

Deltas Launch Bookmobile With TV, Luncheon, Tea



Star Herbert Coleman Dedicates Traveling Library -- Delta Gift to Northwest Georgia

Against the enchanting backdrop of Chatham Walk in the Hotel Chatham, more than 150 sorors and guests of Delta Sigma Theta witnessed the launching of the sorority's Bookmobile last Sunday. Herbert Coleman, the 11-year-old show-stopper of "Lost In The Stars", officially dedicated the traveling library by cutting ribbons of crimson and cream, the sorority's colors.

"I am happy," said the young singer as he clipped the ribbons, "to launch this Bookmobile for the children, farmers, housewives and business people of Georgia, and I send you on your way with God-speed."

Story Behind Books

Behind the glittering ceremonies that put the Bookmobile into commission lies a story that began five years ago. At that time the National Library Committee of the sorority began a campaign to furnish books and reading material to underprivileged areas in the South.

The committee was successful in collecting 28 baskets of 2,100 books which they sent to Franklin County, N. C. for the use of rural school children. Spurred by the sorority's interest, a citizen's group in North Carolina then began a drive for funds within the state that ended with the build-

ing of the "Delta Library" in Louisburg County.

Encouraged by these successes, the sorority began planning to extend library services to a wider area through bookmobiles, or traveling libraries. After several discouraging setbacks, the first bookmobile was bought and equipped to service Heard, Carroll and Haralson Counties in northwest Georgia.

Role of Bookmobile

In explaining the role of this first bookmobile Dorothy I. Height, national president of the sorority, told Sunday's guests that the Georgia State Department of Education and the Library Commissioner had expressed their gratitude to Deltas for the bookmobile and indicated that it would be received as a welcome addition to the state's public services.

Miss Height said that the library is primarily intended for the use of Negroes in rural Georgia but its facilities would be

available for the use of all of the rural people. Regular stations marked by appropriate signs will be placed along the route of the bookmobile and the time of visits posted in churches, schools and places of business.

Mrs. Mollie Huston Lee, one of the speakers at the presentation ceremonies, told of some of the duties of the librarian who will be in charge of the bookmobile. Mrs. Lee, who is supervisor of Negro Public Libraries in North Carolina, said she was well acquainted with what was in store for the librarian.

Any librarian working in rural areas, she said, must be a salesman, teacher, psychiatrist, nurse, messenger and counselor to 'host' or farm people. She might have to arrange the sale of a pig, or show a farmer that irons around his fruit trees will not keep bugs away.

She may need to convince an asthma sufferer that the scent

of a goat is not curative, deliver milk from one neighbor to another, or show the housewives how to alter some of the sewing patterns the bookmobile will have in stock. For these efforts, the grateful people will laden her with vegetables and flowers.

On Friday the sorority was host at a television luncheon at Tavern-on-the-Green in Central Park at which time the bookmobile was formally presented to the sorors. The crimson and cream van made its television debut on Station WVBT on the program, "A Date in Manhattan."

At Chatham Walk

Three founders of Delta Sigma Theta, Mary Cuff Black, Edith Motte Young and Osceola M. Adams, the latter acting as mistress of ceremonies, were among the guests at Chatham Walk.

Acting chairman of the National Library Committee, Maude L. Watkins, read congratulatory wires from Helen Hayes, Mary Martin, Katharine Hepburn, Eleanor Steber, Roberta McGuire,

Beatrice Penman, Hortense Young.

Among the guests were: Gwendolyn H. Higginbotham, Bluefield, W. Va.; Vivian E. Chamberlain, Baltimore; Mae Wright Downs, Baltimore; Willard Heep, United Mallows Librarian; Ben F. Caruthers of the UN; Ethel Ramos-Harris, New Kensington, Pa.; Helen L. Phillips, Minnie C. Blackmon, Myra W. Burke, Catherine T. Alexander, Ledonia E. Watts, Christina E. Victor, John H. Young, III, Renee Coleman, Phyllis Strong, F. Washington, Edith J. Mock, Florence A. Young, Ernest Coleman, Mariah T. Outen, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Duff.

Tea Bar Guests

Also Margery Quigley, Marcia B. Williams, Bessie M. Marsh, Hilda B. Lowell, Mercie D. Edwards, Marion T. Wright, Witta W. Good, Julia Simpkins, Ora Williams, Lillian Hooper, Agnes B. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. James Brown, Carrie H. Archer, Olga Garrett, Carrie W. Williams, Chauncey Harlee, Olivia Pearl Stokes, Audrey Howard, Venie Howard, Letitia Rose, Frances McCown, Vivian Scott Ramsey, Ruth E. Taylor, Perry H. Young, Gwendolyn Martin, Marguerite Eastling, Marie G. McLean, Mr. and Mrs. James T. Sneed, Elois D. Davis, Clara A. Webb, Vietta M. Willis, Doris T. Haywood, Maude J. Robinson, Jennie D. Pritchard, Margaret Goodrich.

Also Lillie K. Daly, Agatha Hacarn, Myrtle P. Jarmon, Mabel M. White, Charlotte Lord, Ethyl,

James Campbell
 —Staffed by Nichols and Dummett
HERBERT COLEMAN, show-stopper of "Lost In The Stars," cuts ribbon to launch traveling library of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. At Chatham Walk ceremony were (l to r) Sorors Mary C. Black, Maude Watkins, Edith Young and Osceola Adams. Bookmobile was presented to Delta women at television luncheon. Special guests included Librarians Dorothy Homer and Mollie Lee, author Jessie Fauset Harris; and childrens librarian, Augusta Baker Alexander. Mrs. Scott Knight and Miss Dorothy Height told the story of Bookmobile on Ed Herlihy TV show "Date In Manhattan." At right of Miss Height is vocalist Ed Sullivan. Among the guests at Chatham Walk were pianist, Ethel Ramos Harris and John Young III.

B. Wise, Gerri Major, Ethel M. Johnson, Lucy Hamilton, Juliette Russ, Lillian H. Waring, Laura B. Harris, Marie E. Carpenter, Charles M. Herman, Margaret L. Clark, Katharine Butler, Z. Rita Parker, Annie Ruth McKay, Laurence U. Hayes, Emma S. Gilbert, Blanche Wells, Julia A. Taylor, Margaret Menler, Katherine O'Brien, Donald H. Ford, Arthene Mason-Renty, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Walton, Jacques Anselmi, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell C. Johnson, sr., Reba McLain Bowen, Carrie McHenry Thomas, Blanche McRae, Marian S. Williams, Leona E. Pritchett and Mr. and Mrs. George H. Johnson, Jr.