OF ICE AND MEN

(And Some Women Too)

On January 8, I attended the grand opening of the Lake Champlain Ice Exhibition at the Clinton County Historical Museum. The exhibit and an accompanying book, You Hear The Ice Talking, were the result of three years of research by Dr. I. Sheldon (we call him "Shelley") Posen, under the sponsorship of C-E-F Library and the Clinton County Historical Museum.

Some of you are already probably thinking that, at this time of year, the only kind of ice you want to see comes in cubes and clinks around merrily in your glass. Until I actually visited the exhibit and read the book, that might well have been my point of view, but, I have learned that the story of ice on Lake Champlain is indeed fascinating.

The exhibit covers many aspects of Lake Champlain ice: ice fishing, commercial ice harvesting, skating, the frozen lake as a highway and more.

Even though I have lived within walking distance of Lake Champlain all my life, I picked up several surprising tidbits of information. I'm not going to give you a detailed tour of the exhibit or spoil the book; I merely want to whet your appetite so you can go see them for yourselves.

Did you know, for example, that Lake Champlain is the largest body of fresh water in the United States that is closed by ice in winter from shore to shore? Or that one of the Green Mountain Boys escaped from his Indian captors by outskating them to the Vermont shore? I personally, liked the story about William Henry Saxe of Chazy Landing, who in 1886, was forced to skate a corpse over to Isle LaMotte in Vermont for burial because the ice was too thin to support horses.

Many of you probably are in the habit of going ice fishing. Certainly all of us are familiar with the sight of fish shanties on the Lake and most of us enjoy our fried icefish, one of the few real treats that winter has to offer. Included in the exhibit are a letter sent by Grover Baxter of Port Henry with a gift of icefish to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and a thank you note for the fish from Missy LeHand, FDR's private secretary and, er, friend.

Also on display are menus by maitre d' Oscar Tschirky — Oscar of the Waldorf and later Oscar of the Ritz. Oscar served Lake Champlain icefish to New York's 400 but depending on the atmosphere of the dinner, he listed our plain old delicacy
by various highfalutin names: Lake Champlain Frost Fish à la Meunière, Lake Champlain Ice-Fish Sauté Meunière and Poisson de Lake Champlain Sauté à la Meunière. Finally, when Oscar went all out, it was Lac Champlain!

I was pleasantly surprised to learn that there have been many expert women ice fishermen — it's one way to get away from the kids, I guess.

Among the artifacts was a section devoted to the Polar Bear, Westport veterinarian Bob Lopez who has been jumping into holes cut in the ice at local ice festivals for 30 years. Years ago, while a member of a high school marching band which was the musical entertainment at one of these events, I watched Dr. Lopez perform that feat. It was so cold that day that both my fingers and my clarinet were frozen. Thus, I viewed the Polar Bear performance with genuine awe.

The exhibit contains 275 artifacts borrowed from folks all over the area, in addition to photographs, old and new. There is something to jog everyone's memory. And besides, after becoming acquainted (or reacquainted) with the arduous work of cutting ice blocks from the lake to stock ice boxes from here to New York City — you'll go away from the exhibit with a brand new appreciation of your electric refrigerator.

* * * * * * * *

Over 200 people attended the grand opening of the Lake Champlain Ice Exhibition on January 8 at the Clinton County Historical Museum at City Hall, Plattsburgh.

Champagne, punch and a beautiful cake depicting a Lake Champlain ice shanty (made by Juanita Baker) were served at the reception.

The exhibit and its accompanying book, You Here The Ice Talking: The Ways of People and Ice on Lake Champlain, were made possible with funding from the New York State Council on the Arts: approximately $35,000 over a three-year period. The grants were obtained by Stanley A. Ransom, Director of the C-E-F Library System.

John McCarthy of Newark, New York designed the exhibit. The book designer is Leigh Ann Smith of Albany. The work of professional photographer Al Gates of Moriah is also greatly appreciated.

During the evening, Helen Allan, Director of the Clinton County Historical Museum; C-E-F Director Stanley Ransom and Sheldon Posen presented the exhibition fabricators, Pete Hubbell and Ed Bohin, with gift certificates in appreciation of their fine work.

Museum Hours are:
Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
by appointment

Group tours are welcome. Anyone interested should call (518) 561-0340 to make arrangements.

The Clinton County Historical Museum is located on the third floor of City Hall, Plattsburgh.

Mary Shaw Hopkins
Editor
FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

A new legislative session is starting in Albany, and there is a new sense of urgency about the legislative process this year. Legislative leaders are now saying, "The day of getting major funding in a Supplemental Budget is now past." The Governor's budget proposals and the State Budget, which must be passed by April 1st, thus assures even greater importance to libraries and stimulates us to action. We need increases in our library budgets in two areas especially.

The C-E-F Library System, which now receives the $615,000 minimum support for public library systems, must see this amount increased to $700,000 within the next two years just to keep even with regular rising costs. The Regents Bill recommends $650,000 for the next two years and the New York Library Association recommends a 15% increase, or $707,250. The Public Library System Director's Organization (PULISDO) recommends $675,000 for 1987 and $700,000 for 1988. We hope that legislators will keep these proposals in mind.

A new proposal in the Regents Bill would give direct aid to public libraries. Our member librarians and trustees should follow the progress of this proposed legislation carefully. The new proposal, to be called Local Library Services Aid (LLSA) would replace Local Library Incentive Aid (LLIA). This direct aid to member public libraries will be paid only to those "chartered and registered public libraries meeting revised standards." In this regard it would be helpful for our member public libraries to review their hours of opening and their list of services in order to prepare for the revised standards.

The standards are now being reviewed by Library Development and the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

In the meantime, remember that Library Day in Albany is Tuesday, March 10th.

Stanley A. Ransom
Director

C-E-F PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

1. You Hear The Ice Talking: The Ways of People and Ice on Lake Champlain, by Dr. I. Sheldon Posen. 1986. Published in conjunction with the Lake Champlain Ice Exhibition at Clinton County Historical Museum, January 9 - March 30th. This 62 page book, illustrated with 58 photos and drawings, covers Lake Champlain ice, how lakes make ice, travel on the ice, play - including ice boating and skate sailing, ice harvesting, ice fishing, ice shanties, women and ice fishing, folk arts and the ice, iceways and narrow escapes, and finally ice out. The book, the result of many hours of research by the folklorist, Dr. Posen, was designed by Leigh Ann Smith, of Albany. The Ice Exhibition and the ice book were supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts.

The book retails for $10 plus $1 for shipping and handling. Price to libraries and bookstores is $7.50 plus $1 postage and handling.

Please make checks payable to "C-E-F Library System." Libraries and institutions may be billed. The book may also be purchased at the Clinton County Historical Museum.

2. Marketing for Nonprofit Cultural Organizations, by Dr. Nancy J. Church. Dr. Church, faculty member of the School of Business and Economics at Plattsburgh State University College, was presenter of a series of Marketing Training Workshops held at the college in the fall of 1986. The workshops were sponsored by the C-E-F Library System with funding from the New York State
Council on the Arts. The marketing workshops trained some 35 representatives of public libraries, arts councils, arts, music and community groups from the three county area. The 136 page book covers an introduction to marketing, marketing research for the nonprofit cultural organization, identifying target markets, promotion and positioning, print and broadcast advertising, out-of-home and direct mail advertising, sales promotion and merchandising, publicity and marketing ideas for nonprofit cultural organizations, including libraries. There are ten drawings by cartoonist Sid Couchey, himself a library trustee in Essex.

The book is available, postpaid, for a flat fee of $5, payable to "C-E-F Library System."

It is suggested that other library systems would find this a useful item for purchase and distribution to member libraries.

Stanley A. Ransom

CVPH MEDICAL CENTER LIBRARY

The Medical Center Library of the Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital has been expanded to meet the growing needs of health care practitioners and administrative personnel using that facility. Librarian Chris Ransom held an Open House on January 14th to show off the enlarged library to the community. The Medical Center Library offers a collection of medical texts, health care journals and audiovisual materials, and also provides on-line medical information services. The library operates with a staff of three: Librarian Chris Ransom; Cathy McCrea, library clerk; and Carolyn Donato, who is the Circuit Rider librarian headquartered at the Medical Center. The Circuit Rider program, a part of the North Country 3R’s Library System, serves the professional needs of the six hospitals in the C-E-F area.

Our congratulations to the Medical Center library staff and our commendation to the CVPH administration which encouraged and supported the necessary library expansion.

Stanley A. Ransom

KEELA ROGERS' TRUSTEE SERVICES NOTED

Keela Rogers, member of the C-E-F Board of Trustees since January 1, 1972, was honored by the Board at a dinner on December 17th. Keela, who with husband Jim Rogers operates Saranac Lake’s Radio Station WNBZ, has represented Essex County on the System Board. She was Second Vice-President from 1974 to 1975 and President of the C-E-F Board from 1976 through 1978.

Keela was active on the Board of the New York State Association of Library Boards as a member, Library Trustee Institute panel member, Vice-President and, in 1985-86, its President. She continues to serve as a member of the LSCA Advisory Committee.

She is a founding Trustee and for several years was the President of the Olympic and Winter Sports Museum Board of Trustees in Lake Placid. She is active in the North Elba Historical Society and is its current president.

Keela has also represented the C-E-F Library System on the North Country 3R's Library System Board since July 1st, 1979.
The C-E-F Board presented Keela with an engraved plate in appreciation of her 15 years as a C-E-F Library System Trustee. She was also presented with several varieties of frog replicas, which she collects.

Keela will be missed on the C-E-F Board. We thank her for all the work she has done to promote library services in the North Country and in New York State.

Keela is continuing her interest in library affairs through her work on the NC 3R's Library System and as a member of the Local Arrangements Committee for the forthcoming NYLA Conference in Lake Placid.

Keela Rogers recently received a Resolution of Appreciation from the Essex County Board of Supervisors for her outstanding contributions to the quality of life in Essex County and to her many worthy causes, including the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System.

Stanley A. Ransom

**LEE SALZMAN APPOINTED TO STATE LITERACY COMMITTEE**

Leona Salzman, C-E-F Assistant Director, has been appointed a member of the Honorary "New York, You Can Read" Campaign Committee by Commissioner of Education Gordon M. Ambach. The Committee, chaired by noted author Toni Morrison, is dedicating its efforts to inform the public of the problem of adult illiteracy and encourage support to solve it. In New York State, there are as many as two million adults who lack basic reading ability. The Committee includes many other library leaders, media representatives and community leaders.

Ms. Salzman is Chair of the local task force for Project Literacy in the U.S. (PLUS) and is Past President of Literacy Volunteers of Clinton County. She recently participated in a WCFE televised panel discussion on illiteracy in the North Country which included panel members from New York, Vermont and Canada.

Stanley A. Ransom

**REGENTS PROPOSE $93.9 MILLION
NEW YORK STATE AID FOR LIBRARIES**

The Regents library aid program would increase aid to public, school, and reference and research library systems in two steps. Library aid would be increased in 1987/88 by $14.5 million over current levels, and would increase an additional $6.8 million in 1988/89. The proposed aid includes $4 million annually for public library construction; an additional $2 million in the regional database program involving all types of libraries; and an increase by 1988/89 of $4.5 million to enable public libraries and public library systems to expand literacy, coordinated outreach, and youth services.

According to Roberta Cade, Director of the Division of Library Development, the library and school aid proposals recognize public libraries as educational institutions in carrying out the Regents priorities for "Better Beginnings — Successful Completions." Both public library system aid and outreach funding would be increased to help public library systems and member libraries meet the needs of all people in their communities. Ms. Cade points out that the Regents proposal would, by 1988, replace the local library incentive aid program with a new local library aid program designed to increase grants to local public libraries.
Currently, the local library incentive aid totals $7.7 million, of which $5.7 million is paid to member libraries. The new program would provide $9.1 million for member libraries on a per capita basis. According to Ms. Cade, the per capita aid would be tied to new public library standards planned to be in place by the end of 1987.

The Regents proposal has three major components, as follows:

(1) COMPREHENSIVE COORDINATED INFORMATION DATABASE AND DELIVERY SYSTEM. The bill would amend Education Law to allocate funds for regional automation programs more equitably among the nine regions, thereby providing resources to involve libraries of all types to operate within a statewide automation plan. Grants would total $5.1 million in 1988/89 as compared to $3 million in 1986/87. Grants to reference and research library resources systems for database development in all types of system and libraries would shift to a formula basis, including a base grant of $290,000 plus .046 cents per capita. Annual grants for each public library system would increase from $60,000 to $77,500.

(2) PUBLIC LIBRARY OUTREACH AND LITERACY SERVICES. The bill would increase State aid for coordinated outreach services programs to 21 cents (from 10 cents currently) in 1988/89. The bill also would provide for $1.8 million annual appropriation for the adult literacy services program authorized in 1986 and for early and lifelong literacy programs. The bill would provide $50,000 for each public library system to foster cooperation with schools and other public and voluntary agencies in providing services to school and preschool children and their parents.

(3) AID FOR ESSENTIAL LIBRARY SYSTEM AND LIBRARY SERVICES. The bill would provide increases in the local library incentive aid, central library, public library system, school library system, reference and research library resources system, conservation/preservation, and coordinated academic collection development aid.

The bill would amend Education Law to provide $4 million annually for public library construction. When all public library aid programs, including outreach, are included, public library aid increases from $56.6 million in 1986/87 to $70.7 million in 1988/89.

Aid to school library systems would increase from $5.1 million currently to $6.7 million in 1988/89. Existing formula factors would be increased in two steps.

Aid for reference and research library systems would be increased from $3 million to $3.3 million. Aid for coordinated collection development in academic libraries and hospital libraries would be increased $198,041 and $142,000 respectively by 1988/89. Aid for conservation/preservation programs would be increased by $1.3 million.

The bill would also change from the calendar year to the school fiscal year the operation of the reference and research library resources systems. The shift would require a one-time appropriation of $1.6 million in 1988/89. Aid for several programs is on a calendar year basis. A shift to the July–June fiscal year will be helpful to all systems in future years.

Programs in the library aid proposal, compared with current levels (in millions) are:

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<td>Preservation/Conservation</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$72.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>$87.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>$93.9</strong></td>
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*includes $1.6 million to change to school fiscal year.
The Reception.
Chairman of the Clinton County Legislature, at
Folklorist L. Sheldon.

The Historical Museum.
Chairman of the Clinton County with sister at
Director of

The fraphamain Ice Exhibition.
The Wells Memorial Library
Upper Jay, New York

The Wells Memorial Library.

Librarian Kathleen ("Kay") LeClair.

Rose Nye Torrance

Volunteer Lucy Ritchie by the fireplace.
SCHOOL AID INCLUDES LIBRARIES

As a part of the Elementary, Secondary and Continuing Education Legislative program the Regents also adopted a three-part coordinated community - elementary school library program. This portion of the school aid program would increase the school library materials from $2 to $4 and would establish maintenance of local effort using 1984/85 expenditures as the base year; provide $4.9 million to make full- or part-time librarians available to each elementary school building to work with teachers and students in the appropriate use of library materials and services; and provide $5 million to public libraries for services to school and preschool children and their parents.

The library and school aid proposals recognize that many children in New York State are disadvantaged because they do not have access to cultural and educational experiences before entering school. By providing funds to public libraries for services to children and their parents, school aid recognizes that public libraries have important roles in introducing children to lifelong learning and use of libraries.

BRIEFING ON AID PROPOSAL SCHEDULED

Regents proposals for services to elderly people include library components, and other proposals would implement cultural education services important to libraries. Legislation to implement the Regents proposals is being developed by the State Education Department and will be ready for introduction by the start of the 1987 Legislative session.

MEMBER LIBRARY PROFILE XVIII: THE WELLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, UPPER JAY

Editor's Note: I would like to thank Wells Librarian Kathleen ("Kay") LeClair for all her help with this article. I am also grateful to former Wells Trustee Rose Nye Torrance (who has recently retired from the Board after many years of service) and to Volunteer Lucy Ritchie. All three ladies gave freely of their time. Rose had compiled a thick pile of historical records, of which Kay has graciously provided me with copies.

In 1905, Wallace Craig Smith and his wife Jean Wells Smith offered to present the village of Upper Jay with a library building and site if the people of the village desired a library - and were willing to support one.

A meeting was called to order by the Methodist Minister, Rev. G.E. Straight on October 7, 1905 for the purpose of organizing a library association and officers were chosen.

The surnames of several of the original trustees are familiar. David Torrance was the grandfather of Rose Torrance's husband; C.E. Torrance was a cousin. William B. Robinson was the grandfather of Elsie Robinson's husband (Elsie is also a Wells trustee).

A letter to Rev. Straight from the New York State Education Department (Melvil Dewey is listed as Director on the heading) dated a few days later, informed the new library association how to obtain a charter. The letter's author, W.R. Eastman in Albany also offered to send a book list to aid in the selection of books.

This library association didn't waste time; by the 13th of October, plans for obtaining the new charter were proceeding and $280 had been raised or pledged (a substantial sum of money in those days).

Another letter from the State Education Department, this one written by Asa Wynkoop
states his intentions to send a "library expert" to help the villagers organize, "to put your library in first class shape."

The library received its charter from the state on April 26, 1906.

An early accession book lists books and their prices in 1907. A few examples: The Virginian - $.45; Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm - $1.00; Vanity Fair, A Tale of Two Cities and Ivanhoe - $.38 apiece.

The library itself was built in a similar architectural style as that of Wellscroft, the Smith family's large estate modeled after an English country home in "Richardsonian Queen Anne" style.

Wellscroft was a summer home, as the Smith family resided in Saginaw, Michigan, but some of Jean Wells Smith's family had once lived in Upper Jay. Rose Torrance remembers the two Smith daughters and their ponies in her childhood. She once was delivered to a children's party at Wellscroft by the chauffeur of another guest - a rare treat.

Rose, Kay and Lucy also remember the library as a social center. It was used as a community center. Church groups, and organizations such as the Girl Scouts, held suppers in the basement, which then had a kitchen with tables specially made to fit around the supporting posts. In nice weather, suppers were held on the library lawn. Unfortunately there can be no more suppers. The east branch of the AuSable River flows in back of the library and there have been serious floods in the basement in recent years. One year, Kay remembers that she had to evacuate the library itself because of the danger of flooding caused by ice jams. Luckily, that was a false alarm.

The women remember that there was once a player piano in the library and a Victrola; young people learned to dance there.

There were also tennis and volleyball games on a court on the lawn and a rink was created for ice skating in the winter.

The garden club was another group which met at the library.

The library today is a lovely building - high ceilings, off-white walls in contrast with dark wood, tall old fashioned windows and a handsome brick fireplace which once was used to heat the building. From a back window, the river is easily visible, Christmas-card pretty on a sunny winter's day, showing no indication of its more dangerous side.

On one wall hangs a tribute to the first librarian, Madella Buck, who served for 60 years - until 1967. Miss Buck was a beloved figure in the village; Kay showed me a New Testament presented to her in 1892 by her Sunday School class. Kids, however, will be kids and two village boys developed a ritual of going to the library and always asking Miss Buck for a book from the bottom shelf. The reason they did this was that they knew when she knelt down for the book her knees would crack. This always delighted the boys and they would have to leave quickly to cover their laughter.

Madella Buck was followed by Leona Cole. Kay LeClair became librarian in 1977, succeeding Sue Rielly who left to become village postmistress.

The library receives funding from the Town of Jay and the AuSable Valley Central School District. In 1977 a permanent income fund the "Wells Memorial Library Income Fund" was established, of which only the income is used for operating expenses. This fund is derived from memorial donations and gifts.

One such memorial donation was given by Rose Torrance in recognition of her brother, Charles Nye. He had spent the longest time on the Board of Trustees of any member in its history — over 30 years of conscientious service. Because of the library's limited funds, it has relied on trustees, to a large extent, to carry on repairs and maintenance. Clark Nye had devoted much of his time to this kind of work.

Interestingly enough, Ben Wells of St. Louis, Missouri, a distant relative of Jean Wells Smith, still contributes to the library's support.
Concern for the library appears to be a strong family tradition in Upper Jay.

The library also depends heavily on the proceeds of its annual fundraising drive.

One recent addition to library services was the purchase of a photocopier in 1986, making the library the closest place within miles to provide this badly needed service.

The people of Upper Jay are lucky to have Kay LeClair as librarian — she is, quite simply, one of the nicest people I know. As she points to snapshots of patrons which she keeps on a wall, one cannot fail to notice that she appreciates them too.

Mary S. Hopkins

GRACE PALEY SELECTED FOR EDITH WHARTON CITATION — STATE LIBRARY COSPONSORS AWARD

Grace Paley, renowned short-story writer and social activist, has been selected the first recipient of the New York State Edith Wharton Citation of Merit for fiction writers.

The honor, established by the State Legislature under the aegis of the New York State Writers Institute, will be awarded biennially to a New York State author upon the recommendation of an advisory panel of distinguished writers.

Ms. Paley will receive an honorarium and be considered New York State Author for 1986-88. As designated in the legislation establishing this citation, "the State Author shall promote and encourage fiction within the State and shall give two public readings within the State each year."

Grace Paley’s short-story collection, Later That Same Day, has been highly acclaimed since its publishing in 1985. Her two previous collections, The Little Disturbances of Man (1959) and Enormous Changes at the Last Minute (1974), received similar praises.

NATAS

Librarians now have a place to turn to with questions they have about conservation and renewable energy technologies, as well as a place to refer patrons with questions on these topics.

The National Appropriate Technology Assistance Service (NATAS) is a program, funded by the Department of Energy, which answers specific questions on everything from solar hot water systems to energy-efficient building techniques to municipal waste recycling. The service also assists small energy-related businesses with any questions they have on licensing, marketing, business planning, and financing energy-related ideas, products, or services. NATAS has been in operation since 1984, and since that time has responded to more than 15,000 questions nationwide.

NATAS can be contacted by anyone in the United States by calling or writing NATAS at P.O. Box 2525, Butte, MT 59702; 1-800-428-2525.
TRUSTEES IN THE NEWS

Three new members to the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System’s Board of Trustees were appointed in December.

Mark Rigby

The Clinton County Board of Legislators appointed Mark W. Rigby of West Chazy to fill the unexpired term of Clement Burlingame who has resigned from the Board.

Mark Rigby is Advertising Sales Consultant of Denton Publications.

Mr. Rigby was born in Levittown (Long Island) and graduated from Bethpage High School. He received his B.A. in Environmental Science from SUNY Plattsburgh. While in college his special interests were Literacy Volunteers, scuba diving, hiking and racquetball.

Mr. Rigby's current hobbies are: building a home with his wife, Corinne; gardening; cross-country skiing; basketball and playing with his kids – Jacob, age 5 and Benjamin, age 1.

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The Essex County Board of Supervisors has appointed Fern Cunnion of Essex to replace the Board position left vacant by the retirement of longtime C-E-F Trustee Keela Rogers of Lake Placid and has also appointed the Rev. Anne West of Schroon Lake to fill the unexpired term of Ken Dobbel, also of Schroon Lake.

Fern M. Cunnion

A descendent of early settlers in the Lake Champlain area, Fern Mason Cunnion graduated from Essex High School and St. John’s Secretarial School in Plattsburgh. She was employed by the Glens Falls insurance Company until her marriage. She lived many years in suburban Philadelphia, where she operated an antiques business. She is a former officer of the Montgomery County (Pennsylvania) Antiques Dealers Association. She also is one of the founders and an early president of the Perkiomen Valley Art Center, an organization of both professional and amateur artists now headquartered at Ursinus College in southeastern Pennsylvania. She has been active in the League of Women Voters. Current interests: the Belden-Noble Library in Essex, C-E-F, and foreign travel.

Fern’s husband, Don, is a retired magazine writer and editor. She has two sons: Richard, an airline executive, and Stephen, an epidemiologist.

Rev. Anne West

The Rev. Anne West is minister at the Community Church in Schroon Lake.

She was originally from Saratoga Springs, NY, but spent 30 years in California before returning to the North Country.

The Rev. West received her bachelor’s degree from the University of California at Berkeley and her Master of Science Degree in Counseling from California State College at Sacramento. She received her theological training at Andover Newton Theological Seminary.

The Rev. West is now in her third career. While raising a family of eight children she ran a sewing business from her home (she made dolls and costumes for a woman's choral group). She returned to school when the kids reached high school age and she became a psychological counselor.

The Rev. West was ordained to the ministry in Schroon Lake three years ago.
ALTONA LIBRARY OPENS

On Sunday, January 11, the Altona Friends of the Library hosted an open house from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the newly opened library located in the Altona Town Hall. Outside the snow was falling and the wind was blowing, but about 30 people braved the weather to attend the official opening of the new library.

Town Supervisor Len Sample cut the ribbon officially opening the library. It was one year ago that Supervisor Sample asked me if others and myself were still interested in organizing a library. In April of 1986, the first organizational meeting was held and in late spring the appointed board of trustees began meeting regularly to plan for the library.

The steady support of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System continued throughout the summer and fall. Inmates on an outside work crew from the Altona Correctional Facility built shelving units and painted the walls of the new library.

A special fundraiser in the fall raised additional money for new books. The library is hoping to purchase a new set of encyclopedias. Community support has come from private individuals, Northern Adirondack Central School and other local libraries. In the late fall, the library issued its first card to an eight-year-old and at Christmas held its first story hour for children.

The library is particularly pleased with the collection of children's books we have been able to collect, thanks to the generosity of the Tupper Lake Library. We are now concentrating on the adult collection. New books are on the shelves and ready to be checked out.

In the future the library will be working to expand its base of volunteers and include regular story hours for children. We are looking forward to a visit from the new Brownie troop in town.

Betsy Baker, President
Altona Library Board of Trustees

WILDER ASSOCIATION ACQUIRES ALMANZO WILDER'S BOYHOOD HOME IN BURKE

A farmhouse located in Burke, New York was the boyhood home of Almanzo Wilder, husband of Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Laura Ingalls Wilder was the well-known author of the "Little House" books, on which the TV series, "Little House on the Prairie" was based. Almanzo's childhood on the farm was the subject of her book Farmer Boy.

In the fall of 1986, the Franklin County Historical and Museum Society, which has done much to preserve the memory of the Wilders, was offered, by the family of Joseph Bigness, the opportunity to purchase the Wilder house. Although the society was interested, it was felt that the organization should not assume such a responsibility in view of its present commitments. It was suggested that if the house were to be acquired, this should be accomplished by an organization separate from the Historical Society.

Such a group formed immediately. It is known as the Almanzo and Laura Ingalls Wilder Association, and it is purchasing the Wilder house and land for restoration. Its plans include an authentic renovation of the house to the 1866 period of the book, Farmer Boy, and eventually the reconstruction of the barns which are now missing.

The association is applying to the New York State Department of Education for incorporation as an educational institution, but until this is completed, the organization is under the sponsorship of the Greater Malone Community Council.

-11-
Although the house has been privately owned until now and not open to the public, visitors travel long distances to see it.

The Wilder home has an added distinction. It is the only original "Little House" still in existence.

Anyone wishing to assist in the restoration may send a contribution to the Greater Malone Community Council with a notation that it is for the Wilder Association. It should be addressed to the Almanzo and Laura Ingalls Wilder Association, 60 Franklin Street, Malone, New York 12953. All donations will be welcome.

For more information about the Wilder restoration, write to the Almanzo and Laura Ingalls Wilder Association, or call (518) 483-5595.

excerpted from an article by Dorothy Smith in the Malone Evening Telegram

IMAGINATION CELEBRATION

May 13-17, 1987, is the date when the Imagination Celebration takes place in Clinton County. This celebration of arts in education is one of seven funded in part by the New York State Legislature and is the first rural site to be selected.

Focus of the Imagination Celebration will be an involvement of teachers, parents and students in the arts, culminating in a weekend gala event and a festival of the arts for the entire community. The event is sponsored by the New York State Alliance for Arts Education, an arm of the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, under the chairmanship of the noted author, Dr. Vivienne Anderson. The Alliance has sponsored Imagination Celebrations in Albany and in six other sites. The Very Special Arts segment of the Celebration will involve the disabled.

The Imagination Celebration in Clinton County, is sponsored by the Council on the Arts for Clinton County and it is directed by Marilyn Gibbons. It is an outgrowth of the Council's Youth Arts Festival, which she had previously chaired.

Ms. Gibbons, an art teacher at Beekmantown Schools, will be assisted by a Celebration Committee which includes Lola Johnson, Director of the Clinton County Arts Council; Stanley Ransom, C-E-F Library System Director; Lee Salzman, C-E-F Library System Assistant Director; Debra Van Mullem, Arts in Education Director for the Clinton County Arts Council and Kathie Duley, Director of the Theatre Arts program for the Clinton County Council on the Arts. The Clinton County Council on the Arts will administer the program.

Funds to match the $20,000 State Legislative grant are now being sought. The Clinton County Legislature recently approved funding to match part of the State funding. Businesses, organizations and individuals are encouraged to send tax deductible contributions to the Clinton County Arts Council, 64 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

Please let them know also if you know of local community artists who would like to participate in the Imagination Celebration.

Stanley A. Ransom
HEADQUARTERS HIGHLIGHTS

LEE SALZMAN REPORTS:

As we start this new year, the C-E-F Outreach Department is looking forward to continuing the old and hopefully developing new and better ways of serving those in our three county area who have special needs. 1986 brought us more applications for New York State Library for the Blind & Visually Handicapped services than ever before. With the production of our Talking Books Catalog, requests for these materials also received a hefty increase. Our Lending Library for Disabled Children, housed at Plattsburgh Public Library, began to gain the attention of other member libraries. Plans are underway to compile a descriptive catalog (including pictures) of this collection in 1987. It will be distributed to member public libraries, school libraries and community agencies working with children. The Project Literacy U.S. (PLUS) campaign has definitely had an impact on our area in increasing awareness of the problem of illiteracy. With the availability of funds on both the State and Federal level, more of our member libraries have been and will be able to play active roles in serving those who lack basic reading skills. This includes the use of computers and educational software. The delivery of study packets through our member libraries and bookmobiles under GRASP (Giving Rural Adults a Study Program) has assisted in helping people to obtain their High School Equivalency Diplomas.

The use of our Bi-Folkal Kits in group activities has helped to brighten the days of many older adults, and our large print books and magnifying devices have filled a gap for visually impaired readers of all ages.

And who ever thought that one day we would have computers on our bookmobiles?

Although I ended the year feeling that many things had been left undone, my previous paragraphs point out to me how much was accomplished in 1986, and renew my aspirations for 1987.

Lee Salzman
Assistant Director/Head of Outreach

NEW C-E-F OUTREACH LIBRARIAN:

JULIE WEVER

I am particularly pleased to begin my professional career here in the North Country with the C-E-F Library System. I am originally from St. Regis Falls, and one of the highlights of my childhood there was the bookmobile which arrived every other week with a fresh supply of horse books. I carted these home by the armload, but never did convince my parents that we needed a stable in our back yard.

I received my BA from Eisenhower College of RIT in 1983, and my MLS from Albany State University in 1986. Before my present position as Outreach Librarian, I worked part-time at Albany Public Library as a reference librarian, and as a VISTA staff person for the Albany affiliate of Literacy Volunteers of America.

I am looking forward to being a part of bringing the library services I enjoyed so much to other rural readers.

Julie Wever
Outreach Librarian

ACQUISITIONS

1986 — the statistics are in. It was a very good year, a year of rapid changes with the new technology that we have available. The 3R's Retrospective Conversion was completed on schedule; Karen Favro input the last record on December 16.

The Gaylord 400 System is scheduled to be installed in mid-February. At that time Book Pool collections will be barcoded with very few exceptions. Marilyn Blanchard and Cindy Duval have barcoded 67,084 books this past year in addition to their other tasks.

We processed more books in 1986 than ever before—12,658 to be exact. Tracey LaBarge has done an exceptional job coping with the additional coding and catalog cards necessary for our prison accounts this year.
Part-time workers Mary LaValley and Connie Plunkett keep the collections slipped and shelved and their contribution is greatly appreciated. Team work and cooperation among the people in this department have made these accomplishments possible. I am very proud of them and thank them very much.

Carol G. Bedore
Head, Acquisitions

JEIC NEWS

Happy 1987 to everyone! We are looking forward to a very busy and challenging year. For starters, our staff will be working with the staff of Clinton Community College and the Champlain Area Development Corporation to present two workshops for employees of Harris Graphics in Champlain. The workshops, designed to aid workers facing a layoff, will be held sometime in March at Northeastern Clinton Central School. Focus for the first session will be on dealing with job loss and financial planning. The second program will deal with job search and resume writing. We are excited about being able to work with the Community College and Champlain Area Development and are hopeful of a great turnout!

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In 1986, 5,702 patrons were served by the Center. This figure includes service to seven area correctional facilities, as well as visitors to the center.

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Book request lists for member libraries were sent out in November, the results have been tallied, and orders are going out to fill requests. We hope to begin distributing book orders to member libraries in February.

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Our staff is happy to announce that Judy Menard and her husband, Scott, are expecting their first child in May. We're very excited for Judy and Scott, but will miss Judy who will be on leave from late April until September.

Kathie LaBombard
JEIC Librarian

REFERENCE AND INTERLIBRARY LOAN LEAPS INTO 1987

Now that we've rung in 1987, we're busy trying to wrap up 1986 and put it to rest. The beginning of a new year is an interesting time—for ILL, it's time to look back on the previous year, count up the hatchmarks on your statistic sheets, and try to figure out what went wrong and what went right.

How did we score in 1986? Our first round of statistical analysis shows an overall increase in the number of requests we processed. Our total—from member libraries, Bookmobile patrons, school libraries, three ILL networks and assorted other sources—was 18,102 requests processed.

This is a slight increase over 1985, when we processed 17,815 requests.

Use of our interlibrary loan services by Bookmobile patrons increased by nearly 10%—up to 4,920 requests in 1986 from 4,466 in 1985.

Member libraries apparently have more to offer their patrons, since we received nearly 10% fewer requests from C-E-F member libraries—from 11,290 in 1985 to 10,467 in 1986.

There are a lot of conclusions we can reach, and assumptions we might make from our statistics, but for the most part I think we should feel a great deal of pride that the three people in our department processed more than 18,000 requests during 1986. We kept ourselves busy!

We look forward to the changes and improvements 1987 will bring. Our expanding Gaylord circulation system will offer improved access to our holdings, both for us and for other libraries. We'll continue to expand our use of electronic mail, and will be automating more functions (including statistical record-keeping) during the coming year.

One project we'll be working on is the increased use of interlibrary loan trends in collection development. We're evaluating our book selection practices with an eye toward improvement through new selection practices and policies.
While we’re examining and revising procedures, interlibrary loan will come under scrutiny. We’re in dire need of a procedural manual, and hopefully 1987 will be the year we accomplish that goal. I suppose that committing these goals to paper is my way of daring myself to achieve them—let’s hope my little ploy works. At any rate, 1986 was a good year, but from here, 1987 looks even better.

Elizabeth S. Rogers
Head of Reference and
Interlibrary Loan

SELECTED NEW FILMS

The following films were among those purchased with New York State Council on Arts funds in 1986:

_In Heaven There Is No Beer._ 51 minutes. Color.

A joyous romp through the dance, food, music, friendship and, even religion, of the polka. This film has loads of music, lots of dancing, oceans of beer and an undercurrent of good fun. Les Blank Flower Films.

_Kiall Women in Self-defense._ 28 minutes. Color.

A positive documentary filmed at the Brooklyn Women’s Martial Arts Center, where women from all backgrounds and walks of life gather to learn the skill of self-defense based on karate. Filmmakers Library.

_Marathon Women: Miki Gorman._ 28 minutes. Color.

Miki Gorman, a tiny Japanese-born housewife, who became a world champion runner, started everything late in life — marriage, motherhood and marathons. She was well into her thirties when she decided to try running. Twice she won the Boston and New York Marathons and set a world record when she was 37 years old. Filmmakers Library.

_Miles to Go: A Woman’s Wilderness Journey._ 80 minutes. Color.

Eight women who range in age from 27 to 72 undertake a two-week wilderness journey in the Smokey Mountains. None has prior wilderness experience, and all are eager to meet and cope with new challenges in their lives. Filmmakers Library.

_Sprout Wings and Fly._ 30 minutes. Color.

A compassionate, extraordinary document on old-timey Appalachian fiddler Tommy Jarrell. Jarrell is a fabulous fiddler and ballad singer and his music is the focus of the film. Les Blank Flower Films.

Marie D. Chauvin
Head, Film Department
REMINDER

THE DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH/APRIL ISSUE
OF THE TRAILBLAZER IS
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1987.

MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

AKWESASNE LIBRARY AND CULTURAL CENTER

This is a sketch of the new Akwesasne Library building on Route 37 which is presently under construction.

As of early January, it was hoped that 99% of the major structural work would be completed by the end of the month. The library staff hopes to move into the new building in March.

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The Department of Education has awarded more than $40,000 in library grants to the St. Regis Band of Mohawks, including a $37,294 special grant to equip a cultural reference room in the new library with selected Native American library materials, a microfilm reader and computers and software to be used to publicize the availability of public library services through a community newspaper.

The grant was part of a $2.2 million total to be used in 29 states to renovate libraries, improve access to their services and conduct surveys to see how the library needs of tribal communities could be better served.

The federal government pays 80 percent of the cost of a special project, the tribe the other 20 percent.
In addition to the special project grant, which was awarded after a competition, the Education Department said it had approved $9,831 for three basic library grants in New York State, one of which was a $3,277 allotment to the St. Regis Mohawks.

The basic grants are noncompetitive. This money has been applied toward the cost of a new Akwesasne bookmobile, as the old one has been broken down since September. The Library hopes to have the new vehicle on the road by the end of January.

CHATEAUGAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

At the annual meeting of the Chateaugay Memorial Library Board on December 3, 1986, new officers were elected for 1987. They are Emma Perry, President; Marie Thomas, Vice-President; Shirley Jones, Treasurer. Margaret Soucia was reelected to the office of Secretary. Reappointed as trustees for five year terms were Margaret Barnes and Jeanette Hotchkiss.

The Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Dorothy LaBelle, who has been an invaluable member for 13 years. She has rendered exceptional service and devoted many hours to the library, having held every office and served on the book selection committee. She will be greatly missed, although she has agreed to continue on the book selection committee in an advisory capacity.

FT. COVINGTON READING CENTER

Via a grant from public monies from the New York State Council on the Arts through the Malone Arts Council, we were able to obtain quite a few local history books: Those Were the Days, Ray Smith (History of North Bangor); The Heydays of the Adirondacks, Maitland De Sormo; Adirondack Foothills, Robert McGowan; North Country Chronicle, Del Forkey; Franklin County Historical Reviews, Vols. 1-23; Chateaugay, N.Y. and the War of 1812, John Billow; Our Country School, Elizabeth Mount and Old North Country Bridges, Richard Allen.

WEAD LIBRARY, MALONE

Director Dave Minnich reports:

Since November 3, the Wead Library, along with other members of the North Country 3R Council, has seen the birth of HOBO, an electronic mailbox-bulletin board computer set-up operated through the 3R Council offices, modems, and an "800" telephone line. The mailboxes and bulletin board aspects are operational, while other functions are still in the design stage.

What is especially interesting locally, however, is the increasing number of requests we are receiving from such diverse places as the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility, Mater Dei College, Melvil Dewey Library at Jefferson Community College, the Cubley Library at Paul Smith's College and the Post Library at Fort Drum. All these requests have been received electronically, and they have all been referred to the Wead Library through the 3R Council because our collection contained the needed material, which in this case was periodicals. We were able to fill all but one of the requests. Reciprocally, we often receive books from some of these sources.

PERU FREE LIBRARY

Rick LaShomb, manager of the new Stewart's in Peru, presented Donald Evans, president of the Peru Youth Commission, and Jackie Sabourin, president of the Library Board for the Peru Free Library Association, each with a check for $1947.12.
The checks represent a matching of all 1.52 purchases made at the new Peru shop, the 152nd Stewart's shop, during its grand opening weekend celebration.

To celebrate new shop openings, Stewart's makes a contribution to a local charity.

SHERMAN FREE LIBRARY, PORT HENRY

Editor's Note:

In the past issue of the Trailblazer our Member Library Profile featured the Sherman Free Library, which will be celebrating its Centennial during 1987. That article prompted the following congratulatory letter from the Honorable Laura B. Chodos, New York State Regent for our area, to the Sherman Friends.

January 1, 1987

Dear Friends:

It was 100 years ago on a stormy January 17, 1887 when hundreds of citizens of Port Henry gathered at the opera house with members of the Port Henry Orchestra to honor a great benefactor, George Riley Sherman, for his munificent gift of a library for the people of your village.

From a collection of 2500 books costing about $2000 and a first year operating budget of $556.91, you can enjoy today a collection of over 13,000 books and interlibrary loan services that connect your users to the universe of holdings in libraries in New York State - the Nation.

Your book circulation last year was 9000 items! If we had the record of all questions and requests for information during the library's century of service, it would stand as a monumental testimony to the importance of libraries in the quality of community life. If your little marble statue of "Merrie Christmas" could speak, she would be able to embellish that record with wonderful stories about people who come to the library with something on their minds and leave with something in their minds - or in their arms - or pockets.

This new year of 1987 is also the 200th birthday of our U.S. Constitution. I can think of no finer way to honor those enduring principles embodied in our great national experiment than to salute the men and women through the centuries who tend our libraries and make books and information available to everybody. Your centennial reflections will serve to remind all of us of the long-standing dedication - in communities across the land - to the essentiality of literacy and learning in our society.

I can never express adequately how inspiring is this knowledge and the knowledge of your continuing search for more and better ways to promote reading - to connect new families to library services - to celebrate books - to honor democracy.

Others will follow your stewardship and lead our grandchildren's children to libraries - to those magnificent connections to everywhere. We join you in celebrating January 17, 1987 and extend to all friends of Sherman Free Library our best wishes for a happy, joyous 100th birthday and great expectations for 2087.

Sincerely,

Laura B. Chodos
"Adirondack Scenes," an exhibition of oil paintings featuring a new direction for artist Daniel Vacek, ran from January 5 to January 20, in the Cantwell Community Room of the Saranac Lake Free Library.

An artist in Europe, Mr. Vacek came to the United States in 1971. After coming to Lake Placid, Mr. Vacek says, he fell in love with the Adirondacks.

Explaining the change in his work, Mr. Vacek says, "For too many years I was trying to impress people with tremendous details. I was trying to improve on nature. Seeing the beauty all around me in the Adirondacks, I found that color can talk more than details. Now I'm painting atmosphere, the feeling of everything."

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The public is invited to attend the opening reception for the Second Annual Adult Center Artists Show, Monday, February 2, 1:30 until 5:00 p.m., in the Cantwell Community Room of the Saranac Lake Free Library.

The exhibit includes works in acrylic, oil, pastel, and charcoal. All the artists participate in a class at the Saranac Lake Adult Center taught by Peggy Hunt and Doris Richter on Wednesdays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Mrs. Hunt explains that the course meets for 10 weeks in the fall, and then resumes again in January. From 15 to 25 men and women attend each week.

Participants select their own subjects to paint and receive a critique each week. A person may be a beginner or an experienced artist, and may start the class at any time.

Refreshments for the reception will be provided by the Adult Center. The show will continue through February 27.

The Goff-Nelson Memorial Library in Tupper Lake, joins three other north country public libraries in receiving a microcomputer system through the sponsorship of the North Country Reference and Research Resources Council, Canton.

The system, consists of a Tandy 1000 personal computer, modem and printer. Initially the system will provide electronic mail capability, so that the library will send and receive requests for books and journals, as well as other messages, to libraries in the area. Communication through computer will be possible with the North Country 3R's, the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System, based in Plattsburgh, and with libraries in Saranac Lake, Keene Valley, and Malone, where equipment has already been installed.

The computer installation at Tupper Lake is part of a long term project to equip 29 libraries who are members of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System. Staff at the Tupper Lake library were assisted in learning to use their new system by Thomas Blauvelt, head of Reference Services, North Country 3R's, and Elizabeth Rogers, C-E-F Library System.

The program is funded by the North Country Reference and Research Resources Council through a grant from the New York Education Department, Division of Library Development. The Council is one of nine regional agencies charged by the Education Department with coordination of resources and services to all types of libraries.

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A bright spot through the winter months and well into spring will be the annual showing of the work of Tupper Lake area artists at the Goff-Nelson Memorial Library.
Sponsored by Tupper Lake Presents..., the displays includes the photography of Bill Sweeney, which was exhibited through January; a showing through February of the work of Holy Ghost Academy students, will be presented by Chrys Dudbridge, art teacher at the parochial school. The work of Gary Casagrain, who has won recognition as one of the outstanding Adirondack artists, will be displayed through March.

Paintings by Lona Bujold will be exhibited at the library during April, and the exhibition series will conclude with a display of the work of Mary Wood during May.

**WELLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY**
**UPPER JAY**

Wells Memorial Library in Upper Jay initiated new hours starting with the New Year. Hours are Tuesday 12-6 p.m.; Wednesday 6-9 p.m. and Saturday 12-5 p.m. Keeping this new schedule, with the additional 2 hours per week and the evening hours, will depend on how much use the community makes of them.

**DODGE LIBRARY, WEST CHAZY**

Librarian Bev Reed reports:

New curtains for the library are being constructed and donated by Christine Rizos, wife of our Trustee Board President.

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Building repairs have been done, thanks to some Revenue Sharing money allotted to us by the town of Chazy. Chimney repairs and brickwork around our building have been completed.

We have a bake sale each fall and spring at which we usually raise about $150 for library expenses.

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