

NEWS

from



CLINTON - ESSEX - FRANKLIN LIBRARY
PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK

JULY 1963

TO JACK PARR - WITH LOVE AND LOCKED ANTLERS

It is not always easy to find a man who genuinely enjoys books and reading in the ranks of the television oracles who weekly hold forth on a variety of subjects ranging from auto-hypnosis to do-it-yourself marital counseling. Jack Paar is such a man and when he discusses a book on his program, the demand for said book is quite likely to increase abruptly.

Because we realize how strong an influence such enthusiasm can be upon the unseen audience that sits glued to the modern equivalent of the magic lantern, we feel we must take issue with the statement made by this charming and witty literary Pied Piper in a recent telecast.

In essence, Mr. Paar said that since he had so little time to read he felt he should read books from which he could learn something; therefore he read non-fiction.

Have you forgotten Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four, Mr. Paar? Or his Animal Farm? And didn't you too feel that you were taught, subtly and adroitly, the dangers implicit in totalitarianism and the dictator state?

We remember when Alan Paton's Cry The Beloved Country made clear the tragic elements in the South African moral and social crisis, the deterioration and tragedy that occur when the tribal system is shattered by the white man and the tribal people are not taken into the white man's culture. We can, it is true, learn this from the bald statements in a history book - but we can also learn, perhaps more vividly, through the eyes of the novelist.

Edmund Fuller says in Books With Men Behind Them that "truth is not always consonant with reality, rather that truth lies in related patterns of many realities." So the novelist tells through the medium of fiction the truth as it seems to him, woven from imagination, from the common experiences of mankind, from projected hope for the future. Here is not the bared bosom, all-revealing autobiography cum confessional that sometimes masquerades as truth. Instead fiction is the idea, the spark of truth that the writer invites you to explore and to experience with him.

How many times have we read fiction whose impact causes us to re-examine our judgments and re-assess our values? And if the novel cannot be a learning instrument, why then have nations banned fiction that they knew could cause men to look with new eyes at their political systems, at the very roots of government itself? Books have been burned, and fiction has been among those books consigned to the flames - because men in command realized the power of an idea, written as fiction but possessing a universal validity in its application to life.

Fiction at its best can stir the conscience, can exhilarate, can terrify, can feed the spirit.

Please look again at your bookshelves, Mr. Paar! Pick up Anthem, by Ayn Rand. Reread Steinbeck's Grapes of Wrath. Glance again at Shirley Jackson's chillingly perceptive short story, The Lottery. There are so many more, each of which provides a rich area for learning experiences.

We do agree that there is never enough time to read everything we want - but in our resolution to make the most of what time we have, let's not forget to include fiction in the appraisal of what is worth our time to read.

TRUSTEES' MEETING

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library was held Friday, June 14, in the auditorium of Plattsburgh Public Library. 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. Richard W. Lawrence, Jr., Elizabethtown; Mrs. James F. Mills, Fort Covington; and Mr. Paul E. Vogan, Mooers.

LIBRARIANS' MEETING

Miss Margaret C. Hannigan, and Miss Esther Helfand, Public Library Consultants, Library Extension Division, were speakers at the June 10 Librarians' Meeting held in the auditorium of Plattsburgh Public Library.

In discussing book selection policies, Miss Hannigan referred to the critical areas of censorship, stating that the individual can, without imposing his strictures upon others, act as his own censor by closing a book and not reading it. Attending were Mrs. Frank Peterson, Keeseville Free Library; Mrs. David Harrison, Champlain Free Library; Mrs. Courtney K. Morton, Black Watch Memorial Library, Ticonderoga; Mrs. Paul Vogan, Mooers Free Library; Mrs. Loretta Hubbell, Chazy Public Library; Mrs. Marion Mason, Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro; Mrs. Daniel Gregory, Lyon Mountain Branch Library; Miss Madella Buck, Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay; Mrs. Anita Washburn, Keene Public Library; Mrs. Blanche Isham, Keene Valley Library Association; Mrs. P. F. Fitzpatrick, Peru Free Library; Mr. David W. Minnich, Wead Library, Malone; Mrs. David W. Minnich, Harrison Junior High School Library, Malone; System trustees Mrs. Lincoln Barnett, Westport; and Mrs. Daniel T. Manning, Au Sable Forks.

A book review meeting will be held Monday, July 8, at 10:00 a.m. at the Keene Valley Library. Reviewers will be Mrs. Courtney K. Morton, Black Watch Memorial Library, Ticonderoga; Miss Laura Ingalls, Plattsburgh Public Library, and Mr. Berry and Mrs. Leggett from Headquarters.

Cards will be mailed to all member librarians and trustees for making reservations for the August 5, Librarians' Meeting, a luncheon meeting to be held at the Royal Savage Inn, Plattsburgh. Mr. Harrison Bird, author of March To Saratoga and Navies In The Mountains will speak on research methods of the historian. Reservations must be received by Thursday, August 1. We hope that all member librarians, their trustees, and system trustees will be able to attend.

PUBLIC RELATIONS WORKSHOP

Mrs. Mary Leggett of Headquarters attended the Workshop on Library Public Relations at the School of Library Service, Columbia University, June 10 to 14. Lectures and discussions included many practical approaches to the public relations problems of libraries in both rural and urban situations. Mrs. Leggett attended under a grant given by Library Extension Division.

SCHROON LAKE SUMMER LIBRARY

The Schroon Lake Summer Library Station will open Monday, July 1, with Mrs. John Caramia, Mrs. Ida Jacobs, and Miss Susan Schoenstadt as staff.

The system bookmobile will add a summer stop at the post office in Severance, starting on the same date at 12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULED AT COLLEGE

A Workshop in Children's and Adolescent Literature will be given at the State University College of Education at Plattsburgh, by Dr. M. Frances Breen, Librarian at Feinberg Memorial Library, and Mrs. Barbara Doh, Children's Consultant at Headquarters. The course is not limited to teachers and is given for two hours undergraduate credit in English literature and for graduate credit in Education. Either Children's or Adolescent's Literature may be selected by participants in this two week workshop.

EXHIBIT OF BOOKS PLANNED FOR ANTIQUE SHOW

In conjunction with the Antique Show to be held at St. Joseph's Academy, Malone, New York, on July 9, 10, and 11, Headquarters will exhibit a group of books on the many different kinds of antiques of interest to both the collector and the dealer. Fifteen exhibitors will display antiques of every description from 11:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on each of the three days. Meals will be served continuously. Mr. Roy Hall, Malone, is chairman of the event.

CONTRACTS SENT OUT

Contracts for cash grants have been sent out to all member libraries. May we remind you to have them signed and returned to Headquarters as quickly as possible?

NEW SCHEDULES

New schedules for delivery and pickup have been mailed to all member librarians. The schedules will be in effect until the end of December, 1963.

S T A F F C H A N G E S

Warren Dyke who has been a page at Headquarters for four years has resigned as of June 15. Warren was graduated from State University College of Education at Plattsburgh on June 9, and has accepted a teaching position for this fall at Whitehall, New York. Frank Leggett, a student at the local college, has replaced Warren as page. Cynthia Summer, a student at Beekmantown Central School, has also joined the staff as page.

S U M M E R V A C A T I O N

Summer vacations for Headquarters staff members start in July. We will try to take care of member requests as quickly as possible - but please be patient during the period that we are short of personnel.

M E M O S F R O M M E M B E R L I B R A R I E S

C H A T E A U G A Y M E M O R I A L L I B R A R Y

Mr. Berry attended a meeting at Chateaugay on Wednesday, June 12. Trustees of the library requested Mr. Berry's advice in planning the interior arrangement of their new headquarters.

Mrs. Thomas Hogan, President of the Board of Trustees of the Chateaugay Library, has left for a trip to Europe this month.

C H A Z Y P U B L I C L I B R A R Y

Mrs. Loretta Hubbell, Librarian, and Mrs. Barbara Doh of Headquarters have begun to work on the physical re-organization of the Chazy Library. Mrs. Doh has also been helping Mrs. Hubbell to make a plan for weeding and replacing where necessary.

E S S E X F R E E L I B R A R Y

Mrs. Katherine Noble has been elected president of the Board of Trustees of Essex Free Library, replacing Mr. Wayne Lowe.

P L A T T S B U R G H P U B L I C L I B R A R Y

Registrations are now open for Plattsburgh Public Library's annual summer "Reading For Fun Club", which is open to any child who has completed third grade. The theme of this year's program is "Follow The Indian Trail", with scorecards for each child to record the club books read.

The purpose of this summer program is not only to give pleasure to the children but also to help them maintain their reading skills at the June level. Books are carefully selected to appeal to the various age and reading levels of club members.

ANNUAL REPORT READY

We are enclosing with this newsletter a copy of the annual report of the system.

R. Edwin Berry, Director

Mary G. Leggett, Editor

