



# C-E-F TRAILBLAZER

## Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System News

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

STANLEY A. RANSOM  
Director

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Plattsburgh, New York 12901

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### SPRING CLEANING: THE REAL DIRT

In the last issue of the Trailblazer, I rashly mentioned that I would be entering a manic phase during which I would be able to write about Spring Cleaning. Well, I've been steadily slip-sliding away past **that** level of sanity for the past two months; winter took a heavy toll this year.

For one thing winter seemed longer than usual, partially because I spent it with Suzi the Wonderdog. That fluffy, teddy bear of a puppy which I acquired last July now looks like a rangy black timber wolf and possesses awesome powers of destruction. I knew it was all over the day Suzi learned to leap onto the washing machine and tear strips of insulation from the cellar ceiling. Then, of course, there are the kids. Is it truly worthwhile to keep house for people who scratch their initials on furniture and scribble graffiti on lamp shades? I think not.

Clearly, my present situation is a losing battle, but sometime in the future, probably about 1989 or 1990, I should consider doing things up properly -- assuming that there will still be something left to clean by then. Luckily, the C-E-F Library System even has books which tell you how to clean your house.

I grabbed a small pile of books to give you an idea of what is available. There are many more temporarily unavailable because they are in circulation -- presumably on loan to fanatical homemakers who wanted to get a head start.

The most comprehensive tome on "domestic science" that I came across was The Ladies' Home Journal Art of Homemaking by Virginia T. Habeeb. This one tells you **everything** -- from the basics, such as how to make a bed (even I know how to do that. I seldom do it, but I know how), to specialty work, such as how to clean a piano. At the end, there is a chapter on how to deal with chronic fatigue, which you will probably find necessary if you do everything the book covers.

There is also Executive Housekeeping: The Business of Managing Your Home by Auren Uris. This book attempts to apply the basic tenets of corporate management, (such as "delegating authority") to running a home. I, personally, find this concept hysterically funny, but, possibly, people who enjoy drawing charts and graphs can benefit from it.

Next, we arrive at my own favorites-- the household hints books. Heloise and Mary Ellen (Pinkham) have put out a slew of these.

These ladies have some novel ideas. In Heloise's Hints For Working Women, the author admonishes us not to throw away that broken clock -- make it into a paper-weight instead! But don't think Heloise is frivolous, even if she does refer to her readers in such nauseating terms as cutie pie and angel face. She will also tell you how to exterminate cockroaches and win the battle of toilet bowl ring.

I like Mary Ellen best though. In her breezy, slightly loopy, fashion she helps us to make the best of a bad situation. Much of her advice is geared toward dealing with common household disasters -- which we ourselves probably caused in the first place.

One warning: Heloise and Mary Ellen are the kind of women who will probably make you feel guilty if you never bothered to make raisin happy-faces on your kids' breakfast cereal.

I've given you an overview, but I would like to leave you with yet another philosophy.

I found the following passage in a mystery, Jerusalem Inn by Martha Grimes (while letting the housework go undone for yet another weekend). Superintendent Jury of Scotland Yard has been interrogating the nasty-neat headmistress of a private school:

"Jury could almost hear her exhorting her little charges to waste-not-want-not or to remember that cleanliness was next to godliness. He wondered why God should favor clean people."

Think about it.

Mary S. Hopkins  
Editor

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

*Full funding for the Regents' Bill, S7390, introduced by Senator Hugh Farley, is of critical importance to our public library systems. At least half of the systems are in a deficit budget situation, and it will not be until the full funding occurring in the second year that these systems will be solvent.*

*S7390 covers services to public, academic and school libraries and library systems and would cost \$21.3 million. Of this amount, \$4 million is for public library construction and \$13.5 million is for public libraries and library systems.*

*C-E-F would benefit from the proposed increase in minimum system support from \$500,000 to \$550,000 the first year and from \$550,000 to \$600,000 the second year. The Plattsburgh Public Library, our Central Library, would receive an additional \$10,000 each year.*

*We urge your support for these proposals.*

*The Rural Health Information Delivery Bill, no. S7518 (Farley) and A9013 (Parment) would assist 13 public library systems, including C-E-F, in delivering health information and materials to member libraries, nursing homes, hospitals and health care agencies in our area. A two year Federally funded project, just concluded, has verified the need for and extensive use of this service. We have received many letters of appreciation and support for this service.*

*Please let your State legislators know of your concern for these bills.*

Stanley A. Ransom

### PULISDO CONFERENCE

C-E-F Library System will be the host for the Fourth Annual PULISDO Conference. PULISDO stands for Public Library System Directors Organization. The event will take place at the Howard Johnson's Conference Center at Lake Placid on May 1-2, 1986.

Among topics slated for discussion are Microcomputer Applications in Public Library Systems, Library Legislation, Fund Raising Ideas for the Small Public Library, Grant and Program Ideas, Creating and Using Advisory Committees and discussion of the Shoffner Report on interlibrary loan in New York State.

The Conference is open to Public Library System Directors and consultants and to Central Library Directors and staff, who are being sent applications for registration.

We are pleased to be able to show off our beautiful Adirondacks and the Saranac Lake Free Library to our colleagues in other parts of the state!

Stanley A. Ransom

### BOOK FAIR COMING TO WATERTOWN!

On May 13 and 14, North Country Library System will be hosting a Book Fair featuring 1,200 books for adults available through Baker & Taylor. The Fair will be held at their System headquarters, Outer West Main Street, Watertown, New York with the following schedule:

Tuesday, May 13 -- 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14 -- 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Any C-E-F member librarians and trustees who are interested in attending on Tuesday, May 13, should notify Carol Bedore at C-E-F System headquarters so that car pooling arrangements can be made. Carol and others will be leaving Plattsburgh at 8 a.m.

Thanks in advance to North Country Library System for inviting us!

Leona Salzman

Assistant Director/Head of Outreach

### RETIREMENT PARTY FOR BOB HARNDEN

On February 15, C-E-F staff, trustees and friends gathered for a retirement dinner at the Barnstead Restaurant in Keeseville for Bob Harnden -- System bookmobile driver for 30 years.

Bob gave a moving talk on his years at C-E-F (he joined the staff at the beginning of the System itself) and he reminisced about the many people he had worked with. Bob ended by joking that he would still be in touch. He will be coming on the bookmobile: this time as a patron; he has already acquired a "Senior Citizen" bookmobile card. Bob will also appear as a substitute bookmobile driver from time to time.

Bob received a certificate of appreciation, presented by Wayne Byrne, an original member of the Board of Trustees, and Bob also received several gifts -- including a wood-carving of Bob and his bookmobile, "Parnassus on Wheels," from Director Stanley Ransom. The C-E-F staff and Board of Trustees presented Bob with a country club membership, as Bob's favorite avocation is golf.

Last, but certainly not least, retired Bookmobile Librarian John Crager sent Bob one of his famous poems from Arizona:

ROBERT HARNDEN

A bunch of soup-slurpers were having their lunch,  
In Port Henry's best greasy spoon;  
Laura's waitress was flicking ashes in the stew,  
While humming a '23's tune.

That '23 music turned someone's mind back,  
To a Port Henry son born that year;  
For the vehicle parked in the street just outside,  
Could mean that Bob Harnden was near.

So the local girl asked one of the motley crew,  
Who was trying to survive his meal;  
A question that knocked him right off of his stool,  
"Does Snuffy still drive the red bookmobile?"

Some questioning straightened the name difference out,  
Snuffy had been Bob's name in his youth;  
It was something he kept from his C-E-F friends,  
But I know that that girl told the truth!

I told her that Snuffy was still on the road,  
Which left his school friend flabbergasted;  
He has driven forever as far as we know,  
Let me tell you how long he has lasted.

While the Bible claims Noah once hauled all that freight,  
It was Bob in a floating bookmobile;  
Even a wagon train heading out West,  
Found Two-Gun Snuffy at the wheel!

We're sure he'll continue to steer that old bus,  
As a substitute from time to time;  
For it's hard to see Bob as very far away,  
When he's really just hitting his prime!

And if someday we all get the chance to advance,  
To that Library beyond the skies,  
We won't be surprised if we're taken by Bob,  
In a red bookmobile that flies!

John Crager  
February 15, 1986

## MEMBER LIBRARY PROFILE XIV: THE AUSABLE FORKS FREE LIBRARY

### Editor's Note:

I was presented with a unique opportunity for this Member Library Profile - a view of the AuSable Forks Free Library by one of its founders.

Ethel B. Manning was a charter member of the AuSable Forks Free Library Board of Trustees and she was President of the Board for 30 years. She worked with the New York State Board of Regents to obtain the library's charter and chaired both the original and the addition building committees. She also worked to obtain funding from two local school districts.

Mrs. Manning also served on the C-E-F Library System Board of Trustees for 24 years; she was President of the System Board for 3 years.

Here in her own words, is the story of the AuSable Forks Library's beginnings and development:

"Judged by most standards, the AuSable Forks Free Library must be considered fairly 'young.' It does not have a long historical background such as many libraries in the Clinton-Essex-Franklin System can boast. However, it has tried, by dint of hard work and enthusiasm, to make its mark in the family of libraries in our general area.

"Prior to 1942 there was a grave lack of reading material for the residents of AuSable Forks. After much discussion, aimed at the establishment of a small library, a group of people finally came up with a plan which would be the start -- of what might become, at some future date, a repository of good reading material.

"Miss Marie Branch, librarian of the local school, was the guiding hand. Forty-two people became charter members, each contributing \$3.00 and twenty-five of these charter members were asked to contribute four books, all of recent copyright. And so we started a library with 100 books, with other good donations of books following. We were on our way.

"Officers were elected and a room -- a very small one -- was rented on the main street of the village for \$15.00 a month, including heat and lights. During the winter months, rental was \$20.00 per month. There was one table, two chairs, and shelving. One big advantage of this tiny room was its location, in the middle of town, and in addition, it had a large window, affording us wonderful space to advertise our wares.

"This was a rental library, with charges of 3¢ a day for adults, and 2¢ a day for children. When a book had paid for itself, it went on the free list. Hours were 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.-- three days a week, with volunteers serving as librarians. New books were purchased as funds permitted, with a book committee meeting four times a year.

"The Library remained at this location for several years. Money was scarce -- and money-making projects were a constant demand of time and effort for its little band of volunteers.

"Alas, when shelves would no longer hold any more books, we moved, in 1952 across the street in a room twice the size of our first location. When the volunteers were not busy signing out books, of necessity, they grabbed a paint brush and bent their efforts to brightening up shelves, and chairs, with a new coat of paint.

"We needed more money! At this point it was decided to draw up a petition, signed by the tax payers, to hold a special election whereby the library might receive \$1,000 a year from each of the two towns we served; namely Jay and Black Brook. Since our village is comprised of a part of each of the two towns in different counties it did pose a problem. The personnel in the New York State Library in Albany were of great help and support. Together with the local attorney, representing the Library, a method was established whereby contracts providing

library services to the residents of both towns were drawn up, and in return public funds could be made available. A similar method came into being with the AuSable Valley Central School Board. The special election was favorably supported, and for the first time in our history we had specific funds to work with. The year was 1961.

"At this point we had a librarian, Peggy Meconi, who had worked on a weekly schedule, without pay for 3 years; now she was being paid \$15.00 a week. We were indeed indebted to her.

"In 1952, another bonanza came our way. On Labor Day, the bulk of the annual celebration revenue was allotted to the Library. Our share was \$1,700 and armed with this amount, and the extra services which we were able to provide, we applied for and received a provisional charter in 1952, and this was followed by a permanent charter in 1962.

"We acknowledge, with much gratitude, the help we received from the New York State Library. We were able to borrow large numbers of books, and also, to receive their help and guidance. We opened a small library station in two areas of our towns which were located farthest away from the center of town. These two stations were later absorbed by the C-E-F bookmobile.

"In 1952 we acquired a new Board member, Louise Campbell, who was a retired librarian. She did so much to bring a professional atmosphere to our Library - and to teach the volunteers the best methods of maintaining good order.

"Story Hour was initiated in the late forties and was a big success.

"Once again our space proved too small - and a third move took us back across the street, and into a former store. We had lots of room and grew by leaps and bounds. Circulation at this time reached approximately 18,000 a year. ,

"Two members of our reading public left the Library tidy sums in their wills. One such donor specified the building must be in existence by the end of five years, or the legacy would revert elsewhere. Inasmuch as we had acquired some additional funds

through our own efforts a building seemed in order. After all we could not keep moving every few years. A fund drive proved fruitful--so with \$65,000 in the bank we were on our way!

"The search was on for a suitable piece of land and not that much was available. We finally settled on a site on West Church Street. The building committee was instructed to have a survey done and secure the services of an architect. William Prescott Associates drew up plans -- and Edward Babbie was the contractor.

"The new building is 40'x50' with complete basement. We chose an antique brick--colonial style with a roof of cedar shakes. New tables, chairs, freestanding book shelves, a very fine check-out counter and good carpeting completed the picture. A covering of grass for the lawn, and landscaping was done in time for the opening.

"Dedication took place on September 19, 1968 and what a happy occasion it was! Four year old Beth Manning cut the ribbon!

"The Board of Trustees at that time were: President, Ethel B. Manning; Vice-President, Helen Douglass; Secretary, Grace Lucas; Treasurer, Leah B. Giltz; Librarian, Pearl Maicus; Vincent Mahar; Henry Rogers; Daniel Manning, Jr.; Jeanette Cameron and Carl Maicus.

"Books never got a heartier send off! Ward Lumber Company made carriers for the books and supplies; the Rogers Company furnished trucks and man power - and Board members and the librarian worked eagerly and, yes, gratefully to remove books from the former quarters to the new.

"Incidentally two members from the earliest band of charter members in 1942 are still on the Board today -- Ethel B. Manning and Leah Giltz -- while other members have put in long years of dedicated service.

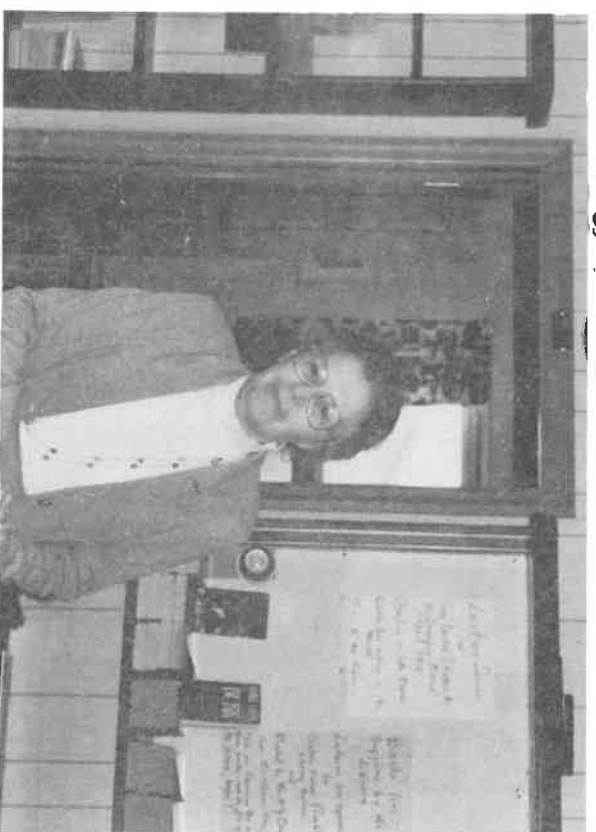
"Our books, which are carefully weeded each year, number between 16,000 and 17,000 plus an avalanche of paper backs and magazines. Borrowers number approximately 800 to 900.



# The AuSable Forks Free Library AuSable Forks, New York



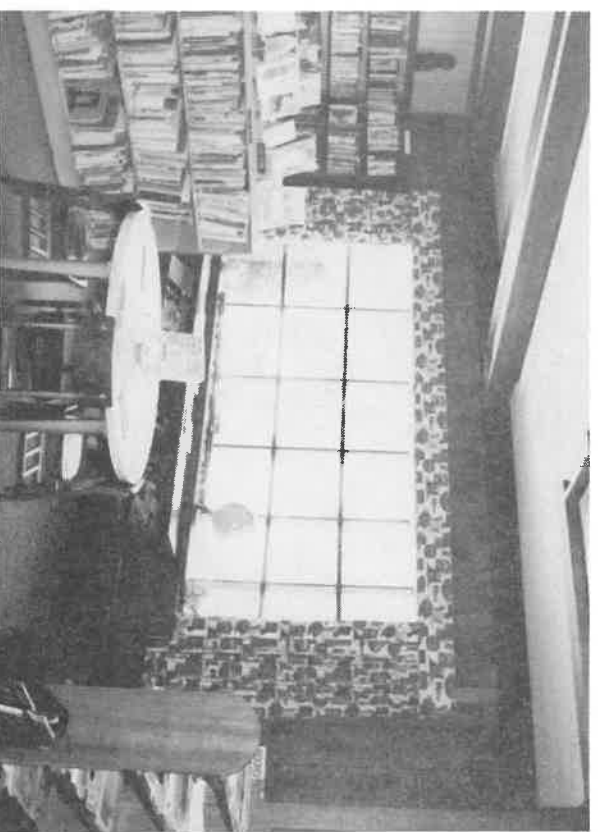
The front entrance of the AuSable Forks Free Library.



Ethel B. Manning



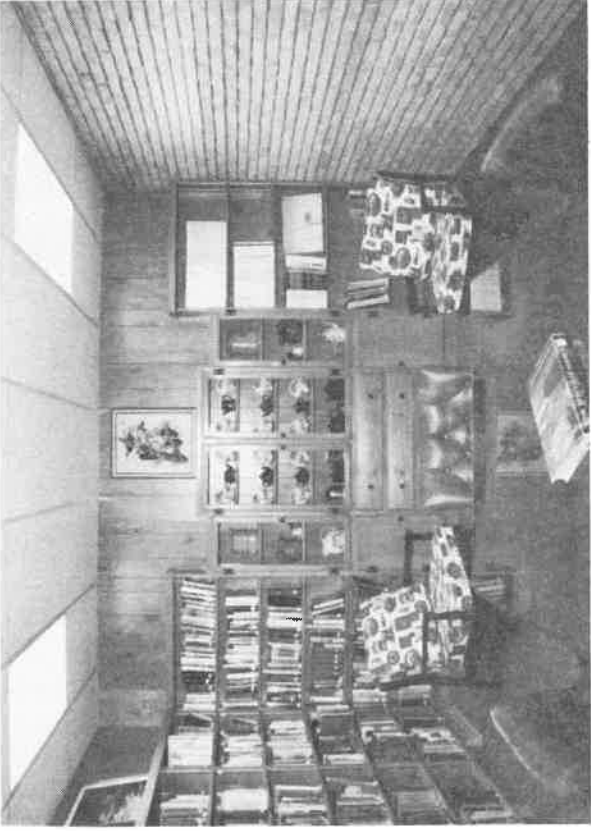
The Main Reading Room - the Ethel B. Manning Room.



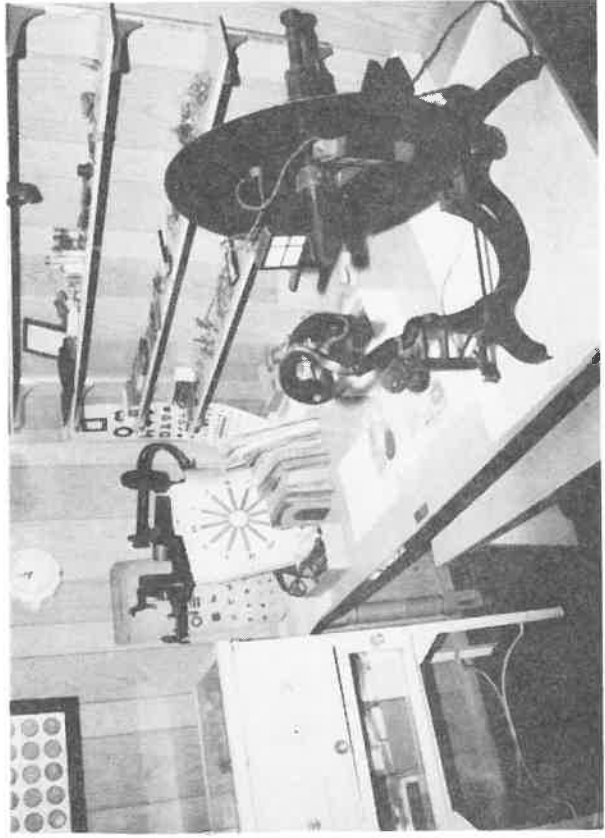
The Children's Corner, by the bay window.



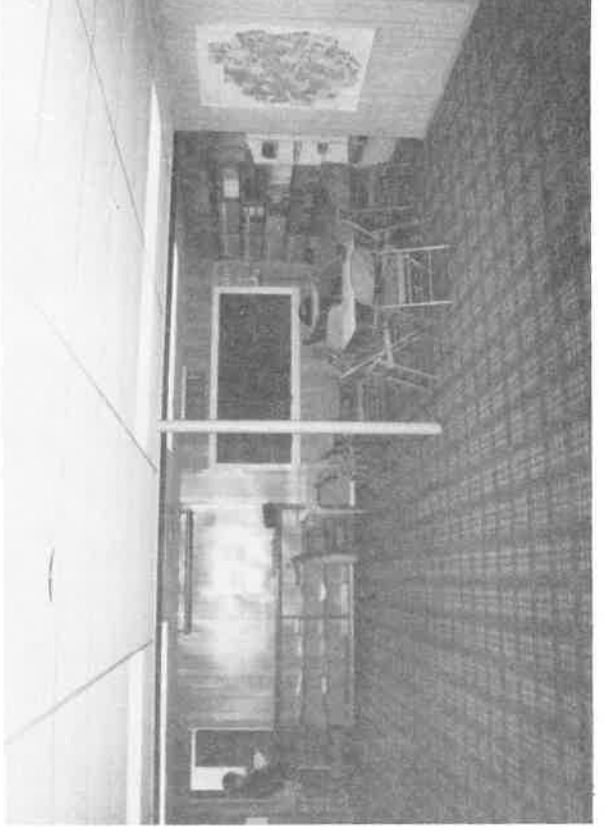
The reference section of the Leah B. Giltz room.



The display case in the Leah B. Giltz Room.



The old-time eyeglass exhibit in the library basement.



The basement community room.



"In the fall of 1985 a new wing was dedicated, adding a much needed second exit from the basement, along with a new reading room -- the "Leah B. Giltz Room"-- and a fairly large storage room. The Leah B. Giltz Room, so dedicated in her honor for her long years of dedicated service, houses the reference section and the biographies. At this time the storage room has been converted to a classroom for remedial studies of Holy Name School.

"Once a week two very fine volunteers come to the library for story hour - and once each week a group comes to the library for budget classes and sessions of bridge.

"Soon we will start the Lecture Series, sponsored by the C-E-F Library System and originating with the New York Council For The Humanities.

"Present members of the Board are: Abe Lincoln, President; Daniel T. Manning, Vice-President; Helen Douglass, Secretary; Ann Betters, Treasurer; Gladys Kurz, Librarian; Margaret Nolan; Angela Whisher; Ethel B. Manning; Norah Horstmyer and Leah B. Giltz.

"Substantial sums have been donated to the Library over the years. The Board of Trustees is most grateful to these generous people; without them we could not exist as we do today.

"Incidentally the main building was built and furnished with private funds. The addition was funded with a matching grant from C-E-F. This grant along with all the help -- in personnel, services and books -- which we receive from C-E-F can not be measured in words. We can only say 'Thank you.'"

\* \* \* \* \*

The AuSable Forks Free Library is a lovely one -- a harmonious blending of brick, wood and muted colors.

The main reading room, now the Ethel B. Manning Room contains most of the library's fine book collection. One wall is adorned with Rockwell Kent prints, for that well-known artist lived in the AuSable Forks area for many years. The children's section, in another part of the room, is overlooked by a large bay window -- giving it a feeling of light and space.

The Leah B. Giltz Room, part of the recent addition, contains the reference collection and the biographies section and also a handsome display cabinet, which will contain exhibits of the private collections of library patrons. It is certainly an attractive setting in which to do research.

Downstairs, is a huge basement community room which is used for both library and community functions. It contains a small kitchen; the library occasionally sponsors suppers and other social events and over 100 people can be served in the community room.

The library uses the community room for several regular programs, monthly movies, weekly children's story hours, a weekly card party (Mrs. Manning also gives bridge lessons). The Annual Meeting and the library book sale also take place in the community room.

There are additional bookcases here; Mrs. Manning and her children built some of them years ago.

In one corner of the room can be found an unusual exhibit; the eyeglass collection of an old time optician, Charles Bean, which was donated to the library by the AuSable Valley Lions Club. Nearby is a collection of local memorabilia -- post cards, yearbooks and pictures (many of these items were again donated by Ethel Manning).

The residents of the AuSable Forks area must be proud. This library is both attractive and progressive. We are sure it will continue to grow in the years ahead.

Mary S. Hopkins

## FLASH!

Assembly Bill A9805

Assemblyman Edward C. Sullivan's bill, A9805, The Omnibus Bill in the Assembly, requests the sum of \$9,944,933 for operating aid for libraries, plus \$4 million for public library construction.

Please encourage the Assembly to increase this bill to match the \$18 million proposed by Senate Bill 7390.

## HEADQUARTERS HIGHLIGHTS

### LEE SALZMAN REPORTS:

Our long promised talking books catalog has finally become a reality, and copies have been distributed to all C-E-F member libraries and bookmobiles. The catalog is annotated, and includes author, title, narrator and playing time with each entry. The entries are arranged under categories such as classics, romance, westerns, career development and languages to provide easy access to favorite topic areas. We plan to update the catalog at least annually. (thanks to our IBM PC XT microcomputer!).

Leona Salzman  
Assistant Director/Head of Outreach

### ACQUISITIONS

The annual statistics are in, and the annual reports filed so a few words of praise are in order for the people who work in this department. A great deal was accomplished in 1985; **12,135 books were processed, up from 6,487 in 1984!** At the same time a large scale barcoding of our library's holdings was accomplished. June 30 is our target date for going live on the Gaylord Circulation System. So thank you -- Tracey LaBarge, Marilyn Blanchard, Cindy Duval and Karen Favaro. You have done a fine job.

Carol G. Bedore  
Acquisitions

### NEW STAFF MEMBER

Bookmobile B has a new driver! Mike Pavone joined the staff in March, filling the position left vacant by the retirement of Bob Harnden.

### REFERENCE/INTERLIBRARY LOAN NEWS

We're right in the middle of our term paper crunch in Reference right now, and as usual we are all learning new things about new topics as we fill requests. I'm fortunate in having two talented and hard-working librarians working on subject requests: Sharon Habich, who is Reference Librarian at Plattsburgh Public Library; and Marilyn Trienens, from the Westport Library Association. Together the three of us have muddled through many a search for information. We've nearly given up on this month's toughie-"What is the name used for people who fight fires on offshore oil drilling rigs?" Any clues?

February and March have been busy months, with lots of activity with CHAIN (our dual-system school library network). We have established procedures for transmitting interlibrary loan requests via an electronic mail network. This means that school librarians now submit their requests to the two CHAIN coordinators (one is located in Plattsburgh, one in Malone), the coordinators process the requests, forwarding them to us through use of microcomputers and modems. Also, since a periodicals union list is now available for all schools within CHAIN, we can borrow from them whenever a school library owns a periodical we need.

In addition to this state of the art interlibrary loan transmission, we have also interfaced our C-E-F delivery system with CHAIN's two BOCES delivery systems. In doing this, we have greatly expanded our delivery area, and can save postage costs in providing ILL service to schools.

Elizabeth S. Rogers  
Head of Reference and Interlibrary Loan

ESSEX HUMANITIES SERIES

History Humanities Series in Elizabethtown  
at the Elizabethtown Library  
alternate Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

- May 20 Washington, the Indispensable Man by Flexner: lecture by Professor Norbert Kuntz, St. Michael's College, Winooski, Vermont
- June 3 Film: "The Adams Chronicles" - lecture by Professor John McCardell, Middlebury, Vermont
- June 17 Crisis in Freedom - lecture by Professor Eric Davis, Middlebury, Vermont
- July 1 Gore Vidal, Burr, - lecture by Professor Marshall True, University of Vermont
- July 15 The Republic in Peril - lecture by Professor Mark Stoler, University of Vermont

Literature Series in Westport  
at the Westport Library  
(from "American Dreams")

- July 8 Twain, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court - lecture by Professor Murray Dry, Middlebury, Vermont
- July 22 Henry Roth, Call It Sleep - lecture by Professor Stephen Donadio, Middlebury, Vermont
- August 5 Henry James, The Europeans - lecture by novelist Allen Gurganus, Sarah Lawrence College
- August 19 Alice Walker, The Color Purple - lecture by Professor Rennie Simson, Syracuse University
- September 2 To be announced

Series in Essex  
Persell Hall, St. John's Church

- June 24 Jill Hoffman, poet, reading from her work (sponsored by Poets & Writers)
- July 31 The Narrative of Ethan Allen's Captivity, - lecture by Professor John Mc Williams, Middlebury College
- August 14 "Building a National Image: Architectural Drawings for the New Democracy" - lecture by Bates Lowry, Director, National Building Museum

## NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

National Library Week is April 6th through 12th this year. Posters and bookmarks celebrating the event have been provided through the System to the member libraries and bookmobiles.

### REMINDER

THE DEADLINE FOR THE TRAILBLAZER  
NEWS FOR THE MAY/JUNE ISSUE  
IS MONDAY, MAY 11, 1986

### MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

#### FT. COVINGTON READING CENTER AND MUSEUM

The Fort Covington Reading Center-Museum continues to progress.

The building has been insulated, ceiling fans installed and other energy-saving measures have been implemented. Thus far, the Center has been able to remain open. However, the side door is now being used for access.

\* \* \* \* \*

On December 16, Mr. Stanley Ransom and two assistants met with Barb McElwain, Pat Musante and Elsie Chapman to evaluate and consult about additional reference books. With the help of several private donations, a grant from NYSCCA, and Mrs. Anne Russell, the Center has been able to acquire quite a reference collection. While most of the standard reference material is present, additional books of communal interest were suggested and obtained.

The C-E-F is also loaning a revolving collection to the Center as well as taking orders for requested books.

\* \* \* \* \*

Following the resignations of Emmett Favreau and Anne Russell, new officers were elected at the December meeting. Barbara McElwain and Richard Avery were elected co-chairmen; Pat Musante, secretary and Marilyn Furnia, treasurer.

New members were added to the committee, although a complete list is not yet compiled. These include: Caroline Badger, Gloria Campbell, Marion Chatland, Dorothy Keeler, Eleanor Latulippe, Madeline Leroux, Phil Jock, Jeanne McCaffrey, Warren Mount and Greg Stone.

#### KEENE PUBLIC LIBRARY

##### ANITA WASHBURN RETIRES:

On Monday evening, February 3rd, residents of the Town of Keene gathered at the Elm Tree Inn in celebration of "Neet's" 27 years of community service as Librarian of the Keene Public Library. Mrs. Anita Havens Washburn became Librarian on August 18, 1958 and retired on November 30, 1985.

Speaker, Stanley Ransom, Director of C-E-F, lauded Mrs. Washburn for her many years of dedicated service to her community. Charles Gillman, Supervisor of the Town of Keene, presented Mrs. Washburn with a Citation from the Assembly of the State of New York. Congratulatory messages from Assemblyman Glenn Harris, Senator Ronald Stafford and President Ronald Regan were also read and presented to Mrs. Washburn. Friends attending the celebration, presented Mrs. Washburn with a lovely glass flower vase, appropriately engraved, symbolically representing her love for her community and the community's love for her.

Banquet goers termed the dinner outstanding. Mrs. David "Paula" McDonough, of Keene Valley made a beautiful retirement cake for the occasion.

Mrs. Washburn is now finding time to work on the history of Keene. We wish her a happy retirement.

### PLATTSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Richard Ward recently resigned as Director of Plattsburgh Public Library. Kathy Cayea is Acting Director at this time.

### WEAD LIBRARY, MALONE

Director Dave Minnich reports:

This year's actuality is that once again, the Wead Library's circulation figures have increased over those of 1984. In that year, 56,046 was the grand total circulation. In 1985, the figure has increased to 59,531. That's a 6.21% increase. If one desires a greater contrast, consider that in 1956, the library's annual grand total circulation barely topped 22,000 items. Currently, we're circulating about 3.8 books per person in our chartered service area, based on a population estimate of 15,275 people. During 1985, 1125 books were added to the local collection. However, 855 books were discarded, so the net gain was but 270 volumes. The library's total holdings now stands at 36,103 items, with 33,018 of that number being books.

\*\*\*\*\*

On January 11th at our monthly Children's Film Showing, we had 55 viewers in rapt attention. It's our largest number since the start of the programs last fall, and definitely our largest for the year (so far). On February 8, 15 viewers watched three films. Another film program is set for March 8th.

\*\*\*\*\*

On February 20, the Wead Library, in cooperation with the Essex Humanities Series, presented the first in a series of lecture-discussion seminars on the subject "Slavery, Race and the Civil War," with particular emphasis on the topic "Rebirth of a Nation."

The first book discussed was Stephen Oakes "With Malice Toward None" presented by John L. (Jack) Myers, professor of History at SUC Plattsburgh.

Dr. Myers' other interests include libraries. He is a member and past president of the Board of Trustees of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System.

The second meeting in this series, A continuation of "With Malice Toward None," was held on March 6 and was also conducted by Dr. Myers.

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Thursday evening, March 20, another in a series of lecture-discussion sponsored by the Essex Humanities Series took place in the Wead Library's Conference Room.

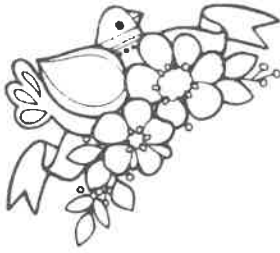
Dr. Marli Weiner, professor of history at St. Lawrence University, spoke on the topic of Harriet Beecher Stowe and her book "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

### SARANAC LAKE FREE LIBRARY

A newcomer to the area, Nancy Brossard of Lake Clear, displayed 24 oil on canvas paintings in the Cantwell Community Room of the Saranac Lake Free Library in a show which ran from March 4 through March 28.

Originally from Wisconsin, Nancy studied painting and drawing at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and Milwaukee. All of the works in the show were completed in the past year. They are mainly of the Adirondacks, but also of the Catskill and Albany areas.

Stanley A. Ransom, Director  
Mary S. Hopkins, Editor



### FLASH!

Fran Yardley will present a Storytelling Demonstration and Workshop for librarians on Monday, June 9th, at C-E-F Library System. Fran Yardley is an actress-turned-storyteller from Saranac Lake. She has recently been presenting programs at Plattsburgh's Monty Street School as part of North Country Community College's Arts-In-Education Program.

Her stories range from classical to local and she will teach her audience the art of storytelling in time for their summer library programs.

All public librarians and school librarians are invited to attend. The program will begin at 9:45 a.m. with registration and coffee from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. and will end at 1 p.m.

Please save the date.

Stanley A. Ransom  
Director

