

NEWS

from



CLINTON - ESSEX - FRANKLIN LIBRARY
PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK

1964
MAY 1962

Some people read for fun. Others for education. A few consider reading a sort of status symbol and a still smaller group resists it completely. Last of all are those who read because they have to. They are the compulsive readers-- and I am ready to concede publicly that I'm one of them. I haven't any choice. I'm hooked. I've been hooked ever since I first read DICK AND JANE and knew the heady delight of translating the little black squiggles into words.

Reading is my vice. It's also my soporific, my anodyne, my universal panacea. Letters can go unanswered, rain come in the open window, the teakettle boil dry--reading has me blithely oblivious to anything but the intoxication of the printed page.

The habit is insatiable. It feeds upon itself and daily grows more voracious. Nothing slakes its appetite. Skimming through CANARY ISLAND ADVENTURE, I take time out for a second look at A SURFEIT OF HONEY, with a book of short stories nearby for reinforcement. There are so many books to read--and sometimes the knowledge that forever there will be books I haven't read is more than I can bear.

So I fortify myself with living room books, bedroom books, books in the kitchen and the bath: books I have yet to read, books I have partly read, and books whose pages are as familiar as old friends. Still the horrible possibility of somehow running out of things to read looms as a threat to my equanimity. And while I prefer to be selective, I must unblushingly admit that, in a pinch, anything is grist to my mill. I have read the wrappers on cough syrup; and once, in quiet desperation, the label on a can of cleanser.

I recognized my addiction for what it was that night in a motel room when I realized too late that I had forgotten to bring with me something to read. My toothbrush was in my bag; likewise my nightgown. But no book! Grimly and methodically I searched the room which yielded only a water tumbler, chastely enveloped in a printed paper. Simply and starkly it stated: THIS GLASS SANI-WRAPPED FOR YOUR PROTECTION. I read it twice; it did not satisfy. Ransacking my handbag produced an elderly laundry list which gave me temporary relief. Driven by my demon, I rooted still further in the depths of my handbag and at long last struck pay dirt--a folder of instructions some unknown benefactor had tenderly tucked around my aspirin bottle. And only then, with gratitude and quiet concentration, could I read myself to sleep.

Mary Leggett

ADULT BOOKS AND SERVICES

ANTHONY F. VECCHIO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

There are too many mediocre historical novels being written nowadays. For a superior example of the genre, take Virgil Scott's I, JOHN MORDAUNT, which combines an authentic picture of the period of the struggle between Charles II and Cromwell with an excitingly told story of the adventures and misadventures of John Mordaunt, innocently implicated in a conspiracy plot.

A revised edition of Alan Bullock's HITLER: A STUDY IN TYRANNY has just appeared. It reflects the new documentary findings and the changes in historical perspective of the past eleven years since the first edition. An authoritative historical treatise, it has the added and rare virtue of being interesting reading as well. Deemed by many to be superior to Shirer's RISE AND FALL OF THE THIRD REICH, it should be considered for first purchase for that historical period.

Although there are many books on Greek history, the publication of FROM THE SILENT EARTH, A REPORT ON THE GREEK BRONZE AGE, by Joseph Alsop, the well-known syndicated columnist, can be justified. The author knows his subject and threads his way through many scholarly theories, making stimulating speculation as he goes. As Mary Renault (author of those brilliant novels on the period, THE KING MUST DIE and THE BULL FROM THE SEA) puts it, "Nothing so enthralling and enlightening has been written for the layman yet."

Men will probably like Ellis Lucia's swiftly-paced TOUGH MEN, TOUGH COUNTRY, seventeen true stories about frontier days, Indian wars, cattle kings, outlaws and vigilantes, forest fires, grizzly bears, etc. in the Pacific Northwest. Well-illustrated.

The books by and about our new President continue to appear. One of the latest, useful for those who wish to learn about President Johnson's views on national and international issues, is a collection of his speeches made from 1953-1964, A TIME FOR ACTION.

If you have any questions about hunting and fishing, you may want to receive, free, a copy of the NEW YORK STATE FISH AND GAME LAW. Write for it to: The New York State Library, Gift and Exchange Section, Albany, New York 12224.

F	Scott, Virgil	I, JOHN MORDAUNT	Harcourt \$6.95
S			
308	Johnson, Lyndon B.	A TIME FOR ACTION	Atheneum \$3.95
J			
333.7	New York (State)	THE FISH AND GAME LAW	(Free)
N	Laws, Statutes, etc.		
913.39	Alsop, Joseph	FROM THE SILENT EARTH, A REPORT ON THE GREEK BRONZE AGE	Harper \$6.95
A			
917.95	Lucia, Ellis	TOUGH MEN, TOUGH COUNTRY	Prentice \$6.95
L			
B	Bullock, Alan	HITLER: A STUDY IN TYRANNY	Rev. Ed. Harper \$8.95
H6755b			

A NOTE TO MEMBER LIBRARIANS:

Now that spring is here, I am about to start visiting member libraries on what I hope will be a regular schedule.

I would like to get to know you better and to familiarize myself with anything having to do with adult services, such as the book collections, readers' guidance, etc.

It will also be an opportunity for you to discuss with me how the system can improve its service to you.

Anthony Vecchio

Y O U N G A D U L T A N D C H I L D R E N ' S B O O K S A N D S E R V I C E S

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

E	Greene, Carla	DOCTORS AND NURSES, WHAT DO THEY DO?	Illus. by Leonard Kessler Harper 1963 \$1.95 lib. ed. available
G			
E	Greene, Carla	SOLDIERS AND SAILORS, WHAT DO THEY DO?	Illus. by Leonard Kessler Harper 1963 \$1.95 lib. ed. available
G			

These "I Can Read Books" for beginning readers explain in simplified fashion what doctors and nurses do--and what people in the armed services do. A picture glossary defines the terms used in each book. Colorful illustrations. For ages 5 - 8.

E Nodset, Joan GO AWAY, DOG Pictures by Crosby Bonsall
N Harper 1963 Lib. ed. available

Jimmy's Uncle George gives him a dog. At first, Jimmy says, "Go away, you bad old dog. I don't like you, dog." But little by little, the dog wins Jimmy's heart. This is a small book with illustrations in orange and black and just a few lines of text on each page. For ages 3 - 6.

E Parish, Peggy AMELIA BEDELIA Pictures by Fritz Siebel
P Harper 1963 Lib. ed. available

Children will find this story of Amelia Bedelia's first day as "maid-of-all-work" very funny--for she consistently misunderstands the instructions left for her by Mrs. Rogers. She literally dresses the chicken, dusts the furniture, and draws the drapes...in a clever play on words. For ages 5 - 7.

E Sendak, Maurice WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE Harper 1963 \$2.95
S Lib. ed. available

The plot of this Caldecott medal winner was described in the April newsletter. The design of this book is excellent--with the text carefully unified with illustrations in subdued colors of the fantastic, bizarre creatures of Max's imagination.

jF Friedman, Frieda ELLEN AND THE GANG Morrow 1963 \$2.95
F

The locale is New York City. Ellen, whose father is an elevator operator, lives in a housing project. She is the middle one in her family--with a bright older brother and a talented younger sister. Ellen gets inadvertently involved with a group of older teen-agers who steal from a candy store. This is the story of how Ellen discovers herself. A good choice for fifth and sixth grade girls who have finished little girl stories but are not yet ready for teen-age novels.

j973.7 Catton, Bruce THIS HALLOWED GROUND, THE STORY OF THE
C UNION SIDE OF THE CIVIL WAR Doubleday
1962 \$4.95

This special edition for young readers is prepared by Rutledge Books. Catton employs his usual straightforward narrative technique--involving the reader in the sound and fury of the war. Paintings, lithographs and photographs of the period illustrate the book. For ages 11 - 15.

JUNE LIBRARIANS' MEETING

The June 1 librarians' meeting will be held in the auditorium of Plattsburgh Public Library at ten in the morning. Mr. Vecchio and Mrs. Doh will discuss weeding the book collection. If you have problems in this area, the System consultants will be glad to talk with you about them.

BOOK SELECTION MEETING

The April 6 librarians' meeting was held in the auditorium of Plattsburgh Public Library. Mr. Vecchio, Mrs. Doh, and Mrs. Leggett talked about book selection and ordering. Present were: Mrs. Paul Maicus, AuSable Forks Library; Mrs. Daniel Gregory, Lyon Mountain Branch Library; Mrs. Henry Kurtenbach, Elizabethtown Library Association; Mrs. Paul E. Vogan, Mooers Free Library; Mrs. E. C. Morton, Black Watch Memorial Library, Ticonderoga; Mrs. Rolland E. Mason, Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro; Mrs. Frank Peterson, Keeseville Free Library; Mrs. Arthur Tremblay, Dodge Memorial Library, Rouses Point; Mrs. William H. Isham, Keene Valley Library Association; Mrs. David J. Harrison, Champlain Free Library; Miss Madella Buck, Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay; Mrs. David Minnich, Harrison Junior High School, Malone; and Mr. David Minnich, Wead Library, Malone.

DIRECTOR SPEAKS TO TUESDAY CLUB

Mr. Berry was the guest speaker at the April 21 meeting of the Tuesday Club, held at the Methodist Church in Plattsburgh. Miss Elizabeth Gilliland is president of this organization of area women. Mrs. Daniel Webster, Sr., introduced Mr. Berry, who spoke about the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library and its role in the development of public library service in the three-county section of New York State.

MRS. DOH SPEAKER AT PTA MEETING

Mrs. Barbara Doh, system young adult and children's consultant, and Mrs. Lucy Whit, librarian at Morrisonville-Saranac School, spoke about reading guidance at the April 6 meeting of the Morrisonville-Saranac Parent-Teacher Association. They also discussed public libraries and school libraries, their purpose and use, and how each complements the other.

MICROFILM ADDED TO CENTRAL LIBRARY

All of us who are interested in area history will want to know that micro-filmed copies of an old Clinton County newspaper, the PLATTSBURGH SENTINEL, are now on microfilm and have been added to the Plattsburgh Public Library, the Central Library for the system. With the exception of the years 1905 to 1907, which are not yet filmed, the issues run from January 18, 1855, to March 31, 1931.

STORY HOUR ON TELEVISION

Mrs. Doh presented a story-telling program on Plattsburgh television station, W P T Z, on Wednesday, April 15. Mrs. Doh told ALL IN THE MORNING EARLY, by Sorche Nic Leodhas, to Betsy Schoof, Jeff Sheats, Stuart Light, Gillian Fuller, and Allison Doh. Mr. Bird Berdan, program director, and Mrs. Doh also talked briefly about picture stories with the children. Mrs. Doh gave a short list of suggested books for parents to read to their children.

STAFF CHANGES

Mrs. Grace E. Courtney has joined the Headquarters staff as bookmobile senior clerk, replacing Mr. Otis McDonald, who has resigned.

CHAPTER FORMED FOR PLATTSBURGH CELEBRATION

Members of the staff of both Plattsburgh Public Library and System Headquarters have organized a chapter of the Celebration Belles, as part of community effort to promote the 1964 Plattsburgh Sesqui-Centennial Celebration planned for this summer.

The chapter is named the BELLES LETTRES. Officers are Jane Llewellyn, President; Jean McIver, Secretary; Clara Pigg, Treasurer; and Mary Leggett, Board of Governors Representative. Other members are: Emma Walter, Laura Ingalls, Rita Prunier, Alice Hood, Mary Ann Walter, and Joan Rollier from Plattsburgh Public Library; and Barbara Doh, Anne Mitchell, Madge Mehan, Marie Chauvin, Ruth Day, Estelle Mertens, and Rose Waddell from Headquarters.

We also have two Bearded Brothers of the Brush at Headquarters: Mr. Vecchio and Mr. Berry, who both sport magnificent hirsute adornments.

MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

AUSABLE FORKS LIBRARY

Two displays have been featured at this library: a 4-H exhibit, done by the AuSable Echo Unit; and an exhibit of books on gardening, home decoration, sewing, etc., all built around a spring-time theme.

Mrs. Nona Fleming has donated a large, framed needlework picture to be raffled off for the benefit of the library.

KEENE VALLEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

A new stereo record player was given to this library in memory of the late Mrs. George Dominick, who had been a summer visitor in Keene Valley for many years.

PLATTSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Two displays are currently being shown at this library. One is an exhibit of photographs of men who were important in area history--and all have beards. A book on beards accompanies this exhibit.

The other display contains antique mustache cups, shaving mugs and razors. Both exhibits are planned as part of the Plattsburgh Sesqui-Centennial Celebration, since the committee in charge of the celebration has urged all local gentlemen to grow beards for the occasion.

SARANAC LAKE FREE LIBRARY

As part of its celebration of National Library Week, this library held an Open House on Friday, April 17. Mrs. Worthington, the librarian, arranged special exhibits for the week, among which were books from the Robert Louis Stevenson collection.

The library received a \$500 bequest from the estate of the late Dorothy Wilson in memory of Marion B. Frazier.

A series of articles will be written by members of the Board of Trustees of the library. Mr. John Duquette, president of the board, will write the first article about the Adirondack Collection.

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R. Edwin Berry, Director
Mary Leggett, Editor