ARE LIBRARIES AN ENDANGERED SPECIES?

S O S

SAVE OUR SERVICE

The 1957 Commissioner of Education's Committee on Public Library Service stated (p.25), "Public libraries are not a public luxury. They are a public necessity and must have adequate public support."

The Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System urgently needs an increase in the State Aid formula to continue our current services beyond January 1976 without curtailment. Plattsburgh Public Library needs increased State Aid support as the Central Library of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System.

The New York Library Association and Board of Regents have proposed similar legislation as follows:

A. PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS AND CENTRAL LIBRARIES

1. An increase in per capita aid from 45 cents to 58 cents and an increase in the square mile factor from ten dollars to sixteen dollars would raise the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library budget by a much needed $54,605.28.

2. Plattsburgh Public Library's increase as a Central Library would be $27,000 to a total of $45,000. In addition, Central Book Aid would go up from $34,000 to $40,000, which should help keep pace with inflation.

3. Local sponsor incentive aid requirements would be changed under this proposed legislation, enabling more of our smaller libraries to qualify.

B. BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

2.1 million dollars are requested for first year aid to New York State's Regional Libraries for the Blind and to library systems to improve the distribution of free Talking Books and Cassettes. The Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System would be granted $13,825 the first year, increasing to double this amount by the third year. This is an important service and has widespread support.

C. INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE

Last year Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library received a grant of $1,000 to serve residents of correctional institutions. An appropriation of $750,000 has been requested to expand this service to other types of residential institutions. The amount which Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library might receive would depend upon the number
of residents and the type of institution covered.

D. THREE R'S SYSTEMS

Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library currently receives interloan communications and frequent delivery service of interlibrary loan books from the North Country Three R's Council. Other services include verification of materials, Union Lists, and cooperative planning for improved library and information service. The New York Library Association recommended $5.4 million for this service statewide and also legislation requiring funding of the Three R's program.

E. NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICE

This proposed legislation would provide $19,956 to the Akwesasne Tribal Council for operating a public library on their reservation. They will then be eligible for full membership in the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System. The statewide request is for $151,000.

F. SCHOOL LIBRARY CONTINGENCY BILL

The New York Library Association also requests legislation to permit, but not mandate, levy of tax to provide school library materials for pupils in grades one through twelve when the school budget is defeated. At present this is not possible and the school libraries must go at least a year without purchase of any materials. This bill passed both Houses of the Legislature in 1973 but was vetoed by the Governor because of confusion over use of the term "instructional materials."

These and other bills were discussed at a meeting of the Legislative Committee of the New York Library Association on January 31.

The Governor's Budget, just released, shows no increases for libraries, except that $250,000 for support of the Schomburg Collection, previously appropriated on an annual basis, would be made statutory.

The Governor's Budget must be passed by April 1, the start of the State's fiscal year. Legislators will be recessed from March 20 to April 1. After April 1 comes the Supplementary Budget which can include State Aid to our libraries.

If you want to protect an endangered species - your library - contact your legislators and urge them to support legislation to help us all survive.

Stanley A. Ransom

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I have now visited every member library and reading center. My latest visits were on January 17 to Essex and Willsboro libraries, and on January 20 to Schroon Lake and Minerva Reading Centers, accompanied by Mr. Starke. It is a pleasure to meet the librarians and trustees and to discuss their services with them. We also talk over the use they make of the System services. I also review the space each library has for expansion.

Mrs. Leggett and Mr. Ward visited the Rouses Point Library to assist the librarian, Mrs. Sutton, with weeding and replacement.

Mrs. Waddell and I visited Peru Library to discuss children's service with Mrs. Metcalfe, the librarian.

In December I met with Mrs. Meagher, librarian at the Saranac Lake Free Library, and her Board of Trustees to discuss action to be taken to encourage the return of books, especially interlibrary loaned books, by local college students. We also discussed ways in which an Association Library might be able to offer their employees Group Health Insurance and a Pension Plan. Coverage under the New York State Retirement Program of the staffs of Association Libraries would require legislative changes.

Our bookmobile service has always fascinated me. On January 28, I rode with Alan Hutchins and Mrs. Mary Hopkins on the
Librarian, Mrs. John Martin, fills in reports at Schroon Lake Library.

Mrs. Robert Chilton, librarian, in the children's section of Ellenburg Depot Library.

Lee Murdie, Trustee, and Mrs. Doris Wells, volunteer librarian, check records at Minerva Library.

Schroon Lake Library in winter.

Up over the Fire Department is the second most important place in Ellenburg, the library.

Icy roads don't faze visitors to the trailer that serves as Minerva Library.
bookmobile visit to Thunderbird Heights, Camp Adirondack and Champlain Park. I remember the last stop especially as a kaleidoscope of children, mothers and Alaskan husky dogs, all happily enjoying the arrival of the bookmobile.

In the coming days the staff and I will be exploring our System goals and objectives, setting our resources and the needs of our libraries against our ever-dwindling budget. During this legislative session I will be visiting our legislators to let them know of the needs of our libraries. I ask for your help in bringing our plight to their attention.

Stanley A. Ransom

NEW LIBRARY ASSOCIATION FORMED

The Northern Adirondack Library Association officially came into existence on Tuesday evening January 28th at a meeting held at the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System. Twenty-six librarians, representing school, college and university, public and special libraries, unanimously adopted a Constitution and By Laws. According to the Constitution, the purpose of the Association is to sponsor, aid, and promote library service and inter-library cooperation among all types of libraries in the Clinton, Essex and Franklin counties and adjacent areas. Membership is open to all past or present librarians, library employees, Library Trustees and members of Friends of the Library organizations.

The following slate of officers was elected: President, Mrs. Nilah Hausdorf, Librarian of the Campus School, Plattsburgh; Vice-President, Stanley A. Ransom, Director of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library; Recording Secretary, Ms. Anne F. Romans, Reference Librarian, Plattsburgh Public Library; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Joy Setchinsky, Librarian, Ayerst Laboratories, Division of American Home Products Inc., Rouses Point; Treasurer, Miss Candy Baxter, Assistant Librarian, Clinton Community College, Plattsburgh.

Library legislation was reviewed by Stanley Ransom, who is a member of the Legislative Committee of the New York Library Association. The NYLA is concerned with actively promoting library legislation which will help continue the high quality of library service in New York State. Legislative proposals for 1975 include aid to library systems, central libraries, school libraries, blind and handicapped readers, institutionalized readers, researchers and Native Americans.

Following a social and conversation period the enthusiastic group enjoyed a walking tour of the services of Plattsburgh Public Library and the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System.

Past or present librarians, library employees, trustees and Friends of the Library may become members of the Association upon payment of the $3.00 annual dues to Northern Adirondack Library Association, Mrs. Candy Baxter, Library, Clinton County Community College, Box 399, Plattsburgh, New York 12901.

DISPLAY KITS AT ADIRONDACK CENTER MUSEUM

James Bailey, Director of the Adirondack Center Museum in Elizabethtown, announces that traveling display kits are available at the museum for libraries to borrow. The kits are suitcase-size, with wired and mounted artifacts that illustrate the topic. Kits available are: INDIANS OF THE ADIRONDACKS, FLAX TO LINEN, WOOL TO CLOTH, ITEMS USED IN ESSEX COUNTY 100 YEARS AGO, ROCKS AND MINERALS OF ESSEX COUNTY.

There are many interesting exhibits and programs at the museum. For information on these and on the traveling kits, call or write James Bailey, Director, Adirondack Center Museum, Essex County Historical Society, Elizabethtown, New York 12932. The telephone number at the museum is 873-6466. If there is no answer, call Plattsburgh 563-5794.

We expect to have one of the traveling kit displays in the lobby at Headquarters during March. If you are in town, stop in and see it.

TRUSTEES IN THE NEWS
John Stock of Tupper Lake, a member of the Adirondack Park Agency Commission, addressed a meeting of the New York State Timber Producers Association on January 15 at Boonville.

Mr. Stock discussed land use planning and also the first alleged violation of that portion of the Adirondack Park Agency legislation dealing with clear cutting. He also explained the New York State Wild Rivers legislation.

Mr. Stock, superintendent of the 28,000 acre Litchfield Park near Tupper Lake, is also a member of Task Force 2000, established last year by the Department of Environmental Conservation. He has been on the Board of Trustees of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library since 1964 and has been actively interested in promoting the System's role in the three counties and in the state.

HEADQUARTERS HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK, APRIL 13-19

Libraries have changed! No longer the refuge of the little old lady and the avid reader of best sellers (although there is room for them too), libraries have been changing to meet the changing demands of the public. Are you building a house? Establishing a new business? Concerned about zoning? Need to check a Dun and Bradstreet rating? Want to know about elected officials? Call or visit your local library - there's help available.

And that's exactly the point that National Library Week wants to emphasize this year: INFORMATION POWER! - a theme carried on posters, bookmarks and a variety of display materials.

We are giving each member library posters, bookmarks and buttons, so that each library can celebrate National Library Week. They'll be sent to you on your regular delivery schedule.

If you want to order extra bookmarks, you can write:
National Library Week
C/o American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

The bookmarks are 200 for $3.00. Get your order in soon.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Don't overlook...

56 great helps to putting on a story hour! We have Weston Woods film strips with accompanying booklets for the storyteller to read as the slides progress. A small sampling of titles include:

Munari WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE
Potter TALE OF BENJAMIN BUNNY
McCloskey MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS
Rey CURIOUS GEORGE RIDES A BIKE

These film strips can be used with any film strip projector. We do have one projector at Headquarters to lend; however requests for this should be made well in advance of a program. Reservations for either the projector or any of the film strips may be made by calling or writing Marie Chauvin of Film Services at Headquarters.

A new series of children's books about careers for professional women is being published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Company for ages 4 to 10 at $4.14 library edition. Written by Esther and Gloria Goldreich and illustrated with excellent photographs by Robert Lpcar, the books show an interesting, straightforward, non-sexist attitude toward careers for women. The series is called WHAT CAN SHE BE? Titles now available in this series are:

WHAT CAN SHE BE A NEWSCASTER
WHAT CAN SHE BE A LAWYER
WHAT CAN SHE BE AN ARCHITECT
WHAT CAN SHE BE A VETERINARIAN

MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

AUSABLE FORKS FREE LIBRARY

The story hour which was started in December has been very well attended. Three new books have been given as memorials to
the Adirondack collection: SENECA RAY
STODDARD, HEYDAYS OF THE ADIRON DACKS, THE
ANCIENT ADIRON DACKS.

The Friends of the Library will wel-
come the community on Tuesday, February
11 at 7:30 p.m. in the basement room at
the AuSable Forks Library. They will
show a Bicentennial movie and will be
honoring the birthday of our President.

CHAMPLAIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Mrs. Ruth Smith, the librarian, re-
ports that the library raffled off a hand-
made quilt. Proceeds were given to the
Senior Citizens Organization in the Vil-
lage of Champlain.

In January Mrs. Smith featured a dis-
play of antique combs. She is planning a
new display every other month for the Bi-
centennial. This month the interior dis-
play has portraits of Washington and Lin-
coln in handsome matching frames as well
as a large framed engraving of Washington
entering the City of New York on November
25, 1783. The exterior window display
features pictures of Washington and Lin-
coln, a framed crewel work picture of the
American spread eagle with the flag,
framed copies of the Pledge of Allegiance
and the Gettysburg Address, along with
books to complement the theme.

College students Steve Patnode and
Robert Tremblay have been helping Mrs.
Smith set up these displays.

CHAZY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The story hour presented once a
month by the Friends of the Library has
attracted at least fifty children to each
session. At the January program
when two films were shown, Mrs. Pat Ne-
everett, President of the Friends, served
popcorn to all the children. This inno-
vation was received with great enthusiasm.
The next program is scheduled for Feb-
uary '10.

Dr. Orville Narreau of Plattsburgh
gave one hundred dollars to this library.
Dr. Narreau grew up in Chazy and is very
interested in the library.

Mrs. Sweet, the librarian, reports
another gift to the new Ralph McCuen's
Children's Room: a handsome forty-six inch
round table given by Mrs. Helen Fulton of
Chazy.

KEENE VALLEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Miss Zaidee Trumbull, the librarian,
tells us that the latest film program at
this library attracted over forty children
from grades one to three.

WEAD LIBRARY, MALONE

David Minnich, the librarian, reports
that the library is now applying to the
New York State Board of Regents for its
absolute charter.

On Sunday, January 25, Wead Library
presented another in its series of child-
ren's film programs. Two Walt Disney pro-
ductions: NATURE'S STRONGEST CREATURES and
PROWERS OF THE EVERGLADES were shown.

PERU FREE LIBRARY

Mrs. Lawton Metcalfe, the librarian,
has recently completed an important his-
torical project. She has copied all cem-
etry records for the Town of Peru. These
records had been housed at Plattsburgh Pub-
lic Library. The records include descrip-
tions of all engravings on the stones in
the cemeteries. Mrs. Metcalfe gave one
copy to the Town of Peru; the other is kept
in the Peru Library and will be displayed
during the Bicentennial year.

PLATTSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

A local history display greets patrons
when they enter the front door of Platts-
burgh Public Library. Books, photos and
memorabilia relating to the American Rev-
olution, the War of 1812 and the Platt fam-
ily are featured.

A rare letter dated September 12, 1796,
and signed by George Washington is a focal
point. Also on display are pieces of wood
from the ship Royal Savage, sunk in Lake
Champlain during the Battle of Valcour in
1776 as well as bullets from the Battle of
Plattsburgh in 1814.
One show case is devoted to the Platt family. Along with photographs and letters, it contains the last will of Levi Platt (1853) and a silver coffee urn and goblet engraved “Z.C. Platt 1868.” Of special interest is a detailed drawing of the Platt family tree. Measuring almost 3’ by 4’, it is hanging beside the library’s card catalog.

Also on exhibit is a large lithographed map of the City of Plattsburgh dated 1877. Accompanying this map are free reprints of “How the Streets of Plattsburgh Got Their Names” written by Miss Anne M. Gilliland in 1931. The library is also offering a twenty-question “Plattsburgh Heritage Quiz.” Nearly 500 copies of each handout have already been distributed.

The library has begun a new Public Library Information Series. It was started on February 6 and will continue on alternate Thursday nights until April 17 in the library auditorium at 8:00 p.m.

The first lecture on February 6 featured Elaine White of Cooperative Extension talking about Ways to Cut the Cost of Living. Following her on February 20 with a karate demonstration will be John Bassett and other members of the Karate Academy. On March 6 Dr. Raymond Peterson of the State University at Plattsburgh will talk about ESP and other paranormal phenomena. Then A.W. Campbell of First Albany Corporation will report March 20 on the stock market. He will be followed on April 3 by Herb Fowler of State University at Plattsburgh and his talk on unidentified flying objects. To finish the programs on April 17 John Billow will discuss genealogy. Coffee and tea will be served.

The library began a series of slide/cassette presentations from Kodak on photography. The slides will be shown on the Carramate projector in the reference area on the following dates:

Jan 30-Feb 1 Films for snapshot cameras
Feb 3-Feb 6 Films for adjustable cameras
Feb 6-Feb 10 Pictures by existing light
Mar 20-Mar 27 Adventures in indoor color slides
May 5-May 9 Snapshot camera handling
May 9-May 13 Beginnings of photo composition

The library has the following runs of periodicals to give away, on a first come, first served basis. If interested, contact Miss Pugmire, Director of Plattsburgh Public Library.


BLACK WATCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY, TICONDEROGA

After many years of dedicated service, Mr. F.A. Wickes has retired as President of the Board of Trustees. However he will continue to offer his services as a member of the Board. Mr. John McDonald is the new President of the Board.

WADHAMS FREE LIBRARY

The annual meeting of the library was held January 23. Mrs. Norma Bertsch was elected President of the Board of Trustees. Mrs. Kay Morse was elected to another five year term as trustee.

Plans are underway for an Easter Food Sale for the benefit of the library. It will be held at the library on Saturday, March 29.
As of Tuesday, February 4, the library will be open for two more hours per week: Tuesday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.; 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. This is a trial schedule and final decision will depend on how much the library is used.

NOTE: WHAT IS YOUR LIBRARY DOING? We'll never know unless you tell us! Please send in all library news to Mary Leggett at Headquarters.

Stanley A. Ransom, Director
Mary Gordon Leggett, Editor

When I am dead, I hope it may be said:
"His sins were scarlet, but his books were read."

Hilaire Belloc