September, 1971

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The annual librarians' and trustees' luncheon was held at the Royal Savage Inn in Plattsburgh on Monday Aug. 2. Dr. Allan Everest presented a slide lecture on the architecture of Clinton and Essex Counties to the 87 librarians, trustees, and friends who were present. The lecture was very interesting and held our attention from beginning to end. Many of the examples shown were well-known to us all, and gave us a better appreciation of the buildings we see and pass every day.

NYLA

The New York Library Association convention for 1971 will be in New York at the Hilton Hotel Oct. 3-6. The theme this year is Survival: Politics for Libraries. This theme is expected to be highlighted in the general meetings. In addition, the various sections will be discussing the nitty-gritty problems relating to their own specialties in their section meetings.

We heartily recommend membership for all libraries and librarians in this association which is the best statewide association to represent our needs. There are six sections from which any member may make one selection without additional cost: Adult Services, Children's and Young Adult Services, College and University Libraries, Library Educators, Resources and Technical Services, and School Libraries.

Basic dues are low: for most of our area libraries, librarians, and staff they are $10/year personal and $25/year institutional memberships. (A few of our larger libraries and some staff will need to pay somewhat more.) Let's participate. For more information, contact Hugh Starke at CEF headquarters. New members joining now will get the rest of 1971 free when they pay for 1972.

CASSETTES

Cassette tapes are a new medium of recorded sound which is steadily gaining in popularity. These tapes are very simple to use. The user simply snaps the cassette tape into the player and turns it on. At no time does he have to thread the tape or touch the tape with his fingers.

The players are also very simple and lightweight. They range in retail price from approximately $18.00 for battery-operated portables to several hundred dollars for complete
home stereo systems with all the trimmings. In between are a large number of makes and models, some good and some not so good.

When a librarian considers this medium for an added service, he should first ask a number of questions akin to those which he should ask before adding any new service:

1. Who is the library going to try to reach with this medium? Is he trying to provide additional material for the children's librarian to use in story hours, popular music for teenagers, classical music and other music for general adult use, educational material for student use, literature for the blind or handicapped, etc.

In any of these areas there is now ample material available for at least a substantial beginning.

The small library will probably find it impossible to finance a large cassette collection in the beginning. Therefore, it is probably best to concentrate on one type of cassette aimed at one segment of the population to start. Others can be added later if finances permit. Since popular music is probably most vulnerable to abuse, it is probably best to serve other interests first.

2. Where will these cassettes be used? Listening equipment can be provided for use in the library or the patrons could listen to the tapes at home.

3. Who will supply the players? Will the library attempt to supply machines for home use, for use only in the library, or none at all? Which type of machines - inexpensive portables or expensive stereo decks? Or one of the in-between models? Battery-operated portables will require a constant supply of batteries. Special adaptors for use with ordinary house current are usually available for about $5.00. However, these often produce a distracting hum, and they may be easily stolen.

My personal recommendations here are that only machines with built-in AC cords be considered. Also, I am skeptical about trying to provide a lending service of players to be used with music tapes, though lending players to go with documentaries or spoken word tapes would likely prove worthwhile. If space permits, I would also recommend adding a stereo cassette listening corner with earphones when finances permit it.

4. Space required: cassettes require very little space for the tapes themselves—considerably less than the space for phonograph records if the proper size storage drawers or cabinets are used. One or two portable players also take little space. However, a permanent stereo listening center with earphone jacks will take up more space and therefore takes more thought and planning. The location of electrical outlets is also an important consideration.

5. Maintenance: cassettes themselves, if not initially defective, normally do not require much maintenance. However, like any other medium, special problems do arise. It helps if someone on the staff has some ability to tinker with gadgets, as occasionally a tape will become twisted, broken, etc. Since little things will go wrong, one should be prepared for this.

The machines themselves will also need maintenance. Can this be done locally? Also, tape heads should be regularly cleaned. Some staff member should learn how to do this. It also helps to be somewhat handy with machines, especially after the warranty period has expired. Sending a machine out for repair is a time-consuming nuisance as well as being expensive.
6. How much will this cost? A typical package deal for a library may include a tape player (or recorder) and thirty tapes for $275. Some of these units may prove to be all the library needs for a good start. (However, most of these offers have the player unit which is battery operated, and would require a special adaptor if your building current is used. I don't recommend this.) Additional pre-recorded tapes usually list for about $6.95 each. Some dealers will give a 20 per cent or greater discount off list prices. However, if you wish to make your own recordings from records (check copyright status on each one) or live recordings, blank tapes of good quality cost from $1.00-$2.50 per hour depending upon the brand and quality ordered. However, if this path is chosen, one must consider the high cost of the time element in making your own recordings.

In short, the cassette medium is a worthwhile addition to a library which provides almost unlimited avenues for expansion. It is also one which can be begun on a small scale and added to later. An inexpensive monaural player will play any stereo tape on the market. One can also experiment with a $25 recorder for recording story hours, lectures, etc. It can be a lot of fun. But it is important not to be discouraged by little problems which develop, and also to plan ahead.

**FILMS**

Selective new titles to our film collection include:

**BEYOND LSD:** A film for concerned adults and teenagers.

**CHICKAMAUGA:** A Civil War story by Ambrose Bierce.

These films, along with 22 others, will be in the new supplement to be issued shortly.

Our art prints are beginning to arrive. We hope to begin some distribution to member libraries in the near future.

**REFERENCE DEPT:**

We are pleased to announce that Miss Gail Myker is now working in the reference grant position at Plattsburgh Public Library. Among other things, she is now assisting in the locating of books to fill interlibrary loan requests. She is a graduate of the State University at Geneseo with an MLS degree. She moved to Plattsburgh from Middletown, N.Y. and assumed her duties on June 28.

**REFERENCE DEPT: NOTES ON INTERLIBRARY LOAN**

Please be sure to keep a record of the number of books, serials, slides, films, etc. borrowed or loaned on interlibrary loan. These statistics are required annually by the state. In addition, libraries serving over 5,000 population should keep a record of interlibrary loan requests sent to the system and the number of these requests which are filled.

When returning interlibrary loans, please send them back in the same type of package in which they were sent to you. We have had complaints from some libraries outside the system that books were being returned damaged in light, easily torn manila envelopes. They do not like this.
We would appreciate it if you would avoid telephoning in any but the urgent requests. Please use the regular request forms we have supplied for both interlibrary loan and film requests. This will save us time and help us give you better service. Of course, whenever you have urgent requests that must be filled quickly, we will be glad to accept them by phone.

**DID YOU LOSE?**

A copy of *Ticonderoga: Historic Portage*, by Carroll Vincent Lonergan, has been returned to us. It has a library book pocket in the back but no indication as to whom it belongs. If it belongs to you, please contact Dick Ward at CEF headquarters and he will be happy to forward it to you.

**OBITUARY**

Mr. Claude R. Clark, a former trustee of the CEF library, and former superintendent of schools in Essex County, died July 14. Mr. Clark contributed much to Essex County and his home town of Bloomingdale. His wisdom and guidance will be missed by many.

**NORTH COUNTRY REFERENCE AND RESEARCH RESOURCES COUNCIL**

Elena Horton, the first Executive Director of the Council, has resigned effective Sept. 1. Her new name is Mrs. Carl Davey Simmonds. We will miss her. Good luck, Elena.

Denny Phillips, Director of Reference Services, left the Council on June 4 due to the receipt of his draft notice. He was replaced on July 19 by Mr. Thomas Blauvelt.

**AUSABLE FORKS**

The AuSable Forks Free Library now has a used Verifax copying machine which they purchased from Plattsburgh Public Library. The fee for use is 25¢ for the first copy and 5¢ each for the next 5 copies.

**CHAMPLAIN**

The Champlain Memorial Library was dedicated Sunday, July 11. Guest of honor was Mrs. Florence Atwood, whose sizable donation made the new library possible. Mr. Anthony F. Vecchio, director of our Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library, was the guest speaker. The library has a new Bell and Howell movie projector and screen which has been set up in the downstairs room for use by local organizations.

**KEENE VALLEY**

The summer lecture series is well under way with its usual success. Programs so far have included pictures of climbing the Canadian Rockies, the Chartres Cathedral, and a sailing cruise.

**LAKE PLACID**

The library has a new face-lifting. Both the inside and outside were painted, and there are new draperies.

**MALONE**

A new book distribution program has been established in cooperation with the Meals
on Wheels program. The recipients of these meals have now the opportunity of selecting a library book from a list and having it delivered at the same time the meal is delivered. This new approach is helping to deliver books to those who otherwise would not be using the library. The new library budget "held the line" this year; the total budget is the same as last year. The library is the recipient of a $5,626 federal grant for books which will be used to enrich the collection of the reorganized library.

MOOERS

New furnishings and equipment have been added including a book truck, large magazine rack, resource center, and new draperies. A teenage rural beautification group spent one day outside and inside, cleaning, mowing, cutting down weeds, etc.

PERU

Two groups of students, nursery school and kindergarten, have taken field trips to Peru Free Library. This included a tour of the library (especially Children's room) plus two stories.

Screen doors have been added to the main entrance and also the back door of the library. Exterior painting will follow.

PLATTSBURGH

The new extension for the library has been approved for an LSCA grant. LSCA construction funds will provide 55 per cent of the total cost with local funds providing the remaining 45 per cent. A book sale was held the week of August 9 to raise additional funds for the addition. Over $400 was raised. New staff members include Miss Terry Suertin, general services, and Miss Francine Prunier, children's librarian. Both graduated from the State University at Albany with an MLS in 1971. A weekly drama club for ages 9-13 has been sponsored by the library. Some 12-15 members have been performing skits for fun. Their first public performance on August 13 brought on much laughter and fun. The library will be open 5 nights a week starting in Sept.

SARANAC LAKE

The Saranac Lake Free Library now has their new Xerox copying machine. "Exhibit 70 Annual Kodak Scholastic Photo Award" was on display for one week recently. Gift books continue to be added to the Adirondack collection. The children's section featured a display of Newbery and Caldecott award winners. Mr. Lee Knight, Jr., an area resident, is working with the library to establish a collection of Adirondack folklore and folk music.

TUPPER LAKE

Service to the patients of Mercy General Hospital was inaugurated recently and a book station was established on a trial basis at Ivy Terrace. The story hour last year was very successful. It is hoped that an expanded program can be had this coming fall. Construction work on the new library building is expected to begin this month.

WADHAMS

There have been some food sales to help with the support of the library, one of which was arranged by the Wadhams Church.
WEST CHAZY

Here again there is some face-lifting. The Dodge Library has a new lighting system, a fresh paint and varnish job from top to bottom, wall-to-wall carpeting, and new draperies.

WILLSBORO

The new outdoor book drop has been very well used... A new memorial children's corner is now in the planning stage. Formal opening is expected in October, or hopefully earlier.

DID YOU HEAR?

About the young borrower who returned his two books to the trash barrel outside the library instead of the book drop?

Anthony F. Vecchio, Director
H. Starke, editor