

"Friends of Miss Brown' Use Suit Money for Books," [Bartlesville, Oklahoma] Record Advertiser, February 27, 1953, p. 1, cols. 3-4.

'Friends of Miss Brown'

Use Suit Money for Books

The final act of a long and bitter fight in this community was written Wednesday when the "Friends of Miss Brown" announced to the Bartlesville library board that the committee is using the balance of money, collected to bring legal action against the city, for purchase of new books for the library.

Darlene Essaty, chairman, and Ida Rice, treasurer, said in a letter to Russell Blachly, chairman of the Bartlesville library board, that a total of \$1,024.66 was collected to "determine the legality of the present city library ordinance." Of this sum, \$779.60 was expended for attorney's fees, and \$199.22 for court costs and the printing of briefs, leaving a balance on hand of \$45.84.

With this balance, the committee has purchased *The Interpreter's Bible*, six volumes, a new commentary of the Holy Scrip-

tures. Four of the volumes will be delivered shortly to the library and the fifth and sixth will be delivered upon their publication this fall.

The committee asked that the books be inscribed to indicate that they are a gift from friends of Miss Brown.

The controversy arose when the city commission fired Miss Ruth W. Brown, who had been city librarian for more than 20 years. The city commissioners said she was fired for insubordination, and the committee challenged the legality of their action. The case, *Brown vs. Dunaway, et al*, was carried through to the supreme court of Oklahoma where the action of the city was held to be lawful.

Miss Brown is now librarian at Piney Woods school, Piney Woods, Miss. The school teaches Negro students of grade school, high-school and junior college.