

NEWS

from



CLINTON - ESSEX - FRANKLIN LIBRARY
PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK

OCTOBER 1964

NEW WAYS AND HOW TO COMBAT THEM: A GUIDE TO THE STATUS QUO

It takes effort not to change. And in ensuring that your placid, little niche remains undisturbed by contemporary thinking and/or progress, it's essential to remember the ground rules. After all, you can't enjoy the game without a program.

Culling the results of our observations of experts in the art of staying static, we note that certain basic principles seem to be indispensable.

If you've happily been doing things in one way for years, make sure that everyone realizes that yours is not just the right way: it's the only way. Don't consider alternatives. If they are suggested, dismiss them immediately and certainly don't try them out. They might be better and then where would you be?

Imply that people who would alter current procedures are heretics and should be dealt with accordingly. Don't let them toy with what is traditional and therefore right. The names of your predecessors who established these traditions can, at this point, be invoked as lesser saints.

Make a fetish out of details, and omit the fact that some of them are unnecessary. Nothing impresses more than ritual, even when it's useless.

Don't pay any attention to the world outside your door. Ignore it and maybe it will go away. You can always push your head a little deeper in the sand. Make no adjustment to demands; let others adjust to your rules and routine. If they are foolish enough to demur, remind them sharply that you know best.

Above all, never admit that you are fallible. Be right even when you're wrong. This causes confusion - and when the dust of dissension settles, you're still safely in the same old rut.

We're being facetious, of course. No library ever wants to be stagnant, and librarians, as a whole, are far too aware of the truth of the Red Queen's statement that "it takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place."

Mary G. Leggett

A D U L T B O O K S A N D S E R V I C E S

ANTHONY F. VECCHIO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Those who read and were impressed by Ken Kesey's first novel, ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST, two years ago may have wondered if he, like so many, might turn out to be a one-book author. Such fears are laid to rest with the appearance of SOMETIMES A GREAT NOTION, a big, forceful book about the tough Stampfer family in the logging country of Oregon.

If you have a chronic shortage of good science fiction titles, here is an opportunity to acquire six-in-one. A CENTURY OF SHORT SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS, edited by Damon Knight, includes Stevenson's STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE; H.G. Well's THE INVISIBLE MAN; Karl Capek's THE ABSOLUTE LARGE; Robert Heinlein's GULF; T.L. Sherred's E FOR EFFORT; and Richard McKenna's HUNTER, COME HOME.

One of the best and least expensive works on the Federal Government is the U.S. Government Organization Manual. It lists all of the agencies of the three branches, describes their make-up and functions, gives the names of present office-holders and supplies other useful, related information. The 1964-65 edition may be purchased for \$1.75. Address orders and checks directly to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

While we may not be willing to go back to the witch doctor for medical care, it is interesting to see the increasing recognition being given to some of the traditional methods of treatment. A case in point is the current investigation of some of the medicinal properties of plants. In GREEN MEDICINE, Margaret B. Kreig tells the story of the hunt for these plants which lead to such places as the jungles of the Amazon and Equatorial Africa.

The best way, I suppose, to learn about something is through direct experience and observation. If you want to know about gorillas, you might want to emulate Tarzan and go swinging through the trees, or, more prosaically, you might choose to live amongst them and observe them carefully as George B. Schaller did in THE YEAR OF THE GORILLA. Farley Mowat did the same thing with wolves in NEVER CRY WOLF. There are limitations, of course. As yet no one has done so with rattlesnakes or grizzly bears. One of the latest such investigations is Leonard La Rue's WORLD OF THE BEAVER - not so exotic or dangerous, perhaps, but interesting withal.

Every so often a book appears which makes a strong impact and influences the course of future events. Rachel Carson's SILENT SPRING which dealt with the dangers inherent in the use of pesticides was such a book. On the governmental level, legislation and regulation have been affected. Another response is exemplified by the appearance of such books as GARDENING WITHOUT POISONS by Beatrice Trum Hunter. In it, the author attempts to help the individual make his own contribution to dealing with the problem by suggesting alternative methods to the use of pesticides.

Before he died in 1962, Vilhjalmur Stefansson was able to close his literary career with his autobiography, DISCOVERY, just published recently.

Best known for his Arctic explorations, he lived a full life, the adventurous quality of which comes through to the reader.

F K	Kesey, Ken	SOMETIMES A GREAT NOTION Viking, 1964	7.50
F K	Knight, Damon	A CENTURY OF SHORT SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS Delacourte, 1964	4.95
353 U		U.S. GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION MANUAL, 1964- 65. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1964	1.75
581.6 K	Kreig, Margaret B	GREEN MEDICINE; THE SEARCH FOR PL THAT HEAL Rand McNally, 1964	5.95
599 R	Rue, Leonard L	THE WORLD OF THE BEAVER Lippincott	1964 4.95
632 H	Hunter, Beatrice T	GARDENING WITHOUT POISONS Houghton	1964 5.00
B S8162s	Stefansson, Vilhjalmur	DISCOVERY McGraw, 1964	6.50

CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION

On September 3, 1964, Congress passed an appropriation bill containing \$55 million dollars for the Library Services and Construction Act for the 1964-65 fiscal year. \$25 million for library services and \$30 million for construction grants are included in this bill. It is estimated that New York State will receive about \$2 million for services and \$2 1/2 million for construction.

HEADQUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

DIRECTOR ATTENDS ALBANY MEETING

Mr. R. Edwin Berry, Director of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library, attended a meeting of the Public Librarians Certification Committee of the New York State Board of Regents in Albany, September 25.

SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES HOLDS MEETING

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library was held in Plattsburgh on Saturday, September 12. The board has provided funds for all professional librarians employed by Headquarters to attend the New York Library Association convention in New York City, October 6-10.

Present were Mrs. Daniel T. Manning, Sr., AuSable Forks; Mr. Paul Vogan, Mooers; Mr. Wayne Byrne, Plattsburgh; Mrs. Lincoln Barnett, Westport; Mr. Claude Clark, Bloomingdale; Mr. Richard W. Lawrence, Jr., Elizabethtown; Mr. W. Hustace

Hubbard, Elizabethtown; Mrs. A. J. Hecht, Plattsburgh; Miss Margaret Richards, Brushton; Mr. William A. Harvey, Saranac Lake; Mrs. Allan Everest, Plattsburgh; and Mr. John Stock, Tupper Lake.

Mr. Stock has been appointed to the Board of Trustees to replace Miss Grace L. McCarthy, who had resigned in August.

Mr. Berry, Miss Marian Vedder, Associate Library Supervisor, Library Extension Division; and Mr. Allan Sevigny, Public Library Consultant, Library Extension Division, also attended this meeting. Mr. Sevigny will replace Miss Vedder as consultant to this area.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held Thursday, October 15, at 5 0'clock.

OCTOBER LIBRARIANS' MEETING

The fall librarians' meeting will be held in the auditorium of Plattsburgh Public Library on Monday, October 5 at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Barbara Doh, Young Adult and Children's Consultant, will present a reading-aloud demonstration of children's stories and will discuss techniques and planning for children's programs. We urge all librarians and trustees to attend this meeting.

Mrs. Doh will also distribute at this meeting posters and bookmarks for Children's Book Week. Designed by the Children's Book Council, these posters and bookmarks should help librarians to plan for this November event.

STAFF MEMBERS ATTEND CLA MEETING

Mrs. Rose Waddell and Mrs. Leggett attended the fall meeting of the diocesan unit of the Catholic Library Association held at the Hepburn School of Nursing, Ogdensburg, New York, on Saturday, September 26.

Guest speaker was Dr. Charles Lahey, Professor of History at Potsdam State University College. Dr. Lahey spoke on the character of the North Country and the historical influences upon it.

In the afternoon members visited the new library at Wadhams Hall Seminary, Ogdensburg.

OCTOBER TELEVISION PROGRAM

Mrs. Doh will present another in her television series for children on Thursday, October 1, at 1.40 p.m., as part of WPTZ's program, ON THE LOCAL SCENE. Mrs. Doh will read Jack Tworikov's amusing story, THE CAMEL WHO TOOK A WALK.

STAFF VISITS MEMBER LIBRARIES

Mr. Vecchio, Adult Consultant, visited AuSable Forks Library on September 1; Keeseville Free Library on September 9; and on September 26, Wells Memorial

Library, Upper Jay; Keene Public Library and Wadhams Free Library.

Mrs. Doh and Mrs. Leggett went to Dodge Library, West Chazy; Chazy Public Library; and Peru Free Library on September 17. On September 28, they called at Dannemora Free Library and the Lyon Mountain Branch of the Dannemora Free Library.

NEW BOOK ON ADIRONDACKS PUBLISHED

Area librarians and readers will be interested in a new book on the Adirondacks. THE ADIRONDACK READER, by Paul F. Jamieson, is an excellently designed anthology of folklore and fact about the Adirondacks. Dr. Jamieson, who is a professor of English at St. Lawrence University, is an expert on the region. Not only has he written many articles about the Adirondacks, he is also an Adirondack Forty-Sixer.

In the preface to his book, Dr. Jamieson mentions two area librarians who helped his research for material: Mrs. Ruth Worthington, Librarian at Saranac Lake Free Library, and Mrs. Blanche Isham, Librarian at Keene Valley Library Association. He also mentions Mr. Maitland De Sormo of Tarrytown. Mr. De Sormo spoke at the August librarians' meeting. Some of the photographs from Mr. De Sormo's extensive collection of Stoddard photographs are used to illustrate this valuable addition to books about our own Adirondacks.

IDENTIFICATION PROBLEM IN MEMBER LIBRARY BOOKS

Occasionally books belonging to member libraries are returned to Headquarters by mistake. Since some libraries do not have any identifying mark on their books, we then have difficulty trying to guess where they belong. It would be extremely helpful if librarians would make it a rule to stamp somewhere upon their own library's books the name of that library. This would ensure prompt return to them of any of their books that come into Headquarters or to the bookmobiles.

STAFF CHANGES

Mrs. Elaine Steel has resigned from her position as typist at Headquarters and will be leaving soon to make her home in California.

MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

TUPPER LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Patrons of this library have found an interesting and unusual display featured at this library. Miss Louise A. Carson and Mrs. A.W.W. Kyle of Lake Placid have loaned their large collection of the work of native craftsmen, a collection they acquired during many visits to India.

Miss Carson and Mrs. Kyle also presented the library with a copy of Welthy H. Fisher's TO LIGHT A CANDLE, the story of her years in India.

DODGE LIBRARY, WEST CHAZY

Mr. Duane Dewan has resigned from the Board of Trustees of this library, as of September 15.

Mr. David Miller has been appointed to the board as its fifth member.

R. Edwin Berry, Director

Mary G. Leggett, Editor

