



Roxie Sahakian (left), circulation director, and West Bloomfield library director Gretchen Kulberg examine an old volume on ancient history.

by Charles Rollin. Two volumes recently were returned to the library. They were checked out in 1849.

Books are 136 years overdue

By Mary Lou Callaway
special writer

Overdue books are routine at the West Bloomfield library. However, that's not the case with two book recently received in the mail — they were checked out in 1849.

West Bloomfield became a township in 1833, the year a library collection apparently began.

The past-due books were returned by Marshall Simpson of Nokomis, Fla., via the Sarasota, Fla., library. They are two volumes from a set of eight on Ancient History by Charles Rollin, who is described as "late principal of University of Paris." Translated from French, the books are numbered as volumes 209 and 210.

Simpson's note says, "Recently my sister and I were sorting some old family books. Included were these two volumes. I have no idea how they could have come into our possession. Our grandparents and great-grandparents moved from West Bloomfield Township to western Michigan about 1974," wrote Simpson.

WEST BLOOMFIELD library director Gretchen Kulberg and circulation head Roxie Sahakian laughingly decided there will be no fine for late check-in. Today, fines are 10 cents a day with a \$5 limit.

"The paper is in excellent condition, but I have no idea where the library was then," said Kulberg.

West Bloomfield township clerk Betty Sue Dupree searched her records of early township history and found a listing of 528 books bought for, or by, the library beginning in 1833. They include the Rollin histories. The copyright is 1849.

The two volumes and other early book listings will be on display at the Main Library on the civic center site on Walnut Lake Road, west of Orchard Lake Road. The list also will be at the township clerk's office for anyone interested.

THE LIBRARY has a scanty historical collection, Kulberg said, and would be most grateful for any others which turn up. As far as she knows, there are no others preserved.

The record shows that the Board of Inspectors in June 1833 bought two copies of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" for \$1.30.

Few authors or prices, however, are listed. According to the notices in the Rollins histories, books were returned the first Saturday of each month, but no later than 2 p.m. on the first Saturdays of January, April, July and October. Fines of unspecified amounts were to be paid quarterly to the treasurer of the board of inspectors.

What were people here reading in mid-19th century before the Civil War? Biographies, histories and a few with intriguing titles such as "Married and Single," "Sweethearts and Wives," "Debtors and Creditors" and "Illustrations of Commerce." Flowers, vegetables and animals were among subjects covered, and books on the Bible are included on this list.

photos by GARY CASKEY/staff photographer



ORCHARD-10 IGA
24065 Orchard Lake Rd.
Mon.-Fri. 9-9
Sat. 8-9 Sun. 9-5

DOUBLE COUPON

ORCHARD-10 gives you 100% more on all (cents off) manufacturer's coupons up to and including 50¢ face value. Other retailers and free coupons excluded. Limit 1 coupon for any one product. Coupon plus 100% bonus cannot exceed price of the item. All cigarette coupons at face value. Offer in effect now through Sunday, Jan. 13, 1985.



IGA TABLETERITE
WESTERN BEEF
Round Steak

\$1.79 Lb.
Full Cut
Sold as Steak Only

WOODLEYS GRADE A LARGE

Eggs

59¢
DOZ.



IGA TABLETERITE
Whole Smoked Picnics



79¢
Lb.

U.S. No. 1 Ex-Fancy
Washington Red
Delicious Apples

\$1.00 3 Lb. Bag

CHICKEN OF THE SEA
Light Chunk

Tuna



3/\$2

IN OIL OR WATER

HOLLY FARMS GRADE A
Pic O Chick
Fryers



\$1.00
Lb.

FAME
1/2% Low Fat
Milk

2/\$3



GALLON JUG

Light Brown or Powdered
Fame

Sugar

2/\$1.00

16 Oz. Poly Bag

IGA TABLETERITE
Boston Butt
Pork Steak



\$1.49
Lb.

All Varieties
Jeno's
Pizza

10.3-10.5 Oz.



\$1.00

SEARS WAREHOUSE OUTLET STORE
AFTER INVENTORY SALE
50,000 SQ. FT. OF SURPLUS FURNITURE, SCRATCHED - DENTED APPLIANCES - HOME IMPROVEMENTS
AT 20% TO 80% SAVINGS
JAN. 11 & 12
Friday & Saturday ONLY

SOME AS LOW AS 199⁸⁸
13 TO SELL
30%-60% OFF
LOVE SEATS, SOFAS AND SOFA SLEEPERS

SOME AS LOW AS 39⁸⁸
31 TO SELL
60%-80% OFF
DINING ROOM TABLES AND DINETTE TABLES
Many styles to select from

1/2 PRICE
24 TO SELL
ACCENT AND END TABLES
WERE \$99.88 to \$149.88

AS LOW AS 79⁸⁸
24 TO SELL
LARGE ASSORTMENT OF CHAIRS AND SWIVEL ROCKERS

20%-30% OFF
DRYERS AND LARGE CAPACITY WASHERS... ALSO ALL-IN-ONE WASHER/DRYER COMB.

20%-40% OFF
REFRIGERATORS, RANGES AND FREEZERS

FURNITURE SPECIALS

	WAS	HOW
(1) 23776 China Cupboard	749.99	299.88
(2) 23299 White Hutch Top	450.00	224.88
(3) 23173 China Base	600.00	299.88
(4) 82224 Cherry Cabinet	999.99	119.88
(5) 429 Oak Coffee Table	999.99	199.88
(6) 16391 Wing Chair	299.99	149.88
(7) 19123 Swivel Rocker Seat	299.99	109.88
(8) 19124 Top Swivel Rocker	299.99	109.88
(9) 26992 Corner Table	199.99	99.88
(10) 26994 End Table	149.99	79.88
(11) 84372 Open Home Display	299.99	29.88
(12) 23464 Oak Dining Table	499.99	29.88
(13) Washburne Ornament	149.99	29.88
(14) White China Hutch Top	As Low As	69.88

HOME IMPROVEMENT

	40% to 70% OFF	30% to 50% OFF
(17) Bath Vanities	40% to 70% OFF	30% to 50% OFF
(18) Medicine Cabinets	30% to 50% OFF	30% to 50% OFF
(19) White House Fan	30% to 40% OFF	30% to 40% OFF
(20) Space Heaters	30% to 35% OFF	30% to 35% OFF
(21) Humidifiers	20% to 35% OFF	20% to 35% OFF
(22) Air Conditioners	20% to 35% OFF	20% to 35% OFF
(23) Tractors & Riding Mowers	20% to 35% OFF	20% to 35% OFF
(24) Lawn Mowers	20% to 35% OFF	20% to 35% OFF
(25) Weed Wackers	20% to 35% OFF	20% to 35% OFF
(26) Snow Blowers	20% to 35% OFF	20% to 35% OFF
(27) Kitchen Sinks	20% to 35% OFF	20% to 35% OFF
(28) Table Tennis Tables	20% to 35% OFF	20% to 35% OFF

Use Your SearsCharge® Credit Plan

OPEN 9-9 MON.-FRI., OPEN 9-5:30 SAT.

PHONE 422-5700

+
We'll Help.
Will You?

GIVE LIFE



American
Red Cross

Blood Services
Southeastern
Michigan
Region