

**Library Notes**

**Schedule**

Morning: 10:00-12:00, except Monday.  
 Afternoon: 2:00-5:00, except Thursday and Saturday.  
 Evening: 7:00-9:00 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**Memo**

—Curious it is as to why a book is popular. Even more curious is why some books move in one locality and don't in another. Take Byrne's *Byrne's Speaking Frankly*. Since added to the stacks the first of November it has been out once. But it has been in the first three of best-selling non-fiction for several months. *Gus the Great* hasn't been out at all. But elsewhere in the country it gets around. (True *Gus* doesn't have quite the same ring to it as *Alexander the Great*. The book is a bit thick, too). *Inside USA* is another much read book which remains on the shelves here, keeping the older John Gunther books company.

—Taste in reading changes with the times as does fashion in clothes. 'Tis said youth today no longer reads Scott or Cooper. Roosevelt discovered that not only his children but his grandchildren were bored during the annual family reading of *Dickens's Christmas Carol*.

—Do trains still have the appeal to boys now as they did twenty years or so ago? Notice in the books on loan for the younger ones a few on trains. Nothing on planes. Many on animals.

—Looking for something connect with Benjamin Franklin was a search which ended in exactly nothing. Not a biography or book on hand relating to the man except an article in *Compton's Satevepost* for January 17 appeared in the middle of the week carrying his picture and an excerpt from a letter Franklin had written to a friend "with whom he had shared a resounding political defeat a few years before." This, the editors said, was their annual salute to the founder of their magazine. The letter from which the excerpt was taken would comfort those who must labor long before realizing the good of their services.

—May Lamberton Becker in *Herald-Tribune Book Review* of 11-16-47: "How can we choose? If a book tells children what is true and honest, what is just and lovely and of good report; if it brings them any virtue out of the past or present or any praise of high deeds whether of the high or lowly, in the world of tomorrow it will be well that they have thought, while they were children, on these things."

—That new Mary Roberts Rhinehart book, *A Light In The Window*, is a novel, her first since 1936, and no mystery. Incidentally, first book in the library carrying a 1948 copyright.

—Coker's book on trees of the southeastern states was no small undertaking. There are more trees in North Carolina than in the whole of Europe.

—Ditmar's book on reptiles (snakes to me) is dedicated to his daughters.

**Our Books—II**

—Second survey covers books on nature — usable either by the hobbyist or the student.

—Birds of the South, Charlotte H. Green: Mrs. Green writes about birds because she loves them and anyone who has read her articles in the *Raleigh News and Observer* will know from what viewpoint this book was written. Not for collectors of specimens, but for the observer.

—Reptiles of the World, Raymond L. Ditmars: A naturalist on crocodiles and alligators, lizards, snakes, turtles and porpoises. Gives in a "popular manner a general survey of reptiles of the world."

—Trees of the Southeastern States, William C. Coker: Intended for anyone interested in trees. Bibliography.

—Illustrated Encyclopedia of American Wild Flowers, Ethel H. Hausman: For walkers to whom flowering plants along the way are a curiosity. Book so arranged that an unknown flower can probably be identified from only a single clue.

**Vignette**

—It was another of those cold Friday evenings. A knock at the door. "Is this the place where you get books?" Yes. The 11-year old calls to his companion leaning against the post and walks in. The boy outside says no, he'll wait there. Urged to come in, he finally yields. The first asks about books and is shown the Children's Department. A few minutes later both reappear at the circulation desk, one with *Robin Hood*, the other with *Gulliver's Travels*. They knew what they wanted and left satisfied. Neither had been in before but we expect to see them often now! (This is one of those compensating benefits of library work not covered by a pay check).

**To the Junior Department:**

—The Shelby Public Library's bookmobile has left with us 70 books and the North Carolina Library Commission has sent 40 books for you to borrow. The majority of the books are for those of you who are beginning to learn to read. They cover just about any subject in which you would be interested.

—Have you seen the article in the January *American Girl* describing the Nathan Straus Branch of the New York Public Library, the only library in New York devoted exclusively to readers under 21? If not, read it. You might get ideas on using your own library or how to make it a more useful one.

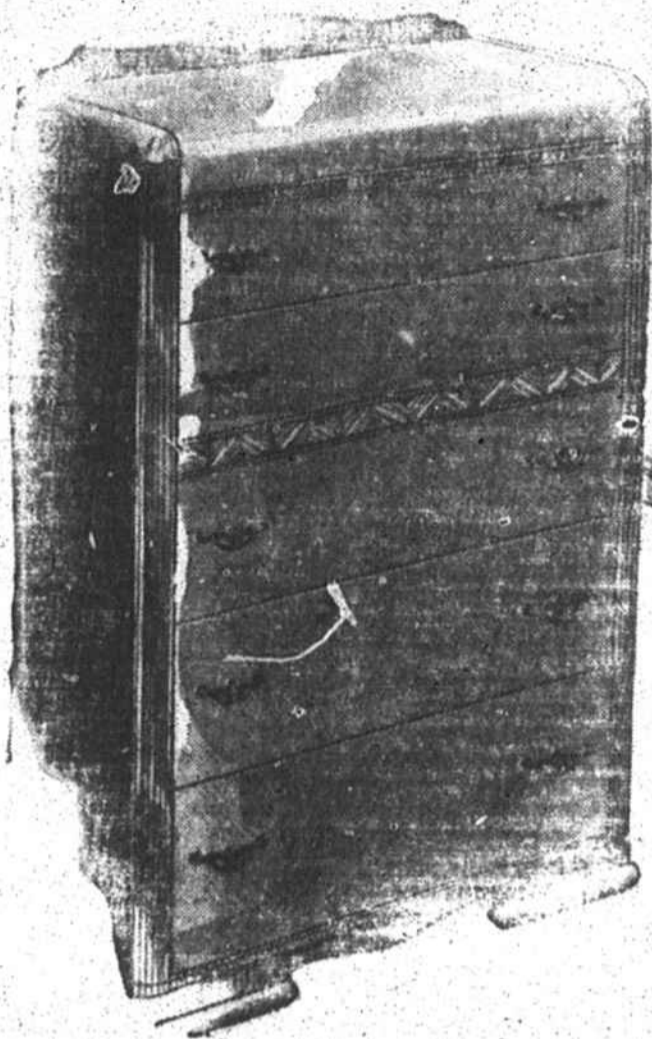
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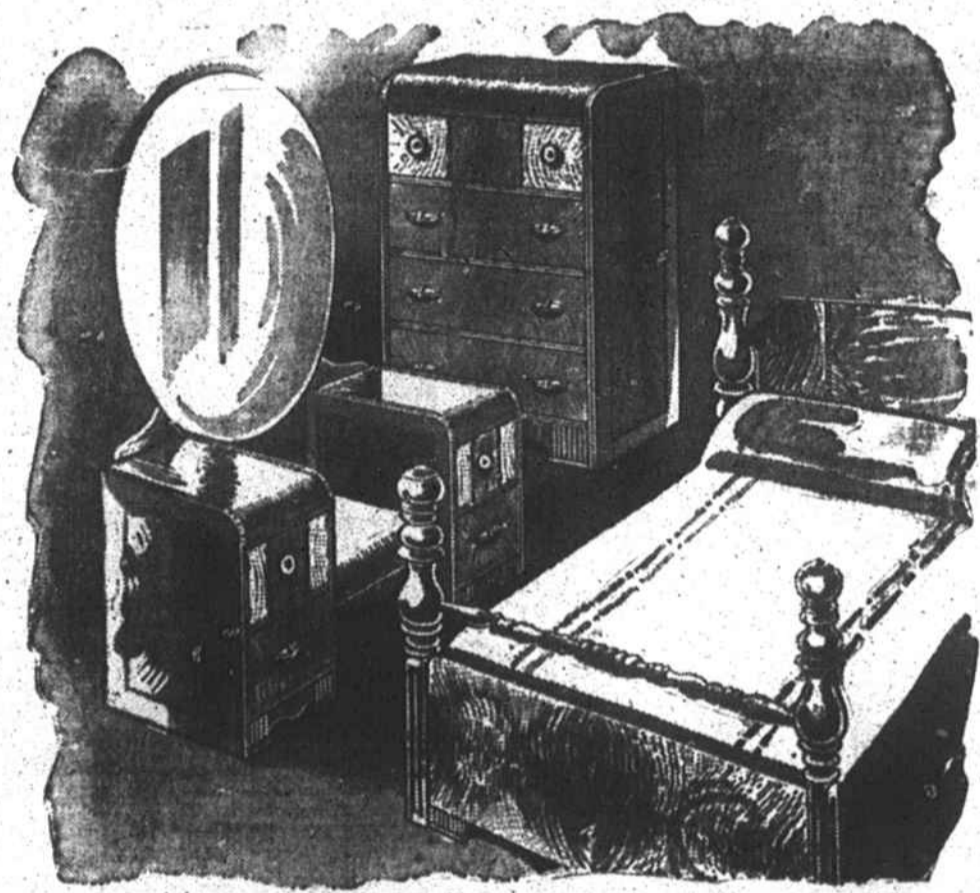
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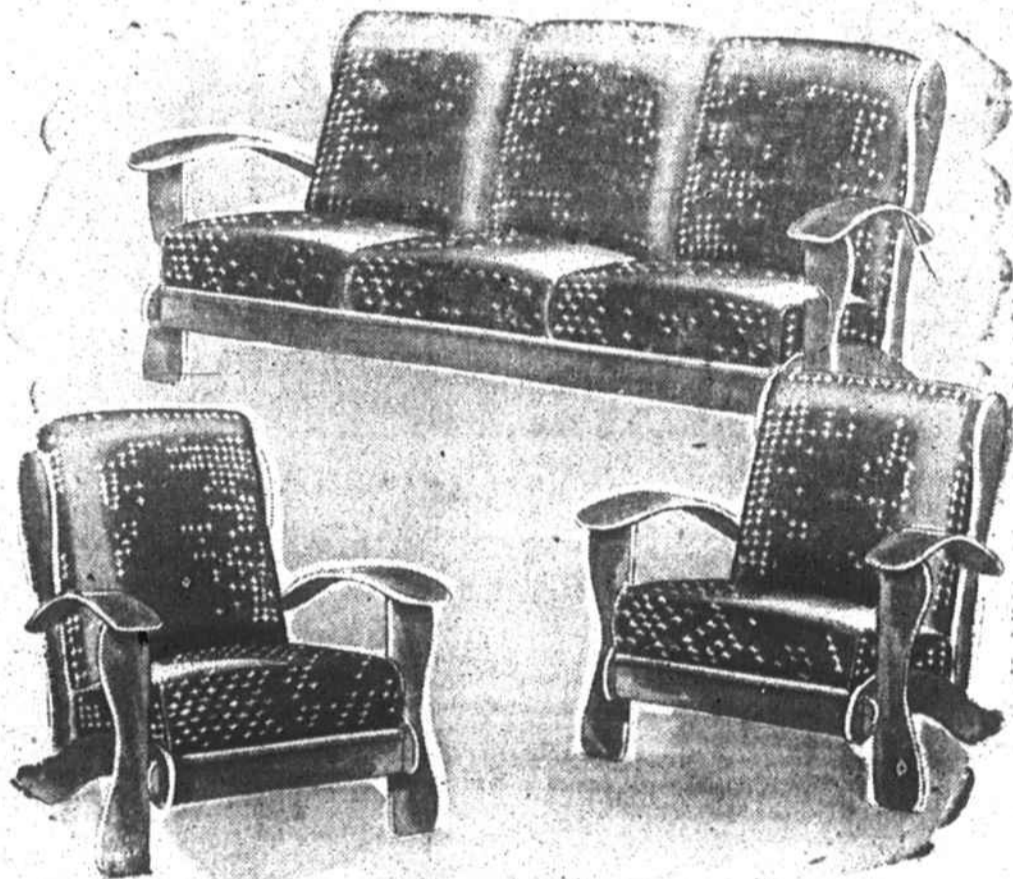
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