Alpha Gamma.

A number of chapters have asked for certificates of special recognition for those students who have performed outstanding services of the fraternity.

The latest count indicates over 1,500 active members, both student and professional.

The officers are beginning to look forward to the 1963 convention and are looking for a site and time.

Under the direction of Steve Johnson, editor, the Fall Alphabet has taken on a new look.

Satisfactory plans for ALA-ABA citation award for recruitment seems to be a real possibility. It has at least received the ALA approval and it now awaits action of the ABA board.

The National Officers extend a most hearty welcome to former Mu Chapter members and invite them to become alumni members. Life membership is only \$15.00 and will never be so low again---BETTER JOIN NOW.

provide reference services; Remington Rand Corp. computer, manned by technical assistants, interpreted by a professional librarian, will provide personalized bibliographies and quotations from great men of the Western World; a children's library where stories are told, movies shown, and music played. The library will be staffed by 72 librarians who would have completed a 6-day instructional period. The climax is the review of the history of communication.

A new standing committee was formed in Mu Chapter this year with the organization of the Project Committee. This committee is to be headed by a member chosen by the President of the Chapter. Its main function is to arrange for special projects for the fraternity.

A trip to the publishing house of McKnight and McKnight was the first project of this new group. It was termed highly successful and had a large turnout of Mu Chapter members and pledges. A tour of the printing facilities of the plant was the first section of the trip, and a very interesting talk by one of the head men in the organization completed the evening.

McKnight and McKnight deals mainly in industrial publishing. The work with the author was discussed and the necessity for great accuracy in drawings and directions in their publications was pointed out. A question and answer period followed the lecture.

The next project of Mu Chapter involved the recruiting of high school students to the field of librarianship. Nine students from Bloomington High School and University High School were invited to the March meeting of Mu Chapter. A special program was prepared by the project committee prior to the meeting. Fiction and non-fiction books and numerous pamphlets were distributed for attention, and personal talks with members of the Chapter were held. A tour of Milner Library was then conducted. The students appeared to enjoy themselves very much.

LIBRARY 21

Upon visiting the World's Fair in Seattle this year, one might be interested in Library 21. Designed by Vance Jonson, who recently won accolades for his design of the Art Nouveau, worth \$2 million. The object for making available this library are: fuller use of recorded knowledge and information; better use of competent teachers in schools and colleges; providing an efficient organization of information essential to business, industry and government.

Some of the exhibits are: An adult reading area containing 1500 volumes with guidance of librarians; Encyclopaedia Britannica sponsoring ready reference center containing 700 reference volumes and specially trained staff of professional librarians and assistants to

They were invited to stay for the regular meeting. The girls enjoyed the travelogue of Great Britain by Miss Crosby. They extended their thanks to the Chapter for inviting them and were happy to become better acquainted with the field of librarianship.

The Project Committee also arranged for interested members of the Chapter to attend the Illinois Association of School Librarians Spring Conference in Peoria on April 7. The details of this project are reported elsewhere in this NEWSLETTER.

--Judy Summers

The Founder's Day Banquet is to be held Saturday, May 12. The luncheon will start at noon at the Sinorak Restaurant. The speaker for the event will be Miss Dorothy McGinniss, Executive Secretary of the American Association of School Librarians. Miss McGinniss will speak to us on her climb from school librarian to head of A.A.S.L. We are very fortunate to have Miss McGinniss take her time to come to our luncheon and hope we have a full representation of Mu Chapter of Alpha Beta Alpha to welcome her.

The installation of new officers for the 1962-1963 school year will also take place at this time.

--Judy Summers

NEW INITIATES

Initiation ceremonies were held on October 2, 1961 for the following: Jeanette M. Alex, Janice Christensen, Wanda Fanter, Phillip Fleetwood, Spencer Gibbins, J. Rudolph Johnson, Kay Kunze, Janet Micek, Suzanne McClugage. Also initiated was Mr. Joe B. Mitchell, a professional member.

On February 12, 1962, Mu Chapter initiated Christa Jo Altier, Edna Booze, Barbara Galloway, Betty Ann Hirst, Barbara Kappler, Judy Kime, Elizabeth Long, Jeanette Marks, Judy Summers. Nancy Langbehn, Philip Loveall and Mary Norma Sutter were initiated on April 9, 1962.

Mr. J. Rudolph Johnson, a graduate of the University of Illinois Library School, who was doing internship work at Milner Library, has now returned to his home in Africa. He is librarian at Cuttington College in Monrovia, Liberia. He became a Life Member of Alpha Beta Alpha.

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

Peoria was the site for the Illinois Association of School Librarians meeting which was held April 6 & 7. We attended the Saturday meetings only. After registration we visited the exhibit area and gathered much free material. The first meeting was on paper back publications in the school library. For the second meeting there were four discussion groups from which to choose. Most of us attended "The Library Program K-12 in the Evanston Public School." Following this was a business meeting and luncheon. During this time, we visited the shopping area, went window shopping and had lunch, and came back in time to hear the luncheon speaker. One of the most interesting parts of the day was the visiting of four or five of the school libraries in Peoria area. We took school buses to the various schools, some of which were new and had modern libraries. We arrived back at the hotel at 5:00 p.m. After a leisurely dinner, we went to the ballroom to hear an interesting talk given by the author of LOOK FOR A TALL WHITE SAIL, Miss Margaret Bell. She is an Alaskan, and spoke to us about her life there. It was a very entertaining evening and the most outstanding feature of the trip.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARDS

The new library Standards were published in 1960. This document states the basic requirements for a truly functional school library. Qualitative and quantitative standards are provided for. The purpose of this booklet issued by ALA, is to serve as a guide in appraising existing school libraries and in formulating immediate or long range library programs in the

school. To implement these standards the American Association of School Librarians has provided for regional promotional committees. In the State of Illinois Miss Hazelle Anderson, a member of Illinois State Normal University's library science faculty, is directing this activity.

SENIORS & GRADUATES--THEIR WHEREABOUTS

STEPHEN JOHNSON will be a YMCA counselor next year.

SHARON THOMAS, with a major in Spanish and a minor in English is planning for the time when she has a third string to her bow--Library Science.

BARBARA FRANCIS has signed a contract to be school librarian at Grand Community High School, Fox Lake, Illinois.

NANCY ENGLAND finally chose the Davenport High School Library position so she and her sister can live together.

SANDRA GADDIS deserted the library profession in favor of business teaching. We know she will be a good library user, however.

JUDY VEECH will be Guidance Counselor of Sophomores at East Moline United Township High School next year.

JANET MICEK has accepted a library position at Thornton Township High School in Harvey.

LOIS McCREIGHT will be teaching mathematics at the Freeport Senior High School in 1962-63.

JUDY DAVIS'S teaching assignment at Ottawa Township High School includes being the school librarian and teaching English.

SHARON PHELPS SIMMONS graduated at the end of the first nine weeks of this second semester and began teaching English at Clinton High School just as soon as she had finished her student teaching assignment.

SUZANNE McCLUGGAGE finished her student teaching in October and began her work as school librarian at Pekin High School immediately. On December 16 she was married! Suzanne was indeed a busy person.