

# NEWS

*from*



CLINTON - ESSEX - FRANKLIN LIBRARY  
PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK

FEBRUARY 1964

- F L A S H -

ALL FRIENDS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES WILL BE HAPPY TO LEARN THAT H. R. 4879 PASSED THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1964. THE BILL WILL AMEND THE LIBRARY SERVICES ACT, INCREASING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES, REGARDLESS OF SIZE. THE SENATE HAD OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED THE BILL ON NOVEMBER 26, 1963. FRIENDS OF THE CLINTON-ESSEX-FRANKLIN LIBRARY WILL WANT TO THANK THEIR AREA'S CONGRESSMEN FOR SUPPORTING THIS FORWARD-THINKING LEGISLATION.

SUPPORTERS OF THE BILL ARE SENATOR JACOB K. JAVITS, NEW YORK CITY; SENATOR KENNETH B. KEATING, ROCHESTER; AND REPRESENTATIVE CARLETON J. KING, SARATOGA SPRINGS, WHO REPRESENTS CLINTON AND ESSEX COUNTIES.

## THE GENTLE ART OF BATHTUB READING

The water was getting cold. Swiftly, with the panther-like agility of long practice, I used the toes on my left foot to turn the hot water on again - never raising my eyes from the new O'Hara novel clutched in my hands.

Recognize the situation, anyone? Those with raised hands, nodding their heads sagely in agreement, do - because they are, as I am, charter members of that devoted if unvocal group known as B T R's (Bath Tub Readers).

Either you are or you are not a B T R! There are no halfway measures. Shower people may look askance at us; quick cold tubbers may lift their eyebrows - but let us leave them to their psychological hairshirtism and relax in the knowledge that we alone are Right-Thinkers.

The outward signs of a B T R are universal. The true B T R gathers up his current book or two, his pack of cigarettes and matches to last the duration, adds perhaps a large cold glass of Coke, and then goes through the house alerting all and sundry to the fact that he intends to Take a Bath. After the tumult and the shouting subside, he then establishes himself in Tub, all his cherished paraphernalia close beside him and well within reach. Then he Soaks and Reads. Hour after blissful hour, he Soaks and Reads. As the water cools, he automatically uses one foot to turn on the hot water

faucet full blast, restoring tub temperature to proper soaking level. In response to muttered threats outside his sanctum, he splashes the water vigorously with his free hand. This indicates Progress and will stall off invaders indefinitely. Under optimum conditions, utilizing all his innate resourcefulness, a good B T R can finish two short novels or a light non-fiction in one bathtub session.

A dedicated B T R has a code of his own and seldom does he waver from his sternly in-directed philosophy of Using All the Hot Water Himself. He has three standard answers to the plaintive pleas of his household - and these three can be expanded as initiative and imagination allow. He is a B T R because:

1. It relaxes his bones. (Since the average dwelling does not include a portable x-ray, this is hard to disprove! Insist that your bones are relaxed and challenge anyone to prove otherwise.)
2. It soothes his nerves. (What it does to the family of a B T R, I shudder to dwell upon, but c'est la vie, and don't let maudlin sentimentality swerve you from your destiny.)
3. It's inexpensive. (This should be used only as a last resort. The enemy may here quote the rising cost of tranquilizers that by now they are gulping like peanuts - so only use this one in desperation.)

I should add at this point that due to the inexorable law of supply and demand, only one B T R can exist in any given household. With more than one, it becomes a struggle for power in which only the hardiest wins the Tub.

Now where's that new book I brought home? And hand me my cigarettes and matches! Attention, everyone - I AM GOING TO TAKE MY BATH!

M. Leggett

## HEADQUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

### DIRECTOR ATTENDS MEETING

Mr. Berry attended a meeting of the Regents' Public Librarian Certification Committee in New York City on Friday, January 24.

### BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED

The Board of Trustees of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, February 8, at 10:00 a.m., in the Board Room at the Plattsburgh Public Library. New officers will be elected at this meeting.

### TRUSTEES REAPPOINTED

A resolution of the Essex County Board of Supervisors reappointed Mrs. Daniel T. Manning as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library for a term of five years through 1968.

A similar resolution of the Clinton County Board of Supervisors reappointed Mr. Wayne Byrne to the Board of Trustees of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library for a five year term through 1968.

### BOOKMOBILE SERVICE SURVEYED

Miss Edith Estabrook, Public Library Consultant, Library Extension Division, visited Headquarters in January to look at C-E-F bookmobile service as part of the state-wide survey into bookmobile service in rural areas. The statistics being compiled will serve as a basis for estimating bookmobile costs.

### LIBRARIANS' MEETING

Meetings for member librarians at Headquarters are being planned for April 6, May 11, June 1, August 3, and October 5. Further details will appear in the March Newsletter.

We would like to ask each of you to check your calendar carefully and arrange to attend all five meetings.

### DIRECTORY FOR 1964 NOW AVAILABLE

The 1964 Directory of Community Services, published by the Council of Community Services of Plattsburgh and Clinton County, lists the system library and most of the member libraries within the county.

This directory is a valuable reference tool for any area library since it gives a great deal of up-to-date information on health, education, welfare and recreational resources in Clinton County. Represented are Municipal, State and Federal Agencies, private agencies, church welfare agencies and any civic or professional groups who report a community service program.

The cost of the 1964 Directory is \$2.00, and a copy may be purchased by writing to:

Council of Community Services  
of Plattsburgh and Clinton County  
Room 5, City Hall  
Plattsburgh, New York.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

There are still a few member librarians who have not yet turned in their annual reports. Since these reports should now be in Albany, we request that those of you who have not yet mailed in reports to Headquarters do so immediately.

## STAFF CHANGES

Mrs. Dorothy Carver, typist, resigned her position at Headquarters, as of January 10, 1964. Mrs. Carver has moved to Baltimore, Maryland.

## MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

### KEESEVILLE FREE LIBRARY

The staff at Headquarters would like to express their sympathy to Mrs. Helga Peterson, librarian at Keeseville Free Library. Her mother, Mrs. Melvina Larson, died January 26.

Keeseville Free Library received a gift of 5,000 book marks from the Northern Insuring Agency.

### LYON MOUNTAIN BRANCH LIBRARY

We would also like to express our sympathy to Mrs. Daniel Gregory, librarian at Lyon Mountain Branch Library, upon the recent death of her husband.

### PLATTSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Plattsburgh Public Library is currently featuring a display of twenty miniature paintings of the American bald eagle. The jewel-size paintings, two inches high and one inch wide, are done by the prominent artist, Steve Kek, who has exhibited both in the United States and abroad. The display is sponsored by the Society to Save Rare American Bird Life.

### DODGE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ROUSES POINT

The Board of Trustees of this library purchased new chairs for the reading room.

The third and fourth grades from St. Patrick's School, Rouses Point, visited the library. Mrs. Arthur Tremblay, librarian, explained the way to use the library and helped the children to apply for library cards.

SARANAC LAKE FREE LIBRARY

This library has added an evening schedule to its regular hours of opening. It will now be open on Friday evenings from seven to nine. The library now offers forty-seven hours of public service each week.

The annual meeting of the Saranac Lake Free Library Association will be held on Monday, February 10, at 8:00 p.m., in the Hotel Saranac. Captain Francis Hillman, President of the Board of Trustees, has announced that in addition to regular annual reports, representatives from the Friends of the Library, the William Chapman White Memorial Fund Committee and the Library Expansion Committee will each give reports on his respective organization.

R. Edwin Berry, Director

M. Leggett, Editor

