

'Bookmobiles' Give Rural Folk Curb Service In Literary Field

Lexington, Ky., Nov. 4 (AP)—Rural people of today are getting literary curb service—and liking it.

Exhibits at the National Rural Home Conference here show how "bookmobiles" and trailers are penetrating the hinterlands and pack animals are carrying "book larnin'" to homes otherwise inaccessible.

The "bookmobile," which looks like an ambulance with well-stocked book shelves and serves Ohio's rural areas, was sent here by the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

A trailer, prepared by the Fayette County Community Council of Lexington, operates as a W.P.A. project. Pack riders mounted on mules as well as horses—they're in W.P.A. service, too—carry books along mountain trails.

Like Fiction.

Mrs. Frances Dugan, who has

charge of the trailer, said this land-going library carries a cargo of more than 500 books as it visits churches and schools comprising its eight book centers or rolls up to doors of invalids and aged persons. Most of the books acquired in the project's two months of existence are fiction.

"Children's books and Western are most in demand," said Mrs. Dugan. "Detective stories and mysteries? Why, they simply love mysteries—especially the murder kind."

A number of illiterate elderly country women go to the centers to have books read to them. Some puff corncob pipes as they listen. For many, said Mrs. Dugan, the idea of reading during leisure hours is new and, she added, "they really like it."

Twenty workers assist enthusiastic Mrs. Dugan. They loaned 1,141 books the first month and 2,430 the second. Their hardest job was filling a request for a text on plumbing.

*Courier Journal
Louisville, Nov 5, 1938*

Head Of Mobile Library Is Speaker

Mrs. Frances Smith Dugan, supervisor of the recently formed Fayette county circulating library unit, told members of the Lexington Altrusa Club of the work of the unit at the club's weekly meeting at noon yesterday at the Lafayette hotel.

Mrs. Dugan told the Altrusa Club that "people need books; books need people," and it was upon this premise the library unit already is catching on in its efforts to get reading matter, books, magazines and pamphlets to rural men, women and children within the county's boundaries.

The speaker was introduced by Mrs. Helen Hifner Fortune, program chairman. Miss Anna Lehan, vice president, presided in the absence of the president, Mrs. George Edwin Smith, who yesterday delivered a talk at Covington.

With a trailer filled with books from the Lexington public library shelves, Mrs. Dugan regularly visits the eight reading centers in rural sections of the county where the reading material is distributed.

Mrs. Dugan said 20 men and women were engaged in the project, which has W.P.A. support.

Plans for a birthday party at the home of Mrs. Mary Cloud Warley the night of Saturday, Nov. 26 were announced at the meeting.

*LEXINGTON HERALD.
NOV. 11 1938.*

The opening of the Douglass Community Library at Douglass high school offers a free circulating collection of books for the community. This is the Negro branch of the Fayette county new free circulating library sponsored by W.P.A. Community Council, county school board and Lexington Public Library. Books and magazines may be taken between the hours of 9 a. m. and 3:30 p. m. Mrs. P. E. Stephens is in charge.

*Lexington Herald-Leader
16 Oct. 1938*

Kenwick

The Kenwick Homemakers will meet Monday at 10 a. m. with Mrs. John R. McVeigh, 105 Cochran road. Mrs. Hammond Dugan of the Fayette County circulating library will speak.

*Herald-Leader
Nov 13, 1938*

CLUB IS INFORMED OF RURAL LIBRARY

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Upon this premise, the recently formed Fayette county circulating library unit already is catching on in its efforts to get reading matter, books, magazines and pamphlets to rural men, women and children within the county's boundaries. Mrs. Frances Smith Dugan, supervisor, informed members of the Lexington Altrusa Club at their weekly luncheon-meeting today at the Lafayette hotel.

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Mrs. Dugan said 20 men and women were engaged in the project, which has W.P.A. support. Through the centers, the library hopes eventually to reach 22,000 rural men, women and children. The library also eventually will reach shut-ins, she said.

Plans for a birthday party at the home of Mrs. Mary Cloud Warley the night of Saturday, Nov. 26 also was announced.

*LEXINGTON LEADER
NOV. 10 1938.*