



# C-E-F TRAILBLAZER

## Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System News

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

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### THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD

The ordinary man accepts each day as it comes; his private desperations are controlled and his frustrations unarticulated.

It is the dissenter who ruffles the surface calm, who scratches the flimsy veneer of civilization and pricks the national conscience. We may disagree with his premises and disassociate ourselves from his projects - but we do agree on one thing: he has a right to be heard.

Different times reflect different reactions. What was accepted in the culture of a generation ago may no longer be valid. And it is necessary for a nation to have its rebels, its men with causes, to keep us from sinking into apathy and self-satisfaction. Crusaders are seldom universally popular. They upset too many apple carts. They make us uncomfortably aware of our deficiencies. But their function is important: they are catalysts effecting an explosion of emotions and ideas.

The roll call of the dissenters is long. It includes Thomas Paine, John Stuart Mill, Swift, Darwin, Rousseau, Thoreau, Aldous Huxley, George Orwell,

James Baldwin, J.D. Salinger, Kurt Vonnegut: dissenters all, who have used words as powerful tools to express their deep moral and ethical convictions. Nations have tried to suppress them. Books have been burned by those who equate the different with the dangerous. But ultimately their ideas have reached the public arena of scrutiny and discussion.

Traditionally libraries have played a significant role in presenting the differing ideas of man in his society. Today, in an atmosphere of pressures from many groups attempting to limit free exposition of thought, libraries have reaffirmed through THE LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS and THE FREEDOM TO READ STATEMENT their responsibility to provide citizens with books that stimulate the mind, broaden perspective, and help to develop social intelligence. It is the unique privilege of a citizen in a democracy to be exposed to the ideas of philosophical theorists and political heretics as well as to the proponents of established orthodoxies and prevailing ideologies. The right of choice is based upon the availability of many things from which to choose. And libraries hold fast to the principle that

no minority or majority group has the right to impose its thinking on everyone, that each person has the right to distinguish and select for himself what is good or bad. To do otherwise is to treat the reasoning adult as a child incapable of exercising mature deliberation and judgment.

At what point does free speech become a menace to society? It is difficult to say why and when a publication becomes what Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes called "a clear and present danger" - but Holmes also noted that the First Amendment to the Constitution was framed "to prevent restraints except those needed for the safety of the nation." The greater menace lies in the suppression of free communication of thought.

The physically limiting factors of space and money make it impossible for any library to own all books - even all good books. But each library can, through its own resources and through interlibrary loan with other libraries, follow the policy of THE FREEDOM TO READ STATEMENT by making available..."the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority."

As institutions in a pluralistic society, libraries recognize that one man's heresy may be another man's dogma. It is not the purpose of libraries to act as either judges or arbiters: instead they are advocates of the freedom of the individual to express himself and the freedom of people to listen.

Mary Gordon Leggett

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#### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Bill no. S8252 (Donovan)/ A9975 (Sullivan), the "Intersystem Library Bill" is presently in the Senate Education Committee and the Assembly Committee on Higher Education. I urge each of our readers to contact the Chairmen of these committees (Senator James Donovan and Assemblyman Melvin Miller) to request that this bill be reported out of committee favorably and sent on to the Senate Finance Committee and the Assembly Ways and Means Committee respectively. We favor some amendments to strengthen and improve this bill, amendments that will increase its effectiveness and channel it toward greater productivity.

I urge not only that the support for public library systems be set at a minimum of \$500,000 (more could be justified) but also that the minimum for Central Libraries be increased from the present extremely low \$25,000 to a minimum of \$50,000 which would help 13 smaller Central Libraries. I also suggest that all Central Libraries be

granted a 5¢ per capita increase to 16¢ per capita to help the urban Central Libraries. I urge that all public library systems receive a per square mile increase of \$5.00 which would help the majority of systems. I further recommend a revision of the proposed Local Sponsor Incentive Aid formula from 25¢ for non-urban libraries and systems to 35¢, which would particularly help smaller libraries.

I urge that all nine Three R's Councils be given support in the amount of \$200,000, rather than \$150,000 for eight of the nine Councils. The Three R's Councils should be considered as library systems that serve academic and special libraries in much the same way that public library systems serve the public and their member libraries. Three R's need this modest increase as well as statutory authority to continue their very effective programs. We count on our North Country Three R's Council to handle our outside interlibrary loans, union lists of serials and other cooperative services. They are a great help to us and do a splendid job, though con-

siderably hampered by lack of funds.

I further urge that another important part of the bill, dealing with the establishment of school library systems, be given stronger support. An increase from 25¢ per pupil to \$1.00 per pupil would help the school libraries to form into systems under BOCES, or within city systems where there are no BOCES. It would help to establish effective school interloan, delivery, and acquisition programs and lay the basis for networks of school libraries that could eventually join with public library systems and Three R's Councils to create operative regional intersystem library programs. Self-sufficient and "self-efficient" regions can only be created when there is a joining of equal groups. This legislation offers a way to forge the usually isolated school libraries into systems equal in authority and network capability to the Three R's and public library systems.

In order to save funds, I recommend that the \$3,670,000 allocated for regional cooperative projects be deferred for a year or so, or phased in at a later date. You can't have successful cooperative projects unless the parties to the cooperation are in the best possible shape for it. The recommendations I have made do just that by strengthening the public and Three R's systems and better supporting school

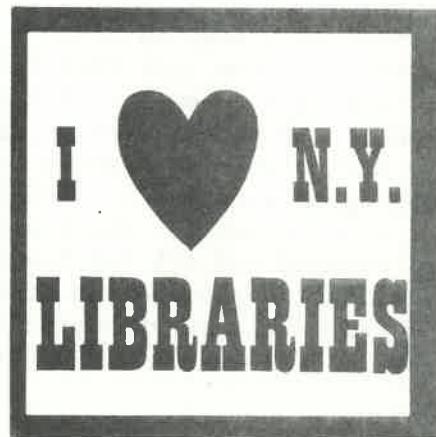
library systems. It will take a bit of time also for school library systems to become workable and effective. That is the time to phase in the additional funds for the intersystem cooperative projects.

Sure, these recommendations up the price tag for the entire package from \$15,782,000 to slightly over \$17,000,000. But this same package creates a balanced support plan for all segments of the library community - a prerequisite for successful cooperation. And there is still \$200,000 in the bill for cooperative pilot projects in each of the nine regions.

O.K., so there may not be enough dollars, even in this year of the Governor's Conference on Libraries, to afford the whole package. But these recommendations, even if scaled down, will still make it possible for cooperation based upon a better balance of support among all types of libraries.

I would urge the Governor and our legislators to adopt these recommendations as amendments to the Intersystem Library Bill. We are unified in our need for this Bill. Let's get started, pass this Bill and concentrate on the real results we all anticipate: better library and information services to every New York State resident.

Stanley A. Ransom, Director



## WEEDING WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

Dr. Stanley J. Slote, noted librarian and author of Weeding Library Collections, will lead a workshop on Weeding in Public Libraries at C-E-F Headquarters on Monday, April 24, 1978. All member librarians and trustees are urged to attend.

The day will begin at nine in the morning with registration of participants and time for coffee and danish. Mrs. Cornelia Rogers, President of the System Board of Trustees, will welcome guests. Director Stanley Ransom will introduce the speaker. Dr. Slote will discuss weeding techniques and reasons for weeding in the morning session, along with a film on the subject. After lunch he will have a "hands-on" demonstration of weeding a collection. Dr. Slote's book, Weeding Library Collections, was published by Libraries Unlimited for \$11.50. Copies will be on sale at a discount to workshop participants.

Lunch will be "brown bag" style with each person bringing his own. Coffee and tea will be supplied here. Notices have been sent to all member librarians and trustees. Be sure to get your reservations back to Mary Leggett at System Headquarters by April 19 so you can attend this Spring Workshop.

## TRUSTEES IN THE NEWS

Keela Rogers, President of the System Board of Trustees, keeps us abreast of what's going on at the New York State Association of Library Trustees: "Following the Systems' Conference in Albany on March 3, I went directly to New York City for the board meeting of the New York State Association of Library Trustees...Arriving in New York with eight inches of snow falling made me doubly glad I hail from the north country. The Board met Friday evening and all day Saturday...The Velma K. Moore Award was discussed. The award will be presented again this year to an individual who has made a

notable contribution to the development of library service in New York State. Our own Dick Lawrence received the award in 1967. Anyone knowing of an individual meeting this criteria should send his or her name to Leon Dapson, 103 College Street, Oriskany Falls, New York 13425... The NYLA Conference will be held this November in New York City and the Trustees' Association is planning several workshops aimed at trustees on Saturday and Sunday of that weekend...The Board is investigating the possibility of sponsoring an institute for library trustees this coming fall. Jack Spear of the New York State Education Department will work on the proposal with the Board. Such an institute would be patterned after the trustees' institute held annually for new school board members."

Keela Rogers, President  
C-E-F Board of Trustees

## APRIL REGENTS CONFERENCE

The Regents/Commissioner Regional Conference in the Fourth Judicial District will be held at the Holiday Inn, Lake Placid, New York, on April 14, 1978.

Commissioner Gordon M. Ambach will speak at the morning session. In the afternoon, participants will meet in small groups to examine the benefits of increased cooperation for each component of the University of the State of New York.

Board President Keela Rogers, Director Stanley Ransom and Adult Services Consultant Mary Leggett will be attending this Regional Conference. Director Verna Pungitore will represent Plattsburgh Public Library.

## HEADQUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

March 21 - Library Lobby Day in Albany! Director Stan Ransom went down a day early to head up the briefing for librarians in Hearing Room B of the Legislative Office Building. C-E-F Board President Keela Rogers, C-E-F Staff members Carol Bedore, Dick Ward, Mary Leggett, and Plattsburgh Public Library's

Anne Romans went down to Albany for the day. We are pleased to hear that Senator Hugh Farley has been named Chairman of the Senate Sub-Committee on Libraries and Assemblyman E.C. Sullivan made Chairman of the Assembly Sub-Committee on Libraries. Mary Leggett and Carol Bedore had a long talk with Senator Farley - and were pleased with his enthusiasm and support for New York State libraries. We also talked to our own Senator Ronald Stafford and Assemblyman Andy Ryan - both of whom have always been most supportive of public libraries. Mary and Carol also had the pleasure of talking about the library bill with Senator Joe Bruno, Senator Howard Nolan, Assemblyman Glenn Harris. Jean Myers, the hard-working Chairman of the Capitol Region CSEA Political Action Committee, met with Mary and Carol in the Legislative Office Building to offer her support.

Stanley Ransom talked to Senator Farley; Assemblyman E.C. Sullivan; Paul Reuss, Fiscal Analyst for the Senate Finance Committee; Richard Pfister, Director of Finance for the Senate Education Committee; Roger C. Thompson, Secretary of the Senate.

A long, hard day - March 21 - but a successful one in promoting library legislation!

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Staff Retirement. Nancy Clegg who has done our rotating collections and helped in reference for three years, is retiring. We will miss her.

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Linda Fish of the Job Information Center attended a March 7 workshop on discrimination in employment at the College Center. Lee Salzman was a representative at Career Day for Our Lady of Victory Secretarial School. Both Lee and Linda were representatives at a Career Information Forum held at Clinton Community College on March 15. Lee is also taking a course on Job Effectiveness sponsored by the State Depart-

ment of Civil Service.

#### MEMORIAL GIFTS

Architecture from the Adirondack Foothills, by Robert H. McGowan, has been donated to the C-E-F Library System by Keela Rogers in memory of Mrs. Mary Hoyt. This beautiful book depicts the folk and designed architecture of Franklin County and is a lasting memorial to Mary Hoyt.

Persons wishing to give other memorial books may contact Stanley Ransom at the C-E-F Library System or Dave Minnich at Wead Library, Malone.

#### GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES

We are extremely pleased that Polly Parsons of Literacy Volunteers and Stanley Ransom, Director of the C-E-F Library System, have been selected as delegates to the Governor's Conference. Planned for June 5 through June 7, delegates will discuss access to libraries, interrelationships and resource sharing, technology, finance and governance, functions and services. Delegates for the White House Conference in 1979 will be chosen from the delegates at the Governor's Conference.

#### CALDECOTT AND NEWBERY AWARDS

The winner of the Caldecott Award this year was:

Spier, Peter - Noah's Ark. Doubleday, 1977 \$6.95

Runners-up:

Macauley, Peter - Castle. Houghton, 1977 \$8.95

Zemach, Margot - It Could Always Be Worse. Farrar, 1977 \$7.95

The Newbery Award winner was:

Paterson, Katherine - Bridge to Terabithia. Crowell, 1977 \$7.95

Runners-up:

Cleary, Beverly - Ramona and Her Father. Morrow, 1977 \$6.50

Highwater, Jamake - Anpao. Lippincott, 1977 \$8.95

#### NEW DIRECTOR AT ROCHESTER

Linda M. Bretz has been appointed director of the Rochester Public Library and the Monroe County Library System by the boards of trustees of both organizations, effective May 1. She will succeed Harold S. Hacker who will retire on April 29 after more than 24 years in that dual position.

Mrs. Bretz has been assistant director of the Monroe County Library System since 1976 and has had extensive library experience as training consultant, children's consultant, and faculty member of the Department of Library Science at State University of Oswego.

Our congratulations to Linda - and to the boards of trustees for their excellent choice!

For Harold Hacker who has certainly left his mark on libraries in New York State, our warmest wishes for a happy retirement!

#### TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOPS PLANNED

Literacy Volunteers of Clinton County will conduct a workshop to train volunteers to teach basic reading to adults. The workshop begins on April 10.

During the 18 hour workshop volunteers learn techniques for teaching basic reading, how and when to test a student and how to motivate adult learners. The workshop is presented in six sessions over a period of three weeks.

After their training, tutors are matched with a student and they work together at a mutually convenient location in the community.

There is a need for volunteer tutors to work with adults in this community who read below a sixth-grade level. These are average adults who through circumstance have never learned to read. For more information or to pre-register for the training workshop please call the Literacy Volunteers office at 561-5332.

We urge member librarians and trustees to alert interested people in their communities to this real opportunity for volunteer service.

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#### September set for Hurd Report

Peg Byrne, Chairman of the Clinton County Bicentennial Committee, has announced plans for distribution of the soon to be re-published Hurd's History of Clinton and Franklin Counties as follows:-

Clinton County Bicentennial Commission  
Box 15 Clinton County Gov't Center  
Plattsburgh, New York 12901

To all Clinton, Essex, and Franklin County Librarians and Museum Curators:

We need your help, and I hope you will bear with me while I explain our exciting new project.

As our final contribution to the Bicentennial, this Commission is reprinting Hurd's 1880 History of Clinton and Franklin Counties.

Many of you may have a copy of the book on your shelves. Since it is long out of print, we felt we could make a permanent, lasting contribution to the area by re-publishing it at a price low enough to suit everyone interested in our early history. The Franklin County Historical Society and David Martin and his Chazy Central School students have made complete indexes of every Clinton and Franklin County name appearing in the book. For the first time it is possible to locate local names long-buried in the text.

The new hard cover, facsimile reprint will sell for \$10.00 before, and \$12.50 after publication until Dec. 31st. After that date, it will sell for \$20.00. Our committee wants to distribute the books through your libraries and museums, as the centers of local history, with the understanding that each copy you sell will net your institution (rather than a bookstore) \$1.00. We will supply you with order forms for advance orders and with the books when they are ready. Your institutions as distribution centers will be announced in all publicity about the book.

In return, by way of thanks, each library or museum will receive a free copy of a facsimile print of either "Macdonough's Victory on Lake Champlain" (the frontispiece) or of "The Franklin County Courthouse", appearing opposite p. 378 in Hurd. Each person ordering the book before publication will also receive a copy of the print of his choice. We believe your display of your copy of Hurd, and the print, beside the order forms we furnish will be very attractive to the public.

The anticipated publication date, September 11, 1978, (the date of Macdonough's Victory on Lake Champlain) will provide a great opportunity for you to observe this event -- perhaps with a "Book Party" at your library or museum.

This has been a windy way of explaining how much we need your interest and help in a project of such benefit to the North Country. We hope you agree with us, and are willing to help, in return for the print and the \$1.00 you will receive for each book sold. Checks should be made payable to Clinton County Bicentennial Commission. Money orders and money you receive for the books should be transmitted to the Commission at the above address.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Byrne  
Chairman - Clinton County  
Bicentennial Commission

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MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES  
AKWESASNE LIBRARY AND CULTURAL CENTER

The museum is offering classes in making traditional outfits for girls. The outfits will be made in leather under the supervision of a qualified instructor. Classes are offered to girls 16 through 18 years of age.

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Operation Kanyengehaga of St. Lawrence University in Canton held a pot-latch dinner at the University. Proceeds bought books for the Akwesasne Library.

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A very timely photographic exhibit is now on display. Ms. Diana Douglas' shocking photographs of local residents near the much protested, highly contro-

versial 765 kilowatt high tension power line towers near here certainly deserve attention.

WEAD LIBRARY, MALONE

The election for the library board will be held on May 9 between twelve noon and eight in the evening. One position as trustee is open. Therese Gagnon, currently on the board, is seeking another five year term.

MINERVA LIBRARY

Claudia Ball is the new librarian at Minerva. Mrs. Ball, who was a former newspaper reporter, is enjoying her new role at the library. Rose Waddell, Carol Bedore, and Mary Leggett made a consultants' visit to Minerva on February 28, discussing problems of space, arrangement of materials, ordering books. Director Stanley Ransom and Consultant Richard Ward also visited the library on March 22.

We are happy to welcome Claudia Ball as our newest member librarian.

PLATTSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Plattsburgh chapter of the American Military Retirees Association recently presented a book truck to the library. The truck was purchased with funds donated by local merchants to the AMRA.

Warren Salley, Vice President of the PPL Board of Trustees, is President of AMRA.

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PPL has obtained through the Internal Revenue Service an audio cassette tape containing instructions for preparing federal income tax returns.

The tape contains information for completing forms 1040 and 1040A. It is available for use in the library during normal operating hours.

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Volunteer income tax assistants working through the Council of Senior Citizens are at PPL every Thursday. This tax help service is available primarily for senior citizens and low income families.

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The Plattsburgh Mayor and Common Council held their executive session at PPL in March. In order to familiarize its members with the operation of City departments, the new administration meets in a different department each week and afterward tours the facility.

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PPL sponsored a showing of films of the greatest fighters of all time. This well attended presentation featured such boxing greats as Muhammad Ali, Joe Louis, Jack Dempsey and Rocky Marciano.

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The library is celebrating National Library Week with puppet making, puppet shows, creative dramatics, films and story hours. Story tellers will be at Pyramid Mall each day to read special favorites.

The classic horror film, "The Phantom of the Opera", will be shown on Saturday afternoon along with "Occurence at Owl Creek Bridge" and "Notes on a Triangle." Patrons have been told to bring popcorn and pillows - long movie, hard seats!

On Wednesday David Martin will speak on genealogy and the use of early censuses. Mr. Martin has recently published an article on genealogy.

DODGE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ROUSES POINT

The Friends of the Library held a bake sale recently and netted \$151.05 for the library. Members of the Friends helping in the sale were Faye Post, Meg Spiegel, Henny Chapman, Fran Boyden, Hazel Taft, Fred Gemmill, Fern Wilder and Suzi Warholic.

Stanley A. Ransom, Director  
Mary Gordon Leggett, Editor