

CLINTON-ESSEX COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE SYSTEM  
NEWSLETTER

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Vol. 4, No. 4, April, 1957

Approximately thirty-five librarians, trustees and teachers attended the Librarians' Meeting held at the Headquarters on April 11. The morning program featured a panel discussion on library work with children, and in the afternoon, there was a demonstration of display techniques and materials.

The next meeting will be a weeding demonstration at the Wadhams Free Library, with a consultant from the Library Extension Division. Details will be announced in the May Newsletter.

One hundred colorful new posters advertising the Bookmobile and its services have been placed in the communities it serves.

Miss Walter is now planning a poster for the Member libraries which will point up the many services offered to their borrowers by the System.

The Dannemora Free Library recently reopened after a month's recess for renovations. The area of the room was increased by the removal of a partition. This permitted the construction of a separate entrance to the library. New shelving was built along the walls, and two reading tables were installed. An attractive tile floor was laid.

The Chazy Public Library has installed a new piped hot air furnace to replace a heater which occupied much needed space in the reading room. The library has been painted and now boasts a "New Look." For the fourth year, the Chazy Friends of the Library have offered a five dollar award to the Chazy Central Rural High School student writing the best book report during the year. The winner will be announced in May.

Mrs. Velma Robarge, Librarian of the Keeseville Free Library, is a patient at the Champlain Valley Hospital in Plattsburgh.

The Keene Valley Library Association has installed new shelving in the children's room and non-fiction section. New shelves have been built to house the record player and records. Larger work space has also been provided. \$200 has been given to the Keene Valley Library for its new Alpine Collection.

Librarians planning summer reading clubs for children are reminded that it is none too early to start planning. It is advisable to keep these programs simple, so that they are not too time-consuming for the librarian. The Headquarters staff will be happy to help with suggestions, and extra books may be borrowed from the Book Pool to supplement collections.

Display suggestions for spring include: gardening; cleaning and renovation; vacation planning; summer hobbies; outdoor living.

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BOOK CHATS

LAURA INGALLS

"Don't Grow Old - Grow Up," is the thought-provoking title of a book by Dorothy Carnegie, President of Dale Carnegie and Associates. In a readable and sometimes witty style, Mrs. Carnegie points out that growing old and growing up are not necessarily synonymous. The former is automatic. The latter requires real effort, but, as she proves conclusively, brings real rewards.

"A Man Against Insanity," is the title of Paul de Kruif's story of Dr. Jack Ferguson, a highly respected doctor who was himself once an inmate of a mental hospital. After his release, he made an astounding comeback, and today is accomplishing near miracles in the cure of patients formerly considered hopelessly insane.

"Open Every Door," is the title of the witty and stimulating autobiography written by Zelda Popkin, newspaperwoman, public relations expert and successful novelist.

Mrs. Popkin's life has been spent opening doors to new experiences since the day, at sixteen, when she applied for, and got, a job as reporter on a Wilkes-Barre newspaper. She has worked with the Red Cross in occupied Germany, lived in war-torn Israel, and found, wherever she went, that "There are no strangers anywhere."

"Miracle in the Mountains," by Harnett Kane, is an outstanding biography of an outstanding woman - Martha Berry - founder of the famous Berry Schools in Georgia.

This unique institution, with its 30,000 acre campus, grew out of a tiny old log cabin on Miss Berry's ancestral estate, where Martha, still in her teens, began to teach a few mountain children to read. These children brought others, soon parents joined their eager children, and space had to be found for them.

There was land enough, but buildings cost money, much more money than was available to Martha. Using both her considerable charm and her indomitable will, she managed to cajole the necessary funds from friends and strangers alike.

Everyone worked at Berry - students and staff - not to mention staff families. It grew and grew, until today it is outstanding and a model for schools not only in this country but abroad.

The book, "Hunters of the Stormy Seas," is the result of a shipwreck on the coast of Alaska forty years ago. Harold McCracken, the author, stranded for some time, visited daily with the Russian-Aleut natives, some of whom had hunted sea otters, the world's most valuable fur animals, in the days of the Czars. This was an incredible business, where fortunes were made and lost, where Yankee and Russian fought for supremacy of the fur empire.

What is really happening in Russia and the satellite countries? C. L. Sulzberger answers this vitally important question in "The Big Thaw," a first-hand account of conditions behind the Iron Curtain. He is well qualified to analyze the situation, since he travels constantly, collecting material for his "Foreign Affairs" column in the New York Times. He completed a trip through the Soviet Empire only a few months before the publication of this highly significant book.