

Book, art donations enrich many lives

By GERRY DOERRING

Nestled in the storyland alcove of the young peoples room at Baldwin Public Library is a delightful collection of about 35 small china figurines based on drawings in the books of Beatrix Potter.

Housed in three especially designed cases, you will find Peter Rabbit, Jeremy Fisher, Jemima Puddleduck and all the rest of your favorites.

To compliment this permanent collection, there is a complete set of Beatrix Potter books not available for loan, so always there for reading while in the midst of these charming hand painted figures.

This collection of figures, cases and books was a memorial gift of the library in honor of four year old Sean Stebbins, who died in 1967.

In front of the large window in the youth room at the Bloomfield Township Public Library sits a sculpture of a boy and girl. The artist, Arthur Schneider, of Franklin Village did the piece in bronze metal. It is meant to be touched, stroked and admired.

"This striking addition to the youth room was made possible through donations in memory of Rebecca Lamb who was the first head of youth services at the township library.

At both libraries, you will find many books that carry a bookplate inside of the front cover that reads "In memory of" or "In honor of" or simply "Donated by."

Gift or memorial funds are an appropriate way to honor friends, associates or organizations and can provide a fitting expression of sympathy on the death of a friend.

Should you be interested in making a remembrance gift, contact either library for more information.

I've passed it by a number of times with barely a glance, but I'm glad I didn't pass up this one. The New York Times Book Review is available for sale at the front desk at the libraries each week for 20 cents. (It's 35 cents on the newsstand).

The June 3 issue, and they still have some left, is a complete "handbook" for summer reading. Stop in and pick up a copy and start reading this summer's choice books — according to the Times.

A brief mention of other things of interest: James Moffet, reference librarian at Baldwin, has compiled a list of books available there about ESP. He asks, "Have you thought about ESP lately?" The list is yours for the asking.

Lynne Garza, librarian at the township library, also has a fine arts backgroud. She is responsible for choosing the paintings and prints that make up

their rental collection. A new group of prints has recently been added to the collection. Come in, borrow the one you like for a small fee, hang it on your wall for a month or two and then return it. If you just can't give it up and decide to purchase it, the rental fee will apply to the purchase price. What a great way to learn to live with quality art.

"The Hobbit," Tolkien's fantasy on film has been booked at the Bloomfield Township Public Library for Tuesday, July 17.

There will be two showings. The first is at 10:30 a.m. and the second at 2:30 p.m. Round up the children and join us as we view this epic saga of hobbits, dwarves, dragons and goblins in air-conditioned comfort. It is recommended for ages eight and over. No admission will be charged.

* New in the reference department at

Baldwin is a compilation of articles by Minnie Hunt Saltzer for The Birmingham Post-Herald from March 7, 1935 through Aug. 19, 1937.

Ms. Saltzer was born in 1876 on a farm on W. Maple near the present site of Oakland Hills Country Club. At age four her family moved into the city of Birmingham. Her articles are a series of reminiscences that should be of interest to older residents and newcomers alike, as they relate her views of Birmingham history.

The articles are indexed and gathered into a notebook for easy access. Sibyl Burke and Connie Barnes volunteered their time to put it all together.

Did you know that the township library has a taped tour of their facilities? It takes about 15 minutes and will fill you in on how to use the card file, rent a painting, find a magazine article, obtain a piece of valuable reference information and more.

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