February 1974

HARD TIMES

Oh for the good old days when the gas station proprietor solicited your trade, washed your windshield, and gave you a set of free glasses to boot! Now we plead for two dollars worth of gas and patiently wait in line for our turn at the pump. The gas station proprietor is the most popular man in town and we assiduously court his favor with a view toward a full tank of gas.

Filling your gas tank these days is a parlous business. As one of our drivers put it, "I use up three gallons of gas trying to buy three gallons of gas." The unhappy motorist spends his coffee break and/or his lunch hour cruising from one gas station to another in a frantic effort to find one where they're pumping gas. Commuting co-workers find the crunch particularly hard and the curtained hours of service station opening haven't helped. One librarian says that he (who has always patronized his local station) leaves his small town in the morning before the one station is open and returns at night to find it closed - so there's no gas for a long and faithful customer at his home pump. As for brand loyalty, that's a thing of the past. The gasless car, like a ship in distress, finds any port in a storm.

Now that Governor Wilson has come out with an alternate day form of rationing, perhaps the situation will ease. It has been, to this point, a major triumph to get both the bookmobiles and the station wagon filled up. Only last week as one bookmobile was being filled up prior to a long trip, the pump ran dry right in the middle of the operation.

The energy crisis has curious offshoots - many of the staff who live in town walk to work bundled in boots, scarves and earwarmers. And since the office temperature is a bit on the chilly side, slacks and heavy sweaters are the order of the day. The vicissitudes of cold weather living in the North Country have produced a sort of unisex dressing in which it's hard to distinguish the male from the female without a program.

However we are still able to man our desks, to see that work is carried on. The bookmobiles haven't missed a day and the weekly station wagon deliveries go on. In a time when unemployment is high, when lack of gas limits the mobility of people and forces them back on their own resources, we know that a library becomes more important than ever. We realize that we are a necessity to a lot of people in Clinton, Essex and Franklin counties - and energy crunch or no energy crunch, we'll try our best to see that they get library service.

In the meantime, our new motto is: Happiness is...having a full tank of gas on an odd-numbered day when you have an even-numbered license.

Mary G. Leggett
LEGISLATION 1974

The 1974 session of the New York State Legislature is now in progress and again this year there are bills of vital interest to libraries. Listed here are some of the bills that merit your attention:

1. Service to the blind and physically handicapped - S7616 (Giuffreda)

   Just introduced in the Senate and ready to be presented to the Assembly by Mr. Margiotta, this bill establishes standards for library service to the blind, partially sighted and physically handicapped. Provides money for public library systems to carry out these services. Appropriation - $2,129,000.

2. Service to institutions - S7615 (Giuffreda); A8867 (Burrows)

   Allows $750,000 to continue and expand the present inadequate institution service programs. Only $100,000 was allotted for this purpose in 1973.

3. Buildings - S7187A (Pisani)

   Will provide direct State aid for library building construction. Appropriation - $3,450,000.

4. System and Central library aid - S639

   Mrs. Constance Cook will introduce this bill providing for an increase in the per capita formula for all systems from 45 cents to 58 cents; an increase in the square mile factor from the present scale to from $10 to $30 up to $16 to $36; an increase in the per capita for central library development aid from seven cents to thirteen cents with minimum aid rising from $18,000 to $44,000; and an increase in the New York Public Library's Research Libraries' appropriation of $750,000. Total additional cost - $4,682,289.

5. Obscenity

   Although these new bills have not yet been printed, there are at least two new bills and one carryover bill from the 1973 session in the works. Details have yet to be made public but due to last year's Supreme Court decision, there are certain to be changes in the present statutes.

6. School Libraries - S7662 (Caemmerer); A9019 (Margiotta)

   Similar to the bill passed last year and vetoed by the Governor. Makes instructional material and library books part of the mandated school budget. Should a budget be defeated, funds for school libraries and instructional material may be maintained at the level of the previous year.

We will try to keep you informed of progress and/or lack of it in legislative areas. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Last year many librarians, trustees, and friends wrote, telephoned and wired their assemblymen and senators in support of increased library funding. Let's make this year just as effective.
WE RECOMMEND...


On page 319 of this issue, Marcel Matley has written an article on building your phone book collection - a very useful and cost-free addition to your library. How to order these books as well as why to collect them is explained; also how to handle and catalog them once you have them.

On page 324 in the same issue, there is another article by F. Emerson Andrews called Writing Your Library's History. From pictures, tape-recorded interviews, scrapbooks, old programs, minutes of board meetings, local newspaper files, the project of writing a library's history can be exciting work. And with the bicentennial coming up, the library's history may be a focal point in your library.

NEW ADIRONDACK BOOK PUBLISHED


Charles Merrill, grandson of Darius Merrill who immigrated from New Hampshire in 1823 and settled in the Chateaugay Lakes area of the Adirondacks, tells the story of a pioneering family who came to this unexplored wilderness and made it their home. The narrative describes building their log house, hunting, trapping, guiding the sportsmen who were attracted to this territory, and the impact of encroaching civilization upon the environment. Area librarians will want to add this book to their local history collections. The price is $9.75.

Order direct from:
Adirondack Yesteryears
P.O. Drawer 209
Saranac Lake, New York 12983

CAPS DONATE BOOK AND RECORD SETS TO LIBRARIES

In the first of a series of projects designed to present work of New York contemporary artists to state residents, the Creative Artists Public Service Program is giving six books and a record created by CAPS-funded artists to five libraries in the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System. These libraries are: Plattsburgh Public Library; Wad Library, Malone; Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake; Saranac Lake Free Library; and Keene Valley Library Association.


Each of the seven artists received a CAPS fellowship to assist him/her in the creation or completion of these specific works and to participate in a community-related activity. Packages of these works will be distributed to public and academic libraries across the state and will be displayed for a month.
HEADQUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

Rose Waddell, Children's Consultant, notes the Newbery and Caldecott Awards for 1974:

Newbery Award -
Winner: Fox, Paula  The slave dancer.  Bradbury Press, 1973.  $5.95
Honor Book - Cooper, Susan  The dark is rising.  Atheneum, 1973.  $5.95

Caldecott Award -
Winner: Zemach, Margot  Duffy and the devil.  Farrar, 1973  $5.95
Honor Books -
Jeffers, Susan  The three jovial huntsmen.  Bradbury Press, 1973.  $5.95
Macauley, David  Cathedral.  Houghton, 1973.  $6.95

(Grades 5-8  Excellent illustrations)
The Cathedral is not an Easy book. It is about the building of a Gothic cathedral, apparently chosen for its colorful illustrations.

Member librarians can see these books and copies of former award-winners at Headquarters.

Mrs. Waddell also would like to hear from any member librarians who might like to have changes made in their rotating books collections.

About twelve Cub Scouts from the Cadyville unit of Morrisonville Elementary School visited system headquarters on January 12. They were accompanied by Mrs. Jean Martin. Mr. Vecchio took the group on a tour of the library and the bookmobiles, explaining the functions of a system library and the responsibilities of its different departments.

One of C-E-F's red bookmobiles, crewed by Mary Hopkins, bookmobile librarian, and Al Hutchins, driver, visited the Dannemora Union Free School in November. The second grade class came aboard to see the bookmobile and learn what it offers to people in areas without public libraries.

National Library Week will be April 21-27 this year. We will supply a poster and bookmarks for each member library and get them to you before that date. If any library plans special activities for that week, please let us know at Headquarters.
Jane Llewellyn of the Technical Services Department asks that member librarians be sure to stamp the bottom right hand corner of all catalog cards sent to Headquarters with the name of their library. Without this stamp, we can't properly indentify the library on our union catalog.

MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

AUSABLE FORKS FREE LIBRARY

The library has been enhanced by the gifts of the private libraries of the late Henry G. Rogers and Joseph McCann.

Last year 135 memorial books were given to the library and 23 gifts were made to the Foundation Trust Fund.

CHAMPLAIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Canvassers for the annual Memorial Library fund brought in more than $600 from house-to-house solicitations. Support is also being sought from local businessmen and organizations. The fund drive raises money for current expenses, maintenance, supplies and new books. Additional support is provided by appropriations from the school board, town and village boards and the state.

This library now records fifty years of service to the community since the time members of the Champlain Literary Club and the St. Cecelia Music Club formed the first library association in 1923 and served as librarians.

CHATEAUGAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

At the annual meeting of this library, two new trustees were elected to the board. Mrs. Edith Lopardo will fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Hazel Hogan. Mrs. Dorothy LaBelle will replace Mrs. Carol Walton. Both Mrs. Hogan and Mrs. Walton are past presidents of the board. Their support has been a very valuable asset to the library.

CHAZY PUBLIC LIBRARY

A story hour sponsored by the Friends of the Library has been held every Saturday morning for children ages 4 to 7.

The Friends of the Library held their annual Christmas Silver Tea for the benefit of the library on Sunday, December 2.

Two students representing the Senior Class at Chazy Central School, Jan Dragoon and Cathy Ryan, presented $200 to the Friends of the Library president, Mrs. Nina Coolidge, and librarian Mrs. Helen Sweet. The money was a result of proceeds from the Senior Class play and will be used as part of the building fund for the Ralph McCuen Children's Room projected for construction this spring.
KEENE VALLEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Mr. Harold Burton, a summer resident of this area, donated twenty-five new books to the library. Over the years Mr. Burton has been most generous in his gifts of books to the library; the excellent art collection here is primarily a result of his generosity.

Mrs. Alerton Cushman, another summer resident, has also donated many books to the children's section of the library, recently giving twenty-five more new books to the collection.

LAKE PLACID PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ruth and Latrobe Carroll, well-known authors and illustrators, gave the library an autographed portfolio of some of their paintings and drawings. Published by Walck, the portfolio also contains a brief history of the Carrolls and their children's works. Mr. Carroll explained that he and his wife were staying at Mirror Lake Inn and were most enthusiastic about the Lake Placid library. The portfolio has been placed on display.

WEAD LIBRARY, MALONE

The children's film series at this library has been most successful.

An Olivetti coin-operated copying machine has been installed in the foyer of the library for the use of the public.

New fiberglass draperies have been installed to complement the green carpeting.

Mrs. John Ray is now a part-time assistant librarian, primarily assigned to evenings and Saturdays.

A gavel made of wood from the former Wead Library is missing and the librarian will gladly take it back with no questions asked. The gavel was made by members of the industrial arts class of Franklin Academy.

MOORES FREE LIBRARY

The Mooers Free Library Association conducted its annual fall membership drive.

The fifth grade class from Mooers Elementary School visited the library recently. Mrs. Vogan, the librarian, explained the arrangement of books, circulation rules, and answered questions about the library.

PERU FREE LIBRARY

Friends of the Library are recruiting volunteers for story hour readers and library aides.

A new program is being initiated at the library for "homebound" residents. People who due to lack of transportation or to poor health are unable to come to the library may ask for a volunteer to bring a selection of books to them.
A box lunch auction held by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship netted $130 for the children's room at the library.

Over $1,100 has been received as donations to the Lynn Suzanne Crosby memorial fund. This money will be used for books and equipment for the children's room.

Laura Ingalls, former administrative assistant who retired several years ago, is conducting the story hour at the library. Her experience in children's services is most welcome.

The Leander Bouyea Branch Library is temporarily closed due to a fire in the building several weeks ago.

Terry Suertin, general services librarian, resigned in December. Terry has married and is living in London, Ontario.

Mrs. Arthur Tremblay has resigned as librarian. She has served many years in this capacity and people in Rouses Point will miss her. The new librarian is Mrs. Phyllis Sutton.

The Saranac Lake Free Library has been made a depository for the talking books services of the New York State Library for the Blind. In addition to the record player, there will also be available a selection of talking books, two news magazines, and the New York Times newspaper in large print format. The library has been provided with a magnifying reader for the use of the visually handicapped. Books in Braille will be available upon request.

$500 worth of new books have been added to the children's room in memory of Jennifer Logie McLaughlin.

The library has resumed its monthly children's film program, as well as the weekly story hour for pre-school children.

The Saranac Lake Day Care Center has been using the library's community room until such time as the Center can find a permanent home.

Two gifts, one from the Board of Education and the other from Mrs. Leo Stoffel, have enriched the Adirondack Collection here. The first is a six-volume record of school board minutes from 1890 to 1924. Additional volumes will be given as the years progress. The library hopes to microfilm these records. Mrs. Stoffel's gift consists of copies of magazines published locally in the 1920's. Highlights of the collection are an old supplement to the Adirondack Weekly Enterprise and an elaborately illustrated brochure of Mid-Winter Carnival 1909.

A copy of Bethune by Roderick Stewart was given to the Adirondack Room. This is the definitive biography of the great surgeon who was once a patient at Trudeau Sanatorium.

A display of pink depression glass lent by Carol Monroe of the library staff has been on temporary display in the Distin Cabinet.
BLACK WATCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY, TICONDEROGA

Funds from a fall fashion show were given by the College Club to buy two more book cases for the children's room.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Connery gave a Christmas check to the library fund.

A patron from New Jersey made a larger case for the library's paperbacks and restyled another case so that all the books can be properly displayed.

Mrs. Sadie Barry gave one of her colorful dried floral arrangements to the library and the Junior Girl Scouts made a holiday decoration for the door. The Junior Girls Scouts, as a community project, are gathering signatures on a petition to the town of Ticonderoga asking that the library be maintained in a better condition than it is presently maintained.

Some unidentified person tried to break in the library at night by breaking two cellar windows. They were foiled by the heavy mesh screening.

WADHMANS FREE LIBRARY

A rummage and food sale was held recently and brought in over $700 to be used for books and library improvements. A food and fancy-work sale was held in December to raise money for the building and for books.

New carpeting has been installed at the library.

An on-going book sale is being held at the library as the result of a concerted weeding program.

The library is looking for a used oak library desk. Anyone having such a desk for sale, please contact the Wadhams Free Library.

WESTPORT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Open house was held at the library in December to exhibit paintings of the late Margot Clark. Proceeds were given to the Cancer Fund.

Mrs. Raymond Clark has resigned as librarian. She had been in charge of the Westport Library for many years and will certainly be missed. However she is ably succeeded by Mrs. Lucille Carpenter who had been serving for some time as assistant librarian.

New hours for the library as of January are: Tuesday 4-6, 7-9; Thursday 4-6, 7-9; Saturday 2-6.

AKWESASNE LIBRARY AND CULTURAL CENTER

The Alcoa Foundation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has awarded a grant of $2,500 to the Library and Cultural Center. The money is to be used to complete the center's museum where past and present arts and crafts of the Mohawks are exhibited and for the purchase of reference books for the library.

Anthony F. Vecchio, Director

Mary G. Leggett, Editor