

NEWS

from



CLINTON - ESSEX - FRANKLIN LIBRARY
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THE MACHINE AGE AND ME

I'm confused - confused by the spate of words like data processing, information retrieval, programmed learning - that rear their ugly heads in almost every issue of library periodicals. Having a mind that is a veritable storehouse of miscellaneous information of use to no one, including me, and with considerable gaps in my understanding of technical and semi-scientific jargon, is it any wonder that I huddle in my tiny corner, clutching my copy of People, Places and Books, and mutter grimly to myself: "What's happening to the libraries I know?"

I've been able all my life to establish a happy relationship with both libraries and librarians. Starting with my early years when I left the library with my quota of four books and returned them the same day (wrecking dispositions at the circulation desk) I have spent my time quite frankly courting their favor with a view toward a more intimate future.

Happily, "librarians I have known" were for the most part people who combined an enthusiasm for books with the conviction that books were for people. The personal touch was vital. No one seemed to find it too much trouble to help me explore the world in the library and to encourage me to reach beyond my limitations. It was important to me and important to them - and I doubt that all the complicated and omniscient machines in existence could do what librarians did for me in creating a climate of enthusiasm for libraries.

Machines not only intimidate me - I don't think they understand me. How can a machine find the right answer for me especially when I'm not at all sure what it is that I want? A librarian can. Can a machine tell me what fun it is to read Ferlinghetti - or how to distinguish the different types of science fiction? A librarian can. And will a machine tell me that it just finished Halsey's Pseudo-Ethic and knows that I will find it provocative also? You know the answer to that one, too!

I know it's not wise these days to dig in your heels and resist the tug of progress. The machine age is advancing on the library - and it's either join the dance or be crushed beneath the Juggernaut.

So bring on your data processers! Ask questions of an information retriever, that large shaggy dog of a machine that brings you your answer on a card clutched like a stick in its teeth! Machines come to us to be used - and use them we must.

But don't let the machine become master. Control it with a modicum of common sense; discipline it with the leavening of humor. Above all, keep it firmly in its place, and know that you, the librarian, are still that vital link between people and books, giving generously of your own private understanding and enthusiasm to all those who come within library doors.

M. Leggett

ADULT BOOKS AND SERVICES

ANTHONY F. VECCHIO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

BOOKS RECOMMENDED FOR PURCHASE

- F AGAINST HEAVEN'S HAND Bishop, Leonard Random House \$4.95
B The struggle for life of seven survivors of a plane crash
in remote Oregon; the unusual element in the story is the fact
that they are all blind.
- F THE HACK Sheed, Wilfrid Macmillan \$4.95
S Satirical character study of a small-time writer of Catholic
inspirational literature.
- F THE WILL Swados, Harvey World \$4.95
S A swiftly paced novel with social implications covering
two generations of a family and particularly the conflict over
a will.
- 333.7 THE QUIET CRISIS Udall, Stewart L. Holt \$5.00
U The Secretary of the Interior discusses our natural
environment, its use and abuse, and what has and can be done
to preserve it.
- 595.7 WASP FARM Evans, Howard E. Natural History Press \$3.95
E A fascinating glimpse into the life and ways of the wasp.
- 616.1 YOU CAN PREDICT YOUR HEART ATTACK AND PREVENT IT Gertler, Mernard
G Random House \$4.95
A physician using the latest knowledge based on research
clearly explains coronary heart disease and offers suggestions
as to prevention and care.

- 917 RUNES OF THE NORTH Olson, Sigurd F. Knopf \$4.95
 O A naturalist graphically describes and philosophizes about what he has observed in twenty years of wandering in Minnesota's Quetico-Superior area.
- 928 DOROTHY AND RED Sheean, Vincent Houghton \$6.00
 S An account of the stormy marriage of Dorothy Thompson and Sinclair Lewis as taken from her letters.

YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND SERVICES

MRS. BARBARA DOH, YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S CONSULTANT

SOME RECENT RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- E COWBOY'S SECRET LIFE Anglund, John Harcourt \$2.25 lib. ed. available
 A Cowboy does what other little boys do - but with a difference. While he waits for the schoolbus, a dragon is breathing fire; on a rainy day walk, he is piloting a ship in a storm; and while he watches his goldfish, underwater creatures abound on the ocean floor. For ages 4-6.
- E ALL IN THE MORNING EARLY Leodhas, Sorche N. Illus. by Evaline Ness
 L Holt \$3.50 lib. ed. available
 All in the morning early Sandy is taking corn to the mill when he meets _____. An old Scottish cumulative tale retold with alternating portions in prose and rhyme. Illustrations in dull green, gold and bright blue are gay and whimsical. Format is excellent. For ages 5-8.
- E THE QUARRELING BOOK Zolotow, Charlotte Pictures by Arnold Lobel.
 Z Harper \$1.95 lib. ed. available
 A large moral for such a little book. One morning unpleasantness spreads from one member of the family, travels to school and back home again. But when the chain is unknowingly broken, kindness disperses itself. Lovely light-humored illustrations in black and white. Ages 4-7.
- j398.2 TOLD IN POLAND Haviland, Virginia Illus. by Felix Hoffman Little
 H \$2.95 lib. ed. available
 Another title in this excellent series. For girls from 8-11 the format is inviting (large print, wide margins, attractive illustrations, not too many stories) and the language is excellent, though at the same time quite easy to read.
- j751 COLLECT, PRINT AND PAINT FROM NATURE Hawkinson, John Whitman \$2.95
 H Children from age seven up can learn to print from leaves and stones, spatter paint, paint flowers, etc. The book is slim with clear print and attractive illustrations in color. Instructions are easy to follow and a minimum of materials is required.

y501 DISCOVERING SCIENTIFIC METHOD, WITH SCIENCE PUZZLE PICTURES Ruchlis, Hy
R Harper \$3.95

A sequel to the author's CLEAR THINKING. The book explains the components of the scientific method, how to develop it, and put it to use. Twenty-two puzzle pictures present problems which the reader is encouraged to solve. Solutions are given. Text is extremely readable. For readers twelve and up.

y614 TO SAVE YOUR LIFE Spingarn, Natalie D. Little \$3.95

S The story of developments relating to the U. S. Public Health Service. Each chapter relates the specific incidents leading up to an important discovery affecting health. Journalistic style is enticing and engrossing. For readers twelve and up.

yB I, JESSIE; a biography of the girl who married John Charles Fremont,
F872r famous explorer of the West Little \$3.95

By the same author as I, MARY and I, VARINA. The book is based on Mrs. Fremont's writings and those of her husband. It will provide romance for older girls within the realm of reality.

HEADQUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

CITIZENSHIP BOOKS TO BE AVAILABLE AT LIBRARIES

Miss Jean Connor, Director of Library Extension, has asked public libraries in the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System to cooperate with the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to provide books for adult aliens not attending organized citizenship classes.

Two sets of Federal textbooks on citizenship will be sent to each member library; each set will consist of a literacy reader and a U. S. history and government book. Examination questions are generally taken from the materials used in these two books.

Radio and tv spot announcements telling aliens that these books may be borrowed from their public library are being planned for January to coincide with the Alien Address Report Month of January, a law that requires each alien to report his address to his local Post Office in January.

We urge each member library to cooperate in this important civic program.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual report forms are being sent to all member libraries, along with letters of direction. All reports must be returned to System Headquarters by January 24.

FILM SERVICE

Any requests for films should be addressed to Miss Beverly Marble at System Headquarters.

CHANGES IN BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

In order to reach more readers in the three-county area and to extend bookmobile service at sixty community stops, the 1964 bookmobile schedule has been changed and goes into effect January 7, 1964. Copies of the new schedule are available on either of the two Clinton-Essex-Franklin Bookmobiles.

DELIVERY SCHEDULES FOR 1964

The schedule for delivery and pickup of books at member libraries during 1964 is still on Friday; however, please note a slightly different sequence in schedule. Dates for delivery are:

Library Delivery Schedule No. 1:

Chateaugay
Malone

Lyon Mountain
Dannemora

January 3, 31; February 28; March 27; April 24; May 22; June 19.

Library Delivery Schedule No. 2:

West Chazy
Ellenburg Depot
Moers

Champlain
Rouses Point
Chazy

January 10; February 7; March 6; April 3; May 1, 29; June 26.

Library Delivery Schedule No. 3:

Keene
Keene Valley
Ticonderoga
Crown Point
Westport

Elizabethtown
Wadhams
Essex
Willsboro

January 17; February 14; March 13; April 10; May 8; June 5.

Library Delivery Schedule No. 4:

Tupper Lake
Saranac Lake
Lake Placid
Upper Jay

AuSable Forks
Keeseville
Peru

January 24; February 21; March 20; April 17; May 15; June 12.

Please have any returns picked up and ready for the driver on the Friday he is scheduled to be at your library, along with any of the padded Jiffy Mailing Bags you have received from Headquarters.

STAFF CHANGES

Miss Sheila Denton, typist, has resigned as of December 15, 1963. Miss Clara Pigg has been appointed to fill her position.

MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

Lake Placid Public Library - The Lake Placid Garden Club decorated both the exterior and interior of the library for the Christmas season.

A REMINDER TO MEMBER LIBRARIANS AND THEIR TRUSTEES

As you can see, we have very little news of what is going on in your libraries this month. We depend on you to tell us what is going on in your library. Did you speak at a meeting in your community? Have you a new or special display of books? Rearranging your library? New members of your board of trustees? Whatever your news, we'll be glad to hear about it - and include it in the newsletter. Please send all items to Mary Leggett at Headquarters.

R. Edwin Berry, Director

Mary G. Leggett, Editor