

Walpole Library Opens Branch In East Walpole

On Wednesday, June 27th the doors of the East Walpole Branch Library were thrown open and the public was invited to inspect the new Reading Room.

The building, known as the Wednesday Club House, at the corner of Union street and Walcott avenue was purchased by the Library Trustees and has been entirely renovated. One entering the building is impressed with the harmonious and restful finish of the room. The furniture which is most pleasing was supplied by the Walpole Woodworkers and finished by Mr. Harry Smith and is a perfect part of the color scheme. A Children's Room opens off the main Reading Room and is attractively arranged for the young readers. An entirely new oil burning steam heater has been installed and that, with the ideal, indirect lighting system promises great comfort on the cold, short winter days.

The approximately 2500 volumes which had been at the Deposit Station in the Bird School during this last year have been removed into new shelves and have been augmented by some new reference works. New books will be added as rapidly as possible and any book desired can be secured from the Main Library by the Librarian on short notice.

The East Walpole Librarian is Miss Elaine Howe who has entire charge of the Branch, with the help and advice of Miss Ruth Balch, librarian of the Main Library. Both Miss Howe and Miss Balch, aided by Miss MacLean and the Misses Morrissey have worked untiringly to complete the preparations for the opening of this branch.

The Library is to be open as is the Center Library, from 2 to 6 p. m. and from 7 to 9 p. m. on week days. Miss Howe is anxious to meet and serve anyone who will visit the new room.

The expenses of buying and outfitting this building have been paid from the fund which was left by Charles S. Bird to be used for the Library. Throughout the history of the Walpole library runs the story of the Bird family generosity. What was virtually the nucleus of the Free Library was started in 1872 by Miss Mary Bird in East Walpole. When the town in 1882 voted to maintain a Public Library, Miss Bird suggested that the East Walpole Library be given to the town with the understanding that books should be sent down to East Walpole readers.

The site of the Main Library was the gift of Charles S. Bird and a legacy of \$6000 from Francis W. Bird was used with the \$15000 Carnegie Gift in erecting the Walpole Center building.

For nearly 20 years Bird & Son furnished a room and a most efficient librarian, Miss Annette Blaney for the East Walpole people.

For many years, Miss Marian Child, a sister of Mrs. Bird, served on the board of trustees and gave untiringly of her time and knowledge to the guidance of the Library. Much of its success is due to methods and well chosen enduring books bears testimony to her work.

And so it is most fitting that the citizens of East Walpole, the long time home of the Bird family should have a library, attractive and comfortable, and affording the opportunity for obtaining easily the books desired. One feels that this extension of the library service is a memorial to Mr. Bird.