

Local Library ^{5/25} Shows 53 Years Of Progress ^{4/14/54}

**Mrs. Colburn Secretary
Of Board; Husing And
Mrs. De Block Reelected**

ALLENDALE—Mrs. David M. Colburn was elected Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Lee Memorial Library at the meeting held last Monday evening. At the same time, Martin E. Husing was reelected President and Mrs. George DeBlock, Treasurer.

In order to provide a brief historical background to the library to the newer citizens as well as to refresh the memories of the older residents the Board authorized release of excerpts from the minutes of the Library Association. This information was incorporated in the annual report prepared for the Mayor and Council in which the anticipated budget was submitted.

This brief report could not possibly list all the many people concerned but it does show how many different organizations and individuals were responsible for the fine Library of which Allendale can now boast:

Highlights in the History of the Allendale Library

In 1900 began an era of development which continued sporadically until the 1929 depression. Culturally, the most important event that year was the establishment of a public library by Mrs. Walter Spring, assisted by Mrs. Stephen Van Houten, Mrs. Wallace Carver, Mrs. Frank Merrill and Mrs. Frank Drummond. The Library, on the second floor of the Borough Hall, was patronized by Summer boarders and was open only during June, July and August. Later it was moved to the Braun Building, where it remained until the erection of its own building at Franklin Turnpike and West Allendale Avenue in 1926.

Following are excerpts from the minutes of the Allendale Library Association—

April 7, 1919—Library Committee, as successors of the Library Committee of the Village Improvement Association, was formed.

April 22, 1919—Arthur Tomalin elected first President.

Nov. 1919 — Allendale Players gave performance for benefit of Library.

Jan. 11, 1923—Treasurer authorized to make a payment to Malinson Bros. toward the purchase of the lots at Allendale Avenue and Franklin Turnpike.

Nov. 19, 1923—Association was incorporated.

Nov. 2, 1925—A series of affairs were planned under the auspices of the Woman's Club to raise money for the Library fund.

April 5, 1926—Building Committee reported that the contract for the new Library building had been signed.

May 3, 1926—John Ackerman offered 100 loads of dirt for filling in the grounds at \$1.00 a load which was less than the cost to him.

Aug. 30, 1926 — Garden Club asked to be allowed to take charge of landscaping the Library grounds.

Dec. 18, 1926—Open House held in the new building.

April 4, 1927 — Arrangements made to have the fire gong removed from the corner of property.

July 11, 1927—Four chairs donated by the Woman's Club.

Mar. 3, 1930—"The Thirteenth Chair" was presented by the Allendale Players and \$540 realized for the library.

Mar. 21, 1931 — Mr. Buechner presented a framed panel on which were inscribed the names of the people who had contributed to the fund for the library.

Jan. 6, 1936 — Card party by Junior Woman's Club for book fund.

June 16, 1941 — Mr. and Mrs. William Lee offered to build a wing to the present library.

May 5, 1944—\$100 realized by lecture sponsored by the Catholic Men's Club.

Dec. 3, 1951—Library thanked Lions Club for painting the outside trim of the building.

Sept. 2, 1952—Board discussed steps concerning municipalizing of the library.

Nov. 4, 1952—Citizens of Allendale voted in the affirmative to have the town take over the library.

Dec. 8, 1952—Board voted unanimously to change name of library from Allendale Library to the Lee Memorial Library.

Jan. 6, 1953—Last meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Allendale Library Association.

Jan. 6, 1953—First meeting of the Trustees of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Allendale.

Jan. 6, 1953—Resolution passed appointing Mrs. William C. Lee honorary advisor to the Board of Trustees for life.

Feb. 2, 1953 — Mrs. Austin Sprague started as first paid town librarian.

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Lee for about thirty years preceding Mr. Lee's death in July, 1952, by their generous building of the wing on the Library and contributions of hundreds of books, were largely responsible for the success of the Library which at that time was maintained by volunteer contributions. This was before the borough took over the library.

The Lee's also gave unstintingly of their time and service. Mrs. Lee was head librarian and Mr. Lee first served on the Library Board as Treasurer-Vice-President and for about 12 years, until his death, as President and Treasurer.