I want to establish right from the beginning that the ideas expressed in this article are mine and mine alone.

I had originally planned to write this kind of piece later in the year for Banned Books Week (September 19–26), the purpose of which is "to bring to the attention of the general public the importance of the freedom to read and the harm censorship causes to our society." Some recent events, however, have caused me to rearrange my schedule.

This year, 1987, also marks the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, that document which just about everybody invokes and hardly anybody reads. Let's hope its underlying principles of protecting individual freedoms and preventing abuses by a tyrannical government will endure for another 200 years. From where I sit the going looks rough.

The basic premise of my article is that, lately, a great deal of our society's direction on certain issues depends on whose ox is being gored and who can most successfully promote the idea that his (or her) ox is the superior beast. In my opinion, the spirit of compromise which is necessary in a pluralistic, democratic society is giving way to a pattern of enacting laws by which certain groups restrict the activities of other segments of society.

I recently read a thought-provoking article by columnist Robert J. Samuelson in Newsweek (March 23, 1987 issue) entitled "The Assault on Smoking." Samuelson, who describes himself as an "obnoxious" anti-smoker, nevertheless states in his opening paragraph, "But the assault on smoking has now gone beyond personal relations. It's become a public moral crusade that may spread misleading scientific information and create bad government policies." He ends his article with the words, "There are limits to what government can - and should - do to control lawful personal behavior that, however undesirable, is mainly self-destructive. Anti-smoking crusaders are reaching these limits." I would urge everyone to go to his local library and read this article, because Mr. Samuelson, in spite of his personal feelings on smoking reminds us that the end doesn't always justify the means - if those actions jeopardize even more important societal values. We all should be as concerned.

Now, I am a smoker and I can rightfully be accused of wanting to protect my own nasty little habit. But the issues are larger for me too and I'm frightened to think of the precedents which are now being set; I worry too that further threats to a democratic society are waiting down the road.
Anyone, you see, can provide logical, plausible moral justifications to support his individual cause. It's been done (and will continue to be done) time and time again. Some causes are more dangerous than others.

About two years ago I attended a workshop at a New York Library Association Conference. The original intent of the workshop had been to discuss how libraries should go about setting up purchasing and circulation policies for videocassette collections, however, the meeting occasionally veered off on more traditional, time worn library controversies. Now, it's well-known that fighting censorship is a subject dear to librarians' hearts; people that day were sporting "I Read Banned Books" buttons all over the place. One speaker issued a stirring rallying cry in opposition to the then recent Library of Congress decision to discontinue its purchase of Playboy magazine in braille. Librarians leapt to their feet with blood in their eyes and fists raised to rail against the evils of censorship. In my state of advanced nicotine withdrawl - all this excitement was too much for my frazzled nerves - I lit up (smoking at meetings was still allowed then). Boy, was that a mistake! One prissy little librarian swooped down on me like a duck on a June bug, propelled by a degree of viciousness which is seldom seen outside the Indian jungle when a Bengal tiger is defending her young. In other words, this was not a polite request.

At the very same meeting another more reflective librarian brought up the point that librarians themselves censor on a regular basis every time they decide which books will be purchased for their libraries.

The old question of literary merit (poor little Nancy Drew has long been a martyr in this battle) arose again: Should the public have the audacity to think libraries should carry the books it wants or are only librarians qualified to make the decision on what is right for the public?

Also, library literature is filled with stories of fundamentalist groups trying to ban such books as The Catcher in the Rye or now, even The Wizard of Oz. I personally am opposed to banning books and forcing these beliefs on others. On the other hand, fundamentalists are usually portrayed as the villains of the piece in the ongoing First Amendment Crusade and librarians as courageous defenders of civil liberties. Is this completely fair? It could also be reasonably argued that many of these fundamentalists are decent enough folks too, backing up their position with moral arguments in which they believe. How many librarians manage to see these people as anything but The Enemy and how many library dollars are set aside to provide them (after all they're taxpayers too) with some selection of the type of books they want to read?

On the subject of the First Amendment, I'm sure we've heard about the recent campaign to ban all cigarette advertising. There have also been hints here and there of a more subtle, behavior modification, sort of censorship, such as eliminating cigarette smoking from movies and television programs (for fear that smoking is being glamorized by showing stars doing it). Will someone eventually go back to the late-night movies and cut out Bogie's brooding scenes in Casablanca? If they go this far, they're going to have one hell of a time with almost every film Bette Davis ever made. Maybe I'm just becoming paranoid (something which can easily happen to a smoker nowadays), but there seems to be a growing tendency for the good guys in television programs to be non-smokers, while the degenerates or crazies are seen puffing away. I liked it better when you could discern the difference between good and evil by hat color.

But enough of smoking - as much as I hate to let the subject go. Let's consider some other moral crusades which have run amok in the past. And let's project about some of the many possibilities which could take place in the future.

Prohibition sought to ban the sale, and, for all practical purposes, the consumption of alcohol in the U.S. (1920-1933). As a result, because it was forbidden, alcohol became even more fun to drink. The law was perceived by many as being quite silly, which encouraged a widespread contempt for the government and laws in general. Organized crime flourished and even people who had not been especially interested in drinking rebelled. It is well-known around our area, for example, that many ordinarily law-abiding citizens in the North Country began to see the bootleggers as Robin Hoods and helped them evade law enforcement officers - because they felt the government had overstepped its bounds.
Zero Population Growth was a hot item back in the sixties — each person should only be allowed to replace himself, therefore couples should have no more than two children. There were some rather wild proposals going around at that time such as that couples with more than two children should be subject to income tax penalties and that these couples should be the objects of mass social disapproval in order to discourage excessive breeding. ZPG never got that far politically, but it had its passionate advocates, armed with persuasive moral arguments about the unfair drain on public funds by those who failed to comply with their standards and the dangers of famine in an overpopulated world.

What will be the next movements and more important, if they should prove to be dangerous ones, could they succeed in the current restrictive climate?

Perhaps increased electronic surveillance of the citizenry, carried to previously unacceptable extremes, will be justified in the name of national security (I am one who doesn't feel that Orwell was that far off base). Will blood and urine testing really get out of hand in the next few years? Now that cigarette smoking is heavily under attack, what about alcohol consumption (since memories of the failures of the Volstead Act have faded with the passing years)?

Will fat people, junk food junkies and people who have risky hobbies, such as mountain climbing, join drinkers and smokers as health care problem groups on actuarial tables, providing the rational for further legislation? Will salt intake be severely restricted?

Will committed vegetarians, who can claim that raising livestock on farm land is a wasteful practice compared to growing grains and vegetables, be able to restrict meat consumption with the argument that it contributes to global starvation? Do you want to see the end of the Big Mac and the Whopper in our time?

You may look at some controversial area which does not involve your own particular vice (only extremely boring people have no vices) and figure, "Yeah, that law would probably be a good idea," or "Hey, it's no skin off my back." It may not be that simple, though, because you may be the victim in the next round.

I have one parting bit of advice — it's all too easy to get caught up in the frenzy of emotions and slogans. My grandfather had this message on a sign which he kept on his desk; it read simply, "THINK."

Mary Shaw Hopkins
Editor

P.S. For your convenience, the proper address for sending hate mail is listed at the top of the masthead page. But just remember — I'm only exercising my First Amendment rights.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

New minimum standards for public libraries are now being formulated and will be available for general discussion this summer. These standards are the first important change in public library service requirements in more than a decade. They reflect a change in service abilities of all libraries, which include a new world of networks, microcomputers and new types of library materials. For the smaller public libraries there will be some big changes, especially in hours of service, which are expected to rise from 6 and 8 hours per week to a minimum of 15 hours. There may also be a requirement for a telephone and photocopier in each library. The new proposed minimum hours will allow a community to have access to the materials and services of its library at a variety of times, including evenings and weekends, and will be especially helpful to working people. Today's library is indeed a "window on the world," and just because a library happens to be small does not mean it cannot offer or obtain the materials its community needs. The days of electronic mail and microcomputers are here. By the end of 1987 each of the 29 C-E-F member libraries will have a microcomputer and modem and software, and the training necessary to use these items for interlibrary communication. It's an exciting time to plan for future library services for your community.
There will need to be some financial help to smaller libraries to make these standards work. There is also a need for libraries to become aware of their neighbor libraries and perhaps to consider a "library partnership," wherein one library is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday and its partner library is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, so that the patrons in both communities would have access to library services six days per week. There would be a need for increased financial support on all levels, with the aim of helping all public libraries to improve their services. Review the proposed standards, and let us know what you think. I would be pleased to hear from you.

Stanley A. Ransom
Director

MINIMUM PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS

The committee on minimum standards has been working long and enthusiastically on proposed minimum standards for public libraries in New York State. As a first step, members of the committee obtained and reviewed the minimum standards issued by a dozen other states, noting those which seemed useful in the New York situation.

A questionnaire relating to the scope of the standards is now being circulated which will offer the committee some input from the field. A draft of the proposed standards will be ready for review by the field in mid-summer. A series of regional public meetings is planned for the fall. The standards will also be discussed at the Library Trustees Institute, September 18-19 in Albany and at the NYLA Conference at Lake Placid, October 21-25. Watch for further announcements.

The committee members are as follows. Please contact any of them if you have questions.

Stanley A. Ransom

ROSTER

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
March 13, 1987

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE: Elizabeth Manion, Director
Marlboro Free Library
(914) 236-7272

Irene Duszkiewicz
Director
Hempstead Public Library
(516) 481-6990

Maureen Ferrell
Head, Children's Services
Steele Memorial Library System
(607) 733-9174

Patricia Liening
Director
Eden Free Library
(716) 992-4028

Bernice MacDonald
Deputy Director
The New York Public Library
(212) 340-0894
BARCODING OF C-E-F BOOKS COMPLETED!

After more than three years of hard and sustained work, the more than 230,000 C-E-F books have been barcoded. This monumental task, administered by Carol Bedore, Acquisitions Head, was completed by Tracey LaBarge, Marilyn Blanchard, Cindy Duval and Karen Favaro, assisted by members of the Program Staff, which includes social services and other work programs. With the retrospective barcoding completed, the Gaylord Automated Circulation System can now be used most efficiently. Congratulations to this team on their fine work!

Stanley A. Ransom
IMAGINATION CELEBRATION A SUCCESS!

A very successful Imagination Celebration was held in Clinton County, focusing on May 13-17th. From May 13-15, the 21 public and parochial schools in the area held planned programs on arts in education. A Gala on Friday, May 15th, recognized local community business and artistic leaders who supported arts in the community. There was also a performance of "Fantasmia" by the T. Daniel Mime Company.

On Saturday, May 16th, a Community Day saw the involvement of a thousand children, plus parents and friends in a wide variety of activities, from breakfast with the TV artist star, Commander Mark, followed by a parade of the children through Plattsburgh streets.

Marching in the parade were C-E-F Director Stanley Ransom, attired as the Mad Hatter, and Leona Salzman, dressed as Alice in Wonderland. They were the Co-Chairs of the Storybook Trail portion of the Imagination Celebration, wherein school children came dressed as their favorite characters and made the rounds of four sites in Plattsburgh, where their special bookmarks were stamped. Completion of this portion of the Trail entitled them to attend the Mad Hatter's Tea Party in the Children's Room of the Plattsburgh Public Library. With the assistance of PPL Children's Librarian Karen Ricketson, some 200 children, with their parents, crowded into the Children's Room to see the film "The Red Balloon," to watch juggler Steve Gratto perform, to show off their costumes and to enjoy refreshments and prizes. Cookies were donated by Alan's Bake Shop and by the Northeastern Clinton, Northern Adirondack, Saranac, Cadyville and Morrisonville Schools. Grand Union donated Fruit Tea for the tea party. Friar Tuck, Bookstore, Cornerstone Bookstore, Half-Price Bookstore and the Plaza Bookhouse donated a total of 11 gift certificates for book purchases which were awarded by drawing names.

The program on Sunday was the Youth Arts Festival, with creation stations, at Plattsburgh State University College.

Chair for the Imagination Celebration Committee was Marilyn Gibbons, art teacher at Beekmantown Schools. Other members of the committee were Debbie Van Mullem, Arts in Education Coordinator; Kathie Duley, organizer of volunteers and theatre activities; Stanley Ransom, Fund Raising and Storybook Trail; Leona Salzman, Storybook Trail and Very Special Arts Coordinator and Lora Johnson, Director of the Council on the Arts for Clinton County, which administered the Celebration.

It was a great success, and we thank all who participated and helped. At C-E-F this included Barb Deyo, Carol Bedore, Mary Seguin, Betty Collins and Debbie Casement. Community people who helped at the Storybook Trail sites and at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party were Joann Seguin, Tammy Billings, Paula Reed and RSVP volunteers.

Stanley A. Ransom

P.S. The vote for favorite storybook character was as follows: Alice in Wonderland, Tom Sawyer, Ramona, Dr. Seuss, Smurfs, Snow White and Cinderella, plus many others who received one vote each.
JOYCE MEAGHER MEMORIAL CELEBRATION

On Saturday May 16th, over 130 persons gathered in the Cantwell Room of Saranac Lake Free Library for a memorial celebration in honor of Joyce Meagher, Librarian of the Saranac Lake Free Library until her death on March 1st, 1987. Each brought a salad, entree or dessert and all joined in a buffet dinner. Brief remarks relating to Joyce Meagher's many contributions to the library, the community and to the C-E-F area were made by Janet Decker, Stanley Ransom and community members, followed by a musical recital. Joyce Meagher was a vital force in the Saranac Lake community, and she will be sorely missed. In 1985 Joyce Meagher received the Moshier/Wynkoop Award for outstanding service to a community serving under 7500 persons.

Stanley A. Ransom

LEGISLATION: GOOD NEWS AND BAD

Good News: Thanks to Senator Ronald B. Stafford and Assemblyman Chris Ortloff, C-E-F will have $10,000 to continue our Rural Health Information Delivery Service. Under the capable direction of Marge Wachtmeister, who became a Registered Nurse on May 25th, we are ordering and sending out health care information pamphlets and bibliographies in monthly kits, as well as offering consumer health information through our member libraries and bookmobiles.

We were also pleased to learn that the Education Information Center funds were renewed in the State Budget. This will enable our Job and Education Center service at Plattsburgh Public Library to continue in 1987. We wish this funding was part of a statutory program so that funding for this important service would be assured. In 1986 our JEIC unit, under the direction of Kathie LaBombard, assisted more than 4,000 users with job searches and loaned out 3,804 items from their collection.

Bad News: Zero money for the Library Omnibus Bill was the result of library negotiations in Albany so far this year. This is not only a great disappointment but a tremendous blow to the majority of public library systems, including C-E-F, which are forced into a budget deficit situation if they continue their current library services. It was especially disappointing in a year in which tax cuts were announced, sales taxes were up, and a record 650 million dollars was supplied to the "other educational unit," the schools. We are happy to see the schools receive more needed funding.

There seem to be two factors that are overlooked. First, libraries are or should be acknowledged to be educational entities. We support the learning of children from pre-school years, during school and after school and vacation times, and we support adults with lifetime learning.

Second, libraries and public library systems need increases in State Aid every year, just as the schools do. We need annual increases because the cost of books, periodicals, cleaning contracts, vehicle maintenance and other costs go up each year and we have to cover these costs. We also negotiate in good faith with our local bargaining unit under the Taylor Law, and we must cover the costs of negotiated agreements. Hence, we need increases every year and we should expect that the Legislature and the Governor should recognize this need in the same way that they recognize this need in the schools. Our 16.7 million dollar request is about half of the actual amount needed, according to the list of legislative needs compiled by the New York Library Association.

We hope our legislators will pass the Library Omnibus Bill this spring so that we can continue our services at the same level next year.
The Library Omnibus Bill is S3342, co-sponsored by Senator Hugh Farley, Senator Ronald B. Stafford and many others, and A4791, co-sponsored by Assemblywoman Cynthia Jenkins and Assemblymen Chris Orloff, Anthony Casale and others. We are expectantly awaiting action on this important bill.

Stanley A. Ransom

NEW RURAL HEALTH INFORMATION BILL

The new Rural Health Information Delivery Bill for public library systems has been introduced. It is S3868, co-sponsored by Senator Farley and Senator Stafford and A7647, introduced by Assemblywoman Cynthia Jenkins.

This bill provides $25,000 for 13 public library systems with counties whose population densities are less than 200 persons per square mile. It is designed to continue the rural health information delivery programs which have been successfully tried in C-E-F Library System, Nioga Library System, Onondaga Library System and in other rural areas.

This bill enables these systems to purchase consumer health materials needed by local patrons and to distribute them through member libraries, bookmobiles and local community agencies. The problem in rural areas is that this information is not generally available or is available only at costs beyond the reach of rural residents, whose access to health information is limited by their location.

Stanley A. Ransom

OLD C-E-F BOOKMOBILE TO BECOME
REMEDIAL READING CLASSROOM

The Tupper Lake School district has recently purchased the 1973 C-E-F Bookmobile as a classroom for pupils who need special reading help.

The subject of the available vehicle came up in a recent conversation between Board Clerk Clarence Parry and his neighbor C-E-F Board Trustee Jane Dumoulin. Mrs. Dumoulin suggested the vehicle might be available, so Mr. Parry asked Superintendent Tom McCarthy to check it out.

Mr. McCarthy received a letter from Stanley Ransom, director of the library system, which confirmed that the "bookmobile" was available.

"We would be pleased if you are able to use it, and we would also be pleased if we can work out a modest price for it," Mr. Ransom said in his letter.

He also sent along blueprints and specifications for the vehicle, which was used as a mobile library bringing books to residents of remote areas of the North Country.

The "bookmobile," which measures about 24 feet long, is already equipped with lights, a heating system, desks and book shelves — all things which would have to be installed in the converted school bus.

Mr. McCarthy guessed the only modification to the "bookmobile" would be replacing the propane heater with an electric one. After seeing the vehicle, Mr. McCarthy reported that the interior was in "nice condition" and the vehicle appeared to be sound. Painting and rust repair work in the exterior would be required.
Editor's Note: I would like to thank Wadham's Librarian Liz Rapalee for all her help in writing this article. I have also used a great deal of material from a history of Wadham's, In the Beginning... Wadham's 1820-1970, by Ethel L. Kozma.

Among rolling hills and wide stretches of fields, one rounds a bend in the road and finds Wadham's, a small farming community. In the center of the town, the Bouquet (pronounced BO kwet) River, which winds through the countryside, falls over a dam into a waterfall.

These falls caused Wadham's to become a prosperous place in the 19th century. There were grist mills and saw mills, as there was then an abundant supply of lumber in the area. Forges and foundries also developed to handle ore from nearby iron ore mines. In the early 20th century, a power plant was built which generated electricity for the public's use and also furnished power for the Witherbee, Sherman Iron Ore Company in Mineville. Around 1948, distribution of electricity from small local plants was taken over by the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation.

Wadham's was originally called Wadham's Mills; Wadham's came from an early settler, a General Lyman Wadham, who had fought at the Battle of Plattsburgh in the War of 1812.

One of the mill owners, during Wadham's heyday, was a D.F. Payne. The Wadham's Mills Reading Room Association was organized by his daughter, Mary Alice Payne, in 1895. The reason for its founding being, "to further interest in current events, and place the best literature at the disposal of all." She was also the first librarian.

The original library was a small wooden building on the main street near a store, also owned by Payne.

Mary Alice must have been quite prim as she mentions in a letter that her heart was saddened by the unruly element hanging out on the front steps of the library and along the row of stores.

The library's first Annual Meeting was held in 1896. At that time, the balance in the treasury was a whopping 76¢. Balances for 1897 and 1900 were $3.22 and $1 respectively.

At a special meeting in June, 1897 it was voted to change the name of the Association from Reading Room to Library, to incorporate under the Regents and to elect trustees. Twenty dollars was raised by subscription for the purchase of books. Interestingly enough, the father of present Wadham's trustee, Norma Bertsch, was one of the original library trustees.

Over the years, tag days, food sales, raffles, card parties, suppers and socials were held to raise money.

From 1902-1921, the Wadham's School District contributed $5 annually to the library.

A traveling library of 125 books visited the library in 1903; the cost was $6 for six months.

A State Organizer visited the library in 1908 to help catalogue books. In that same year it was decided that the librarian should be paid $25 per year; before this the librarians were not paid.

The name of the village had been shortened to Wadham's in 1906 and in 1915 the library's name was changed to the Wadham's Free Library, with a new charter granted by the New York State Board of Regents. That year a Board treasurer was also elected for the first time; the librarian had kept track of finances before then.

By 1924, the Westport Town Board pledged $50 annually to the library; the figure was increased to $100 in 1941.
A State library worker spent a week in Wadham's in 1941, working with friends of the library to catalogue books and weed the collection. The librarian's salary was raised to $50 per year at that time.

In 1944, the library lot and building were deeded to the library by the Payne estate, which had previously contributed both the building and electricity.

In 1947, the small local schools were centralized into the Westport Central School. The old stucco Wadham's schoolhouse was sold for $400 and the proceeds put in a savings account toward the purchase of a new library building.

The Wadham's Library joined the Clinton-Essex-Library Service System (as C-E-F was then named) in 1955.

In 1960, after reviewing necessary repairs to the old library, the Board of Trustees decided to erect a new building. The present site was donated by Gordon and Gladys Bigelow and the library was designed by Curtis Lobdell. Trustees and townspeople contributed. The sale of the old library building netted $500. The new building was erected in 1962 for $2566.77; another $137.50 for tile brought the total cost to just a little over $2700. Books and furniture were moved to the new library in May of 1963. With funding from the Westport Central School District, a permanent charter was granted in 1968, replacing the provisional charter.

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The original concrete block building has been covered with wood siding which blends nicely into the library setting near the waterfall. In spring, flowering crab apple trees and lilacs bloom in the yard.

Inside, high windows permit a great deal of natural light to enter. An old woodstove provides heat and a woodshed has been recently built at the rear of the building. An attractive new children's room was constructed this year with a grant from the Bruce L. Crary Foundation in nearby Elizabethtown. The Crary Foundation also provided the library with money for a new set of encyclopedia.

Here and there throughout the library there are momentos of Wadham's past, providing a pleasant mixture of the old and the new. There are photos of the falls and the old mills. There is a lovely antique chair belonging to Henry Swan (librarian from 1925-1933) whose family had owned a thriving furniture shop specializing in old English patterns (which were sold largely to city visitors who owned summer homes in the North Country).

Present librarian Liz Rapalee came in 1981, replacing Heidi Vaughn, who had moved to California. Liz was originally from the Finger Lakes region of New York State. How she arrived in Wadham's is an interesting tale. She and her husband, Matt Foley, learned glass-blowing in college and later practiced that art in Vermont. At the time they used propane as a power source — then came the Arab Oil Embargo and the cost of propane doubled. Liz and Matt decided they were going to have to do something different and after much searching discovered the old hydro plant which had been built by D.F. Payne in 1904. They went through a lot of hard work rebuilding the plant and now sell power to Niagara-Mohawk. This all leaves little time for their original avocation of glass-blowing. For a fuller account of their adventures read "Adirondack Hydro" by Mason Smith in the November/December 1982 issue of Adirondack Life.

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There are only about 20 houses left in the village of Wadham's today, but the spirit of cooperation, goodwill and hard work which kept the library afloat all these years, through economic changes and hard times, is still very much in evidence. For example, on the day Photographer Carol Bedore and I visited, Trustee Emily Geddes was helping Liz with discards. Wadham's is what much of our area had been a few years back — before the advent of the thruway and shopping malls. It's a lovely place to visit and I urge you to attend the library's open house, held at the time of the Strawberry Festival on July 7. The Strawberry Festival features strawberry shortcake and ice cream, along with a sale of baked and crocheted goods. You just might rediscover a few things which have been lost in the name of progress.

Mary S. Hopkins
Trustee Emily Geddes helps with the discarding.

This wood stove furnishes the library's heat.

The waterfall, taken from behind the library.

Photos by Carol G. Bedore
FROM THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

GO FOR THE GOLD WITH PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION

The Public Libraries Section of the New York Library Association will sponsor a full conference scholarship for one library student this fall. The scholarship will enable one student to attend NYLA's Annual Conference in Lake Placid, October 21 - 25th, 1987. All expenses including lodging, transportation and meals will be included. The award will be given to a library student who is seriously considering working in public libraries in New York State.

Requirements for application are: library student (full or part-time), students graduating in January, May, or September of 1987 are eligible; plan of study must be directed to public library work, and applicant must be a PLS student member. Recipient of this award will work with the coordinator of the PLS membership booth at conference to provide assistance in set up, staffing, and closing the booth. The recipient must also attend the PLS annual business meeting at conference to officially receive the award. Applications are available upon request by writing to: Susan M. Jerge, PLS Full Conference Scholarship, 409 Clinton Street, Cowlesville, NY 14037. Application deadline is July 1, 1987.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ON BOARD

The attendees at the New York State Library Conference in Rochester this past fall were greeted with a unique way to promote their profession. The Public Libraries Section of the New York Library Association held a fund-raiser for the NYLA Vitality Fund. A creative idea from Mark Evans, Director of the Livingston and Wyoming County Library Systems was the focal point of the fund-raiser. The Library Systems staff developed and printed yellow, diamond-shaped "On Board" signs that featured every type of librarian imaginable. Some of the favorites included "Librarian on Board," "Library Trustee on Board," and "System Director in Trunk." The booth was a success, attracting lots of attention to the Public Libraries Section and its activities. "On Board" signs are still available. If you are interested in purchasing a sign, the price list can be obtained by sending a SSAE to: "On Board," Livingston/Wyoming County Library Systems, 303 E. Main Street, Avon, NY 14414.

NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE AT LAKE PLACID

The New York Library Association Conference will be held at Lake Placid this year: Wednesday, October 21 through Sunday, October 25.

Many local librarians in our area are involved in the Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System Director, Stanley A. Ransom.

If anyone is interested in assisting with local arrangements, get in touch with Stan at System Headquarters. Phone: 563-5190.

Among the scheduled programs are a Vitality Fund Ice Show on Saturday, October 24 and a Send-off Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, October 25.

Mark your calendars — this promises to be a great conference!
CLINTON PRISON AT DANNEMORA: A SPECIAL EXHIBITION

"Clinton Prison at Dannemora," an exhibition containing numerous photographs and objects from Clinton's long history, opened at the Clinton County Historical Museum (at City Hall, third floor) on May 8, 1987. The exhibit will be open to the public through September 30. Museum hours are: Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Group tours can also be made by appointment. For further information call Museum Director, Helen Allan at 561-0340.

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I found this exhibition fascinating. To many of us, the forbidding gray walls dominating the village of Dannemora are a familiar sight and certainly many Clinton County residents have worked in the prison since its construction in 1845 - but how much do we really know about its history?

I don't want to go into too much detail because it is much more interesting to actually see the exhibition than to read about it, but I would like to mention some of the highlights.

Clinton was founded to relieve overcrowding at the older prisons at Auburn and Sing Sing and to provide free labor to work the iron mines at Dannemora (which had been named after a Swedish mining center). There was great concern even at that time, that free convict labor would provide a threat to workers in established private sector trades, but apparently exile in "Little Siberia," with its harsh winters and isolated geographical setting was an acceptable solution. The prison itself was built with convict labor in the dead of winter.

So many of the objects on display, especially those dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries, will strike a chord of recognition with fans of 1930's gangster movies: shackles, striped uniforms, whips and other instruments of punishment.
The most dramatic (and, also probably, the grisliest) item is the electric chair, which was used at Clinton Prison from 1892 to 1913.

There are, however, some unusual surprises, such as silver engraved by a noted forger who later escaped from Dannemora. Or beautiful carved and inlaid boxes - true works of art - fashioned by convict craftsmen. There are also many photographs of prison life. A wide variety of materials were loaned from several sources: the New York State Department of Correctional Services, the New York State Museum, the Kent-Delord House Museum, SUNY Plattsburgh and private lenders. The exhibition was made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts.

Of additional interest are letters by Dr. Frank Hopkins, the prison doctor in the late 1800's. Helen Allan also selected some of these letters for the Clinton County Historical Association's newsletter, North Country Notes. They paint a detailed picture of daily life in the prison during that era.

Don't miss this one!

Mary S. Hopkins

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NORTHERN ADIRONDACK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Northern Adirondack Library Association held a Writers' Conference, on May 9th at the Ponderosa Restaurant in Plattsburgh. The participants in the conference came from three counties (Clinton, Essex and Franklin) and the Province of Quebec. The program was made possible with support from Poets & Writers, Inc., which is funded by the Literature Program of the New York State Council on the Arts.

Coffee and Danish were served at 10:00 sign-in and at 10:30 I introduced the first speaker, author Jean Rikhoff. Jean has written in many diverse categories: historical novels, contemporary novels, juvenile non-fiction, an anthology — as well as articles, poems and short stories. Her trilogy (Buttes Landing, One of the Raymonds and The Sweetwater) has a Lake George setting. She spoke about "People, Places and Plots in Fiction," and gave the writers in the audience practical advice on how to handle these aspects of writing. Later in the morning Alice Orr addressed "The Novel—Beginning, Middle and End." She spoke about genre writing and gave tips to everyone on how to get published in this field. Alice is a versatile author who has written romance fiction, suspense novels and is currently working on a young adult novel.

The authors spent the afternoon session answering questions from the writers and would-be writers in the audience and gave them practical advice on finding an agent and publisher. They also told them what to expect when their writing sells. The people who attended asked if there would be other writers' conferences, as they felt that they learned a great deal from this one. I believe there is a real need for this kind of literary event in this area and I hope that NALA will be able to have another writers' conference in the future.

Carol G. Bedore
President, NALA
respect of her co-workers here at C-E-F by stating that she especially likes working with seventh and eighth graders! Since joining the bookmobile staff, Mary says that she finds it rewarding to have individual contact with the variety of age groups she meets daily. She also enjoys the rural Essex County countryside that her route takes her through. We'll see what she says after next winter!

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We are in the process of assembling a "remembering scrapbook" for Madge Mehan. Cards, letters and momentos have been pouring in from the many friends she has accumulated over the years on the bookmobile.

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Outreach consultants met with librarians from correctional facilities and other institutions at the Institution and Outreach Workshop which was held in Albany on May 14-15. Attending from the C-E-F service area were Ed O'Mara of Altona Correctional Facility, and Yvonne Fast, librarian at Adirondack Correctional Facility in Ray Brook.

Julie Wever
Outreach Librarian

JEIC NEWS

The Job and Education Information Center has been a busy place in the past couple of months. We've had two lively groups come in for tours of the Center, one from Notre Dame School, and the other from the Exemplary Youth Employment Program at Plattsburgh Air Force Base. Many of these young people came back a second time to use SIGI Plus. We also participated in Career Night at Plattsburgh State University College and in the Clinton County Youth Fair, both of which we enjoyed very much!

Among the new titles available through the Center are: Hardball Job Hunting Tactics by Dick Wright (Facts on File, 1983), Rating America's Corporate Conscience, by Steven D. Lydenberg, Alice Tepper Marlin, Sean O'Brien Strub and the Council on Economic Priorities (Addison-Wesley, 1986), and The Career-Changer's Sourcebook by Gene R. Hawes (Facts on File, 1986),

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We are happy to welcome Debbie Casement to our staff. Debbie is filling Judy Menard's position until September while Judy is on maternity leave.

Kathie LaBombard
JEIC Librarian

REMINDER

Bearskin

After making a bargain with the devil, a young man has unending riches. He must not wash or cut his hair for seven years, and must wear a bear's skin. As the years drag on his appearance worsens and his life becomes more and more difficult. Just when he is about to give up he learns the importance of giving. His new-found endurance and generosity enable him to defeat the devil. From the Brothers Grimm.

Blues Accordin' to Lightnin' Hopkins

In his own words and his own music "Lightnin' Hopkins" reveals the inspiration for his blues. He also takes us with him on a visit to his boyhood home in Texas.

Bristlelip

A rich and haughty girl rudely rejects a series of suitors. Her father tricks her into marriage to a peddler. The peddler sends his wife to work as a kitchen maid in the house of a former suitor, where she is caught stealing food. The former suitor reveals to her that he himself is the peddler and that it all was an elaborate scheme to humble her haughty spirit. From the Brothers Grimm.

Burden of Dreams

A record of German filmmaker Werner Herzog's making of the film "Fitzcarroldo" in the Upper Amazon jungles of Peru.

Dancing's All of You

Song and dance man Alfredo Gustar were once featured on the same bill with Billie Holiday and Duke Ellington. Now, in his studio he coaxes his students through various tap steps from simple step-and-shuffle to a dizzying complexity of style.

Dizzy

This film focuses on the trumpet player who talks about his beginning and music theories.

Frog King

When a young princess breaks her promise of friendship to a frog who has helped her, the frog follows her home. The princess's father insists she keep her promise. Annoyed by the animal's antics, the princess throws him against a wall - where he is transformed into a handsome prince. From the Brothers Grimm.

Goose Girl

A widow sends her daughter on a journey to be married. Along the way the daughter's maid takes advantage of the girl and forces her to exchange places. When they arrive at their destination the maid marries the bridegroom and the real bride is sent to tend geese. Eventually the bridegroom's father discovers the deception and the true bride takes her rightful place.

Greater Sandhill Crane Story

A good way for us to keep our feet dry yet visit a marsh which is the home of the Sandhill Crane.

Marie D. Chauvin
Head, Film Department
The following is an open invitation to all Trailblazer readers from the Staff and Board of the Akwesasne Library and Cultural Center:

You are Cordially invited to attend
the Grand Opening
of the Akwesasne Library and Cultural Center

The Library Board is hosting
a dedication and open house on
Saturday, June 13, 1987
from 1:00 – 3:00 pm
on the
St. Regis Mohawk Reservation
Route 37
Hogansburg, New York

As of April 27th, the Akwesasne Library has resumed it's regular hours.

On February 28th and March 1st, a Radiothon was held at CKON Radio Station to help raise funds for the new Akwesasne Library and Cultural Center building. During the two day event the sum of $7,951.25 was pledged toward this community project. We are happy to report that to date we have received a total of $5,105. We thank the many who have come forward and paid their pledges and the many who donated generously because they missed the radiothon.
AUSABLE FORKS FREE LIBRARY

The AuSable Forks Library presented a spring series of talks starting April 23rd. The first of the series was the 55 Alive Mature Driving course sponsored by the library and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). The two day series was open to anyone over 55. It was necessary to attend both sessions to qualify for the certificate.

The second speaker was Dr. Philip Walker on May 3rd. Dr. Walker, a botanist retired from Plattsburgh State, talked on the Birds and Flowers of the spring season followed by a question period.

The third of the series will be a talk, Your Money and the New Tax Law, given by Art Vuley of the Paine Webber office of Plattsburgh.

BELDEN–NOBLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
ESSEX

Board Trustee Fern Cunnion reports:

The Belden–Noble Memorial Library, Essex, hosted an open house Saturday, April 11. The Essex Senior Citizens group furnished the Easter decorations which they had made themselves. Punch and cookies were served.

The Senior Citizens, through Patti James, director of the Essex Nutrition Program, have volunteered to help set up and provide sales personnel for the Hobby Horse craft shop during the month of June. Profits from the shop go to the library.

Mrs. James has been named a trustee of the library board. We now have trustees involved with all local age groups.

ELIZABETHTOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Elizabethtown Library Association will present a Local History Series. The Series schedule is as follows:

June 11, 1987
in the Elizabethtown Library at 7:30 pm
"Pages From The Past"
with James Kinley and Mary Bell of
The Adirondack Center Museum

July 9
in the Old Mill Studio at 7:30 pm
"The Old Mill Studio and
Art School in Elizabethtown"
with Becky Pushpee

August 27
in the Elizabethtown Library at 7:30 pm
"Pa-Pa Milholland in Relation to Meadowmount"
with Mrs. Ivan Galamian and
"Mr. Galamian and Why His
Teaching Methods Worked"
with Ms. Elizabeth Green

FREE ADMISSION

Refreshments will be served
For further information call 873-2670

WEAD LIBRARY, MALONE

Director Dave Minnick reports:

It's a pleasure to note that the Wead Library has received a bequest from the estate of the late (Irving) Harris Taylor. This is an unrestricted gift, and will amount to slightly in excess of $7,000 once it's completed. Previously, similar gifts were placed in interest-bearing accounts, and the proceeds used for library materials or programs. Mr. Taylor had spoken to the Director a decade or more ago, and said that the institution would be remembered - he was, obviously, a man of his word.

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On Tuesday, April 14th, the Wead Library's security and fire alarm system's installation was fully completed. Now the building should be secure during the time it's unattended. If it isn't, several people will know it. It's taken about fifteen months, but the job is finally finished. Of course, there may be some necessary "fine-tuning" to anticipate, but we can hope the "bugs" have been removed in advance. Maybe they could be sent to Moscow?

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April and May put the spring into our steps, merely because we need the bounce to survive the activity. While the numbers alone do not indicate a great deal of action, the person who received printed information on a medical situation in which alcohol is definitely contra-indicated probably was extremely happy that the library was operating on Easter–Eve, because that patron was only in the area to visit for the holidays. Another patron, from Brasher, was saved a trip to Syracuse. He was looking for information on how to reassemble a bulldozer. The machine's manufacturer, who should be best able to supply the directions, had gone through at least three changes of name, and is now located several states away from where the business had originally begun.

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In late April, the Clinton–Essex–Franklin Library allowed us to bring an Apple IIe, a printer, and associated cables and software to the Wead Library from CEFLS. These will be used in connection with Adult Computer Literacy workshops which will be held in the Library building during the summer and early fall seasons. The hope is that there'll be about 100 adults who'll be interested enough to sign up for a workshop. Each workshop will have approximately 20 participants. Once they have been through a two-hour workshop, they'll be allowed to use this computer for their own purposes, providing they sign up for such use.

Software includes Appleworks (which as an integrated program includes a data base, spreadsheet, and word-processor); Print Shop, which is a graphics program which enables the user to make cards, signs, banners, letterhead and similar items; Newsroom, a program designed for desk-top publishing; and Typeit which helps an individual learn his way around a computer or typewriter keyboard. More programs may be added if the situation warrants. It's anticipated that there will be five workshops with about 20 individuals in each. An instructor will provide directions on the use of the computer and the programs, so that after completing the workshop and using the computer on his own, a participant should feel relatively competent, and be able to utilize several facets of the machine without worrying about damaging it, or a program or data disk. Equally, the library staff can be assured that the user knows that the disk is not a surface which greets strawberry jam with equanimity.

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On May 5, a referendum was held at the library and the library's request for a 4.3 percent increase in its Annual appropriation (from $106,350 to $110,935) was approved by a landslide. Since 1984, the appropriation has remained in its current level, as last year's increase was a minimal $250. Salaries and insurance costs are expected to increase. The costs of library materials have continued their upward spiral. The average cost of a reference book is $35 a volume. Similar changes affect the costs of plant (or building) maintenance.

Under the new appropriation, $72,489 will be spent for salaries and related benefits. Forty-three percent of the sum remaining, or 15 percent of the new appropriation, will be spent for library materials. With the increase, the intent is to add to the number of professional and non-professional staff.

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Also on May 5, Judith A. Genaway of North Bangor was elected to Wead's Board of Trustees, for a five-year term which begins on July 1, 1987.

Mrs. Genaway will be occupying the seat vacated by Ellen M. Gallagher, who has served on the Board for ten years.

MOOERS FREE LIBRARY

Librarian Betty Vogan reports:

Mooers Free Library recently purchased a copier. Also, the library now has a second-hand color T.V. hooked up to cable. Mooers Brownie and Girl Scouts raked the library lawn recently. The annual meeting of
Mooers Free Library Association is scheduled for 7:30 pm, Tuesday, May 26 at the library. The library also appreciates having received a microfiche reader from C-E-F.

SARANAC LAKE FREE LIBRARY

"Reflections in Oil," an exhibition of 20 oil paintings by Jeffrey Stine of Saranac Lake, opened April 6, in the Cantwell Community Room of the Saranac Lake Free Library.

Stine was born in Ohio. Because both of his parents were in the Navy, Jeff lived in many states and overseas. His paintings reflect these diverse places.

"Of all the places I've lived," Jeff says, "nothing compares with the Adirondacks. When I first came here for a brief stay in 1969, I totally fell in love with the town and area." He was finally able to move here in 1976.

The current library show also included two wood carvings, a recent departure for the artist.

PAINE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
WILLSBORO

Librarian Janice Allen reports:

Excitement abounded as the children of the community celebrated National Library Week, at the Paine Memorial Library. Some 350 balloons were released into the air with a child's name attached; we have received cards back from some local areas, Bethel, Vermont and Plainfield, New Hampshire. They sure can travel long distances, be sure to return the cards if you saw a balloon land near you. This project was made possible through the special funds granted us each year by the Tambrand Employee's and Company.

The Pre-school children celebrated Easter in this week's storytime sessions, we played games, shared an Easter story and then each child received an Easter basket to take home. There will not be any storytime sessions this week due to school vacation, but will continue the following week.

Our Easter egg tree has reached an all time high for height and egg count! It nearly reaches the ceiling of the library and has some 60 dozen, (720) decorated eggs, made mostly by the children of the community. We have also received several from adults that have enhanced our collection. Our special thanks to Dale Boardman for making this annual project possible, as he is the one who gets us our tree each year.

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The new children's Newbery and Caldecott winner books were added to our collection with the Kathy Walsh Memorial funds.

Our special thanks to the Friends of the Library for purchasing a new shelving unit to store our books on tape collection. This was made locally by Allan Martin, and is a beautiful addition to the library. This is a greatly used service, by patrons of all ages. We are pleased to announce the addition of fifteen new titles to our present collection of some 150 titles.

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Our Career and Educational center collection has been expanded, by the addition of several new books. Do stop in soon to look over our selection and let us be of assistance.

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We received our second Apple IIe computer in May. These computers were made possible through special grant funds from the New York State Educational Department. One of the computers is to be for public access, which means people from the community can book time on the machine during open library hours. The only cost to the public user is a fee to cover cost of printer paper and disc uses by each person. Several software programs were also made available through the grant and can aid people in several ways. Our other computer is for our literacy students use first, but when not in use by them is also available for public use.
Plans are also in the works to provide basic instruction in using the computer.

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We will be having a six week summer reading program again this summer, this is made possible through matching funds from the Willsboro Town Board. Our same two youth will be conducting the program this year as we had last summer. Anyone interested in enrolling their children can sign them up anytime now. We will be offering pleasure reading, remedial assistance and storytime. The program will be starting on July 6, and run for five days a week. More details will be published at a later date.

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Our summer schedule is once again going to be a very busy one. Carol Sambora will be conducting quilting classes for three morning workshop sessions in July, Mr. Hudson Haggland will give a series of four chess lessons; along with some seven week long exhibits and four evening lectures. We hope that you will watch for our summer schedule that will be available soon, and plan to join us for some of the exciting events here at the library this summer.

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We are hopeful that many people have noticed our beautiful tulips blooming along the stone wall. We are grateful to the members of the Willsboro Beautification Committee that planted them last year.

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Keep up the good work of bringing in the Campbell labels, we almost have reached our goal. But don't stop saving them as this is only an early offer to gain bonus points, we will need to keep saving them for our 1988 drive. Lists are available at the library to tell what labels can be saved for this project.

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The Paine Memorial Library has programs to assist adults in learning how to read or study for their high school equivalency test. We are connected with the Essex County Literacy Volunteers program, and do have several local tutors available. When a student and tutor feel they are ready we have several computer programs to assist them in the learning program or to review skills. We are also connected with a BOCES program called GRASP. This program provides assistance to persons wanting to study for their high school equivalency test but do not have transportation to get to the classes. We can assist a student by putting them in touch with this program and then will receive materials to study for the test through the library delivery service once a week. The tutor will also come here to the library from time to time to give some personal assistance. We have had four adult students take this program this year and at least two have made it know to us that they have passed their G.E.D. test and now after all these years have a high school diploma. We think this is great and would like to help other interested students; so do drop in for more information on either of these programs.

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The newly formed Stamp Club, which has been meeting here at the Paine Memorial Library during the school year, is busy bringing their activities to a close. The club under the direction of Mrs. Debbie Hathaway and Mrs. Patty Gardner, employees of the Post Office, have assisted several local children in pursuing their hobby of stamp collecting. The group meets monthly and discusses timely topics concerning the collecting of stamps and how to care for their collections. The end were displayed in a special exhibit here at the library between May 21 to 30. Each member of the group has prepared a part of the exhibit.

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Headstart children that have been meeting with us each week during the school year, will be making their last visit this week. We truly do enjoy having the children come and be exposed to the world of books. So we hope each child will have an enjoyable summer and continue to come in to borrow books with their family.

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Computers are now a part of our list of library services. We will be conducting a basic introductory session on computer use very soon. So if interested please contact the library and place your name on a list. Mr. Jack Williams will be our instructor.
and we are planning to begin the first of June, so contact us as soon as possible. Interested students are then urged to come in on free time and use some of the basic programs on the computer so they can get used to its operation.

C-E-F ANNUAL MEETING — AUGUST 10th

Save the date, Monday, August 10th, when the C-E-F Annual Meeting will be held at a place yet to be announced.

The program for this date will include the new film "The Adirondacks" which will be presented by the filmmakers Lawrence Hott and his wife Diane Gary of Florentine Films. This company has produced such award winning films as "Niagara Falls," "Brooklyn Bridge," and "The Statue of Liberty."

Stanley A. Ransom

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