



C-E-F TRAILBLAZER

Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System News

"First Multi-County Library System in New York State"

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Director

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CHRISTMAS - 1975

I've been taking a more than surreptitious look at the Christmas decorations that spring up, mushroom-like, in streets and shops along about Thanksgiving. At neon-lighted plastic lanterns of dubious Early English origin that hang cheek-by-jowl with outsize styrofoam candy canes, metal Santa Clauses that chortle "Ho-Ho-Ho" when you turn a key, at cleverly designed ads that exhort you to make it a Merry Christmas for your husband, wife, son, daughter, father, mother, mailman, delivery man, cat, dog, house and car. And I have got the message clearly: it isn't a Merry Christmas, folks, unless it costs money!

The gift catalogs that arrive daily addressed to "Occupant" get even more imperative. They alone can bring to the human breast that quiet yearning for a bathmat bearing the Season's Greetings to any guest that might stop in for a drink and remain for a shower. Theirs is the understandable pride that comes from being able to offer, for \$4.95 complete, a five-foot-five vinyl Santa for you to stuff with crumpled newspaper and (I quote) "prop to any desired position." Theirs too is the ultimate in garage door decor: a Kris Kringle face, six horrendous feet wide, with Underwriter Approved electric eyes that glow redly in the dark, causing nervous hiccoughs among the neighborhood kinder.

If you choose, you can sip your was-sail from a mug adorned with a roguishly winking Father Christmas; you can pass out cocktail napkins displaying Donder and Blitzen in varying stages of euphoria; you can even cover your mailbox with a knit-to-fit personalized holiday slipcover. But I am beginning to suspect there is madness in the marketplace; that the ad-writers are running amok. Is it heresy to indicate that WHITE CHRISTMAS palls after the fiftieth rendition? And this insistence on a pre-holiday atmosphere that stretches out for four long weeks, embellished to the saturation point with decorations in every nook and cranny, diminishes the impact and lessens the meaning of Christmas.

I remember the enchantment of Christmas Eve. The sliding doors that had shut off the other living room for a few breathlessly anticipatory days were then pushed back - and there was the Tree, glittering with silver and hung carefully with fragile, spun-glass ornaments. Each year it was new again, its beauty more treasured because it was so fleeting. It was a Tree to dream on; it was a Tree under which a child, surfeited with the overabundance and richness of Christmas, could curl up with a familiar, well-loved book of fairy tales and read himself into blissful tranquility.

And it is that kind of Christmas that we wish for you: a return to trust in the

message of "peace on earth, good will to men." A very Merry Christmas to you all!

Mary Gordon Leggett

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Board of Trustees, the Staff and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season!

At the present time, we are working on our budget for next year. Our first priority is our present services to our member libraries. The financial picture does not look promising, but we will be working closely with our legislators hoping to increase state aid to libraries. We need your help in this, and your calls and letters to legislators are very important.

The Board of Trustees has received eleven affirmative and two negative responses to their query on joining the Western New York State Reciprocal Borrowing Cooperative. It is expected that a decision will be made at their December 10 meeting.

County support for Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System is of great concern to us because of the effects of higher prices on our fixed budget. We have asked the three counties for our first increase in three years, which would give us a \$10,000 increase. We are reducing expenses internally as much as possible.

We have also asked for funds to purchase a replacement for our ten year old bookmobile, now on its last legs (or wheels). We have been replacing rusted brake rods, rusted doors and other parts. Service was interrupted last week when the main oil seal failed. This vehicle must be on the road for approximately 244 days per year. Children, adults, senior citizens and residents of nursing homes are served by this bookmobile and we are very conscious of our responsibility to them. It takes a reliable and dedicated crew

to venture out in a North Country snow storm to take the books to the waiting people. I am very glad to state that in Madge Mehan, Mary Hopkins, Bob Harnden and Al Hutchins, we have that reliable and dedicated crew.

Stanley A. Ransom
Director

HEADQUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

Our Christmas present this year to each of our member libraries is a copy of Chase's Calendar of Annual Events: Special Days, Weeks and Months in 1976. It's a marvelous way to locate holidays to celebrate in your library with displays and exhibits that can be planned for every day in the year. Think what you could do with St. Swithin's Day (July 15) or Guy Fawkes Day (November 5)! Happy planning for 1976!

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The Directory of Learning Opportunities in Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties is now at the printers and should be ready for distribution by December 15. Each library will get copies, as well as the agencies listed in the directory. The directory will serve as a referral tool in helping adult independent learners.

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The entire set of Empire State College Modules has been received and will be housed at Plattsburgh Public Library, the System's Central Library. Each of these modules is geared to specific courses for the student working under the Empire State College Plan and will certainly be in demand by adult self-learners.

The 1975 Annual Report forms have been received and are being distributed to member libraries. If there are questions about these forms, please call Mr. Starke or Mrs. Bedore at Headquarters, 563-5190.

Deadline for all member libraries to return these forms is Thursday, January 15.

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A condensed version of the Workshop for

**1955
OUR 20th YEAR
OF SERVICE
1975**

**A MELANGE OF GREETINGS,
MEETINGS AND LIBRARIANS
CLINTON-ESSEX-FRANKLIN LIBRARY**



The staff at Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library sends Christmas Greetings



Mrs. Martin, librarian at Schroon Lake, ready for visitors.



Rose Waddell, Mr. & Mrs. Martin and John Crager at Schroon Lake Library.



Wadhams Free Library.



Rose Waddell of Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library and Heidi Vaughan, Wadhams Librarian check children's books.

NORTHERN ADIRONDACK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETING OCTOBER 18



NALA officers - Left to right: Treasurer Candy Baxter, Past president Nilah Hausdorf, President Stanley Ransom, Recording Secretary Anne Romans.



Glyndon Cole, left, offers advice on historical material to Ann Garcia of Keeseville.



Joe Swinyer, far right, demonstrates book mending.



Courtney Shaw of Lake Placid talks with Larry Arcarese, Media Center Director.



Bud Haskell, Art Center Director, and Barbara Doh of Peru Central Junior High Library.



New sign identifying System Headquarters.

Adult Independent Learners will be given December 12 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. for the bookmobile staff. Any librarians who were unable to attend the earlier workshop are invited to come to this shorter version.

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TRUSTEES IN THE NEWS

Mrs. Wayne Byrne has an article in the December, 1975 Conservationist. Titled, "Mr. Anorthosite, a profile of Arthur F. Buddington", it is a fascinating study of an 83 year old geologist who has, since 1916, explored, mapped and studied rocks in the Adirondacks, particularly anorthosite, an ancient rock that exists not only in the Adirondacks but, oddly enough, on the moon. Teacher, scientist, above all a man who still finds his profession exciting and who uses his imagination to reconstruct the underpinnings of the Adirondacks from his discoveries in the woods and the laboratories, he is presented to us by Peg Byrne in her article. Peg has been an active member of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library Board of Trustees since 1970.

TOWN BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE PRESENTS GIFT

Mrs. Mary Fogarty, Historian for the Town of Plattsburgh, presented copies of the History of the Town of Plattsburgh from 1785-1976 to all the libraries in the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System as a gift from the Bicentennial Committee of the Town. We are most appreciative of this new addition to our collection on area history and realize how much work the Bicentennial Committee put into this volume. From all our libraries to the Bicentennial Committee of the Town of Plattsburgh, our heartiest thanks!

CAPS PROGRAM

Again this year, the Creative Artists Program Service is sending packets of 12 books and a 4-record album to five of our member libraries. Included in this package are: Flow, by Joseph

Bruchas; Ragtime, by E.L. Doctorow; Mother is, by Siv Cedering Fox; Circus Days, by Jill Freedman; Crises of Rejuvenation, by Barbara Holland; Illusions, by Don Honig; Other People's Lives, by Johanna Kaplan; Barefoot Necklace, by Elouise Loften; Workers, a Photography Portfolio, by Louis Stettner; Transient Places, by Ron Testa; Ordinary Things, by Jean Valentine; Vort, Twenty-First Century Previews, ed. by Barry Alpert; and New American Music, a 4-record album set of music by 19 CAPS Composition Fellows.

CAPS, a state-wide arts service organization made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts, gives almost 200 fellowships each year to visual artists, writers, photographers, film and video makers, choreographers, and composers, to encourage work of exceptional quality.

A REVIEW OF NEW AREA HISTORY BOOK

North to the St. Lawrence, by Marnie Reed Crowell, is a welcome addition to books describing the unique character of the North Country. As a newcomer to this beautiful region, I have read a number of Adirondack and North Country books and can recommend this one highly for its accurate historical information, its descriptive anecdotes and its popular and readable style.

The author is proud of the North Country and rightly so. This area is rich in history, rich in its people and rich in potential. This book will be popular with adults, and young adults will find it equally appealing. Lucretia Leonard Romey has provided excellent line drawings which complement the text and add a light touch to the book.

The book records North Country history from Indian times to the present and each chapter is supplied with an Appendix which offers an impressive list of historic houses, castles, canal locks, museums and historic parks open to the public. We have our own Joan Kepes, staff member of the North Country Three R's Council, to thank for the useful Appendices. An index properly completes this 101 page volume.

The book may be obtained for \$2.95,

soft cover, and \$5.95, hard cover, plus tax and \$.50 per book postage and handling, from Raquette Press, 24 Goodrich Street, Canton, New York 13617.

Stanley A. Ransom, Director

MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

AKWESASNE LIBRARY AND CULTURAL CENTER

All You Wanted To Know About Your Car But Were Afraid to Ask - this is a class for those interested in a little more than filling up the tank. William Cook is the instructor. Applicants can sign up at the library.

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The staff of this library wishes to thank YMCA Guides, Bob Means and Don Bessette of Albany, for their continued interest in this library. For the past five years they have visited here and brought many beautiful Indian books. The Y Guides have earned the money themselves to buy these books.

CHAZY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Chazy Library held their annual Christmas Silver Tea on December 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The tea was well attended, and the visitors admired the colorful holiday decorations and enjoyed refreshments. New this year, according to Mrs. Helen Sweet, Librarian, was a Santa punch bowl set up in the McEwen Children's Room for the many young people who attended.

KEENE VALLEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The holiday atmosphere at this library has been brightened by the gift of a handmade ceramic Christmas tree made by Mrs. Judson Whitney. Betty Trumbull, the librarian, also tells us that the usual Christmas miniature village will be on display for the holidays.

KEESEVILLE FREE LIBRARY

The library has received The American Heritage History of Railroads

In America, by Oliver Jensen. This handsome volume was donated by Library Board Member, Gerald Rushford.

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A Halloween party was held for the children who attend the story hour. Georgie (the ghost) was the film shown and delicious Halloween refreshments made by the mothers were served.

MINERVA LIBRARY

The library has recently acquired new shelves to hold the many new books recently purchased or donated to the library. Don Dubay, Vice President of the Minerva Mens' Civic League that sponsors the library, assembled the metal shelves so that Bill Kearney, the librarian, could display the books.

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The organization is sending Christmas cards to all the volunteers again this year. Many of the women and teachers in the Minerva community donate their time during the month in assisting the librarian.

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Mr. Mangine, President of the Civic League, said that the bookmarks supplied by the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System were distributed to each elementary child in the Minerva Central School during Children's Book Week. Mr. Mangine also thanked Headquarters for sending these bookmarks to this, our southernmost town in the System.

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WEAD LIBRARY, MALONE

The library began a story hour introduction to the library for three and four year olds. David Minnich, the librarian, is providing materials and information to help Mrs. Gervais on this program.

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About 70 people attended a film showing at the library on November 8. Another film program was scheduled for

November 29.

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An art display sponsored by the Business and Professional Women's Club is currently at the library. As part of it, some of Avis Brown's wood carvings are in a display case near the adult reading room.

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On December 8, the microfilm committee of the North Country Three R's Council will be meeting at this library to discuss guidelines for microfilming projects for other councils' benefit and to discuss possible projects for our own use during the coming calendar year.

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We were given permission to reprint an article written by Elaine White of Clinton County Cooperative Extension. It appeared in the Clinton County Cooperative Extension News for November, 1975.

WHERE IS THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU?

Consumers have been calling Cooperative Extension wanting to know where they can register their complaints on various matters. Luckily we have a handy booklet for our reference called "Where to Complain". It lists various consumer services available from city, state and local government, and lists the agencies which have jurisdiction over specific problem areas. The booklet was published by the New York Consumer Protection Board, and that's the closest agency we have which can handle many of the consumer problems, which have been phoned in to us.

If you have a consumer problem write or call the New York State Consumer Protection Board.

The address is: New York State Consumer Protection Board, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210, (518) 474-8583.

Locally the Chamber of Commerce once handled consumer problems, but this service is no longer available. They are referring consumers to the Consumer Protection Board.

Our Assistant Attorney General, Charles Lewis, will handle cases of fraud or business misrepresentation. Any problems in this line may be written in letter form and sent to: Mr. Charles Lewis, Assistant Attorney General, 48 Cornelia Street, Plattsburgh, New York 12901.

When you exercise the right of consumer recourse the following steps should be followed:

- 1) Begin at the point of purchase - talk to the local business to resolve your problem. Have any receipts, cancelled checks, bills available for proof. If the problem can't be resolved here, retain these original pieces of correspondence.
- 2) Approach manufacturer - write a letter to the president of the company, or the consumer relations director of the firm.
- 3) Keep trying - if the head office doesn't respond or the proposed solution is not satisfactory, contact a state-wide organization that can help. The Consumer Protection Board can handle most problems.

When writing, state the facts simply and concisely. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number, the name and brief description of the item in question

and a clear description of the problem. Check stubs, cancelled checks, bills and copies of all correspondence about the problem should be retained, so duplicates can be made if needed.

Elaine White
Cooperative Extension Agent
Clinton County

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Stanley A. Ransom, Director
Mary Gordon Leggett, Editor