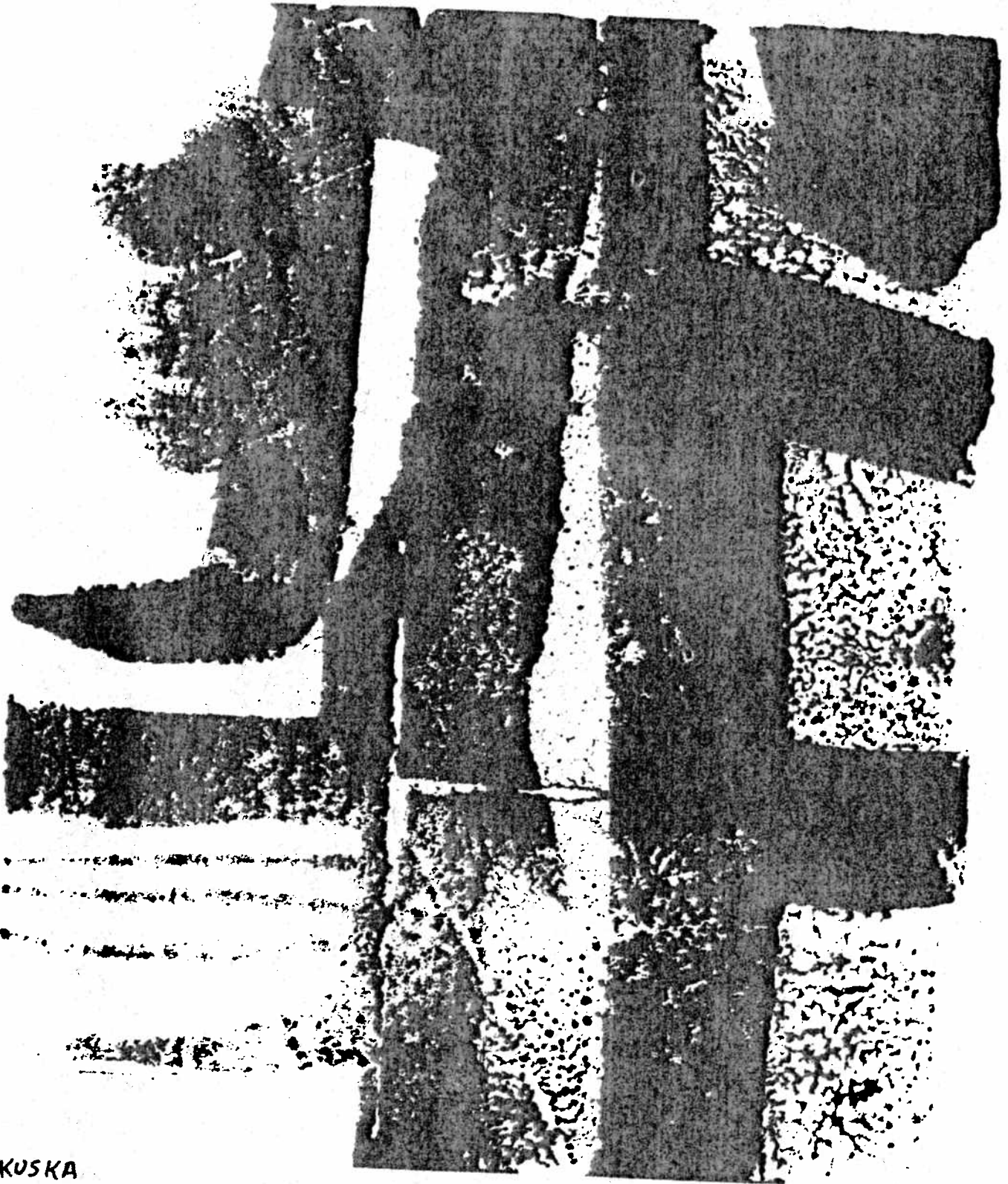


# Bulletin



MIKUSKA

**MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

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MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

B U L L E T I N

Volume 12, No. 1 ----- March, 1964

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University of Manitoba Seventh Alumni Conference ..	1
Canadian Library Horizons - Actualité des Bibliothèques Canadiennes .....	2
Western Library Associations Conference .....	2
Manitoba Library Association Conference .....	2
University Libraries in England and Scotland .....	3
Positions Available .....	6
Scholarship Fund .....	7
Association and Other News .....	7

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## THE SEVENTH ALUMNI CONFERENCE

The Manitoba Library Association sent George Noble and myself as delegates to the Seventh Alumni Conference, held at the University on Saturday, March 7th. Theme of the conference was: "Canada - one nation or two?" About 350 people were at the opening session and one readily spotted many of our leading politicians, newspaper men, business leaders, professors and culture enthusiasts.

The opening session had two main speakers - Maurice Sauvé, Minister of Forestry, and Jean-Luc Pepin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Besides expressing what to a considerable extent were their own personal views, these two men also spoke for the Federal Government and the awakening forces of modern Quebec. Monsieur Sauvé's main theme for Canada's future - and Canada's unity - was that of economic planning. He believed that every Canadian had the right to expect at least a basic level of economic dignity and that once that level was achieved many of our other problems would take care of themselves. Monsieur Sauvé also spoke out for the growth of the human spirit in Canada and in particular hoped for an increase in the idealism of Canadian youth. He hoped very much for cultural growth, too, and stressed the words of Sir William Osler - "the value of a nation is in its mind".

Monsieur Pepin, the other main speaker, could almost be described as a "platform artist". Quick, eloquent, urbane, witty, and with just a touch of the old "dagger" in his approach, he made the audience come alive with his analysis of the conference's theme. He examined "Canada - one nation or two?" in relation to a "dream" or ideal seven-day conference. In it, theoretically, he would be able to get to the heart of the matter. The third day of his ideal conference, for example, would be entirely devoted to the current revolution in Quebec. He mentioned the recent article in Saturday Night - "What the hell's going on in Quebec?" - as being typical of some of the analysis that would be undertaken on that day. On another day, too, his ideal conference would examine Canada "medically". It would look into Canada's mind, take its blood pressure, "etherize it upon the table", put it in the hands of a trained social worker, and so on. Monsieur Pepin would know Canada.

After the coffee break the conference broke up into individual discussion groups. There were about twelve of these, each in charge of a full-time chairman and each being visited by "topic leaders". The groups considered three problems in terms of the conference's theme. First, "Canada - one nation or two?" was discussed in its economic aspects and then its political aspects; later the cultural aspects were discussed. Our own group seemed to think that economics and politics were very closely tied together in modern Canada, the men in particular having a lot to say about this. In the afternoon we were only just beginning to skim the surface of the cultural problem when we had to go back to the final general session. Our ladies, however, had had quite a bit to say about Canada's culture.

The final general session was under the chairmanship of Professor Murray Donnelly. It opened as a platform-panel discussion and concluded as a question-and-answer period between the panel and audience. Judge W. J. Lindal of the panel was able to prove, apparently, that according to the Statutes of Manitoba, French is one of the two official languages of the province. Professor W. L. Morton of the panel gave a summary of what he thought were the three underlying problems of Canadian unity. The first of these, he maintained, was achieving cultural duality and equality for every citizen of Canada. Second was trying to put over the not too obvious fact that Quebec and French Canada are not the same thing. And the final problem, he believed, would be to get the French language used in all parts of Canada, at least in terms of a constitutional political and

cultural equality with English. Coupled with this last problem would be the recognition that other languages (e.g., German and Ukrainian) would get special treatment where warranted. Mrs. Olga Woycenko of the panel was the spokesman for other languages and cultures. Here one can quote the words of Peter McLintock, one of the newspaper men who took in the conference: "a reasoned and moderate exposition".

When the panel took on its question-and-answer period with the audience, Monsieur Sauvé and Monsieur Pepin bore the brunt of the queries. The questions tended to be vague and somewhat inane, as is common with audience-platform performances. Nevertheless, they put the final stamp on one of the main characteristics of the conference as a whole: that everybody had a chance to say something. Then feeling rather democratic and perhaps even Canadian, we had to go home. It was time for hockey night in Canada.

— Kent D. Oliver

CANADIAN LIBRARY HORIZONS - ACTUALITE DES BIBLIOTHEQUES CANADIENNES

Canadian Library Horizons - Actualité des bibliothèques canadiennes is the first journal of permanent character issued by Canadian Library Week. It is bilingual, analyses and indexes Canadian library reports, book and film lists, newsletters, book reviews, speeches, gives news about retirements and new appointments. A bibliographic service, it provides access to valuable sources of library science and librarianship as well as to news stories for Canadian Library Week press releases. The editor is Sophia Preisman, formerly assistant editor of the Canadian Index to Periodicals and Documentary Films. Canadian Library Horizons is published 6 times a year. Further information regarding subscription rates, etc., may be obtained by writing to 63 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

WESTERN LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS CONFERENCE

The Western Libraries Associations Conference which is being held in Calgary from May 19 to 22 extends an overall invitation to MLA members. Headquarters for the Conference is the Hotel Palliser. For anyone interested in attending, hotel reservation and registration forms are available from Miss M. Ashley, Provincial Library (Telephone WH 6-7214).

MANITOBA  
LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION  
CONFERENCE

The MLA Conference will be held May 29-30 at Brandon College. A programme is being planned to provide something of interest for every member. The programme and pre-registration forms will be printed in the next issue of the Bulletin.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

Early in 1963 I received an invitation from the British Council to visit England and Scotland as their guest. The purpose of this visit was to enable me to observe the organization and operation of British libraries. My visit covered university, college of advanced technology, technical college, public, county, and some special, libraries. In this article I will cover university libraries only.

First of all, a few comments on English universities are in order. Most of the financial support comes from the government, through the University Grants Commission. Only the very top students are allowed to enter university, therefore enrolments are not large by our standards. Students receive allowances which are supposed to include fairly liberal funds for the purchase of books. These factors all reflect in the growth and policies of the university libraries.

The first university visited was the University of London, an institution which is not typical of English universities. It is a large, sprawling, loosely affiliated institution with many diverse activities. It has long been famous for its extension work and for its special schools which are recognized the world over. It has been particularly active in encouraging people from other areas of the world to study in England. Other English universities tend to restrict their activities more to what might be considered traditional university work, that is, on-campus activities designed to give a strictly limited number of students an intensive, high calibre academic training.

The libraries of this university reflect its diversity, and its loose organization. The focal point of library service to the University is the University of London Library. This is a central library of approximately 750,000 volumes which serves the whole institution. In addition to this library, each of the affiliated schools and colleges have their own library service. Relationship between the various libraries is informal but appeared, on the surface, to be cordial. I spent four days observing various libraries associated with the university. Two days were spent in the central library, one day in the Institute of Education library, and one half day each in the libraries of Birkbeck College, and University College. The University Library shares the huge Senate House with several other parts of the University. Senate House is a fairly typical university building of the 1930's. The library stack is the central tower, the reading rooms and work areas of the library occupy the upper floors, other departments of the university occupy the lower floors. This architectural style lends itself to an arrangement in which the major portion of the collection is housed in the stacks and in which the corridors and wings are perhaps best used for combination special reference and study areas. The University of London Library has used this arrangement with a marked degree of success. I immediately felt at home wandering through its well arranged reference collections. Some interesting special features of this library were its map collection, its extra-mural library service, its music collection and the Goldsmiths' Library of early economic literature.

The Institute of Education, like the University Library, is situated in Senate House. This Institute has gained an international reputation for developing new ideas in the field of education and for fostering the exchange of ideas on an international level through tours, summer courses, and other means. The Institute Library not only reflects this activity, but appears to be to the fore in its development. The collection is being developed on a broad base but did not seem to be superior to collections available in several Canadian institutions. The features which impressed me were the services provided by senior members of the library staff which tended to make the content of the collection more readily available to members of the Institute's faculty and others. One of these services is the publication of a bulletin. The most

outstanding and unique service of this type, however, is that provided by senior staff members who peruse incoming material on a systematic basis and notify faculty members about items of special interest to them.

University College Library is a large library devoted to an intramural daytime student body. Birkbeck College Library serves student body studying for degrees by taking evening classes.

The next university on my itinerary was Reading. Reading is a small city of about 120,000 in an agricultural and manufacturing area to the west of London. Reading University is one of the 'red brick' universities formed in the English 'provincial' cities during the latter part of the nineteenth century and the earlier part of the twentieth century. It began, I believe, as an agricultural school. The present enrolment is in the neighbourhood of 2000 - 3000 students. The present library building must have been built shortly after World War I. A new building was under construction at the time of my visit. The plan of this new building encompasses some features which might be of interest to the librarians of smaller universities in this country. The building is 'H' shaped. One wing of the "H" is reading room and study space, the other is stack area. The connecting link houses control points, entrance, and other features on each level of the library. There are two floors of stacks for each reading room. Ceilings in the stack area are exactly half as high as those in the reading rooms. This arrangement will allow a broad grouping of materials in subject areas in close proximity to study accommodation and other features set up with the needs of each broad area of knowledge in mind. This approach seems to have some merit for the small university faced with the dilemma of providing specialized service but not wishing to fragmentize its resources.

From Reading I went 'up' to Oxford. Oxford University is really a federation of more than forty different colleges and schools, and is the Mecca of scholars in the English speaking world. The Bodleian Library, the university library, is one of the world's great libraries. It is one of six libraries entitled to receive one copy of each book published in the United Kingdom. The other five such libraries are the British Museum, Cambridge University, the National Library of Scotland, the National Library of Wales, and Trinity College, Dublin. Spending one afternoon in the Bodleian is comparable to tasting one strawberry from a forty acre patch. The Collection is rich beyond dispute. The need for expanded space, coupled with the desire to maintain the traditional atmosphere of Oxford, has tested the ingenuity of those responsible for the Bodleian. The result is that the Duke Humphrey, the Old Library, the New Library, and the Radcliffe Camera are all connected by ingenious modernisms, such as conveyor belts, which remind one of science fiction. The system is fascinating. The Bodleian does not condescend to loan books. Each college and school has its own separate library, for the most part, independent of the Bodleian. I was invited to dine at 'high table' in St. Annes' (ladies) College, as a guest of the librarian who is a very gracious retired school mistress. After dinner we retired to the staff lounge for sherry. The library was rather small, but had great depth in certain historical fields. According to the librarian, it is very restricted by lack of funds in its purchases of modern materials.

From Oxford I went to Birmingham. The University of Birmingham Library compared more closely to the rising young North American University library than did any other libraries visited. The spanking new library is 'T' shaped. The centre wing has four floors of reading rooms arranged in broad subject areas. The entrance and control point was on the first floor of this wing. The first floor of the west wing has a current periodicals room, and the first floor of the east wing has a catalogue hall which also houses general reference and bibliographical works. The upper floors of the side wings each have four levels of stacks. As at Reading, two stack floors equal one reading room floor. In general, materials associated with the subject area of a reading room are in the adjacent stacks. Birmingham has several departmental

libraries, including a well established music library. The famous Barbour Institute of Art is at Birmingham University.

The next university visited was Keele, near Stoke-on-Trent, in north Staffordshire. Keele is a post-war university, which has a tendency to experiment with new ideas some of which, its critics feel, may have come from across the North Atlantic. The first year of studies is a 'foundation' or general year, then specialization begins. In most English universities students specialize from the beginning of their course of studies. In the foundation year large classes of students attend lectures in broad cultural fields and are expected to read accordingly. This results in a heavy demand for specific titles as is experienced in the North American system. The library's answer to this demand is a special "foundation year library" with multiple copies of books which are in heavy demand. This collection resembles a North American 'reserve' book room. Another unique feature of this library is an area in the basement comprised of a current periodicals room, reference reading room, and a microfilm room which can be completely shut off from the rest of the library and operated by one porter perched in a sentry box designed so that he can be lord of all he surveys. This library was opened in October, 1962.

The new library at the University of Sheffield is a very attractive building; however, it has a rather large stack area in relation to the space for readers. My visit to this library was short.

The libraries of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Manchester universities are in old, traditional university buildings. From the technical point of view, their facilities are so overcrowded and outdated that it would be difficult for the most competent staff to give adequate service. The buildings are quaint and beautiful, one would not want to miss visiting them but one would not want to work in them. The Scottish universities apparently do not restrict entrance as rigidly as do English universities, and therefore serve relatively large student enrolments. The University of Manchester library was somewhat of a disappointment. In many respects Manchester, Edinburgh, and Glasgow might be grouped together. Each city has an excellent reference library in its public library system, in addition, Edinburgh has the National Library of Scotland and Manchester has the internationally famous John Rylands Library. I visited four out of five of these libraries. In each case I was impressed not only by the collection but also by the excellent organization of the material. Even with these outstanding examples at hand, the administrations of the three universities seem to have completely missed the point that organization and facilities are necessary, no matter how good the collection. I was told that the University of Edinburgh had approximately 70 departmental libraries. Both Edinburgh and Glasgow have building plans for the near future.

In the above comments I have not touched upon budget, cataloguing and classification, book selection, and staff. University budgets are largely controlled by the University Grants Commission. Libraries do not appear to garner a large share of the funds available. Staff lounge facilities were invariably better than library facilities even in the newer institutions. I did not keep detailed statistics on budgets but the University of London Central library budget provides an example. The present book stock is approximately 750,000 volumes, the 1962-63 library budget was only £44,000.

In cataloguing and classification practices British libraries differ strikingly from their North American counterparts. British cataloguers have lacked the father image of the Library of Congress and the mother image of the North American Library School. Each British cataloguer stands on his God-given right to change the classification system if he so wishes and, almost without exception, they all so wish. They argue that acceptance of an over-all system kills incentive and breeds mediocrity. They do not share the North American concept that mediocrity is better than chaos.

One feature of British classification which should be studied further in Canada is the class catalogue. British libraries use class catalogues with all classification schemes including Library of Congress. For effective use of such a catalogue users would have to be shown an outline of the scheme used but the confusion for the user between classification numbers and subject headings would be eliminated.

British publishers do not grant discounts to libraries, therefore, most purchasing is done through retail outlets or agents. Book selection practices in university libraries are somewhat similar to those in practice in Canada, however, slightly more power appears to rest with the chief librarian. The practice of dealing through retail stores and agents does have a marked effect. Several libraries rejected books rather than selected them, that is, their agent sent them the books he felt would interest them and they sent back what they didn't want. This would appear to result in the purchase of books from British publishers where books from American or Commonwealth publishers might be superior. For example, most libraries had Canadian books which have been published by British publishers but few had University of Toronto Press publications. British universities do not in general, supply multiple copies of library books. Budget restrictions, provision for books in grants to students, and general philosophy dictate this policy.

University library staff members appeared to be of a high calibre, they were dedicated, aware of developments in other countries, and in many cases they are making serious attempts to select the best ideas from various sources in order to provide an up-to-date service. As a group they are further advanced than we are in many ways. I met several senior librarians who had toured American and Canadian libraries, several junior librarians who had worked professionally in other countries. Exchange tours have been arranged with Scandinavian librarians. One group of young librarians was planning to tour American libraries this autumn. Local professional activity appears to be quite aggressive.

All in all, it was a wonderful, and most profitable experience.

— E. M. McFadden, Librarian  
Brandon College

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA, ELIZABETH DAFOR LIBRARY, requires graduates of accredited library schools to fill existing vacancies and new positions for cataloguers, reference librarians, assistant order librarian, circulation assistant, assistant director of extension library. Appointment as Librarian I or II, at salary \$5,100 to \$6,000, depending on qualifications and experience. Thirty-five hour week; one month vacation; pension, group insurance, excellent hospital, medical, and disability plans. Library of over a quarter million volumes growing rapidly to serve expanding graduate and undergraduate programme. Handsome modern air-conditioned building; new addition 1963. Apply David W. Foley, Chief Librarian.

KENORA PUBLIC LIBRARY requires a trained librarian to take full charge of library services in an active library. Salary range \$4,000 - \$5,000. Apply stating qualifications to Miss Etta Stephen, Secretary, Kenora Public Library, Box 430, Kenora, Ontario.

MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Please give to the Manitoba Library Association Scholarship Fund. This fund depends upon your annual donation to keep it active. Be generous! and help promote librarianship. Send your contributions to: Scholarship Chairman, c/o Miss Peggy Gardiner, Treasurer, St. Paul's College Library, University of Manitoba Campus, Winnipeg 19.

Information and applications concerning the Manitoba Library Association Scholarship may be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. P. Crosby, Henderson Regional Library, 1044 Henderson Highway, Winnipeg 15.

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\*\*\*\*\* ASSOCIATION AND OTHER NEWS \*\*\*\*\*  
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- \* The rural representatives on the Executive are Mrs. M. Leckie of Virden, and
- \* Mrs. K. Everall of Dauphin.
  
- \* Two general meetings of the Association have been held since the beginning
- \* of the New Year. On January 28, Mr. Merlin Newton, Chairman of the Manitoba
- \* Censor Board spoke on "Eighteen Years with Censorship". On March 10, Mr.
- \* M. J. G. McMullen, Executive Director of Manitoba Travel and Convention
- \* Association spoke on "Planning for Manitoba's Centennials". Both meetings
- \* were held at River Heights Branch of the Public Library.
  
- \* The Association's contribution to Canada's Centennial will be a Dictionary of
- \* Manitoba Biography. A committee to produce this has been set up under the Chair-
- \* manship of Miss Mary Moncrieff.
  
- \* Miss Mary Moncrieff retired in January from the Winnipeg Public Library after
- \* 40 years of service. The Library Staff Association held a coffee party in
- \* her honour at the Winnipeg Business and Professional Women's Club, Evergreen
- \* Place.
  
- \* Miss Patricia O'Day was married January 18 to Mr. Bruce Marengo, Mr. and Mrs.
- \* Marengo reside in Syracuse, New York.
  
- \* Miss Pauline Roseman, B.A., M.L.S. (Drexel Institute of Technology) has been
- \* appointed Librarian of the Department of Health and Public Welfare Library.
  
- \* Mr. Hugh Irving, former Assistant Cataloguer at St. James Public Library has
- \* recently accepted a position as Librarian of the Americana Collection of the
- \* British Columbia Archives at Victoria.

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