

NEWS

from



CLINTON - ESSEX - FRANKLIN LIBRARY
PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK

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A MODEST PROPOSAL

"A modest proposal for preventing the Children of poor People in Ireland, from being a Burden to their Parents or Country; and for making them beneficial to the Publick". - Jonathan Swift

The library vs. teen-ager problem is still rearing its ugly head - and we wonder if the remedy proposed in Swift's essay might be applied to the situation. While Jonathan Swift is merrily whirling in his grave at our misuse of his proposition, let us hastily add that, although there are times we may be favorably inclined to apply his suggestion, we do realize that cannibalism won't really solve the problem. Instead we need to use a little time and ingenuity to turn young adult use into a projected program that can eventually make these young people into discriminating and steady library patrons.

The situation as it is now seems increasingly more critical. More pros and cons anent use of libraries by teen-agers appear each time one opens a library periodical. The Martin Memorial Library, York, Pennsylvania, lifted its ban on student use of reference facilities in January, according to an article in Library Journal, March 1, 1963, only after the librarian, Katherine Shorey, was assured of complete cooperation from school authorities in meeting the needs of students. And Doris R. Watts, in her column "The Public Library and the Teen-Age", Wilson Library Bulletin, March, 1963, comments on the various activities scheduled for young adults at the Kalamazoo, Michigan, Public Library - an exciting program designed to spark a genuine feeling of enthusiasm for similar programs in other libraries.

Although we can't know how the teen-age influx is treated in every library - whether it is handled by ban or by blessing - we can face the situation and its ramifications squarely and do our best to come up with a feasible solution. For no matter how many problems they create for us, no matter whether or not they come to explore, to do school assignments, to meet their friends, or to create a disturbance, they are with us, and since they are, let's try to do what we can to make the library assume its proper perspective for them.

This is when creating your Young Adult Section becomes paramount. The first step is to make sure that the books they want to read and the books they should want to read are located in a spot they can't possibly miss. Deterred by the size and scope of an adult collection, unwilling to identify themselves with the children who use the juvenile collection, they are readily receptive to the idea of a section of their very own.

For small libraries with a modest budget, titles can be pulled sparingly from the juvenile room, generously from the adult collection, and augmented by books purchased from the specifically young adult literature recently added to the book market. Here you have a selection whose flexibility is its greatest asset. Titles that don't circulate can go back where they came from. More books by popular authors can be chosen from existing collections, as can books on subjects that prove appealing or may be of a seasonal nature.

The fate of such a collection, however, is directly proportionate to the amount of tender, loving care expended on it by the librarian. Here is where her knowledge of books and teen-agers will be tested. Using bulletin boards as attention-getters, promoting discussion groups to review and dissect what has been provided for them to read - this is only part of the librarian's role in making young adults aware of how "rich the treasure" they may find in libraries. Listen to their compliments and to their complaints - and learn to read between the lines to understand their needs and enthusiasms.

Since we do have these troublesome teens with us to stay, let's capitalize on their needs and meet their challenges. Let's show them we have something special and unique to offer that they can't find anywhere else. It may very well be that a judicious combination of books and librarian, flavored with imagination and seasoned by experience, will be the answer to your teen-age crisis.

And being eminently practical, let's also remind ourselves that being a teen-ager is transitory. They do grow up to become taxpayers, potential adult library patrons, and sometimes library trustees! Can we afford not to have them library-minded?

NEW YORK STATE LIBRARIAN APPOINTED

The Board of Regents approved the appointment by Commissioner of Education, James E. Allen, Jr., of S. Gilbert Prentiss as State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries, effective June 1. Mr. Prentiss has served for a number of years as the Director of the Library Extension Division.

HEADQUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

DIRECTOR SPEAKS AT ROTARY MEETING

Mr. R. Edwin Berry, director of the three county library system, spoke at a meeting of the Plattsburgh Rotary Club, Wednesday, May 22, on the services of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library. Comparing our well-known bookmobiles to icebergs, he stressed the fact that the largest part of library work lies below the surface. He explained the many jobs that back-up both bookmobile service and member library service, and demonstrated how pooling of resources saves both time and money for all libraries in the system. Emphasizing how library statistics are used to determine further library services, he pointed out that total circulation for 1962 was 654,000 volumes, and that, of this, 126,000 books were circulated from the bookmobiles. Interlibrary loans totaled 21,751 for the same

period, and 2,800 reference questions were answered. Ordered and processed books were summed up to a figure of 14,585.

Questions from the audience followed Mr. Berry's talk and pointed up the interest in the library system.

TRUSTEES' MEETING

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library was held May 18 at the Witherill Hotel, Plattsburgh. Present were Mrs. Daniel T. Manning, Au Sable Forks; Mrs. Lincoln Barnett, Westport; Mr. Frank L. Carpenter, Plattsburgh; Mr. William A. Harvey, Saranac Lake; Mrs. Alfred J. Hecht, Plattsburgh; Mr. Edward G. Hoit, Malone; Mr. W. Hustace Hubbard, Elizabethtown; Mrs. James F. Mills, Fort Covington; Mr. Paul Vogan, Mooers; Mr. Berry, and Miss Marion H. Vedder, Associate Library Supervisor, Library Extension Division. Miss Vedder spoke on meeting the state requirements for an absolute charter.

LIBRARIANS' MEETING

The June Librarians' Meeting will be held in the auditorium of Plattsburgh Public Library on Monday, June 10. Miss Margaret C. Hannigan, Public Library Adult Services Consultant, Library Extension Division, and Miss Esther Helfand, Public Library Young Adult Services Consultant, will be present to discuss book selection policies, a follow-up on Miss Hannigan's earlier workshop.

A book review meeting will be held Monday, July 8, at the Keene Valley Library Association. We extend a cordial invitation to all member librarians, their trustees and system trustees, to attend this meeting.

COMMUNITY LIBRARIANS' TRAINING COURSE

The third session of the Workshop in Childrens Services at the Lake Placid Club, taught by Mrs. Lillian Orsini, Assistant Professor, School of Library Science, State University of New York at Albany, was held Monday, May 13. Attending were Mrs. Arthur Tremblay, Dodge Memorial Library, Rouses Point; Mrs. Loretta Hubbell, Chazy Public Library; Mrs. Pearl Maicus, Au Sable Forks Library; Mrs. Frank Peterson and Mrs. Doris Thompson, Keeseville Free Library; Mrs. Courtney Morton, Black Watch Memorial Library, Ticonderoga; Mrs. Blanche Isham, Keene Valley Library Association; Mrs. Florence Lamb and Mrs. Martha Russell, Lake Placid Public Library; Miss Margot Clark, Westport Library Association; Mr. Stefan Moses, Senior Library Supervisor, Library Extension Division, and Mrs. Doh and Mrs. Leggett from Headquarters.

The last class in this spring training course sponsored by Library Extension Division is on Monday, May 27, at the Lake Placid Club.

TRUSTEES VISIT SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK SYSTEM

A committee of the Board of Trustees of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library visited the new headquarters building of the Southern Adirondack Library System in Saratoga Springs on Saturday, May 11. Mr. Berry, director of the three county library; Mrs. Daniel T. Manning, president of the board; Mrs. Alfred J. Hecht, and Mr. Frank L. Carpenter met with Miss Florence E. Harshe, director of Southern Adirondack, and were shown all the improvements in design and layout that are characteristic of this new system building.

PUBLIC RELATIONS WORKSHOP

Mrs. Mary Leggett of Headquarters will attend a Workshop on Public Relations to be held at the School of Library Science, Columbia University, June 10-14. Lecturers for the course include Joseph Boyle, Vice-President for Public Relations at J. Walter Thompson; Henry Backrach, Communications Officer of General Electric Company; Dr. Morris Greene, Liason Officer of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations; Eli Ginzberg, Professor of Economics, Columbia University; and Paul Lazarsfeld, Professor of Social Studies at Columbia. The workshop is co-sponsored by the Library Public Relations Council and will be directed by Robert Miller, head of the Program in Public Relations at the Columbia University School of General Studies. Mrs. Leggett has been given a grant by Library Extension Division to attend the workshop.

SPRING LIBRARY MEETING

Mrs. Rose Waddell and Mrs. Leggett of Headquarters attended the spring meeting of the Diocesan Unit of the Catholic Library Association on Saturday, May 11, at the Benjamin F. Feinberg Library, State University College at Plattsburgh. Dr. John W. McTernan, Director of Research Services at the Plattsburgh College, was guest speaker at the luncheon held in Saranac Hall. Dr. McTernan spoke on "Programming Machines", beginning with the early experiments in this type of teaching method, going on to explain current usage and its application within existing curricula, and outlining probable trends in the future.

ROTATING COLLECTIONS

It seems time to take stock of our rotating collection service to member libraries. Many of you may prefer to change somewhat the content of your bi-monthly adult collection to include more meaty fare. We have a great many titles in non-fiction that are not owned by members, and that cover a variety of provocative and interesting subjects. We will be very glad to see a trend in that direction. If you wish to change your collection, please let us know at the June meeting.

MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

AU SABLE FORKS LIBRARY

Finishing touches have been added to the new library, lettering on the windows having been completed.

Trustees have volunteered their services one evening a week to help Mrs. Maicus, the librarian, with some of the work of mending and processing.

CHATEAUGAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Chateaugay Library has moved to its new and larger quarters in the Town Board Room. New book shelves have been added, and Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Wood have presented the new library with fluorescent lights.

ELLENBURG DEPOT BRANCH LIBRARY

Mrs. Bruce McGregor will be leaving May 28 for a trip to Europe. Mrs. Howard Hebert will be in charge during her absence.

KEENE PUBLIC LIBRARY

We would like to extend our sympathy to Mrs. Washburn, librarian at Keene Public Library. Her husband, Mr. Lee Washburn, died in Mary Fletcher Hospital, Burlington, on May 9.

LAKE PLACID PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mrs. Martha Russell, Assistant Librarian, is resigning from the library to join the staff of Northwood School, Lake Placid.

MOOERS FREE LIBRARY

The annual meeting of the Mooers Library Association was held Tuesday, May 21. Miss Evelyn Matthews was elected to another five year term as trustee.

The Village Board has installed new fluorescent lights in the library.

PLATTSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Miss Laura Ingalls, Administrative Assistant, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Plattsburgh Opti-Mrs. Club during May. She spoke about the many services Plattsburgh Public Library offers its patrons.

Flower boxes and plantings purchased by the library point up to the landscaping at Plattsburgh Public. Labor was contributed by the Plattsburgh Beautification Commission.

DODGE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ROUSES POINT

Mrs. Arthur Tremblay, Librarian, reports that the library has been rearranged to allow more space and light, with a separate reading room as a new feature for adult patrons.

Hours of opening have been changed at Rouses Point: Tuesday, 1-5; Wednesday, 7-9; Friday, 1-5; Saturday, 9-11.

SARANAC LAKE FREE LIBRARY

An article in The Bookmark, May, 1963, by William Chapman White, gives the history of the famous Adirondack collection at Saranac Lake.

TUPPER LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Business and Professional Women's Organization of Tupper Lake presented the library with a display case, which presently holds a collection of fossilized rocks. The library also has a number of paintings by area artists on display.

Mr. Charles A. Sleicher has given the library a gift of books.

WADHAMS FREE LIBRARY

We are glad to hear that Mrs. Harold Sayre, Librarian, is feeling much better after having been hospitalized in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal.

PAINE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WILLSBORO

We are also happy to know that Mrs. Marion Mason, Librarian, has recovered from her illness.

ADDENDA

A quotation from Richard Hofstadter's new book "Anti-Intellectualism in American Life", Knopf, 1963, raises the hackles on the backs of our collective necks. In part 2, chapter 5, page 125, he quotes from a speech to the Georgia Assembly by an Assemblyman:

"Read the Bible. It teaches you how to act. Read the hymnbook. It contains the finest poetry ever written. Read the almanac. It shows you how to figure out what the weather will be. There isn't another book that it is necessary for anyone to read and therefore, I'm opposed to all libraries."