

### THE BOOKMOBILE STORY

Two years ago, when the Screven County Library was given better quarters through the generosity of the Sylvania Masonic Lodge, the people interested in the Library recognized the need for a bookmobile. Again the problem of finances was a big one.

The Library receives support from the state for the purchase of books. The library staff is paid by contributions from the City and County, and no more funds were available.

Like all good projects, the more talk there is about it, the less impossible the project becomes.

This year the Library Board, composed of Mrs. C. L. Miller as chairman, Mrs. Fletcher Manley, Mrs. John Fitzner, Mrs. Alex Boyer, Jr., Mrs. Eugene Miller, and Jim H. Jordan, with County School Superintendent J. Knapp Boddiford as an ex officio member, decided to begin a campaign to raise funds for the purchase of a bookmobile.

Just as the campaign was launched, members of the Sylvania Shrine Club became interested in the project. At a meeting of the club, the project was presented and the Shriners were asked to contribute as they felt they could. In approximately 10 minutes time the Shriners had signed checks for enough to purchase the bookmobile with all the accessories, including heaters, dome lights, and folding chairs. Some \$3,200 was contributed by the Shriners at the meeting.

When the bookmobile became a reality, the Library Board began looking for further means of expanding the Library service. They were advised that if a regional library, embracing two counties could be formed, the funds available from the state would be greatly increased.

In this instance the cooperation which has made possible Sylvania's progress in recent years again spread beyond the county line. Jenkins County was invited to join forces with Screven in establishing a regional library. The invitation was accepted and the library will begin operation around November 1.

While operating on a county basis, Screven County was scheduled to receive \$2,100 this year from the state for the purchase of books. Jenkins County's allotment was \$1,300 for this year.

Under the regional library arrangement, the two counties will receive these sums. In addition they will get \$3,600, making a total of \$7,000 as an annual appropriation for books. In addition, the two counties will receive \$5,000 as an "establishment fund" this year. The state also will pay the salaries of a head librarian and an assistant. Before the regional library was established, these salaries had to come from local funds. Cost of operating the bookmobile and paying other personnel will be assumed by local authorities. Officials of Sylvania, Screven County, Millen and Jenkins County already have made appropriations to take care of this expense.

Miss Mildred Looney, a qualified librarian has been employed and will report for duty on November 1.

All books will be catalogued in the Screven County Library and will be distributed to the Jenkins County Library and other library centers in the two counties by way of the bookmobile.

The library service will be made available to both white and colored citizens. The depository for the books for the colored citizens will be the Screven County Training School.

The library will be supervised by an executive committee made up of citizens of the two counties. The committee will include the chairman of the Library Board of the two counties, the County School Superintendent of the two counties, and a fifth member, elected alternately from the two counties for one year terms.