

CLINTON-ESSEX COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE SYSTEM  
NEWSLETTER

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There will be a Librarians' Meeting on Thursday, October 10, at 10:30 at the System Headquarters. This will be an all day meeting. In the morning, Mrs. Charles Carey, Remedial Reading Teacher in the Plattsburgh Public Schools, will speak on, "The Public Library's Role in the Remedial Reading Program." At the afternoon session, Miss Laura Ingalls, System Secretary and Administrative Assistant in the Plattsburgh Public Library, will speak on, "Pamphlet and Picture Files." Mrs. R. E. Mason, Librarian of the Paine Memorial Free Library in Willsboro, will be the chairman for this meeting.

Any member librarian who is not now receiving the Kirkus Book Review Service, and who would like it, is asked to let Miss Walter know at once, since the System subscriptions will be renewed soon. There is no charge to the libraries for this service, which provides advance reviews of new titles at least two months before publication, thereby making it possible to order in advance. Since Kirkus is a professional book reviewing service, with no commercial affiliations, its reviews are completely independent.

Librarians having duplicate books they wish to swap for other titles, are asked to bring either the books or a list to the meeting. We feel that once this service is set up, it will be most helpful to all member libraries in filling up holes in their collections, and at the same time releasing needed space now occupied by duplicates.

Display suggestions for October include: United Nations Week, October 20 to 27; needlecraft and gift making; fall table decorations; furniture refinishing and restoring.

The New York Library Association will hold its Annual Conference at the Sheraton-Ten Eyck Hotel in Albany, October 16 through 19. On the 16th, there will be a workshop called Publicity Potpourri, How to Celebrate National Library Week. Another program of interest to public librarians, will be, "Reaching the Community," on October 17th.

It is not too early to begin planning for Children's Book Week, in November. This is an excellent occasion for cooperative planning with the schools, if it has not been possible to establish contact earlier. The Headquarters staff will be glad to discuss plans and programs.

The Keeseville Free Library resumed its winter schedule on September 1. Hours at the Keeseville Library are: Wednesday, 1 to 5 P.M.; Saturday, 1 to 5, and 7 to 9 P.M.

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BOOK CHATS

LAURA INGALLS

All books reviewed in this column may be borrowed from any library in the Clinton-Essex System, or from the Bookmobile.

"The Small Woman," by Alan Burgess, is the true story of Gladys Aylward, an English missionary to China, who has become a legend during her own lifetime, not an easy achievement. In 1930, armed with her Bible, about ten dollars in cash and her ticket, Miss Aylward set out from London on her journey to China. After a difficult and dangerous trip across Siberia, she reached her destination and joined forces with another independent missionary in a remote town in northwest China. Her adventures were fantastic, and included subduing a prison riot, converting a Mandarin to Christianity, and leading one hundred children across the mountains to safety during the war.

"Knock and Wait A While," by William Rawle Weeks, an unusual and engrossing novel of the United States Intelligence Service, kept us up far too late one night. It is a swift paced tale centering around Case Officer Packard Gray, sent to Europe on a delicate and difficult mission. Packard stepped from the plane into a dramatic situation involving news correspondent Sarah Borsen, who had not only talked but written out of turn, in her syndicated newspaper column. Tension mounted rapidly, as Packard came to look on Miss Borsen as something more than a distasteful case.

Another book we enjoyed is the autobiography of David Low, famous British political cartoonist. Since Mr. Low writes as entertainingly as he draws, he tells his life story with wit and style. Born in New Zealand, to a family whose ideas of education for the young were a bit on the bizarre side, Mr. Low had a most unusual childhood. Long before he was out of his teens, he had ventured into the world of journalism quite successfully. One position led to a better one, and, after a sojourn in Australia, he went to England, where he still lives and draws, to the delight of millions of people. This is practically a political history of England, as well as an entertaining biography.

Australian-born Patrick White is rapidly making a place for himself among the top English language authors, and after reading, "Voss," we can understand why. "Voss," is practically two novels in one - a comedy of manners and the story of a mystical love between two people who barely knew each other. Voss, a young German scientist and explorer, was the leader of an expedition into the interior of Australia, a peculiarly grim territory, we understand. Laura Trevelyan, niece of his sponsor, met him casually a few times, and, for the most part, heartily disliked him. Yet, a bond almost as strong as life itself developed between them.

"Rally Round the Flag, Boys," by Max Shulman, is an uproarious tale of a Connecticut community suddenly became host to a guided missile base. This invasion upset all three strata of society, the Yankees, descendants of the founding fathers, the solid citizenry in the middle, and the commuters, birds of passage in the eyes of the Yankees. It was quite some time before the military and the civilian achieved a meeting of minds, and it came about most peculiarly.

"Jambo Means Hello," by Olle Strandberg and Rene Hassner, is a travel book to end all travel books. This light-hearted pair traveled through Africa on a shoestring, saw everything there was to see, and reported it with wit and color. Some of their adventures sound fantastic, but who are we to say it couldn't happen?