

Mentone News
April 20, 1960

OPEN HOUSE AT NEW BELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY AT MENTONE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 24th

Open house will be held at the new Bell Memorial Library in Mentone on Sunday afternoon, April 24th, from two until five o'clock, and a special invitation is extended to all to visit and inspect the new structure and its facilities.

April 3rd, 1916, a petition by 55 citizens of the community was signed and presented to the judge of the circuit court, for the purpose of establishing a public library at Mentone. The petitioners also subscribed a total of \$158.00 as a guarantee of good faith for the establishment of the library.

During the course of the intervening years the library has been constantly improved, and hundreds of volumes have been added for the use of the citizens of the Mentone community.

The present library is the result of a cash grant of \$20,000 by Mr. Lawrence Bell, founder of the Bell Aircraft Corporation, Buffalo, New York. The cash grant in Mr. Bell's will was for the erection of a suitable memorial for his parents, who were at one time citizens of our town. The money was placed in the hands of the officials of the town of Mentone, and it was their responsibility to determine what would make a suitable memorial. The help of the citizens in

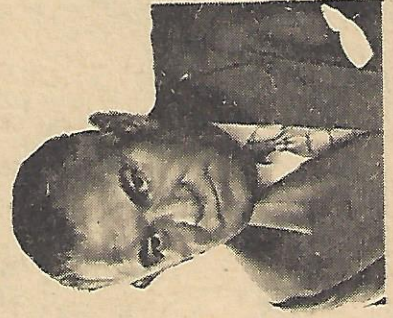
making suitable suggestions was sought, and it was finally determined to use the money for improvement in the public library. Last year it was decided to build a new building, and a site was selected northeast from the First Baptist church.

Additional financial aid was secured through the sale of the former library building, and the citizens of the community, along with most of the charitable, social and civic organizations contributed time, money and commodities to supplement the cash facilities.

Members of the town board who made the decision to erect the new library were Harold Markley, president; O. L. McFadden and Forrest Miner. R. O. Jones was the clerk-treasurer.

The photo at the right shows Mrs. Walter Lackey, librarian, and four members of the present library board at one of their recent meetings making plans for the open house to be held Sunday. They are, from left to right: Mrs. Harold Markley, Mrs. Iris Anderson, Mrs. Lackey, Mrs. Florence McKinley and Robert O. Jones. Mr. Kenneth Romine, treasurer of the board, was not present when the News photo was taken.

The building was designed by



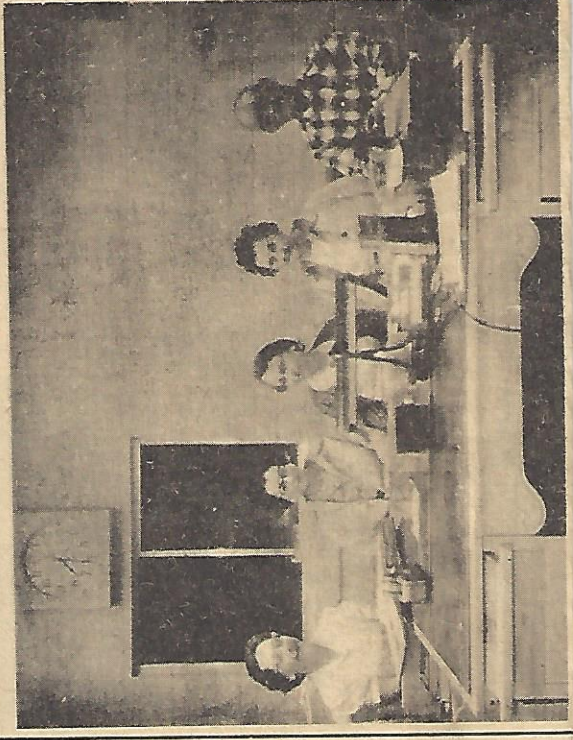
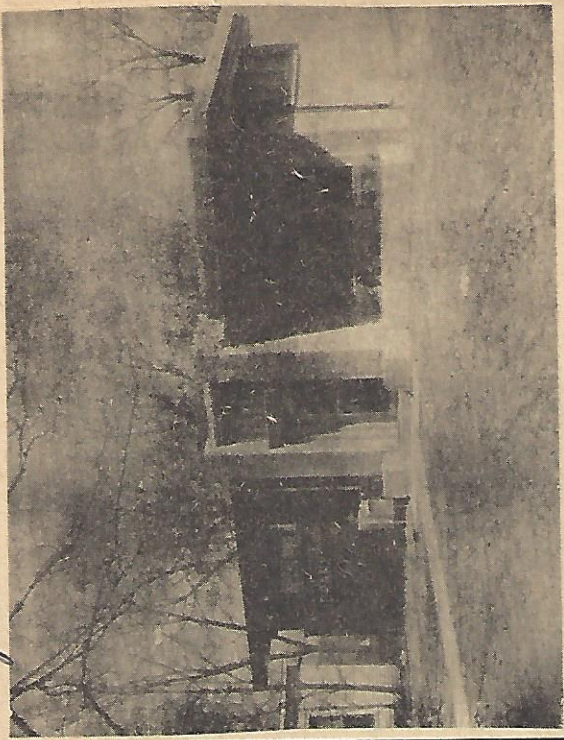
The Late Mr. Lawrence Bell

Mr. Hugh Rickel, professional engineer, of Palestine, and constructed by Mr. Bowen of Claypool.

Years of Patient Effort Included In Present Library

Nothing of real value is accomplished in a short period of time, and the present fine library is the net result of years of conscientious and determined effort of many of Mentone's citizens, many of whom have long since departed this life.

The first library board was composed of Charles Dillingham, Mrs. Flavia Myers, Levi Jefferies, Mrs. Emma Yocum, W. LeRoy Smith, Mrs. Allen Jefferies



and George Ralston. Officers of the board were Mr. Smith, president; Mrs. M. G. Yocum, vice president; Mrs. Flavia Myers, treasurer, and Mr. Ralston, secretary. Mrs. Allen Jefferies was appointed librarian for the first year.

Librarians who have served during the years included Miss Marie Heighway, Miss Frances Clark, Miss Madge Lyons, Mrs. Cora VanGilder, Mrs. Mabel Emmons and the present Mrs. Walter Lackey who has served so faithfully since August, 1947.

January 7, 1936, the Mentone Library Board purchased a lot and building on the south side of Main street that served as quarters for the library until it was moved to the new building the 23rd day of last January.

The four photos at the bottom of this page were taken on the inside of the new library, and although they do not show all areas of the interior, or the many books and periodicals for the benefit of patrons, it will give our readers a fair impression of the beauty and convenience that has been provided.

The interior arrangement has been in strict accordance with established procedures for libraries, and the state librarian. There is ample provision for all ages of readers, and the librarian has made it a practice to provide a number of programs that are intended to teach our younger generations the value and entertainment to be secured through the use of the material in the institution.

