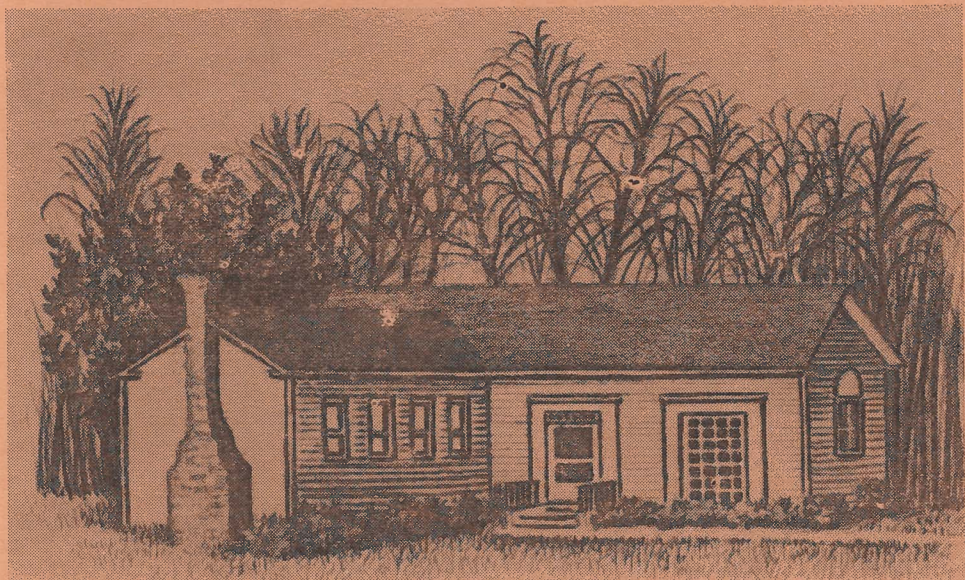


Calvert County Public Library

THE FIRST DECADE

1959 — 1969



April 1969

ANCIENT HISTORY

In 1912 Judge William W. Duke organized a small library organization to open a "public library" near the Court House in Prince Frederick. Through many years this was the only library service in the county. While this service was ostensibly free it was not truly public in that only members of the Association could make use of the library and the membership was limited. Judge Duke's own collection of books was augmented by donations and loan collections from the State Library. No public funds were appropriated and none were solicited.

A group of interested citizens led by Mrs. Hilmer Nelson, a resident of Scientist's Cliff, spearheaded a move to promote a truly free public library for the county in 1952. An agreement was worked out with the librarian of St. Mary's County, Miss Eloise Pickerall, to provide demonstration bookmobile service to Calvert County as a means of promoting library service. A great deal of opposition was raised to this plan. At this critical time Mrs. Nelson was forced to abandon the fight when her husband was transferred and they moved from the county.

No more was heard of a public library in Calvert County until 1958.

BEGINNINGS

In the interim between the first move for a public library and the next move for library service Congress passed a significant piece of legislation. In 1956 the Library Services Act was passed providing incentive funds for the establishment of rural library service. This Federal impetus plus a growing desire in the county for a public library brought about the true beginning of the Calvert County Public Library.

As prescribed by State Law, the Governor appointed a seven-member Board of Library Trustees in 1958. Each member of the board traditionally serves for seven years with one term expiring December 31 of each year. In order to bring this about the first members were appointed for staggered terms as follows:

Mrs. Earl Hicks	1 year
Mrs. Edwin Ward	2 years
Mrs. R. B. Smoot	3 years
Mr. T. H. Williams	4 years
Mr. Arthur Dowell	5 years
Mrs. Carl Breland	6 years
Mrs. Lola Parks	7 years

The Calvert County Board of Library Trustees held its first organizational meeting on October 6, 1958. The following slate of officers was elected: Mrs. Earl Hicks, President; Mrs. Edwin Ward, Vice President; Mrs. Lola Parks, Secretary, and Mrs. Carl Breland, Treasurer. A representative of the State Department of Education, Division of Library Extension, outlined plans for the Calvert County Library to become the third member of a newly formed cooperative library system with Charles and St. Mary's counties. This move was deemed advisable if Calvert County was to meet the necessary requirements to benefit from the Library Services Act. After numerous meetings with the Library Boards of Charles and St. Mary's counties and members of the Division of Library Extension, on February 20, 1959 an agreement was signed by the Presidents of the three Library Boards creating the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association, the first such system in Maryland. With the signing of this agreement the Calvert County Library shared the services of Miss Dee Holmes, a professional

librarian, with the other two counties. Miss Holmes resigned shortly thereafter and Mr. Edward Hall became the librarian for the three counties.

MILESTONES

From the small beginning in 1959 heralded by an open house at the library (the building donated to the county by Mrs. William W. Duke) and the beginning of bookmobile service to the county the library has progressed remarkably. The ten short years of the library's history are marked by a number of significant milestones. For the first few years the library employed a staff of one, Mrs. Mildred Hairston, who drove the bookmobile four days a week and kept the library open twelve hours on Fridays. The need arose during this year to either find new quarters for the burgeoning book collection or to move the existing building to another location where expansion would be possible. A parcel of land, directly behind the new shopping center, was donated to the county for the library by Mr. and Mrs. Shemwell Parran. Plans were made and executed to move the building to this location.

In the spring of 1961 a part-time staff member, Mrs. Marie Barrett, was added to share in the bookmobile duties and to help keep the library open two days each week. At this same time an Assistant Administrator, Mrs. Anita Potyen, was hired by the three counties. In June 1962 the Board decided to open the library three days each week and a second staff part-time member was added. Mrs. Kitty Hurrey was hired to be a part time bookmobile librarian.

At the end of June 1962 Mr. Hall resigned his position as Administrator of the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association. Miss Stella Loeffler became the Administrator on August 6, 1962. By this time the need for additional space led to the planning for a

wing to be added to the building. Early in 1963 the new wing was completed and in use. With the addition of the wing the size of the library tripled. The County Commissioners agreed at this time to purchase the land adjacent to the building for expansion in the future.

With the beginning of the fiscal year 1963-64 the library hours were extended to five full days per week and the two part-time staff members became full time employees. In four short years the library hours had increased from 12 to 44 hours per week.

Miss Loeffler accepted a position with the Division of Library Extension and resigned as Administrator of the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association June 30, 1964. Until the new Administrator, Mrs. Natalie Tsonev, could begin in December 1964, Mrs. Potyen became the acting administrator.

Despite the fact that the new wing added much needed space the need for further expansion was soon evident. Further planning brought about finishing the basement under the new wing for a children's room. In January 1965 this new facility was opened to the public.

May 31, 1966 Mrs. Tsonev resigned to take another position. The Southern Maryland Regional Library Association was once again without an Administrator. Mrs. Rebekah Boyd became acting Administrator as had her predecessor, Mrs. Potyen. On March 1, 1968 Mrs. Katharine Hurrey assumed the duties of Administrator of the Association.

During the ensuing years a few new staff members have come and gone. The present staff consists of three full time members—two in the library and one on the bookmobile—and two part-time employees, one of whom substitutes on the bookmobile. The Library hours increased from 44 to 48 hours per week when the library was opened on Saturdays, then to 52 hours per week when a second night was added to the schedule, and

finally to 56 hours per week when the library was opened six full days and two evenings each week.

Original Hours: Fridays 10-9

Present Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays—10-6;

Thursdays, Fridays—10-9; Saturdays—9-5.

SERVICES

In the early years the library offered books, pamphlets and periodicals to its patrons through the bookmobile and the library. Because of the limited space no special programs could be planned, although the librarian did take story hours to the schools and to PTA groups. The bookmobile was taken to PTA meetings and civic group meetings where tours were given and the services explained. At that time books could be obtained from the State Library in Baltimore. In 1961 the State Library was disbanded and the books were distributed among the libraries in the counties. The Division of Library Extension entered into a contract with Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore to supply service to the outlying libraries in the state. Today the libraries in all 23 counties are linked with Enoch Pratt by teletype. The installation of the teletype system has made it possible to provide much more efficient and much quicker service to the public. The teletype has also made it possible to keep in closer touch with Charles and St. Mary's counties and with the regional office. To further speed up the service to our patrons a delivery service was begun between the three counties.

The library services have now been expanded to include books, periodicals, pamphlets, films, microfilm, filmstrips, special exhibits, recordings, and even framed art reproductions which circulate for three months at a time.

With the expanded facilities special programs for adults and children are planned at regular intervals. Many a child has had his eyes opened to some new horizon through these programs. To many others the bright moments of the summer are the special programs held during July each year. At the end of the month a gala celebration is held—a party, a film festival or a pet show.

BOOKMOBILE SERVICE

In the early days the backbone of library service in the county was the bookmobile. It was the only means of providing library service to many people in the county at that time. Today the bookmobile still serves the entire county every two weeks. To some it is still the only contact with books. There are hundreds of children who would have no access to books during the summer months if it were not for the bookmobile stopping in their neighborhood. To the residents of the nursing homes in the county it is one of the few forms of entertainment they can enjoy. During the winter months the bookmobile not only stops in the communities but also at all the elementary schools.

THE PATRONS SPEAK....

"I would like to make known my appreciation for the opportunities our library offers. Not only does this service provide much needed material for enjoyable reading, but, also, it makes available needed material for research.

We especially are interested in the bookmobile. Living a distance from the main Library makes this all the more a welcome part of our community.

To the people of the Calvert County Library, I wish to extend a hearty "thank you" for a job well done."

—Mrs. E. Peirnik

"Patronize the bookmobile and feel pampered. In an age of diminishing service the smiling cooperation of the bookmobile personnel in seeking out books I have wanted has been a joy. If a book is available in the system they will deliver it."

—Dorothy Plummer

"Calvert Librarians are always helpful in locating materials at anytime."

—Connie Smith

"As parents and teachers the library has been of invaluable service to us. We have been able to secure films, books and magazines related to our teaching fields as well as other specific areas of interest and need.

The librarians have also been very helpful in providing services through large-group sessions for Adult Basic Education Classes that are being held in our county. As a result of these activities many adults are still obtaining books from the library, who had never done so before.

However we feel that the most valuable services rendered us through the library are the Children's Story Hour and the many summer activities that have been provided during the past several years.

Lastly, there are very few adjectives which will do justice to describing the pleasant atmosphere which Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. Hairston and the other members of the staff create for all who visit the library. These are but a few of the many benefits which we have derived from our library since moving into the county nine years ago."

—Earl and Veronica Thorne

"I look forward to the bookmobile because it gives me the only chance to read old and new books that are published. I love to read and without the bookmobile coming around, my reading material was limited."

—Audrey Dickerson

MOMENTS TO REMEMBER

. . . The rabbit resplendent in earrings and necklace, entered in the pet show at the end of the summer programs. When the owner was questioned about this odd attire he proudly answered, "of course, she's a lady rabbit."

. . . The tearful little girl whose mother would not let her borrow any books from the bookmobile until she was old enough for school. She solved her problem by checking out two books and hiding them under a bush in her front yard.

. . . The high school drop-out who literally read her way from the easiest of teen-age love stories through the entire collection on the bookmobile. This girl passed her high school equivalency test and is now a business school graduate working as a dentist's receptionist in Washington.

. . . The man who couldn't afford a Bible who found he could borrow one from the library.

. . . The enthusiastic members of the Adult Basic Education classes who discover the wealth of material of interest to them in the library.

. . . The faces of young children as they listen to a story or watch a film.

. . . The lady who wanted to pay her fine in advance because she knew she would never remember to return her books on time.

. . . The little girl who came in with her weekly allowance every Friday evening until she had paid for the book she lost.

. . . The group of preschool children who eagerly await the bookmobile. Never a word is spoken while they solemnly pick out their books.

. . . The little girl who doesn't want any book that is not purple.

. . . The little boy who wants to find the big green book with the cat on it that he had out once before.

. . . The look on a child's face the first time he can sign his own name on the library card.

VITAL STATISTICS

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Original Board

Mrs. Earl Hicks, President
Mrs. Edwin Ward, Vice-President
Mrs. Lola Parks, Secretary
Mrs. Carl Breland, Treasurer
Mr. T. H. Williams
Mr. Arthur Dowell
Mrs. R. B. Smoot

Present Board

Mrs. Lola Parks, President
Mrs. Edwin Ward, Vice-President
Mr. H. Dean Cochran, Treasurer
Mr. Richard Ireland
Mrs. Kenneth Ward
Mrs. Wm. B. Haifley
Mrs. Earl Hicks

STAFF

Original Staff

Mrs. Mildred Hairston

Present Staff

Mrs. Mildred Hairston
Mrs. Marie Barrett
Mrs. Dotty Childs, Bookmobile
Mrs. Myrtie Barnhill, Part-time
Mrs. Ruby Noland, Part-time

BOOK STOCK

1959-60

1,844

1968-69

20,603

REGISTERED BORROWERS

1959

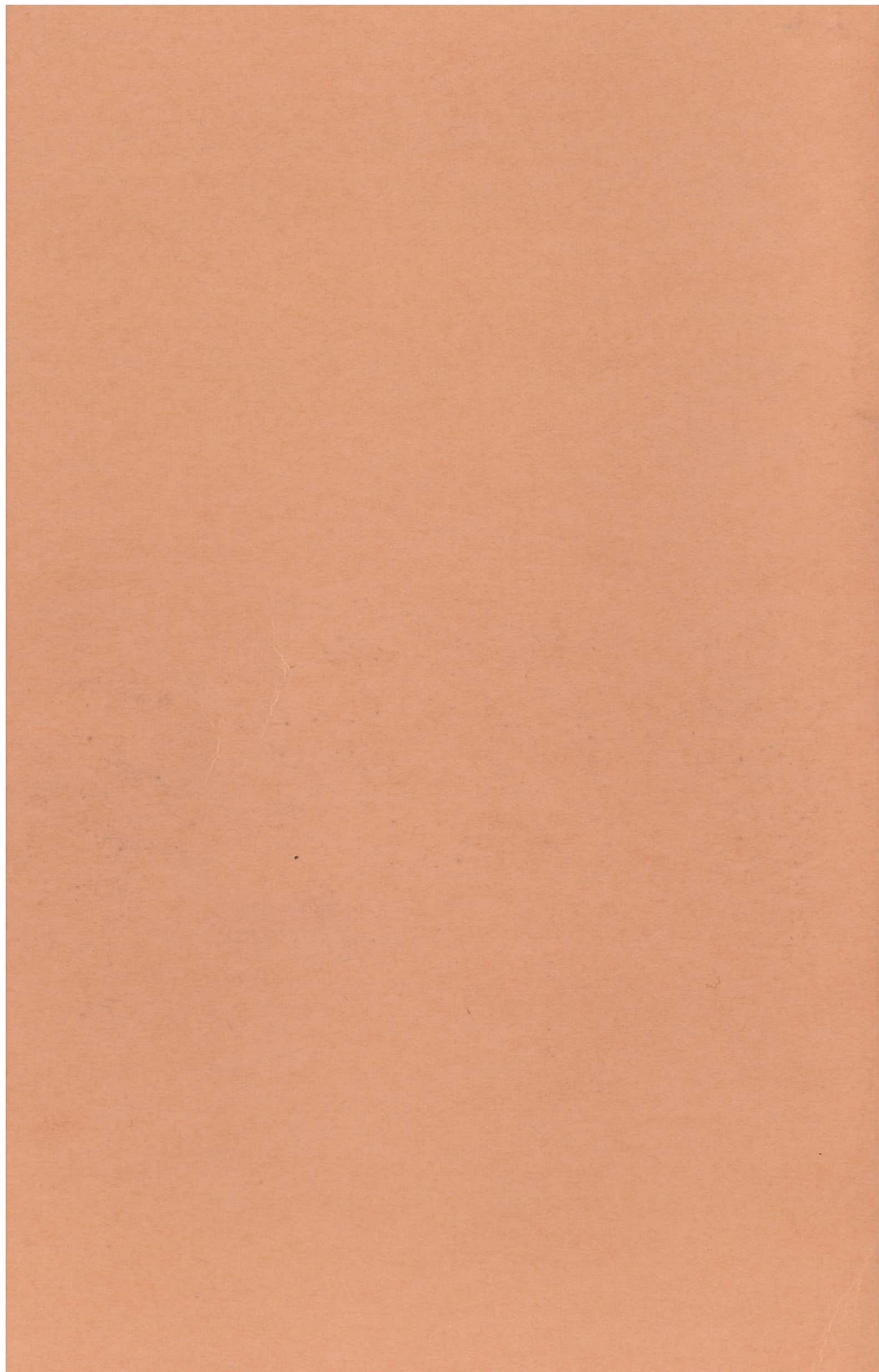
1,017

1968-1969

5,839

CIRCULATION

	Bookmobile	Library	Total
1959-60	21,578	5,830	27,408
1960-61	25,622	8,626	34,248
1961-62	21,522	8,351	29,873
1962-63	23,617	12,882	36,496
1963-64	25,503	19,282	44,785
1964-65	26,279	21,320	47,599
1965-66	27,255	23,820	51,075
1966-67	22,896	26,864	49,760
1967-68	23,759	27,786	51,545



MORE WHAT PEOPLE SAY...

..... "It is somewhat hard to put into words the value of such an environment. It has related unto me some of the most wonderful people that one can meet.

It has also given me the opportunity to display my work that I have wished for years to be seen by others; for this I thank the library and all the many wonderful people that are associated with it."

-William Monte Brown

..... "Congratulations to the Calvert County Library on its tenth anniversary. During the library's ten years at its present location it has provided me with many hours of pleasure and enjoyment. I join with hundreds of other library patrons in wishing it even more success and growth in the future."

-David M. King

..... "The library is supposed to serve as a place of research for its patrons, which it has. Most people are of the opinion that, that is the only reason to go to the library. I've been going to the Calvert County Library for over five years now and have even used it as a place of research on some occasions. If it hadn't been for the library I would probably have failed eighth grade history, because of a term paper I had to do for that class. But I don't look toward the library as a place of research. I look toward it as a place of enjoyment. I enjoy reading so much that I am in the library at least once a week, not only for books but also for records. Today in this county the library serves as one of my greatest friends."

-Charles Funn

..... "Nearly five years ago we moved to the "Land of Pleasant Living." Many things have made this true. One of the most important -- our association with the Calvert County Library.

We have enjoyed hundreds of good books of every type during this time. The quality of books available and the pleasant helpful personnel are indeed a great credit to Calvert County.

-Beryl Jerome

..... "My family would like to express our appreciation for having access to the most wonderful reading materials on the bookmobile. The friendly attitude of the librarians have also made this service a pleasure. We have enjoyed many story hours."

-E. Adams

..... "The library, the bookmobile, and the most important, the service staff mean literally the realization and effective extension of the words of Carlyle: "The true university is a collection of books." These words are materialized for us, removed as we are from the close convenience of urban facilities, and unable to travel frequently for considerable distances to the library.

The bookmobile, particularly, enables us to benefit from the reference material available throughout associated libraries, - being only as far away as our telephone - and at a far lower cost than would be establishment of small branch libraries.

However, no matter how elaborate and modern the physical establishment may be, the benefit to us is measured principally by the capability and interest of the very able professional staff in searching out books

which otherwise would be beyond our reach for many reasons. This is true whether it may be a reference in ancient Hebrew or the old scholars, something in nuclear physics, or just popular works for relaxation.

Thus, we are able to continue our intellectual development, to continue our personal pursuits in various fields of research, and otherwise satisfy our literary curiosities to add to our enjoyment of our retirement years.

Our tax dollar is returned many times over."

-The Rosses of Drum Point

..... "We have lived at the Naval Research Laboratory for more than two years. My children and I have enjoyed many happy hours with the library books made available through the bookmobile."

-Deborah Redfearn

..... "In among all the nice things being said, and deserved about the growth of the Calvert County Library over the past ten years, may I voice a few words of deep appreciation for the service of your bookmobile.

It is a large bus, carries books, some new, some old, all shapes, just about all subjects one can think of for either reading or research. BUT- no machine age could replace the courtesy or the kindness of which your drivers (for want of a better name) are guilty. They are ever ready to help with advice and suggestions. They make notes of books desired which may not be on the 'mobile and if not in Prince Frederick invariably it is found in Baltimore. That is a lot of extra work.

The bookmobile comes right to our back door--literally. Many times it has been impossible to get out, or I've needed help...my books have been picked up and a new selection made right there for me. Now that is service above and beyond...They try to let us know ahead of time when the bus may be laid up for repairs so that we may take additional books.

This has all been my own experience and it is definitely not mine alone. I don't know what we would do without our visitor on four wheels with its delightful river.

Float a loan, get a nice new bus but DON'T top.

When you are old and feeling blue
Cheer up
The bookmobile - that's for you."

-Aileen L. Biesel

....."The bookmobile program has been a godsend to me during the past ten years. It has allowed me to indulge my insatiable desire to read, which could not otherwise have done. It is a luxury to be able to walk out of my office and choose books from a well-stocked library; and the latest books and best sellers are available within a very short waiting period. Because of the limited cultural services in this remote urban area, the bookmobile is as filled at least one void."

-Erma D. Mister

....."It is a privilege for me to take this opportunity to recognize the Calvert County Library on its tenth anniversary of fine service to the community. The library and staff have provided the citizens of this county,

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a hipster to oldster, with the chance to
and their minds through reading. Not only
the book selections feature the necessary
basics, but the up-to-date books as well, which
only help to narrow the ever-widening knowledge

Of course, the courtesy and dispatch with
which you make available many audio-visual materials
not be overlooked.

The Calvert Education Association enthusiastic-
ly salutes you on your decade of community contri-
butions and service.

-Benjamin R. Williams,
President