

World of Words

by JOAN JENSEN
Lansing Librarian

The Lansing Library will begin its fourth year of story hours for children with a hearing handicap, Sept. 11.

Four years ago Charlotte Abell brought her class to the library for one field trip.

The children are all of normal and above normal intelligence and are eager to absorb all of the stories told to them. Some of the children read lips, some use signs and many can do both. After story time the children are allowed to select five books to take back to their classroom.

At the close of the last school year, Mrs. Abell invited Carol Sommerfeld, my assistant, and myself to a circus at the school. It was quite an experience. The children performed as lion, lion tamers, acrobats and clowns. The work involved in teaching these children is monumental. Mrs. Abell is totally dedicated to her work and the way the children respond shows it.

The parents of the children attended the circus along with small brothers and sisters. It was interesting to see very young children, on their mother's laps, using signs. Some of the parents are handicapped but most of them are not. Charlotte told me that the mothers of the majority of the children had contracted rubella in the first trimester of their pregnancies.

Our library is the only library in the state to have a program of this kind. Last year I was asked to write an article about our story hour. It appeared in the January, 1973 issues of "Illinois Libraries."

September is almost here and this year we will have four classes!

Getting the right book to the right person can be very satisfying. Several years ago a woman came to the library and asked for a book on making doll furniture. I loaned her one of my own, because making doll furniture is on my own list of "Sometime things", in other words, things to do some time when I have the time. Betsy Zorn came in last week and asked if I would like to have a display of her miniature rooms. The book she borrowed started her on a full time career of making miniature doll furniture. We are going to have her display in September and I will give you more details later.

She and her partner make custom made miniatures such as "a Winthrop desk: solid cherry, slides pull out to support the slant top which opens to reveal pigeon holes and a small drawer. Three lower drawers have brass Chippendale pulls and they all open. This desk is 3 and 3/4 inches high". They also make Queen Anne wing chairs with hand worked petit point or crewel. I think it will be an intriguing display. If you would like any further information on these miniatures please call the library. Who knows, it might become your hobby!

Why is it that our dreams are so intriguing and the dreams of our friends and relatives are so dull? Everyone seems to be fascinated by dreams. As I was cataloguing the other day I picked up a book called "The Stuff of Dreams". It took a lot of will power to put it down and get on with my work. This book is an anthology of dreams of famous people. It also has famous dreams from literature.

The dreams of prophecy are of course the most engrossing. That chapter is called *The Curtain Grows Thin*. Abraham Lincoln's famous dream of his assassination is in this book. It is surprising to find out what poets, statesmen, peasants and criminals dream about.

People are divided into two camps: those who are fascinated by dreams and those who regard them as nonsense and not worthy of a serious person's attention. I would imagine that everyone who reads this column has had a dream that he remembers vividly even years later. For years I dreamed of being in a house with a closed door. No one ever went into one of the rooms because they knew that the roof leaked and all of the plaster and wallpaper was coming down. After I read a book on dream interpretation I found that anytime one dreams about a house and an upstairs room it has to do with the mind. Since I read that, I stopped being disturbed about the dream and in fact have stopped having that dream altogether.

It is surprising that so many different kinds of people throughout history have paid attention to their dreams. Were it not for a dream, "Kubla Khan" might never have been written. Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* was the result of a dream.

Dreams are something to look at while asleep. Dreams are indifferent to theory. They are what they are, something to ponder over when awake.

May all YOURS be pleasant ones.

1973