

# NEWS

*from*



CLINTON - ESSEX - FRANKLIN LIBRARY  
PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK

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## TEEN-AGERS AND THE LIBRARY

A clipping from the Schenectady Gazette, Schenectady, New York, dated January 19, 1963, brings to attention a library problem that is growing steadily more acute. At a meeting held in the Schenectady County Public Library (a meeting attended by librarians, administrators, teachers, board members and PTA representatives) the topic of discussion was the use and misuse of the public library by students. The issues seemed to be that students make a social gathering place of the library and may mutilate books and periodicals to obtain illustrations. These issues are further complicated by the fact that sometimes teachers make assignments that are unrealistic in terms of library facilities. Schenectady County Public Library is certainly to be commended for its forthright attempt to bring the problem right to the people concerned.

In line with this trend of thought we spotted an article in Library Journal for October 15, 1962. Titled "Those Damn Teenagers", it is written by Murray L. Bob, assistant city librarian at Richmond Public Library, Richmond, California. After Mr. Bob analyzes the question in view of what we expect of students and what they expect from us, he comes up with several suggestions and comments. "The American public library is a youth-serving agency", and "perhaps it .... will have to orient itself about the young adult. The well developed children's public library service works closely with the schools, sometimes in spite of itself. Libraries will have to do the same with young adult service." He suggests wholehearted cooperation with school programs, stocking books on school reading lists in quantity (paperbacks, etc.) and perhaps capitalizing on this increased aid to students by using it as a lever to get more state and local funds.

Doris Watts, whom area librarians will remember from her 1960 course in Young Adult Services which she taught at Lake Placid, is co-author with Elaine Simpson of an article in the Wilson Library Bulletin, November, 1962, which explores the situation more extensively. Questionnaires were sent out to public libraries of all sizes, and from the 1,801 completed and returned questionnaires, an analysis was made of each individual aspect of this problem of increased student use. Excerpts from some of these replies follow each section of the article, showing the diversity in opinion and action in the various libraries. The authors offer their suggestions for coping with the situation: invite the schools to work with you on a survey of student use of both school and public libraries; set up a committee from the village, town or city governing board, from the board of education and the library board of trustees to take the problem to the community; support the development of larger units of library service, the development of school libraries and the improvement of total library service. Orientation for the teachers to the public libraries and for public librarians to the schools is their final proposal - working together, sharing materials, ideas and people.

The County Boards of Supervisors have re-appointed Mrs. A. J. Hecht, Plattsburgh, and Mr. W. Hustace Hubbard, Elizabethtown, to the Board of Trustees of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library for another five year period.

Book pick-up and delivery for member libraries will begin in February. Please have any returns ready for the driver when he arrives. The dates of pick-up for each library are: February 8 (Friday), March 1 (Friday) Peru, Keeseville, Au Sable Forks, Upper Jay, Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake; February 14 (Thursday), March 5 (Tuesday) Chazy, Rouses Point, Champlain, Mooers, Ellenburg Depot; February 15 (Friday) Elizabethtown, Wadhams, Westport, Willsboro, Essex, Crown Point, Ticonderoga, Keene Valley, Keene; February 26 (Tuesday) Dannemora, Lyon Mountain, Chateaugay, Malone.

#### MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

AU SABLE FORKS Mr. Vincent Mahar has been elected president of the Board of Trustees of the Au Sable Forks Free Library. Mr. Paul Stackpole is vice-president and Mrs. Alvin Horstmeyer is a new trustee. This promises to be a busy year for the Au Sable Forks Free Library as it will be moved to a new location in April.

CHAZY Girls Scouts in Chazy have been working in the Chazy Public Library under the guidance of Mrs. Loretta Hubbell, librarian, as part of their merit badge project. The Scouts work in the library on Saturday mornings, mending books, cleaning, shelving, and checking in books. On Saturday, January 19, they conducted a storytelling time for children of the community. Mothers from areas outside the village brought groups of youngsters to the library. Registration of those children old enough to have cards was also done by the Girl Scouts and a number of adults became new registrants at the same time. This project will continue for five or six weeks, during which time the Girl Scouts are planning to have a puppet show.

KEENE Mr. Richard Hartson is the new president of the Board of Trustees of the Keene Public Library, and Mrs. Beverly Gregory has been appointed as a trustee.

KEESEVILLE The Board of Trustees of the Keeseville Free Library has selected Mr. William Downs of Keeseville as their new president.

MALONE Mr. David Minnich, librarian at Wead Library, is searching for reviews on westerns. It seems they're either overlooked or bypassed by reviewers. Can anyone help him?

PERU Mrs. Leo Kelly has been elected vice-president of the Peru Free Library Board of Trustees.

PLATTSBURGH Miss Emma Walter of Plattsburgh Public Library has two encyclopedias to be given away to the first who ask: Encyclopedia Britannica for 1947 and Compton's Encyclopedia for 1949. Call Mrs. Tuttle at Headquarters if you are interested. The Board of Trustees of Plattsburgh Public Library has elected Mr. Thomas Romeo as president.

WADHAMS Mrs. Arthur Lewis is the new president of the Wadhams Free Library and Mrs. Garland Ferris, Westport, is now a member of the Board of Trustees.