

THE UPSTATE NEW YORK
CHAPTER/SLA IS 30 YEARS
OLD THIS YEAR.

In March 1945 a group of seven librarians met in a Williamsville restaurant. Only one of that original group, Ruth Sparrow, is still a Chapter member today. World War II was still in progress, and there was gas rationing, but two of the seven came from Rochester - by bus. The seven were not enough to sign a petition for a Chapter charter, so three more names were added - two of which are still in our Chapter roster: Ethel Shields and Dorothy Dunham Aydlett.

The Chapter was first named the Western New York Chapter.

The first president was Robert Christ.

The Chapter got a start financially with a windfall of \$152.04 from a defunct association, the Niagara Falls Library Association. The first secretary-treasurer was Elizabeth Burkey.

The first membership directory contained 44 names.

THE HISTORY OF THE WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER

Mabel (Gleason) Olney

Part I - The Beginning

Spring really begins on December 21 when the sun begins his return, and as our forebears truly said, "When the days begin to lengthen the cold begins to strengthen." It was very cold on March 18, 1945, World War II was grinding on, and gasoline rationing had nearly emptied Western New York's highways. Buses ran between the snowdrifts, and from several directions a handful of people gathered at the "White House Inn", Williamsville, New York. Elma Evans lived just around the corner and the meeting moved to her house. Mabel Gleason and Elsie Garvin came on the bus from Rochester. Bob Christ, Barbara Cole, Elizabeth Burkey and Ruth Sparrow were there from Buffalo. Before the party ended a new chapter had been born -- without even the legitimate number of parents. The seven present were not enough to sign a petition for a charter so the petition was brought back to Rochester and there signed by Ethel Shields, Dorothy Dunham and Janet Lauchlan. It speaks well for the chapter and its founders that seven of those charter members are still active in the Chapter almost thirteen years later.

At that eventful meeting a nominating committee was appointed as follows: Barbara Cole, Chairman; Elizabeth Burkey; and Catherine Mack. Immediately the notice was sent to all SLA members in Western, Southern and Central New York State. It read as follows: "March 20, 1945. As an active or institutional member of SLA you will be interested to know that a Western New York/Chapter is being organized. This chapter will include the areas around Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse." Interested replies poured in immediately. A letter from SLA headquarters dated March 26, 1945 and addressed to the writer said, "It makes me very happy to inform you officially that the petition, signed by ten Institutional and Active members, to form a Chapter in Western New York has been granted by the Executive Board of Special Libraries Association at the meeting held in New York on March 23, 1945." Another letter dated March 28 says "How did you and Miss Evans get the signatures whipped up so quickly?" That one needed no answer.

Soon a notice dated April 21, 1945 appeared, announcing that a dinner meeting would be held at the Hotel Lenox in Buffalo on May 5. At that occasion the officers were nominated, elected and they were as follows:

President	- Robert W. Christ
Vice-President	- Catherine Mack
Secretary-Treasurer	- Elizabeth Burkey
Bulletin and Publicity Chairman	- Ruth Sparrow
Membership and Hospitality Chairman	- Helen Rowley
Program Chairman	- Mabel R. Gleason
Constitution and By-Laws Chairman	- Elsie Garvin

Now if anyone is interested in "how to get up a meeting" he can read with profit the thick sheaf of correspondence concerning the first real big public meeting of WNYCSLA which was to be in Rochester, Saturday, June 16, 1945. The complete record is there, including the menu at the Powers Hotel, and a letter of apology to Miss Cavanaugh containing a sigh of relief that the threatened strike of waiters did not happen and no soup was thrown on guests.

The really notable event at that meeting was Bob Christ's inaugural address. No one who heard it has ever forgotten it, it was subsequently published in SPECIAL LIBRARIES and it will remain in the memory of the author of this history as long as she remembers anything about libraries or the Western New York Chapter. It should be republished from time to time in this Bulletin for the benefit of newer members who did not know Bob Christ. The Chapter was smaller then, of course, and Bob probably knew every member by name and library.

The first meeting in the fall was in Niagara Falls, New York. The program consisted of reports and discussions on "Interlibrary Loan Practices" and "Filing and Indexing Company Reports" -- doesn't it sound familiar?

About that time the Chapter received a windfall which gave it a start financially that has always been in our favor. There was a defunct Niagara Falls Library Association that had a bank balance of \$152.04. As the association no longer existed and as we did exist for the same purposes as the original association, the funds were transferred to the fortunate new chapter. That is why the financial records of the Niagara Falls Association have been kept, always a great puzzle to new treasurers.

January 1946 found us meeting in Buffalo at the Hotel Lafayette, with Herman Henkle (then President of SLA) speaking on "Expanding the Services of SLA." Our first membership directory appeared with 44 names on it. Remember the preceding February we scraped up a total of ten?

Saturday April 27th we met at Rochester again, the new constitution was revised and discussed, and a Stromberg-Carlson engineer talked to us on "Television - Today and Tomorrow." The final meeting of the season was in Buffalo, June 21, in conjunction with the ALA Conference.

So ended the first year of the Chapter's life. The next fall, Saturday, September 28, 1946 we met again in Buffalo, the new officers were announced (after being duly nominated and elected):

President	- Catherine Mack
Vice-President	- Barbara Cole
Secretary-Treasurer	- Lona Thurber
Membership and Hospitality Chairman	- Hazel Izzo
Program Chairman	- Constance Parché
Publicity and Bulletin Chairman	- Jasmine Mulcahey
Constitution and By-Laws Chairman	- Elsie Garvin

On November 9 we visited the Bristol Laboratories "World's Largest Penicillin Plant". I can still see the line of autoclaves reaching it seemed to the horizon. How could it be eleven years ago? The directory appeared in December, 98 members. The previous June we received the Membership Gavel award for the first time, the greatest percentage increase in membership of any chapter in SLA.

February 1947, the Chapter was exactly two years old and, meeting once more in Rochester, we heard an address "Basic Training for Special Librarians" by Dr. Van Dusen, Dean of the Library Training School, Geneseo State Teachers College, and then had a colloquium on Library Planning by Lona Thurber (Coates), Janet Lauchlan and Father Bouwhuis. We were all still feeling sad because Bob Christ had left us for Washington the previous November.

That year we finished the season on June 28 at the General Brock Hotel in Niagara Falls, Canada. The main topic of conversation was "what happened at Chicago at the SLA conference?" The new officers for the coming year were:

President	- Barbara Cole
Vice-President	- Lona Thurber Coates
Secretary-Treasurer	- Elizabeth Congdon
Program Chairman	- Anne Varley
Membership Chairman	- Hazel Izzo
Constitution and By-Laws Chairman	- Margaret Withington
Special Occasion	- Marjorie Bartow
Bulletin and Publicity	- Margaret T. Schenk

And, oh yes, for the second successive year we won the gavel award for increase in membership, 122 in all.

- TO BE CONTINUED -

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ABBREVIATIONS AND PUNCTUATION

Periods are omitted after abbreviations, and as much other punctuation as seems practical.

The following abbreviations are used:

AB	- Bachelor of Arts	Lib	- Library
ACS	- American Chemical Society	Libn	- Librarian
Agric	- Agriculture	LS	- Library Science
ALA	- American Library Association	Lt(jg)	- Lieutenant junior grade
Assoc	- Association	MS	- Master of Arts
Asst	- Assistant	NYLA	- New York Library Association
BBA	- Bachelor of Business Administration	p	- page
BS	- Bachelor of Science	Pres	- President
Bsn	- Business	Prof	- Professor
Chm	- Chairman	Sci-Tech	- Science-Technology
Co	- Company	Secy	- Secretary
Coll	- College	Sta	- Station
Corp	- Corporation	Treas	- Treasurer
Dept	- Department	U	- University
Div	- Division	US	- United States
Exper	- Experiment	VA	- Veterans Administration
Hosp	- Hospital	VP	- Vice President
Inc	- Incorporated	Ordinary	accepted abbreviations for:
Jr	- Junior		States
Lab	- Laboratory		Cities
			Dates

THE HISTORY OF THE WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER

Mabel (Gleason) Olney

Part II -- The Middle Years 1947-51

The fall of 1947 was as beautiful as the winter of 1945 was cold. Our Chapter was invited to the First Regional Conference of Montreal, Toronto and Western New York, to be held in Toronto October 17th and 18th. The scope and success of this innovation can be guessed from this quotation from the Proceedings, "There were one hundred and thirty-seven registrations altogether, of which thirty-five were from Montreal, forty from Western New York and sixty-two from Toronto." This impressionable historian considers that conference one of the high points in the Chapter's life. There were two days of stimulating and informative papers. These were mimeographed and distributed to those who attended, the Proceedings cover 41 pages and contain papers by Winifred G. Barnstead, Director of the Library School, University of Toronto, Elma T. Evans, Miss M. J. Henderson, Miss B. V. Simon, McGill University, Miss Mary Dolan, Binghamton Press, Miss M. Edna M. Poole, Academy of Medicine, Toronto, and Mrs. Irene Strieby then president of SLA. Reports on the three chapters followed. It was revealed that while WNY was 2 years of age, Montreal was 15 and Toronto was 7. Besides the papers which we still have, those of us who attended remember the hospitality of the Toronto members. Mr. Johnson who showed us Osgoode Hall with its ornate but tiny fireplaces. What a hardy race students were in the nineteenth century! And no one who visited the Chinese Library of the Royal Ontario Museum can ever forget it. I can still see Connie Parche's face as she listened to old Bishop White explaining the immense stone books of the ancient Chinese libraries. We were fed royally as the guests of the Board of Trade of Toronto, the Canada Life Assurance Company, the Hydro-Electric Power Commission and the Toronto Public Library. The light on the October foliage died slowly and the winter of 1948 came.

In January our President, Barbara Cole, resigned and her place was taken by Vice-President Lona Thurber Coates. Barbara became Mrs. Thomas W. Shelley and her place at DuPont was taken by Helen Rowley. Our January 28th (1948) meeting was in Buffalo, the business meeting was held at Grosvenor Library followed by tours of Linde Air Products and Cornell Aeronautical Laboratories. We saw wind tunnels and learned of synthetic jewels but to our disappointment received no samples.

March 27 found us in Buffalo again, our prospective Union List of Serials was the main topic of discussion. In May the Chapter sponsored its first large display. A booth was set up at the Industrial Progress Exposition at the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce and an attendance of 20,000 was reported. If memory serves me correctly reference questions were answered from the booth!

The last meeting of the season was our first visit to Schenectady. On May 8 we were met by Alice Neil, Betty Ann Eaton, Mrs. Aimee Skinner, Mr. Charles Bauer and were given a tour of the Main General Electric Library by William Jacob. Hazel Izzo's account of the meeting says "The highlight of the meeting came....when Dr. Coolidge talked of his year in

Japan...on the beauty of Japan and the progress its people are making." I remember especially the beauty of Mrs. Coolidge and of her cultured pearls from Mr. Mikimoto's Inland Sea. Strange isn't it that the meeting before we had seen synthesized jewels and now we saw cultivated ones?

But already we were thinking of the national conference in June at Washington, D. C. and whether or not we would get the membership gavel for the third and last time. We won it, we now had a total of 172 members.

October 1948 we attempted to return the hospitality of our Canadian friends. I well remember trying to explain to the Rochester newspapers that we did not wish to have a great deal of publicity on the "international angle" as the Special Libraries Association did not make any particular fuss about national boundaries and our two neighboring chapters, to us, were our two neighboring chapters, the same as Connecticut and Pittsburgh, except that the latter were farther away. The newspapers were not impressed by my lack of nationalism but they gave us excellent publicity. The Chapter did its best to have a worth-while two days for members and guests. We visited Ward's Natural Science Establishment, where a busload of visitors was left behind and had to be rescued by the management of Ward's. We toured the University of Rochester and had tea in the AAUW House on East Avenue. In the evening some late-stayers went to a live television broadcast at WHAM-TV. One of the features was a square dance on the stage which was bitterly criticized by some WNY members but which started a Canadian member on a career of square dancing!

The November meeting was at the Hotel Niagara, Niagara Falls, New York, and was filled with library business, papers were given on the variety of libraries in our Chapter and Father Bouwhuis announced the beginning of recruitment activities. This year was notable for a dinner in Syracuse. It seemed like a good custom and it is a pity it did not continue.

January 1949 brought difficulties again. The January meeting was in Buffalo and the feature speaker was a State engineer who spoke on the New York "Thru-way" which "will be toll-free". Clouded crystal ball department? The president of the Chapter was ill and unable to attend the meeting and early in February she (Mabel G. Olney) resigned leaving Vice-President Alice V. Neil to carry on her responsibilities. March found us at Syracuse University visiting Martha Meelig's excellent Library of Forestry. Father Bouwhuis led the meeting and the subject was recruitment. Mr. Wharton Miller continued this theme in his address that evening. On May 19 we converged on Cornell University in Ithaca. Guided tours took us to any or all of the libraries of Cornell. May I be forgiven if I remember with special interest the collection of Icelandic literature and the tiny un-worldly Iclander who was studying it? Who said "There are no boundaries in the world of thought"?

The more fortunate members left in June for Los Angeles to attend the National Conference. The Bulletin contains no references to anything which occurred at the conference but does mention the beauties of the scenery, wild flowers, etc., in the National Parks. Did you ever notice how our Chapter members move about with open eyes and ears?

Late in September (23rd and 24th) a number of WNYC members attended a third Regional Conference in Montreal. For some reason, probably because it was previous to the first fall meeting, very little mention is made of this in the Bulletin or the minutes. To this starry-eyed reporter it was an event second only to the first one in Toronto. We were received by the famous mayor of Montreal, Mayor Houde. Alice Neil signed the Golden Book reserved for distinguished visitors and to this day horticulturalists are being bored with an account of the pyramidal bluebells which grew in enormous urns and were trained up in the corners of the entrance to the Botanical Gardens. The garden encyclopedias will tell you they are "common" but I have yet to see another such display. The trip back through the Adirondacks would make a short story in itself.

Our regular 1949-50 season opened on October 29 with a meeting in Rochester. The business meeting was at the Rundel Library, dinner at the AAUW House and Mrs. Rider was the speaker of the evening. She spoke of the real role of the librarian and of St. Colombo who could read in the dark by the light from the palm of his hand. She asked us how many of us could illuminate the books under our care by the light from our hands and the question has rung in my ears ever since.

January 14 we met in Buffalo at the Roswell Park Memorial Institute where we were addressed by Dr. Louis C. Kress, Director. He was a man who literally gave his life, up to its last minute to the cause in which he believed. Later that same day we heard a man talk on television which was "the coming thing". It was not so long ago, was it?

March 18 we returned to Schenectady, we met in the Y.M.C.A. and listened to a very serious discussion on "What Training for Special Librarians". As I was a participant, a waggish friend suggested that my portion be entitled, "What! Training for Special Librarians?" Dr. Gosnell spoke in the evening on "The Future of Books and Libraries". He seemed to feel that there was a future.

Our May meeting was in Syracuse, the entire day was devoted to "Library Photo-Technics", microcards, projected books, etc. One of outstanding events of the year was the adoption at that time of our distinctive masthead, we had not had one previous to then, our map showing our members' communities appealed to us immediately and has been used ever since. After a serious two-year study we abandoned the union list. It had few mourners, the game was not worth the candle.

Our three "international" conferences had been very successful and we were afraid to continue indefinitely and spoil our record. A compromise was suggested and taken up with enthusiasm. The first meeting of the fall of 1950 was October 14 in the Hotel General Brock in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Miss Elizabeth Congdon was our newly elected President. The Canadian friends outdid themselves as usual. We toured the Hydro-Electric plant and then were taken in buses to the Niagara Parks Commission Gardeners' School. We were amazed at the beauty and extent of the gardens, the most spectacular exhibit was the floral clock patterned after the one in Edinburgh. The year began auspiciously. January 1951 was just around the corner and found us meeting in Syracuse at General Electric's Electronics Park.

- TO BE CONCLUDED -

THE HISTORY OF THE WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER

Mabel (Gleason) Olney

Part III -- Modern Times 1951-1957

What strange alchemy of the mind makes the spring of 1951 seem longer ago than the beginnings in 1945? Were days longer when we were younger or did the sun just shine brighter and longer? We'll never know because we can't return. We go in one direction only and trust our faulty vision for glimpses back.

At the January 1951 meeting in Syracuse the largest topic of business was the revised constitution. Occasionally we give it a good going over, another sign of mental health in this chapter. After touring Electronics Park and having our meeting there we had dinner at the Hotel Mizpah while a man from Onondaga Pottery Co. told us how to make chinaware. March 10 we met in Rochester and began with a luncheon for Mrs. Owens, then President of SLA. If we look back to 1951 as a quiet and "unfearful" time, note what appeared on the program for that meeting: N.B. ALL PRICES ARE QUOTED TENTATIVELY, DUE TO ALTERNATE FREEZING, THAWING AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT UNCERTAINTY. However, the dinner was good and the price remained stable throughout the meal. We had the privilege of visiting the Eastman House with its very special, Special Library in the afternoon. We heard reports of honors to Martha Meelig and Wilma Kujawski for their work in their special fields of forestry and Vitamin E technology.

On Saturday, May 19 we attended what was probably the most unusual meeting in our Chapter's history. We were the guests of Allegheny State Park. Mr. Charles Congdon, Chairman of the Allegheny State Park Commission was the father of Elizabeth Congdon, our Chapter President. The weather was beautiful and mild (although we had been warned to bring blankets). The program was entirely on Indian history and culture, illustrated with Indian masks and two colored movies. Many of us felt for the first time the great depth and complexity of Indian life.

In September, with J. Gormly Miller of Ithaca as our President we gathered at Corning for a two-day joint meeting with the Glass Librarians. Most of the WNYCSLA'ers did not arrive until Saturday but they found time to visit the Glass Center and admire the library. Later in the Fall (December 1) we met again at Grosvenor, the program was a very serious one: "Documentation". It was so serious there was even a discussion, following the original discussion, on the meaning of the word! After a sumptuous smorgasbord, Dr. Gosnell described his trip to Brazil for UNESCO. The bulletin states that we were all impressed by the fine new buildings in Brazil. This particular quater-for-the-quaint remembers his description of the little eucalyptus-wood-burning locomotives. A land of contrasts, as the travel books always say.

February 1952 brought us to Rochester as the guests of Bausch & Lomb Optical Company where we watched glass pouring. That afternoon we toured the Rochester Times-Union and saw the evening news being ground out, mile by mile. That same afternoon there occurred a well-remembered crisis in our chapter's life. At the September meeting we lacked a quorum to vote

on a constitutional amendment and so a new amendment was proposed lowering the quorum from 20% to 15%. At the Rochester meeting we did not have enough members present to vote to reduce the quorum! Yet the meeting was well attended -- this is a mystery some future statistician may decipher.

At about this time many of us heard for the first time of the tragic, untimely death of Bob Christ, our beloved first President. The account in our bulletin closed with this memorable statement, "No one ever quite dies as long as he is remembered, and we shall remember Bob." His death occurred on December 23, 1951 at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He shall indeed be remembered as long as there is anyone in the chapter.

Spring seems to make all things easier to bear. At the invitation of James Dunn we went to Cooperstown for our May meeting. Jimmy was then the Librarian for the New York State Historical Association at Fenimore House. We elected Elsie Garvin President for the coming year; we all visited all the museums in Cooperstown; and we listened to some remarks by the inimitable Dr. Louis Jones. That was a meeting too soon over.

The fall meeting was at Chippewa, Ontario. We were guests of the Norton Company. Some modern poet wrote in the bulletin that "it always does us more good than an injection of B2 to meet those Toronto Chapter folks". Although the article was not signed, that sounds like Lona T. Coates, and the sentiment is echoed by this chronicler.

On January 17, 1953, Rochester Institute of Technology took us through their craft school where we watched lovely things being made of silver and wood (remember the gems, real and synthetic in years back?) Elizabeth Ferguson, SLA President was our luncheon guest and brought us up to date on national affairs. In the middle of March we went to the New York State Library in Albany. We were also guests of Sterling-Winthrop Research Institute. They gave each of us a sheet of pharmaceutical symbols, old and new. That sheet is a valuable reference tool.

Before our May meeting we lost another old and much loved member, Charles Swain, Librarian of the Buffalo-Courier Express. "He that had five talents..."

On May 23 we met at the School of Industrial and Labor Relations in Cornell. Professor John Brophy spoke on "The Librarian in the Industrial Organization". We argued with Dr. Brophy and almost convinced him that the librarian is unique in the organization and by and large wishes to remain so! Wilhelmine L. Browne was chosen President for the ensuing year.

The first meeting of that year was held in October at the Buffalo Museum of Science. The speaker was Dr. D. Paul Smay, Director of Visual Education at the State College for Teachers at Buffalo. He spoke concerning the use of motion pictures in education. This is now "old-hat" to educators but still a bit unusual to sci-tech members. In December we made the first Charles Swain Scholarship Award to Miss Annette Silk of Lockport.

February 1954 again found us in Rochester, this time as the guests of the University Medical Library. Miss Walters' pleasant smile made up for the terribly grim topic for the afternoon address, "Application of Atomic Energy in Medical Research".

The final meeting of that season was with Emily Van Schoick, the ceramic dynamo and librarian of the College of Ceramics, State University of New York, at Alfred University. Lunch was in the kiln room! Our tenth year of chapter life was beginning with Jean Ouder Kirk as President.

On October 9 there was a joint NYLA-WNYCSLA meeting at Grosvenor in Buffalo. Most of the SLA'ers did not attend many of the NYLA sessions but we had an enlightening tour of Grosvenor, rare books, medicine, and the like. Interesting comments were made on our scholarship fund and a special committee was set up to make recommendations.

In January 1955 we returned to Albany to visit the State Library. This time we particularly visited the processing department and watched the new Xerographic printing process used for catalog cards.

April found us in the Southern Tier once more as the guests of IBM at Endicott. What is there about the Southern Tier in spring? For that matter, what is there about the Southern Tier at any time of year? Cooperstown, Endicott, Alfred, Corning, Ithaca --- what is it they have that we find lacking in Rochester, Syracuse and Buffalo? Is it just that they are smaller places with a personality more easily grasped by a stranger? I thought of all these things out on the lawn of the Homestead that lovely April day. The answers haven't come yet, perhaps they never will.

On May 21 we visited Carborundum Company with the Parches' our hosts. The meeting was interesting. There was the report that the first class of girls was graduated from the library course of the Erie County Technical Institute, our scholarship girl among them. The new recipient for this year was Miss Margaret Dee.

The fall of 1955 found us with a change of Presidents. Bradford Shaw had been elected in the spring but he had left New York State. In his place the executive board chose Hazel Izzo. We met first on September 24 at Tubbert's Restaurant in Syracuse. The program followed at Solvay Process Division and it was on staff manuals. This was an exceedingly helpful program. Someone must have thought so, for the papers with a bibliography appeared in the bulletin. Why do librarians, those guardians of the printed word, so seldom print their own papers?

On November 19 we returned to the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory; toured the library and those portions of the laboratory cleared for visitors; and then adjourned to the Airways Hotel at the Buffalo airport for cocktails and dinner.

On February 25, 1956 we were in Rochester at the Sibley Music Library. This was another "unique" meeting. We learned strange and interesting things concerning music libraries. The Sibley Music Library was the first in the country to have its own building. The fact that it contains over one hundred thousand items gives any special librarian some idea of its extensiveness. We looked over some of the rarest volumes in the library and planned schemes involving grand larceny. The Charles Swain Scholarship Award was discussed again. It was voted to make this an annual event.

April 28 saw us in the Library School of the Teachers' College at Geneseo. (Is that too far north to be included in what I said about the Southern Tier?) We lunched in nearby Avon and then returned for our meeting. After being lifted to a higher realm of being ourselves, by Dr. Van Normand, we presented our scholarship check to Miss Dorothy Einseidel, a student at Geneseo. Their new library left us a little breathless.

Our twelfth year began with Ruth (Lake) MacDonald, President. Our first meeting was a joint one with the Toronto "folks" at Niagara Falls, Ontario. Clara Miller echoed our thoughts on B2 injections when she said "personal contact is the best way to keep informed about our customers and their interests". I might even ask what other way is there? Has IBM thought of a solution? After the meeting most of us enjoyed cider and doughnuts at the home of the Parchés while we witnessed a preview of an art show Bill would hold early in 1957.

On November 16 we met at the Knolls Laboratory of General Electric Company where Alice Neil is the librarian. Some of us delved into the catalog; others admired the magazine racks and the wonderful reading room overlooking the Mohawk Valley, always like a Turner painting; still others made excuses to stand before the electric eye guarding the book stacks in order to make that tireless robot open the doors!

March returned us to Syracuse. A luncheon at Drumlin's was followed by an address by Dr. Yenawine, Director of Libraries at Syracuse University, on "Training for Special Librarianship". This has a familiar ring, in some previous life we have heard it before. We proved our interest, however, by awarding our scholarship to Mr. Harold B. Schell, School of Library Science, Syracuse University.

And now we have reached the close and the opening. The minutes of that Syracuse meeting say, "Hazel Izzo reported for Mabel Olney that the latter has been asked to prepare a history of the Western New York Chapter to be used for the Fiftieth Anniversary of Special Libraries Association." The archivist wrote the history. The President wanted to publish it in the bulletin, but that outline lacked the personal touch for the friends in the Western New York Chapter: it was too much like the printed Christmas card. So the three part history was begun.

Our 1957-58 meetings, under the able leadership of President Samuel Sass, have been at Crane Company in Dalton, Massachusetts; Rochester Institute of Technology; and State University of New York Medical Center Library in Syracuse.

May 4, 1957 we will meet at Corning. The library is more than twice as large as on our previous visit. It has grown and we have grown, and "the Past is Prologue".

May 5, 1945

The first meeting of the Western New York Chapter of the Special Libraries Association was held at the Hotel Lennox, Buffalo May fifth. Miss Barbara Cole presided and nineteen were present.

After a delightful dinner, Miss Cole opened the meeting. Miss Ruth A. Sparrow was appointed Secretary pro temp. Miss Cole spoke briefly on the plans and early work for the organization of the Chapter. Miss Mabel Gleason outlined tentative plans for a meeting in Rochester on June 16th.

The slate of officers was presented by the Nominating Committee:
President --- Mr. Robert W. Christ
Vice-President --- Mrs. William D. Mack
Secretary-Treasurer Miss Elizabeth H. Burkey

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Secretary pro temp cast one ballot for the officers.

Mr. Christ read the greetings to the new chapter from Mrs. Kathleen Stebbins, Executive Secretary of SLA.

Miss Elma T. Evans spoke on the SLA and the work being carried out by it thro its executive Board. Miss Evans also told of a course on the Chemical Library which is being given at the University of Buffalo.

The meeting was then thrown open to discussion on aims for the chapter and plans for the future. Discussion followed on: future meeting programs on library techniques such as filing, indexing, classification, borrowing and so forth; a Union list of Serials for the area; a duplicate holding list; the relation of a public library to SLA; the advantages of SLA to a college library; A chapter Bulletin; and the need to raise the esteem of librarians.

The meeting adjourned with the members full of ideas and enthusiasm for the future.

Respectfully submitted

Ruth A. Sparrow
EHS

Ruth A Sparrow
Secretary pro temp

May 1937

Maple Falls (NY) spec. & pub. librarians meet at request of Bertha Goodlee, public lib. direct., to investigate corp to "boost the public library", perhaps to get a new one. A familiar problem: all expend. about what should be on new materials. A union catalog was prepared, containing SLA materials. NFL Club

Oct 1938

NFL Club \Rightarrow NFL Association ("less social")

Feb 1939

general library problems & solutions (& not amendments to state constitutions!)

March 1939

Const & by-laws approved.

May 1939

decs corp between Bull & NF spec & pub lib.

Nov 1941

last recorded meeting - low att & low active participation.

Jan 1942

\$152⁰⁴ - last transaction by members

March 1945

7 lib met in Williamsville (ny) -

Elma Evans

Robert Christ

Barbara Cole

Elizabeth Burkey

Ruth Sparrow

Elsie Garvin

Mabel Gleason

Bullalo

* NFLA

Rock

Petition rel. to Rock to be signed by

Ethel Shields

Dorothy Durham

Janet Launchlan

Notices sent to West, South, Central members
WNYC: Bull, Rock, Sparrow

23^d

SLA approves by Exec Board to affiliate.

May

Officers elected.

Pres: Robert W. Christ

VP: Catherine Mack

S-Tres: Elizabeth Burkey

Bull: Ruth Sparrow

Manb: Helen Rowley

Pro: Mabel Gleason

Const: Elsie Garvin

(39 members)

Oct 45

NFLA funds transferred to WNYSC treasury

Dec 45

Directly 63 members (4 from NFLA)

Pullaho: 20

NF: 8

Reck: 15

Supa: 9

Bingli: 1

Coopert: 1

Ilion: 1

Indleport: 11

Phala: 11

Tonawanda: 1

Cornitz: 1

Bolivar: 1

Oneda: 1

Cippawa, Ont: 1

~~Acq & Pub~~

Acq: IIII IIII

Pub: IIII I

Just: IIII IIII IIII

III III III

III III

I