November, 1970

FALL LIBRARIANS' MEETING

The CEF Library had its fall librarians' meeting at the CEF headquarters building on October 19. During the program, Mr. Starke presented the new slide-lending program which we plan to institute in the near future. This was followed by a presentation and discussion of the report of the Commissioner of Education's Committee on Library Development. This period included a discussion of the implications of the report, especially concerning library service to children. Unfortunately, however, time got the better of us and we were unable to discuss the report to the extent that we would have liked. The suggestion was made that librarians who could do so would find it very interesting to go to NYLA in New York Nov. 11-14 where this report will be highlighted.

For those who did not make it to the slide presentation, we will be shortly beginning a slide circulation experiment. We have recently acquired over 7,000 travel slides which will be placed in about 400 sleeves. Individual sleeves of slides will be circulated as a unit. We have slides from 49 of the 50 states and a fairly good collection of foreign countries as well. Member libraries who are interested in receiving a collection of these slides should contact us as soon as possible and let us know definitely that they want these. Just a post card note will be sufficient. We will then divide the sleeves among the interested libraries and the two bookmobiles. Only a very few slides will be kept here at headquarters.

NEW MEDIA

This is the age of multi-media. This whole idea is both challenging and scary to librarians. Many times, librarians will feel that they ought to be circulating several of these media, but they are just not sure how to go about it. We will, therefore, from time to time throw out some ideas, some positive and some negative, as food for thought.

First, some general thoughts and considerations which should be taken into account before any new medium is attempted:

1. Who will use this medium? Are we trying to reach children, young adults, adults, senior citizens, handicapped, non-library users, etc.?

2. Where will this medium be used? Is this service to be used primarily in the library or in the home?

3. Who will supply the necessary hardware? Most media require special machines of one kind or another to make them work. Will this machine be provided by the patron or by the library? Will the patron be able to use any library-provided hardware without much assistance?
4. What is the purpose of this medium as used in our library? Are we trying to provide a casual interest center which is of value primarily for recreational purposes and incidentally also for education? Or is our main aim education? In this respect we are asking the same questions whether we are adding a hot rod magazine, fish tank, or a movie nook.

5. Space must be considered. How much space will this medium require? Where? Slides kept in a back room and requested from lists or a card catalog may be easier to handle, space-wise, than an open shelf phonograph collection with three record players and an earphone setup.

6. How much maintenance will be required? If machines are needed, how often are they likely to break down, and when they do, who will fix them? Also, how long will the "software" (slides, cassettes, records, etc.) itself last?

7. To what extent will this medium interfere with or add to traditional library functions? A movie corner may bring in young people, and in turn they may learn to feel at home in the library. This is a commendable goal. But the movie corner may also be noisy both due to the machines and the users. This could easily disturb serious patrons using reference materials.

8. How much is needed to make the project useful? Will the initial investment be worthwhile even if you would be unable to add to it later? Sometimes gadgets come and go, but they don't become generally accepted. In general, if the medium is new, the initial purchase should be worthwhile by itself. It would then pay for itself regardless of future developments.

9. Finally, cost must be considered. This does not mean the cost of an individual item. Rather, the problem is how much it will cost to make this medium a worthwhile service which will fulfill the goals intended. Cost must be figured not only for the initial investment into a medium, but also for future expenses, if necessary. If a cassette player is purchased with only a few cassettes, it will likely soon lose its appeal. If you cannot plan on future purchases of cassettes, this will soon be forgotten. On the other hand, if a small collection will be quite useful by itself, even if nothing is ever added, then only the cost of the small collection need be considered. In that case, anything added later could be considered an added bonus. Cost must also be considered in staff time in handling special details. This is especially important in larger libraries where more people have to be trained. However, it also affects the small libraries somewhat.

The above considerations, when applicable, should be taken into account before anything new is added to a library. In future issues, we plan to apply these considerations to specific media such as cassettes, recordings, slides, and filmstrips.

H.R.S.

NYLA

The New York Library Association is the professional association which most closely meets the needs of our local area. Your editor, who has been asked to be local membership chairman, highly recommends that local librarians join up now. New members who join now will have their membership extended through all of 1971, so you will receive two bonus months of membership. Three sections are of particular interest to our public librarians: Adult Services, Childrens and Young Adult Services, and Resources and Technical Services. You need NYLA to keep abreast of what is going on, and NYLA needs you to represent our area. Inquiries may be addressed to Hugh Starke at OBF headquarters.
If you wish to attend the NYLA Convention in New York Nov. 11-13, we expect to have room in our car for one more. We will be leaving Plattsburgh about 7:30 a.m. to arrive about mid-afternoon Nov. 11. We will return leaving Sat. AM. Please call Mr. Starke at CEF headquarters if you are interested. First come, first served. This could be a great opportunity for a member librarian to share her experiences and problems with other librarians in the state.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

Children's Book Week this year will be from Nov. 15-21. This might be a good time for a special story hour or some other special event. The CEF film library has more than two dozen children's films which could be used as a program highlight.

NEWS FROM CEF

The August 3 annual meeting of the librarians and trustees of the CEF libraries was held at the Royal Savage Inn in Plattsburgh. The meeting was well attended. The keynote address was given by Dr. George R. Marshall who spoke on the World Game. His address was well received and triggered an unusual response from those present. Everyone went home with some new concepts to ponder.

Dr. Marshall was also interviewed on WPTZ with Paula Twells and on WKDR radio.

In the very near future we plan to publish a new updated edition of our film catalog. These catalogs will be available free-for-the-asking for distribution to local churches, organizations, clubs, neighborhood groups, etc. Please let us know as soon as possible how many of these you will need so we can plan for your needs when we print the catalogs. Requests should be addressed to Marie Chauvin at CEF headquarters.

Rose Waddell took an interesting credit course on audio-visual techniques in Albany during July. She found the course to be stimulating and thought-provoking.

Mr. Starke had the privilege of attending an audio-visual conference in Yonkers on Sept. 21-23. This conference was attended by some 80 key persons in audio-visual and library work throughout the state. The audio-visual services of several library systems were discussed. Several film producers presented and discussed their work; including Ed Emschwiller, Tom DeWitt, and Mort Silverman. Media, such as cassettes (including duplicating equipment), super 8mm film, sculpture, and EVR (electronic video recording) were demonstrated. Eric Larrabee, the recently appointed executive director of the New York State Council on the Arts, described the work of the council in furthering the arts in New York State. But one of the best features of the conference was the opportunity to discuss common media problems with media specialists from other systems and on the state level. This form of give-and-take was most beneficial to all.

Rose Waddell and John Crager visited the Crown Point, Wadhams and Ticonderoga libraries; Dick Ward visited Houses Point; and Hugh Starke visited Ausable Forks, Dannemora, Essex, Lyon Mountain, and Willsboro recently. We appreciate and enjoy this opportunity to meet with member librarians in their libraries. Meanwhile, between visits please feel free to call upon us here at headquarters if we may be able to assist you in any way.

OBITUARIES

Miss Louisa Merritt, former librarian of the Wead Library in Malone, died Friday July 17. Miss Merritt had served the Wead Library for almost 50 years until her retirement in 1957.
Mrs. Daniel Gregory, Librarian at the Lyon Mountain Branch of the Dannemora Free Library, died on Monday, October 12, after a brief illness. 

Mrs. Gregory had been a member librarian since the beginning of the library system in 1954. She was very conscious of the need for books by people in her community and many times came to the CEF Headquarters at her own expense to select books for them. She rarely missed a librarians' meeting and was well-known by every member of the staff. She will be missed.

W. Hustace Hubbard died at his home in Elizabethtown on Sept. 23. He was a friend of libraries, having served as trustee of the Elizabethtown Library and as a charter trustee of what is now the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library. He served both libraries with distinction for many years. As a community leader in many ways, he will be remembered by many.

NEWS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

DANNEBORA

A summer reading program, called the "Out of this World" Club, was held for children who completed grades 1-6. During the eight week program, each child who read five or more books on his level was given a certificate.

ESSEX

The recent food sale to benefit the library was a great success...The library has been the recipient of a number of useful book donations and also a "programme" to dramatic exercises held for the benefit of the library in 1875.

KEENE VALLEY

The Keene Valley Library had its usual successful program of Monday evening slide talks during the summer. Programs included such interesting places as Hawaii, Thailand, Persia, Turkey, and the Grand Canyon. What makes these programs especially interesting is the fact that the traveler himself describes the trip.

KEESEVILLE

A six-week summer reading program was held for the elementary grades. Those reading six books or more were awarded diplomas. 62 enrolled and 38 received diplomas. A party was given at the end of the program.

LAKE PLACID

The Florence Lamb Memorial Fund has been used to buy several pieces of equipment including a new bulletin board for the children's room, and a new magazine rack and two new book stacks were added to the adult section of the library.

MALONE

The Mamie Eisenhower Memorial Library collection was increased by the receipt of Harvey Barnard's book Rutherford B. Hayes and his America, donated by the Malone Women's Republican Club. The book is significant because the Vice-President under President Hayes, William A. Wheeler, lived across the street from the present library...The Louisa A. Merritt Memorial Book Fund was established in honor of the late Librarian of the Wead Library...The library is now open for its winter hours Mon.-Sat. 12-5 and 6-9.
PLATTSBURGH

Plans for the new extension of Plattsburgh Public Library are well under way. Virtually every area of service will be improved. John McAvin and Jacqueline Enequist from Albany came up to assist in the planning... Pre-school story hours are now being held on Thursdays... The library is now open three evenings a week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

SARANAC LAKE

The community room has been its usual bustle of activity. In recent months this room has seen children's film programs, an art exhibit, and a book sale and fair which netted over $1000 sponsored by the Friends of the Library. There has also been an interesting display of glass insulators and soapstone carvings in the display case... The Adirondack Collection is continuing to grow. Many items including paintings, pictures, pamphlets, and film were donated during the summer... Joseph Harley has donated both time and AV equipment to assist the library in making its old Adirondack films available.

TUPPER LAKE

The library is looking forward to a future building; the library is acquiring the town hall site... A 140-year old map of Franklin County drawn by David H. Burr has recently been donated to the library... A summer reading program was conducted at the library for children beginning school this year... An original oil painting by Virginia Snyder called "Bend in the Raquette" was donated by the artist. It is now hanging in the library.

We hope to publish a holiday issue of our newsletter with emphasis on what the libraries in our area are planning for the holiday season. However, we must first hear about your plans. Please send news of your scheduled holiday special events by Dec. 1 to Hugh Starke at headquarters.

We also need more general news from libraries. Some of you have help from local newspapers which we check for news items of interest. However, many of you will have to send items directly. If we have no news, we can't print it.

Anthony F. Vecchio, Director
H. Starke, editor