



—Photo by L. B. Keller.

BOOK-LEARNING—Miss Angeline Dean, assistant Branch county librarian, hands a box of books up to her summer helped, Miss Lois Shaw, as they prepare to make one of their visits to the various station libraries. The books in the station libraries are being changed this summer for the first time in about 12 months.

Compass Is Sometimes Needed By Branch Library Workers

COLDWATER—Exploration isn't usually part of a library's operating procedure, but for the Branch county library it's a necessity.

Miss Angeline Dean, cataloger, and her assistant, Miss Lois Shaw, found that out this summer when they began to change books in the various library stations and units around the county.

Their schedule so far has called for them to visit comparatively well-known places in the county such as Girard and Kinderhook as well as the harder-to-find spots like String Town and Butler.

Project Hard Work

Although the job of carrying something like 1,650 books in and out of the rural libraries so far has been hard work, it is sometimes even harder to find where these libraries are. In String Town, which is not even shown on most county maps, the procedure is to find a person who lives in that part of the county and have him point it out.

The changing of books, which are mostly children's stories and light fiction and non-fiction for the grown-ups, occurs about once a year.

This year Miss Shaw drives the library's panel truck while Miss Dean acts as "navigator." She also looks out for the worst of the bumps on the county's back roads, which sometimes make the truck sound as if it has been shaken apart.

Aside from providing the county's two libraries workers a practical course in path-finding the library project makes available a very real service to the county's rural people.

The station libraries and the library units are usually set up in a general store or some other central meeting place in the townships. A book borrower has only to sign his name on the library card and leave it in a box provided to take out a book. There is no time limit on how long it may be kept.

So far this month, 1,000 books have been taken to Girard, 175 books have gone to the Benke store, the Crystal Beach store and String Town and 125 books have gone to the Curtis store at Marble Lake.

The book-changing will go on until all 13 of the units and stations have been visited. After that, the librarians figure it should be getting time for school opening when the bookmobile goes to work.

The bookmobile visits 100 rooms in 74 schools during the school year to let pupils pick reading material from its shelves. It differs from the summer visits in that the books remain on the shelves in the bookmobile and aren't changed back and forth from the small outlying libraries.