

# Librarian wants exemption from censorship

(Continued from Page 1)  
information is often dramatically stated before the library director himself.

"There are so many things in life people go to the library for information on—people come right here from the doctor's office, they come here for information on legal problems."

"I am frequently the first resource for a young girl who finds she is pregnant, and teens often ask me for information on drugs and how to get rid of their habits."

He continues, "Some of the most pathetic people who come here for information are those who have children with learning disabilities. These people are desperate for information in that area. Our only problem is our inability to provide them with enough good information."

"He mentions this to reinforce his commitment to providing people with the information they need and want and his fear of the consequences of censorship."

"WHO IS to say James Joyce shouldn't be in the library? I don't

like him myself, but if somebody wants to read him, why not?"

Within the total concept of censorship, there are other serious considerations.

"The problem," Lewis said, "is what is deemed to be obscene varies from year to year. Something deemed obscene one year will be considered a classic the next."

The responsibility for the banned book being on the library shelves is another sticky area. It may have been purchased 10 years previously by someone who is no longer with the library.

Still another problem is that the present laws hold the person dispensing the material responsible.

"And who is disseminating a book? The person who purchased it? The clerk on the floor? The person at the checkout desk? A store clerk setting obscene material can be arrested under the law."

"With us, legally, it would be the library board that is responsible because libraries are set up and function as corporate entities."

IT TAKES only a few words for Lewis to summarize.

"I don't think we should be in the name ordinance."

There was a time when Galileo was censored by the Church and forced to recant his theories. Mark Twain works such as "Huckleberry Finn" have made the censorship lists in the past. In many communities

"The Joy of Sex," a best seller last year, is considered objectionable, and for many years loud voices were raised against the works of James Joyce.

Most libraries, Lewis said, follow the guidelines established by the American Library Association. The word "guidelines" may in itself be a misnomer—it is more a bill of rights condemning censorship, judgments which could influence the reader, control of choice by outside groups or the selection of reading material on the basis of the personal views of a librarian or outside pressure groups.

The library is a bastion of freedom, he said. The ideas, the viewpoint, the philosophy on a given book on a shelf

may be in direct conflict with those in the volume beside it. And the librarian is not going to say that one is right and another wrong.

Those who carry the armloads of books home do so because they want information...and then will make up their own minds.

## OBITUARIES

### MAYME ROSLYN WILLIAMS

Mrs. Williams, 88, of Farmington died Jan. 27, 1975, at her home. She was born in New Haven, Ky.

Surviving are widower Harry, sons James of Metamora, Jerry of Plymouth, brother Hudson Marcum of Ohio, sister Mrs. Sam (Jay) Walters of Kentucky and eight grandchildren.

Services were Jan. 30 at Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with burial at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia.

### KATHERINE ANN MURRAY

Mrs. Murray, 66, of Farmington died Jan. 25, 1975, at Mt. Carmel Hospital in Detroit. She was born in Detroit.

Surviving are widower Francis and son Charles of Farmington.

Services were Jan. 29 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church of Farmington with burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Funeral arrangements were by Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home of Farmington.

### ESTHER MADINE DARK

Mrs. Dark, 56, of Ypsilanti died

Jan. 22, 1975, at Beyer Memorial Hospital in Ypsilanti. She was born in Missouri.

She had been a nurses aid for several area hospitals.

Surviving are sons William of West Virginia, Robert of Ypsilanti, daughter Judith Boyd of Ypsilanti and Mrs. Larry (Patricia) Jensen of Farmington Hills.

Services were Jan. 25 at Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with burial at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia.

### GEORGE BLAINE SMITH

Mr. Smith, 91, of Farmington Hills died Jan. 24, 1975, at Redford Community Hospital. He was born in Pontiac.

A resident of Farmington Hills for 23 years, he was a receiving inspector for Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn.

Surviving are widow Fannie, sons George of Oak Park, Robert of Farmington, daughters Mrs. Charles (Dorothy) Eaton of Wolverine, Mrs. Norman J. (Virginia) Boyd of Waterford, 14 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Services were Jan. 27 at Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home of Farmington with burial at Oak Hill Cemetery in Pontiac.

### MARY LOUISE POSEN

Mrs. Posen, 88, of Farmington Hills died Jan. 25, 1975, at Cambridge Nursing Home West in Redford Township. She was born in Powler.

Surviving are son Joseph of Farmington and sister Emma Fedewa of Farmington.

Services were Jan. 29 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church of Farmington with burial at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit.

Funeral arrangements were by Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

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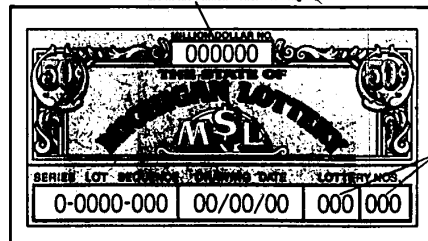
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