

OHIO IS HOME OF CHILDREN'S BOOK CLUB

Ohio has become a world center for the distribution of children's literature. From Education Center in Columbus, the Weekly Reader Children's Book Club mails children's books to all parts of the globe.

The club is the largest of its kind in the world. Typical selections have included children's books written by Ohio authors. The three named below all received Ohioana Book Awards or an Ohioana Citation.

In 1954, a Club choice was *TINKER'S TIM AND THE WITCHES* by Bertha C. Anderson of Piqua. She has written other books, plus many serials and stories published in *YOUNG PEOPLE*, *BAPTIST LEADER*, *STORY WORLD*,

JUNIORS and other magazines of the American Baptist Publication Society. She has been children's work director for the Dayton Baptist Association and a member of the Baptist State Committee for Christian Education.

Edward Eager, a former Toledo resident, wrote a 1955 Club selection, *HALF MAGIC*. He is a well-known children's author, having written *KNIGHT'S CASTLE*, *THE WELL-WISHERS*, *MAGIC OR NOT*, *RED HEAD* and *MOUSE MANOR*. Besides his work in juvenile literature, Mr. Eager has also written plays and operas for stage and television.

Cateau DeLeeuw wrote a 1959 selection, *FEAR IN THE FOREST*. She was



Book Club Director C. W. Pettegrew, of Columbus



Two Ohioans on Selection Board: Miss Eleanor M. Johnson and Dr. Leland B. Jacobs.

born in Ohio and lived there until she was ten years old. She is the author of several children's books and has also collaborated with her sister Adele to write many others. Adele and Cateau DeLeeuw were winners of a 1958 OHIOANA CITATION for their books for young people.

Selection Board

The Selection Board of prominent educators who choose the Club's yearly editions has two Ohio associates: Miss Eleanor M. Johnson, Editor-in-Chief of MY WEEKLY READER and former Columbus resident, and Dr. Leland B. Jacobs, a former Ohio State professor, now at Columbia University.

The Book Club Director, C. W. Pettegrew, is an Ohio State graduate, well-known through his twenty years of broadcasting over Station WOSU, up to 1950.

The Club started in 1953 as a service

of the American Education Publications. AEP, now known to Ohioans as Wesleyan University Press, Inc., has its central printing operations in Columbus. Editorial offices are in Middletown, Connecticut, home of Wesleyan University.

In 1920, the Press founders selected Columbus as an ideal spot for wide distribution for its many publications. Since that date, Columbus has seen the rise of the company into the world-wide organization it now is.

The Weekly Reader Book Club has two divisions: Early Readers, ages 5-8, and Star Readers, ages 8-12. The Club subscription plan enables members to get six hardbound books per year for \$6. Young members, currently numbering more than 300,000, are stimulated to wider home reading, pride in book ownership, and greater eagerness for school and library reading.