December 1974

Oh hark the herald angels sing
Of goodies that the publishers bring:
Their offerings to the market place,
Great books that time will swift erase,
And next year on remainder shelves
Be picked for gifts by ersatz elves.
Merry Christmas!

Oh there's Norton, Macmillan, and Arco and Crown,
And no matter where you may look -
The best gift of all time (to quote old G. Stein)
Is a book is a book is a book!

Mary Leggett

CHRISTMAS - 1974

Sing ho for Random and Little and Brown
And the gay Christmas gift of a fable
For an erudite kid, and for Uncle Sid
A twenty-five dollar book for his table:
Too heavy to lift, opened under duress,
A book not for reading but used to impress.
Merry Christmas!

Ring out, wild bells, for Lyle Stuart and Knopf,
And unexpurgated manuals on sex,
For both the beginner and versatile sinner
Solves the question of what to do next:
They run the whole gamut from Z back to A
And are usually greeted with shouts of "Hurray!"
Merry Christmas!

Dick Ward of Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library watches Joan Bell trim the Christmas Tree.
PUBLIC RELATIONS WORKSHOP AT HEADQUARTERS

Over sixty trustees and librarians were a very enthusiastic audience for an all day workshop on library public relations at System Headquarters on Wednesday, November 20. Betty Rice, President of Betty Rice Associates and also a member of the faculty of Long Island University's Palmer Graduate Library School, was the speaker.

Mrs. Rice spoke of the dynamics of good library public relations and the necessity for librarians to be sensitive to the barometric shifts in public needs and desires. She also stressed the importance of being aware of changes in population growth and decline, of changes in the composition of population, and emphasized that the librarian must have the ability to change when change is indicated. Total lack of progress in a library is death. Humorous and witty, she pointed out that dinosaurs were both slow-moving and inflexible - and disappeared from the face of the earth - and urged librarians not to emulate them. Since a library should be an active, viable part of each community, it is up to librarians and trustees to see that their library fills this role.

After lunch, the workshop participants divided into two groups. One group listened to Mrs. Rice discuss exhibits and displays; the other heard Mr. Ransom talk about special programs that could involve the entire community. It was noted that displays and exhibits provide a peg on which to hang publicity as well as increasing the interplay of the community with the library. Each group had the opportunity to hear both sessions.

Copies of Mrs. Rice's book "Public relations for Public Libraries" were given to each librarian. The consensus at the end of the day was that this was one of the most successful workshops they had ever attended and most were anxious to go back to their libraries and put some of the ideas they had heard about into practice.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Our director has spent a busy month visiting member libraries in Ticonderoga, Crown Point, Chazy, West Chazy, Keene, Keene Valley, Lake Placid, Lyon Mountain, Dannemora, Upper Jay and Elizabethtown. He also talked with Mrs. Considine, Miss C. Eleanor Hall and Mrs. Kathleen Brooks at the Port Henry library.

On November 12, Mr. Ransom met with the board of trustees of Wead Library, Malone, and then attended an author's book-signing party at that library for Maitland DeSorno, whose latest book, HEY DAYS OF THE ADIRONDACKS, was just published.

On November 18, Mr. Ransom appeared at a meeting of the Essex County Board of Supervisors to request $10,000 in additional revenue sharing funds to be distributed among libraries in Essex County. Mrs. Daniel Manning, Sr., Mrs. Elmore Edmonds, Mrs. James Rogers, and Mrs. Donald Smith, all Clinton-Essex-Franklin trustees from Essex County, also spoke to the supervisors in favor of this proposal.

A request for additional revenue sharing funds was turned down by the Clinton County Board of Legislators. Such funds would have benefited Plattsburgh Public Library as well as other libraries in the county.

DIRECTOR ATTENDS ARCHIVES CONFERENCE

Stanley and Dorothy Ransom attended the Fall meeting of the Long Island Archives Conference at C.W. Post College on November 16th. The objectives of the Conference are to promote the development, recording and preservation of manuscript, historical document and archival resources of Long Island; to develop lists and finding aids; to sponsor the exchange of information and communication through workshops and conferences and to cooperate with local, regional and national organizations with similar objectives.

Among the workshop programs were "Arrangement and Description of Manuscripts and Archives", "Handling Non-Manuscript Printed Materials", and programs on the function of the public library in collecting, preserving and supervising use of local historical collections. Edward J. Smits, Director of the Nassau County Museum, spoke on "Long Island Paper History."

The Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System should take the lead in assisting its member libraries and area historical
Headquarters - the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library building in Plattsburgh.

Mr. Ransom, Director, discusses financial reports with Genevieve Blaise, secretary, and Hugh Starke, administrative assistant.


Mary Leggett, Adult Services Consultant, and John Crager, Young Adult Consultant, select books to be sent to Keene Library.

Cindy Pytlak of Reference sending out a long list of interlibrary loan requests on the teletype.

Filling requests is a major part of Reference Department work. "Bunny" Bell gets a book to be mailed to a bookmobile patron.
Marie Chauvin of Film Services shows how busy that department is as she holds a pile of films already reserved for just one week.

Technical Services is always busy. Senior Clerk Carol Bedore checks work done by Patricia Rock and Debbie Dashnaw; Rose Waddell is cataloging in the background.

Final steps in book processings completed by John Carlton, with Claudia Cook and Regina Jedrek in the background.

Patricia Blake demonstrates the kind of sign she makes at Headquarters for member librarians.

Driver Al Hutchins and bookmobile librarians Mary Hopkins and Madge Mehan in the bookmobile ready to start on a run.

Bookmobile driver Bob Harnden readies bookmobile for run to Jay and Wilmington.