

CLINTON-ESSEX COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE SYSTEM  
NEWSLETTER

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Vol. 4, No. 12

Twenty-four librarians and trustees attended the Librarians' Meeting held at the Headquarters on December 12. Forty people had made reservations, but due to the very stormy weather, sixteen of them were not able to attend. Because of this, Miss Verna Tobias, Librarian at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, who had been scheduled to address the group, will be the speaker at the February meeting.

Forms for the 1957 Annual Reports have been sent to all member librarians. They should be completed as soon after January 1st as possible, since they are due in Albany by February 1st. Since the System's State Aid, from which Annual Grants are paid, cannot be calculated until all reports have been evaluated in Albany, it is to every library's interest to send in its report promptly. A copy should also be sent to Miss Walter at the Headquarters, and one retained for the library files.

Librarians are reminded that books in Braille may be borrowed from the New York State Library for the Blind, located at Albany, which is a division of the State Library. These books are mailed postage free.

The Plattsburgh Public Library has the Bible in Braille. This was presented to the Library by the Plattsburgh Lions' Club. It may be borrowed by any member library.

AROUND THE COUNTIES

AU SABLE FORKS: Mrs. Margaret Meconi, Librarian of the Au Sable Forks Free Library, reports that the exterior of the library has recently been repainted.

LAKE PLACID: The Adult Art Class under the direction of Sidney d'Avignon, is meeting in the reference room of the Lake Placid Public Library once each week. These classes will continue throughout the winter. In the spring, the class plans to hold an exhibit of its work.

KEENE VALLEY: The Essex County Historical Society held a meeting at the Keene Valley Library on November 29. Forty-one guests heard Mrs. William Isham, Librarian, speak on the early history of the Valley. The third and fourth grades of Keene Central School are visiting the Keene Valley Library every month.

ROUSES POINT: Two new members have been appointed to the Board of the Dodge Memorial Library. Milo Marnes replaces Thomas Myers, and Mrs. Nancy Strack replaces Mrs. William Casey.

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BOOK CHATS

LAURA INGALLS

We never knew much about Greenland, except that it's a cold, forbidding, desolate Arctic island, and it came as a surprise to us that it was the scene of one of the most dramatic operations of World War II.

Seven men, completely isolated from the rest of the world except for radio contact, had the far from easy assignment of patrolling five hundred miles of coast, and protecting the Greenland weather stations in the event of German invasion.

Some of them weren't too convinced that such an invasion could happen, but they learned the hard way that it could; that a German weather station was set up and operating in a particularly isolated spot.

This unfortunate state of affairs couldn't be allowed to last, and a strange and bitter battle lasting three months and ranging over four hundred miles of ice and snow decided the issue.

In "The Sledge Patrol," David Howarth, author of "We Die Alone," tells in vivid detail the story of this almost unknown war within a war. He also tells most interestingly some of the history of Greenland.

Dorothy Canfield Fisher's "Memories of Arlington, Vermont," is proving very popular. It is one of the American Folkways series, and is a charming mixture of history, travel, fiction and memoir.

"Bridge to the Sun," Gwen Terasaki's best-selling autobiography, is a heart-warming story of a Japanese-American marriage. If there had been more men like Hidenari Terasaki in the upper levels of Japanese government, there might never have been a Pearl Harbor. Mr. Terasaki, an official of the Japanese Foreign Office, was well aware that a war between his country and the United States could have only one outcome, disaster for his people. Unfortunately, the higher echelons did not agree with him.

When he, and other officials serving in this country, were first interned and then sent back to Japan, his American wife accompanied him, with their small daughter. Existence was a struggle for them, and even harder for both to bear was the fact that their respective countries were at war.

Although the war years had severely affected his health, Mr. Terasaki survived to be liason officer between General MacArthur and the Japanese Government.

There is tragedy in this book, but also romance and humor. It is an inspiring story of a love too strong to be threatened by anything, up to and including total war.

Like all Thomas B. Costain's books, "Below the Salt" is exciting, enthralling and entertaining. The slightly off-beat plot, straight from a little known chapter of history, has to do with Eleanor of Brittany, the "lost princess." It also has a lot to do with a lost charter, the fore-runner of the Magna Charta. Add a spice of adventure, a good-sized portion of intrigue and a lot of romance. The result is a must for historical fiction enthusiasts.

Considering Bud Floyd's miserably unhappy childhood and adolescence dominated by a mean-tempered, tyrannical father, it isn't surprising that when he finished college, he became, through his search for security, an organization man. He worked hard, and then harder, driven by his need for recognition. This was all well and good, up to a point, but he went far beyond. Since Debbie, his wife, hated the whole idea, his work, his emotional insecurity, the upper crust suburb where they lived, it need hardly be said that a real explosion was in the offing. This is a dramatic, and in some ways disparaging account of a whole new stratum of American society.