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The Malverne Public Library and the Friends of the Library

In 1924 the Library was started in the Railroad Station (which cost \$1,400 in 1912!) and which also housed the real estate office of Lucian J. Bisbee, the first Village Clerk. (Bisbee was also the Assessor and Postmaster! The Village Office, the Police Station, and the Postoffice were also in his real estate office!) The Library soon moved to the "Shack" on Mrs. Clinton D. Drumm's property, one of the three founders. (Legend has it that "resident \* Martin Van Buren once summered at her home, though she does not believe it.) In 1929, the Library was made part of the Village Administration, and moved upstairs in the Rider Building on Church Street, with Mrs. Laura Christopher, the present Librarian, as Librarian. Next year, it moved downstairs on Utterby Road; and in 1934 to its present quarters on Hempstead Avenue.

In the early years, there was no school nearby, and the Library specialised in juvenile books, which accounts for the many wonderful discoveries youngsters make on its shelves to this day. Besides pioneering the formation of the Malverne Home Bureau, the Girl Scouts, and the Friends of the Malverne Library, the first organization of Friends on Long Island, Mrs. Christopher served as first Village Historian.

The Friends themselves have grown and pioneered in bringing the Inter-Community Concert Association to Malverne (Metropolitan talent); in developing the Malverne Artists who have completed their Fifth Annual Show, and whose President, Joe McIntosh, has just been elected President of the Nassau Art League; the Malverne Forum, now quiet; and the Malverne Poetry Group which has been reading Dante's Divine Comedy this year, and which develops original writing.

Together with the schools, the Library activities are making Malverne a center for cultural activities in Nassau County.

The Library has a plot of ground for a new building at the corner of Lindner Place, where the beautiful school and the soon-to-be-completed St Thomas's Church will complete a splendid cultural and architectural unit in the Village.

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The attached verse/was written by the Publisher and Editor of the Malverne Herald, and gives some idea of the way the Friends of the Library are looked upon here.

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The other two clippings/give some idea of the latest activities of the Friends and of their affiliated groups. There is talk of their sponsoring a group interested in photography.

\* This is not intended as a joke. The Drumm House is very old and very beautiful, and the legend of Van Buren's visit refers to times long before the Drumms owned it.