order to reach the telephone. According to the Acton Free Press, July 14, 1898; "The library is evidently filling a long-felt want. A number of books have been read and exchanged, and many kind expressions have been made relative to the character of the books and

their interesting contents. Miss Ettie Laird is proving herself well qualified in every respect for the position, and the patrons generally appreciate her prompt and obliging service."

Over 70 members enrolled

that first week. Eighty years later, the membership exceeds 5,000, although not all of this total are active patrons. If the shades of Acton's first library members happen to be lurking around the 11-year old centennial building on River Street, they will be double-taking every inch of the way, especially when they peer into the junior department. It's a space age theme, Close Encounters Of the Future Kind. Planets and sputniks produced by the skilled hands of junior

ibrarian Margaret Merrin are in orbit over the heads of kid readers, including those enrolled in the summer space-age reading club.

Back in 1898, citizens had to being written, published, sold be 14 to join the library. Whether the vanguard library board mistrusted youngsters is not recorded. Even gifted with forsight, they could not have forseen the drastic changes in library recommend books like rules and service.

Nor in their wildest flights ranking story teller, Wilbur of fancy would the original Smith. Hungry as the Sea is board members have pre- an action-packed thriller dicted the sweeping changes about a deposed captain of a in moral - and literary stand- salvage tug who rescued a ards. It amuses this staffer cruise liner in some of the sometimes to picture the most terrifying weather on reaction of village Actorians this planet. Whether writing to certain novels on our about Africa, a favourite shelves. Certainly if they had locale or the Antarctic, Smith been available 80 years ago never misses. Start one of his the books of Robbins and novels, and chances are you John Updyke for example will not put it down until the would have been flung on the end. One literary critic nearest bonfire, especially lit describes Wilbur Smith's for the occasion. Not that scenes as "something bet-Robbins' athletic ween Alistair Maclean and

heroes and heroines would be Nicholas Monsarrat." Other Smith novels in the library too much of a loss - in this are: Cry Wolf, The Eye of The reader's humble opinion. Even librarians have to Tiger, The Dark Of The Sun, Gold Mine and A Sparrow admit that a lot of garbage is

and rend - the latter two Another prolific favourite operations thanks to costly with local readers promotional compaigns. Catherine Cookson whose Therefore it gives library latest novel about a so-called staffers a thrill of honest born loser, portrays a man in pleasure to be able to search of himself. The Cinder Path begins in Edwardian Hungry As the Sea, by toprural England. thumberland, and carries the reader into the holocaust of the Western Front in the first World War. Cinder Path is

well up to Cookson's exacting standards of realism and Mary Higgins Clark of Where Are the Children? fame has written another shocker: A Stranger is Watching. Almost guaran-

A different type of thriller Josephine Bell's Such a

Nice Client, Edmund Crispin

teed to be read at one sitting.

in the Sunday times has this to say about her writing: "Miss Bell's cool, clinical is a style delight." Physiotherapist Summers on her first visit to 70-year old Mr. Lawrence spotted the old man in his

wheel chair in the garden bird table. Was he senile or was he being starved to death by his daughter-in-law? Before she found answers to these and other questions, Lucy had several frustrating encounters with a social worker, the worst kind of blinkered do-gooder. Without accelerating one's flow of adrenalin, Such a Nice Client is a good read.

Other Bell books on hand are The Catalyst, Death of A Jacobean Adventure, No Escape, Over The Seas Historical, The Upfold Witch and Victim.

Jacobean Adventure and The

Seas Historical are historical

"Many people are married to people who have been married to other people, who are now married to still others to whom the first parties may not have been trying to filch crusts off the married, but to whom somebody has likely married." "How's that for a sentence? It's a quotation from the article Omnigamy: The New Kinship System in the July issue of Psychology To-day. Author Lionel Tiger claims that our society "Has shifted towards a pattern of serial polygamy in which people experience more than one spouse, if only one at a Tiger suggests Omnigamy as the name of a new and imprecise system, in which each will be married to all." Other July articles in squawk. Dashing outside in this magazine are Science-

Stepping Up

Origins Of the Mind, The Not-Quite Stepmother and Why Some People Seek Revenge Against Doctors. Library nature notes: a library duck who nested somewhere along the school creek hatched three babies and after a week or so, Mom

convoyed her family down creek to Fairy Lake. Before she departed to the Big Water, Ma Mallard caused ulceration amongst the staff by taking her little brood on foot across busy No. 7 highway. On at least two occasions, she stopped traffic on both sides, while watching library patrons held their breath and prayed.

One afternoon a staff birdwatcher heard a frantic sock feet, she saw Mom being Fantasy and the pursued by a joyous black dog galloping, not swimming, The For Early Man, after her in the shallow creek.

As the duck narrowly escaped pooch's laws, the birdwatcher also began to gallop and shout rude commands which the dog understood. He loped out of the water, was grabbed by his collar and trotted home. Just one hitch his master was not within. In desperation, bird-watcher hauled him back across the road to the office of veterinarian Dr. R.G. Trenton, whose staff provided afternoon lodging, until the duck-chasing canine was reunited with his master. It was a relief when Mom Mallard abandoned the creek for roomier water space.

There's an apartment to rent on a ledge above the rear door of the library. Robin parents taught their trio of youngsters to fly without incident. The nest was vacated about three weeks

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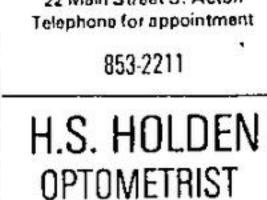
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