

Libraries In Danville Closed

BY GERARD TETLEY

DANVILLE, Va., May 22—Danville's two libraries have been closed on orders from the City Council and as the result of the action by a group of teen-aged Negro school children seeking to enjoy full privileges of the institution.

On being turned away the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People lawyers moved in and applied for a restraining order denying the city the right to exclude Negroes.

Danville has two libraries. One of them is housed in the old brownstone mansion which was occupied by Confederate Jefferson Davis and his cabinet before they left here in flight for Greensboro, N.C. The other is the Negro branch on Holbrook Street a bare three blocks from the main building.

Remain At Work

While the doors were closed to the public the staff of 20 remained at work and Mrs. Florence Robertson, librarian, said that for the present, at least, they would remain on the city payroll. She explained that there is plenty of inside work to be done and that the completion of a new wing to the library in about 10 days' time will require considerable organizational work, reshelving books and generally spreading out the internal facilities.

The bookmobile also ceased to function Saturday. The only visible activity was the dutiful task of the firemen, whose firehouse is in the rear of the library, raising and lowering the Confederate flag which for sentimental reasons has flown for decades on the lawn.

The firemen also have moved in to meet the problem of returned books. Persons with volumes to be returned will deposit them at the fire house.

'Advisory'

The library is closed until the city attorney can learn the outcome of his appeal from Judge Roby Thompson's ruling.

What will happen then is not known, but it is indicated that nothing in regard to library policy will take place until the qualified voters have voted in the June 14 referendum on whether to close or operate the library.

This referendum is labeled 'advisory' meaning that the Council does not have to abide by its results.