WHAT IS A LIBRARY?

While I was researching the history of the Plattsburgh Public Library, the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System's Central Library (see Member Library Profile XXIV, p. 6), I found myself faced with the daunting prospect of poring through boxes of old photographs, scrapbooks and miscellaneous memorabilia. Once I had started, though, I found that I actually enjoyed the task.

Many of the old newspaper clippings dated from the late 1930's and early 1940's, tracing the development of plans for a library on PPL's present site to the celebration of its completion. That period between the two World Wars has often been characterized as a more innocent, slower-paced time than our own. The tone of those old newspapers, a reflection of the climate of that era, lends credibility to that philosophy.

The North Country was beginning to recover, albeit slowly, from the devastating effects of the Great Depression. Indeed, the proposed library was a W.P.A. project. In spite of hard times, a real optimism shines through in these newspaper accounts -- a touching memorial to the authors' faith in the future of their city and their country.

These people genuinely seemed to hold an almost reverential belief in the power of books to inspire and broaden the human mind and spirit. They apparently also saw a new, well-equipped library as a monument to civic pride.

Because April 17 -- 23 is National Library Week I thought it might be a nice idea to share some of their words with you:

From an editorial in the Plattsburgh Daily Press, (November 19, 1938), which while heralding
the advent of a new library is reluctant to disparage the valued services of the old one housed at City Hall:

"It has been a bridge of instruction and entertainment which has carried us over an otherwise long hour."

The dedication ceremony for the new library received enthusiastic and detailed coverage. The following is an excerpt from local judge Robert S. Long's introductory remarks at that ceremony, as recounted in the Plattsburgh Daily Republican on August 31, 1940:

"I look upon this beautiful building. Its clean cut lines, its atmosphere of permanency and, to me, it brings a message of new and great significance. It seems to say 'Look upon me well, for I mark for you a long step ahead. I stand for progress in all that is good, all that is stable in the life of your people, and my ministrations are not to a few -- but to all. The young and the old, the rich and poor alike will find welcome within my portals. There shall be no barriers of political, racial or religious creeds allowed by me. All men will meet on common ground and for a common purpose -- the enrichment of the mind.

My builders have built well. In the bricks, the concrete and steel which go to make up my frame there is strength, but there is no greater strength than that which will come to those who come to me, and from the treasure of wisdom contained within my walls, get unto themselves richmess of mind which will last as long as life itself and which, after they have gone, will leave behind for those who follow, a wealth of memories and inspiration ministering to the common good!"

In a final quote, from an editorial on Children and Books, the Plattsburgh Daily Press (November 11, 1929) comments on the effect of the new children's books available to a young generation of Plattsburgh readers:

"No wonder they [the children] grow up to be book lovers and isn't it fine that they are encouraged to make companions of these books. How can they help bringing beauty into the lives and developing souls of those children who love them."

The language may be somewhat quaint by today's standards, but perhaps it is a shame that such idealism seems to have gone out of fashion. I have seen no better expressions of what a library's purpose should be -- yesterday or today.

Mary Shaw Hopkins
Editor

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

A very successful Legislative Library Day was held in Albany on March 8th this year. Hundreds of librarians, trustees and friends of libraries visited Albany to demonstrate their support for library legislation and increased support for libraries of all types. After a one hour briefing session in the State Capitol, organized by NYLA Legislative Committee member Mary Brown, the participants met with their own legislators and with key legislators such as Senator Hugh Farley, Assemblyman Edward Sullivan and Assemblywoman Cynthia Jenkins to voice their support for
library legislation. We hope we got the message across that there is an urgent need for library funding this year. The folks from C-E-F who went down also stressed the need for increasing the minimum support for public library systems to $770,000, the amount contained in the NVLA Bill. We also spoke on behalf of all types of libraries, including school libraries, academic libraries, the 3 R's councils and hospital libraries. Prior to this, on February 25th, we held at C-E-F Library System a workshop on "1988 Legislation and Your Library." Librarians from our member libraries and other types of libraries came. We even had librarians from Vermont who are interested in our legislative process.

We were especially pleased at the strong support given to library legislation by our own legislators, Senator Ronald Stafford and Assemblymen Chris Ortloff, Anthony Casale and Glenn Harris.

Please keep those cards and letters and phone calls going to Albany to let them know the need is there. We can't let up on this promotion until we have an Omnibus Library Bill. Last year we came very close, but very close was not close enough. Thanks to our own legislators, who strongly support our library legislation, and to the many people who journeyed to Albany to state their case. We appreciate your efforts on behalf of good library service.

Stanley A. Ransom
Director

PLS -- MEASURING UP TO STANDARDS GRANT

C-E-F has been notified that we are one of twelve public library systems which have been granted up to $1,000 to present a workshop to assist member libraries in measuring up to the new Standards. We are very pleased to be receiving this grant from the Public Libraries Section of the New York Library Association. This grant will enable us to fund a workshop on September 19th entitled "Planning, Role Setting and Standards." We anticipate having Ms. Claudya Muller, Director of the Suffolk Cooperative Library System, and a participant in the ALA Task Force on Library Planning, to be our principal speaker. At this time we will also review the new Standards for Public Libraries, which are expected to be in place by then, and discuss the impact on each public library of these Standards. We thank Leona Salzman, President of PLS, and the PLS Past Presidents and Executive Board who will enable us to present this workshop.

Stanley A. Ransom
"FIGHTING SLOW FIRES"

Connie Brooks of the New York State Library's Division of Library Development announced plans for a one hour Statewide Teleconference during National Library Week, on April 12, 1988. The teleconference, entitled "Fighting Slow Fires," will be broadcast from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Channel 57, WCBE, in the C-E-F area. The broadcast will be live to allow viewers to call in questions. The teleconference is being designed to inform people about the State Education Department's program for the conservation and preservation of library materials. The teleconference will highlight projects funded by the recently enacted library preservation legislation.

As part of the teleconference, there will be a program highlighting conservation at the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake. C-E-F Director Stanley Ransom participated in the taped program.

Viewers will be able to phone in their questions from their home or work place by calling collect (518) 473-5941. Calls will be accepted starting at 1:00 p.m. on the day of the broadcast. All librarians, archivists, records managers, educational administrators and other interested citizens are invited to participate.

Stanley A. Ransom

C-E-F AUTOMATION PROGRESS

C-E-F Library System has three automation committees at work. The Gaylord Automated Circulation System Committee is co-chaired by Carol Bedore and Hugh Starke. The C-E-F Automation Development Committee has been studying the needs of the C-E-F Library System and Plattsburgh Public Library in order to set up a schedule of needs for the coming years and to develop proposals for automation which would be presented to the full automation committee. The C-E-F Staff Automation Development Committee includes Elizabeth Rogers, Chair; Carol Bedore; Julie Weaver; Michael Pavone; and Susan Guest from Plattsburgh Public Library. The committee, together with Stanley Ransom, Leona Salzman and Hugh Starke, have visited other systems to review their use of automation. The group has visited Mid-York Library System and Southern Adirondack Library System. In addition the GEAC Company has provided a demonstration of their automated circulation system. The committee has prepared a Request for Proposals which will be going out soon. This proposal has been approved by the full automation committee. The 1988-89 C-E-F Automation Committee includes Janet Decker, President of the C-E-F Board of Trustees; Emily Castine, Past President of the C-E-F Board of Trustees; Herbert Newlove, Trustee of Plattsburgh Public Library; Betsy Beggs, Director of Saranac Lake Free Library; David Minnich, Director of the Wead Library in Malone; Therese Patnode, Director of the Lake Placid Public Library; Mary Kay Rillahan, Director of the Peru Free Library; Mary Ann Tremblay, Director of the Dodge Memorial Library in Rouses Point; and Janice Allen, Director of the Paine Memorial Library in Willsboro.
The C-E-F Library System hopes to select a vendor after the proposals have been received and evaluated. If a change is made in our current automation system, it would probably be scheduled to begin January 1, 1989.

The C-E-F Library System is also working with the North Country 3R's Council and its automation committee to prepare a regional database of the holdings of the C-E-F Library System, the North Country Library System and the academic and special libraries in the North Country 3 R's, and to make this available through the new CD-ROM technology. This would enable any library having the playback equipment and the CD-ROM disk to learn what books are available in the seven county area.

Stanley A. Ransom

FORTHCOMING WORKSHOP: BASICS OF YOUNG ADULT SERVICE

Nicki Nevett, YA Consultant will be the speaker at our next member library workshop, scheduled for Monday, June 6th at the C-E-F Library System. Save the date. There will be additional announcements about this program later.

Stanley A. Ransom

TRUSTEES IN THE NEWS

In February, the Plattsburgh and Clinton County Council of Community Services published the 14th and final edition of its directory of local human services agencies. Council President Janet Duprey dedicated the directory to Mary Leggett, who served for many years on the Council's Board of Directors. Mary is also a C-E-F System Board Trustee.

The Council officially disbanded on December 31, after 35 years of service. Council leaders felt that the Council has served its original purpose in contributing to the development of other agencies.

REMINDER

THE DEADLINE FOR NEWS FOR THE MAY/JUNE ISSUE OF THE TRAILBLAZER IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1988
IN MEMORIAM

Madge Mehan

Madge Mehan, former C-E-F bookmobile librarian, died on February 13, at the age of 70.

Madge had been a member of the C-E-F staff for 29 years upon her retirement in 1987; she began working on the bookmobile in 1963.

Madge loved the bookmobile patrons and especially enjoyed helping the children. She once said that one of the high points of her job was helping students with term papers and school projects and then having them come back to tell her how they did. During her career she helped out a few merit scholarship winners.

She will be greatly missed by her bookmobile patrons and the C-E-F staff.

James A. FitzPatrick

James A. FitzPatrick, a local attorney whose long public career was highlighted by a decade of service in the New York State Legislature and fifteen years as chairman of the New York State Power Authority, died on February 13, 1988 in Plattsburgh. Mr. FitzPatrick was the attorney for the C-E-F Library System. Mr. FitzPatrick was elected to the New York State Legislature in 1946 and represented the North Country in Albany for ten years. He was chairman of the New York State Power Authority from 1962 to 1977. The nuclear power generating plant on Lake Ontario was named for Mr. FitzPatrick. He sponsored legislation in the Assembly which lead to construction of the Northway, the Interstate highway that runs from Albany to Canada.

The C-E-F Library Board of Trustees, Director and staff, extend our condolences to his family and wish to express our appreciation for Mr. FitzPatrick's many services to the North Country of New York State and to the C-E-F Library System.

MEMBER LIBRARY PROFILE XXIV: THE PLATTSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Editor's Note: In researching this profile, I found an article by Mary G. Leggett in York State Tradition (Spring, 1970) on the "Plattsburgh Public Library" which I have drawn upon heavily for the history of the library. I am grateful to Dick Ward for his assistance in locating relevant materials.

I would also like to thank PPL Director Kathy Cayea for her help and cooperation and also special thanks to PPL staff member June Pajak.
The main entrance of the Plattsburgh Public Library (the modern addition).

A side entrance - part of the original structure.

Plattsburgh Public's Director Kathy Cayea.
From left, Director Kathy Cayea, Children's Librarian Karen Ricketson and Interlibrary Loan Head June Pajak.

“Miss Karen” leads story time.

Administrative Assistant Sarah Mats and Adult Services Librarian Susan Guesi.

Prudence Colver serves the patrons at the circulation desk, while Reference Librarian Sharon McCausland and Violet Feazelle confer by the newspaper rack.
The first mention of a library in Plattsburgh was three months after the Battle of Plattsburgh, in 1814. J.D. Low's book store announced a circulating library at 25¢ per 24-hour period, plus an advance deposit of each book's value. These were stiff fees indeed by the monetary standards of that day, especially in a settlement rebuilding after wartime.

The next attempt at providing a library in Plattsburgh seems to have been the Young Men's Reading Room, in the basement of the Baptist Church, which was set up by the Baptist pastor, Rev. Nathaniel Richards in 1893 to interest local youths in worthwhile pursuits and keep them out of trouble. At first this reading room was stocked with newspapers, but Rev. Richards learned of the Traveling Library, books sent from Albany through the New York State Board of Regents. Rev. Richards raised money to pay for the books' transport. He received 50 volumes, to be exchanged for another 50 after 3 months. The demand for books soon outgrew the supply. His correspondence with the State Department of Libraries led to a visit by Mr. W.R. Eastman from Albany. His talk at a public meeting led to the election of a Board of Trustees with Rev. Richards as the first Board President. A provisional charter was granted, creating the Plattsburgh Public Library in 1894. The Rev. Richards son, Arthur, became the first librarian. The librarian's salary was established at $2.50 per week. (In 1896 the salary was raised to $5 per week, but went back down to the original amount in 1897. Several years later the salary was again raised to $8 per week -- which some Board members considered excessive.

The library trustees voted $400 for the first budget, $200 for expenses and $200 for books. The book budget received matching funds from the Regents; 463 books were purchased under the supervision of Rev. Richards and stored in the church basement. The original book collection was concerned mainly with reform movements and moral issues. Not until the early 1900's did fiction, biography, travel and history become popular items at the library, however, children's books were always available.

Early library fund raisers included lecture series and an ill-fated steamboat excursion on the "Magnum." Unfortunately, the boat broke down and the tickets had to be refunded.

In its first year, the library was open 156 hours and circulated 5,620 books. By 1895, increased demand caused the library to relocate to rooms at the old Plattsburgh Opera House, then called the Weed Building.

In that same year, Rev. Richards and his family moved to New York City and Ernest S. Hall became the new librarian.

The book buying policy was rather cumbersome in those days -- the books were chosen by the librarian, approved by a committee, then submitted to the Regents for their approval. This practice continued for years.

In 1901 the library received its permanent charter.

In 1918, the library was again suffering space problems and it moved to larger quarters again, in the then brand new City Hall building. In 1919, Miss Helen Eliza Hale was hired as assistant librarian.
In 1924, Mr. Hall retired and Miss Hale became head librarian. A graduate of the Plattsburgh Normal School and Albany Library School, she was the first trained librarian to hold the position.

In 1938, the voters of Plattsburgh approved a proposal to remodel the old high school property on the corner of Oak and Brinkerhoff streets. A small, but vocal, minority had opposed this measure, but the votes were largely in favor of the new library. The old high school site and building were contributed by the City of Plattsburgh and the Board of Education. Most of the cost for the new facility was received from the federal government, under the WPA project. Requests added up to another sizable contribution. When the Young Women's League disbanded it turned much of its financial assets over to the library fund for furniture and equipment. Still, it was necessary for the Library Board to issue an appeal for funds. The cost of construction had run higher than anticipated, one reason being that there had been a shortage of certain skilled WPA labor locally and outside labor had to be imported at a higher cost.

A concert was held at the Plattsburgh High School to raise funds for the purchase of furnishings for a room in the new library to be named in honor of the late Professor Charles F. Hudson, Plattsburgh's "Grand Old Man of Music."

The new library which its Trustees believed would "mark a new era in the cultural life of the city" was badly needed. In 1919, circulation was 19,000 books per year; by 1939 this figure had increased 500%, to over 100,000.

The builders had their work cut out for them; the old school building was four stories high with two cupolas, a bell tower and a deep stone basement. The new library was to be a two-story building finished in variegated tapestry brick. It was designed by G. Leroy Brown. The mechanical supervisor was Alfred Pennington. The Plattsburgh Garden Club helped out with landscaping. Col. Daniel A. Nolan, U.S. Army retired, represented the Library Board as supervising member. He devoted a great deal of his time to the new library.

The new building was dedicated on August 30, 1940. The ceremony was preceded by a luncheon for dignitaries at the old Witherill Hotel. Speeches were given by Judge Robert Long, Mayor Leander Bouyea (who unveiled a bronze plaque) and the Board President, Doctor Charles C. Ward. Two thousand citizens attended the dedication, many of them from neighboring communities. The Plattsburgh Art Guild held an exhibit on the second floor of the library in honor of the occasion; the exhibit had 1,000 visitors.

Library service in the new building actually began on October 26, 1940. The library staff had moved books and materials from the City Hall quarters. The staff members at that time were: Miss Hale, Head Librarian; Emma M. Walter, Assistant Librarian; Laura Ingalls and William Wood.
In 1949, Miss Hale retired and Emma Walter was appointed head librarian; Laura Ingalls then became the Assistant Librarian.

Also in 1949, the first Plattsburgh Public Library exhibit was shown at the Clinton County Fair and the first summer reading club was inaugurated with 136 members. In 1950 the Saturday morning story hour began.

In 1954, Emma presented a plan for library service to surrounding counties (much public support had been gained by publicity at the county fairs). The Clinton-Essex-County Library Service System (with PPL as its central reference library), the precursor of the present Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System, became the first multi-county library system in the state.

Emma continued as director of both PPL and the System until 1962 when she resigned as System director to devote more time to PPL.

By 1965, the library again felt the pinch for space. The central library book collection had grown tremendously under the Central Book Aid Program since PPL's first year in the program in 1959. At that time the library was completely rearranged and new steel shelves were added.

In 1967, the library qualified for an annual central library development grant of $15,000 and the hours of service were increased to 59 per week.

In 1969, Emma retired and Miss Verna Pungitore, formerly PPL's reference coordinator, became library director.

In 1969, the C-E-F System, which had occupied quarters in PPL's basement moved to a new building next door on Oak Street.

Once again the library was running short of space. In 1972, ground was broken for a new addition at the front of the original building. The addition, financed by a federal library construction grant, city monies and a fundraising campaign, was ready for use in 1973.

It provided for an expansion of the collection and reading room areas. The new addition also provided an entrance ramp for the handicapped.

Unfortunately, the library had run short of adequate funds to fulfill all its building needs. In 1979 the modern, attractive children's room was finished and later some office space was added. The Friends of the Library had raised $14,000. Imperial Wallpaper donated $1,000 in top-grade wallpaper and decorator services. Inmates from Clinton Correctional Facility did much of the work. A few years later, much needed air conditioning was added -- a welcome relief for staff and patrons alike in the summer.

* * * * *

Today, Plattsburgh Public Library is a thriving library in a growing community. Total book holdings have reached 135,509. Circulation in 1987 was 139,584.

Kathy Cayea has been the director since 1986. Previous directors during the 1970's and '80's were Estelle Ward, Annette Kovic, Leah Miaskoff and Richard Ward. There are now 16 full-time and 2 part-time employees.

PPL continues to serve a dual role -- as a community library for city residents and as the C-E-F
System's central reference library, providing cooperative collection development and interlibrary loan services with the System and housing an extensive nonfiction collection bought with Central Book Aid funds. Any resident of Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties is served free of charge by PPL.

Always in step with the times, the library has a public access microcomputer. The library has held a series of workshops on its use and is planning more for the future.

The library has also continued its long tradition of adult and children's programming.

The library will soon be offering another series of lectures in the Essex Humanities Series. It will be offering a craft workshop program for adults in the fall, partially funded by the Clinton County Council on the Arts. Local historian Dave Martin of West Chazy will be holding a genealogical workshop. The library has also featured many exhibits, including regular exhibits by local artists.

The library also maintains a local history room, of great value to researchers, and the PPL auditorium has been used by many community groups, as well as for library programs.

As for children, PPL offers them a wide variety of programs -- regular story hours, class visits, arts and crafts and holiday parties. The children's room, a cheerful place decorated with storybook characters, also houses a toy lending library (featuring special toys for handicapped children), funded through a grant obtained through C-E-F.

Still, we have to go back to the words of Miss Hale to discover the formula which has made Plattsburgh Public so successful for so long.

"We try to make the library a friendly place."

Mary S. Hopkins

HEADQUARTERS HIGHLIGHTS

LEE SALZMAN REPORTS:

Thanks to a New York State Legislative grant made possible by Senator Ronald Stafford's efforts, C-E-F is again able to provide book collections to member libraries and numerous health related agencies under its Rural Health Information Delivery program. Marge Wachtmeister recently distributed a list of suggested book titles, including Surviving Cancer: A Practical Guide for Those Fighting Cancer and Low Vision: What You Can Do To Preserve and Even Enhance Your Usable Sight. Libraries and agencies were asked to choose from the list or make their own selections, as long as the total cost did not exceed $50.00. Marge is now in the process of reviewing the collection requests so that orders can be placed. C-E-F would like to thank everyone for their quick responses and notes of appreciation for this service.

* * * * *
As of late February, C-E-F began its role as a sponsoring agency for a regional VISTA Volunteer project on behalf of the North Country Literacy Coalition. Mike Kulik, a Plattsburgh resident, will serve as our VISTA Volunteer for the next year. Mike's primary role is to conduct an in-depth assessment of regional literacy needs, and to use this information to help local literacy providers improve the quality of literacy services.

Lee Salzman
Assistant Director/
Head of Outreach

REFERENCE AND INTERLIBRARY LOAN NEWS

What's new in Reference and ILL is that our CD-ROM reader has been installed and is running smoothly. With much help from Mike Pavone (one of our bookmobile drivers, who shares our interest in CD-ROM technology), we got the IBM PC-XT all set, and our disks formatted and copied. Thanks to Mike's help, we are now able to access the data base produced by the North Country Library System. This is the first time we have had access to holdings information from the collections in all their member libraries. This adds another dimension to our regional interlibrary loan activity, and should improve fill rate and turnaround time.

With the use of the IBM microcomputer and a Hitachi CD-ROM reader, we can search the disk by author, title and subject. Attached to the bibliographic record is holdings information--all the libraries in NCLS owning the title. This is an exciting new resource for us, and we're looking forward to expanding our use of CD-ROM products.

* * * * *

Other news from Reference is that we are trying to update and expand the Professional Collection at System Headquarters. Although we have always tried to purchase current titles in the field of library science, we have a hard time keeping up with the volume of published titles on an ever-widening variety of relevant topics. We all know that running a library gets more complicated all the time, and we at the System would like to offer as much assistance and information as we can. We've been purchasing titles on library applications of microcomputers, collection development, small library management, and other aspects of libraries. Look for a bibliography this spring.

Elizabeth Rogers
Head of Reference and Interlibrary Loan

OUTREACH NEWS

On Monday, March 21, Carol Hole and Russ Topping of Outreach Consultants, Gainesville, Florida, began a three day study of C-E-F's bookmobile services. Their visit included an in-depth look at our three county service area, as well as other outreach services offered by the System. Results of this consultant visit will point out the strengths and weaknesses of our current service, and will help us plan for the future.

* * * * *

Mary Seguin of Bookmobile B attended Library Legislation Day
in Albany on March 8. Mary was able to give legislators a first hand account of the importance of bookmobile services to her patrons. An extensive letter writing campaign has been underway to urge support for current library legislation, which may affect bookmobile services if an increase in funding is not passed this year.

* * * * *

Two segments of the Programs About Life project will soon be ready for loan to member libraries. Segment one, which deals with Substance Abuse, consists of 15-20 fiction and nonfiction books. Sample titles include: A Six-Pack and a Fake ID: Teens Look at the Drinking Question by Susan and Daniel Cohen, Crack: The New Drug Epidemic by Gilda Berger, Teens Talk About Alcohol and Alcoholism edited by Paul Dolmetsch and Gail Mauricette, and Drugged Athletes:

The Crisis in American Sports by Jonathan Harris. Videocassettes offered with this segment are "The Gentle Art of Saying NO" and "Turning Off: Drugs and Peer Pressure." Teen pregnancy is the topic of segment two, and includes materials which also examine communications, decision making, and relationships. Some samples of books in this segment are: Teen Pregnancy: The Challenges We Faced, The Choices We Made by Donna and Rodger Ewy; A Very Touchy Subject by Todd Strasser; and Growing Up Female: New Challenges, New Choices by Lucinda Smith. Videocassettes offered with this segment include: Me Power; How to Make Good Decisions, and Teen Pregnancy. Complete publicity (posters, bookmarks) will be provided with each segment. For more information, or to reserve a collection for a month, please contact me at C-E-F.

Julie Wever
Outreach Librarian

FILM DEPARTMENT NEWS

New Films Available at C-E-F

The following films were obtained with funding from the New York State Council on the Arts during 1987.

America and Lewis Hine

This documentary portrays the life and times of America's pioneer social photographer Lewis Hine. He recorded the development of industrial America during the first four decades of the 20th Century. 56 minutes. Color.

Flapper Story

A lively mixture of contemporary interviews and archival film footage in a thoughtful examination of the "flapper," ideal of America's Roaring Twenties. 29 minutes. Color.
Gypsies Sing Long Ballads

Scotland's Gypsies have lived outside mainstream society for many years, surviving as tinkers and horsetraders. Although many of these people still live by the side of the road, most of them live in houses but all are under pressure to abandon their culture. This film celebrates their music -- especially the long ballads that have been handed down by memory through the generations.

Happy Birthday Dr. King

An account of the struggle that led to the establishment of a national holiday honoring the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

High Lonesome Sound

Filmed in Hazard, Kentucky, this film offers an evocative portrait of Appalachian music and its importance in the lives of the rural poor.

Kwanzaa

An authoritative documentary on the meaning and practice of Kwanzaa, an adaptation of African harvest festivals celebrated by many Black Americans instead of Christmas.

Videocassette Series

C-E-F has recently purchased a videocassette series (VHS), "Greatest Heroes of the Bible," which should be of special interest during this Easter and Passover season. Classic stories of biblical heroes come to life in this series of 15 films. Top name stars like Robert Culp, Hugh O'Brian, Lew Ayres, Victoria Principal, and Frank Gorshin depict Old Testament events in full costume drama. Shot on location in settings similar to those described in the Bible, the films bring the stories to life without proselytizing and show that strength, courage, devotion, and faith are universal qualities for all to seek.

The series includes the following Old Testament stories:


Organizations may borrow these videocassettes through the C-E-F Library System Headquarters. Interested individuals may borrow the videos through their local public libraries.

Marie D. Chauvin
Head, Film Department
MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

Ausable Forks Free Library

A recent exhibit of the Ausable Forks Free Library featured the work of talented artists Sue and Terry Young of the Handworks Studio and Gallery, Jay, N.Y. Porcelain by Sue and an etching titled "Observing Adirondack Detail" by Terry make an attractive display in the ongoing library program of presenting interesting works and collections of area residents.

On display at the library were just a few of Sue Young's experimental works in porcelain. Her beautiful blendings of colored clays using the pinch, pot, and slab construction methods, as well as the potter's wheel, make for interesting bowls, cups and vases.

Terrance Young, co-proprietor of Handwork is best known for his beautiful pencil drawings, etchings and intaglio prints.

Dannemora Free Library

Doris Haley, librarian at the Dannemora Free Library for 46 years, retired in February.

Doris was the first librarian of the Dannemora Library and was a central figure in the library's growth and expansion.

On January 29, the Dannemora library's Board of Trustees hosted an open house in Doris' honor. About 100 people attended and she received several lovely floral arrangements. She was also given a plaque expressing the community's appreciation for her many years of dedicated service.

As for her retirement plans--Doris intends to read. She plans to be back at the library as a regular borrower.

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The new librarian at Dannemora is Patricia Vorabetz of Cadyville. She is a graduate of SUNY, Plattsburgh and worked as a library aide at Feinberg Library during her student years.

She also was director of a branch library within the Lorain County Public Library System at North Ridgeville, Ohio.

Fort Covington Reading Center

Museum

The Fort Covington Reading Center - Museum has recently received word that it has received $1,500 through a grant of public monies from the New York State Council on the Arts through the Malone Arts Council's Re Granting Program in Franklin County.

The Arts Council administers the regranting of public monies to organizations which submit applications for a variety of arts oriented activities in communities in the county.

The grant request, prepared and submitted last year by Marilyn Furnia and Patricia Musante asked for funds as designated by the Reading Center - Museum Committee. Grant monies must be used specifically for the purpose stated in the application.

Five hundred dollars is designated for material for making drapery quilts for the windows in
the building. The project will be under the direction of Cecille McElwain.

Five hundred dollars has also been allotted for a painting. William Gould has been commissioned to do a painting of the old Fort Covington School.

Two hundred and fifty dollars has been designated to finish microfilming back issues of The Fort Covington Sun which will be the property of the RC-M; $250 has been received for the printing of historical post cards.

* * * * *

The Job Opportunity Bank Security (JOB) Program set up in 1984 through an agreement by General Motors and the International United Auto Workers has benefitted many local communities.

The JOBS Program was established to provide security for an undefined period of time for GM employees who might otherwise be laid-off, transferred or displaced. One of its aspects provides for the utilization of employees in "non traditional work" which allows them to work in various community service activities and needs while receiving wages. Municipalities or organizations furnish the materials and the GM workers provide the labor.

As part of the JOBS program, local GM employees Clayton Almond, Maurice Monpetit and Carl White have been rewiring the outdated electrical wiring and installing new lights in the Fort Covington Town Hall and Reading Center Museum.

WEAD LIBRARY, MALONE

Director Dave Minnich reports:

In 1986, 55,464 items circulated, while in 1987, 50,969 items were used. The grand total holdings in the Wead Library have increased from 37,114 to 37,824. There were 1,400 volumes added to the collection in 1987, while 710 volumes were withdrawn for reasons of age, and wear, or similar circumstances.

Five hundred seventy-nine interlibrary loan requests were forwarded to CEPL (System). Twenty-four ILL requests were sent to other libraries or agencies. Two hundred eighty-eight ILL requests were answered with items supplied from the Wead Library's collection. Seven hundred volumes were borrowed as bulk loans from the Library System, by the Wead Library, augmenting the local collection.

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With the addition to our staff on a part-time basis, of Mrs. Jon (Susan) Wool, as a Children's Librarian, the expectation is that services and programs for children and young people will be more fully developed. Susan is currently going through the collection as a means of learning what we have as well as what we need. Mrs. Peter (Debbie) Trickey has also been with us since November, part-time, as a library clerk.

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One major factor changes in 1988 with Una Stewart's retirement, March 1st. The question often has been asked in
professional library circles whether it's the books or the people staffing a library which makes it a memorable institution. Una has added grace and caring to many aspects of the Wead Library's operation. She's often gone far beyond the "call of duty." Thanks hardly seems enough. Contrariwise, the gap must be filled, though we are fortunate to know that Una says she will still be around. Those of us still in the trenches will try to maintain service in the tradition of Una Stewart. We can do no more.

MOOERS FREE LIBRARY

Mooers Free Library "Friends" had an Easter Story Hour for children 4-8 years. It was held at the library Saturday, March 26, 11-12 noon. The program centered around the book, The Velveteen Rabbit. Beverly Sears, treasurer of the Mooers Friends of the Library, was in charge of the program.

Two other members, Marilyn Bobka and Helen Garrison have been working on the basement, getting it ready to move the children's area downstairs in preparation for the computer and printer upstairs.

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The Mooers Library lost a devoted Trustee of many years upon the sudden death of Amos Mousaw on March 21.

Mr. Mousaw was the Treasurer of the Mooers Library's Board of Trustees.

SHERMAN FREE LIBRARY, PORT HENRY

A genealogy seminar was held at the Sherman Free Library, This was a free two-hour seminar, conducted by Ronald A. Bremer. All those attending were encouraged to discuss their genealogical research problems.

The lecture topic was "The World of Genealogy." The seminar contained information for both the beginning and the more advanced researcher.

Mr. Bremer is a former research specialist for the genealogical society in Salt Lake City and founder of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. He is listed in "Who's Who in the West" and he is the editor of "The Genealogy Digest Magazine." He has personally visited the major genealogical centers in every state and Washington, DC.

SARANAC LAKE FREE LIBRARY

The opening reception for the Third Annual Adult Center Artists Show was held on February 2 in the Cantwell Community Room of the Saranac Lake Free Library.

The exhibit included works in acrylic, oil, pastel, and watercolor. All the artists participate in a class at the Saranac Lake Adult Center taught by Mrs. Gail Jones on Wednesday mornings, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

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

Refreshments for the reception were provided by the Adult Center. The show continued through February 26.

Ray and Dickie Jenkins
presented a husband/wife art exhibit in the Cantwell Community Room of the Saranac Lake Free Library during March.

Dickie's artistic interest is flower portraiture. She paints flowers in their natural size and natural setting. She displayed watercolors and mixed media works, including eight miniature paintings.

Currently semi-retired, Ray has rediscovered watercolor painting and pencil drawing from college days. Both media were included in the library exhibit.

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The Saranac Lake Free Library has been awarded a 60-volume set of The Library of America, the series that American Heritage magazine called "the most ambitious effort ever undertaken to put the best of American literature into the hands of the general reader."

The Saranac Lake Free Library is receiving the award after submitting an application to The Library of America and obtaining a pledge of $500 from The Friends of the Library.

The Saranac Lake Free Library is one of more than 1,000 across the country that have already acquired this important collection of American literature with funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and matching funds pledged in their local communities. Each $500 raised locally is being matched by $500 from the Mellon Foundation grant as part of a national program to help libraries acquire the Library of America Series.

The Saranac Lake Free Library has also added Facts On File: The Weekly News Digest with Cumulative Index, to the reference sources available to its patrons.

Facts On File is a weekly compilation of national and foreign news gathered from leading sources in the United States and abroad.

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The Red Cross was spotlighted on February 18, at the Brown Bag Luncheon discussion at noon in the Cantwell Community Room of the Saranac Lake Free Library. Suzanne Snyder, executive director of the local office, presented an update on Red Cross services as well as the benefits the area received from its presence in the community.

To celebrate nutrition month, Paula Ambrose, registered dietitian and nutrition consultant to the Franklin County office for the aging in Malone, as well as to North Star Industries and a community dietitian at Sunmount DD&SO, was the speaker at the Brown Bag Luncheon on March 3. Her topic was "Nutrition - Fact or Fiction."

In addition to consulting, Mrs. Ambrose evaluates a home delivered and congregate meal program in 7 sites, provides individual counseling and group education as well as being the author for a monthly nutrition column for the Senior Outlook newspaper.

John Radigan, Assistant Professor of English and the Humanities at Paul Smith's College was the guest speaker of the brown bag luncheon discussion on March 17.

Using St. Patrick's day as his focal point, Mr. Radigan
presented an interesting program with entertainment to the participants. All were requested to wear green.

WADHAMS FREE LIBRARY

Librarian Liz Rapalee reports:

With the help of Abby Zito of the Essex Humanities Series the library has obtained a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities to present a series of three lectures on the U.S. Constitution.

The guest lecturer is the Honorable Frank C. Mahady, a Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court. He will speak on the background of the Constitution and Constitutional issues which continue to be debated today -- such as the role of the Supreme Court and the rights and responsibilities of the states versus those of the federal government.

The first two lectures were held at the Wadham's Grange Hall on March 23 and 30 and the third, on Learned Hand and the Bill of Rights will be presented at the Hand House in Elizabethtown on April 6 at 7:30 p.m. Admission to the lectures is free. The celebration of the Constitution will continue through the spring in a Series of Sunday afternoon programs in Elizabethtown organized by the Essex County Historical Society's Bicentennial Committee.

We'll also be participating in the Humanities Series' presentation of the New York Council's "Films in the Humanities," showing "Machito" and "Do Not Enter: The Visa War Against Ideas."

The library will hold an open house, book sale, and story hour from 1-5 on Tuesday, July 5th, in conjunction with the Wadham's United Church's annual Strawberry Festival.

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We're also planning two story hour specials (appearances by a puppeteer and a storyteller) in July to spice up our usual Saturday morning story hour.

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Our handy and hardworking volunteer has installed another electric circuit in preparation for the computer the System is providing for us.

Very mundane, but exciting for us, is that another hardworking volunteer took on (and finished!) the backlog of pulling card sets of discarded books. Now she is straightening out mis-filings in the catalog and plans to file the cards for our many new books. These people, and our other volunteers, are essential to the library.

PAINE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WILLSBORO

Librarian Janice Allen reports:

Paine Memorial Library is offering six computer classes in the use of Appleworks. Appleworks is a threefold program allowing you to use the word processor, spreadsheet, and data base. These classes started in mid-March. Mr. Jack Williams is our teacher. He just finished conducting a similar set of classes for the Willsboro Central Teachers.

* * * * *
Federal and State income tax forms are available here at the Library. Also each Tuesday, from 12 noon to 4 p.m., Senior Citizens can have assistance with their tax preparation, or questions answered. We have a trained Tax Counselor, Genevieve Blaise, on hand to help. The service is free of charge.

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Mr. Steve Sayward issued a special invitation to our storytime children for a free winter sleigh ride.

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We are pleased to make available information on drugs and alcohol, that has been placed here by the W.E.C.A.N. group. They have a special display rack and one drawer with pamphlets on the two subjects mentioned above. We are very happy to cooperate with this local group.

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The Paine Memorial Library once again decorated an annual Easter Egg Tree. The tree nearly reached the ceiling and had some 45 to 50 dozen decorated eggs on its branches. Our special thanks to Mr. Dale Boardman for his assistance once again this year in providing us with the white birch tree. Some of the eggs placed on the tree date back to the early 1970's.

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Our special thanks to all the Campbell label savers -- we went over the top in our collection. But we do encourage you to keep saving them for us, as this is an ongoing project and we will start right off on next year's project. We do like to receive them all along the year.

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We are very pleased to have Janet Tucker back on our staff!

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Craft Fair applications have been coming in and we are looking forward to another outstanding summer event. Our Old Time Folk Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, July 30 this year.

Stanley A. Ransom, Director
Mary S. Hopkins, Editor
HUMANITIES PROGRAMS IN THE C-E-F LIBRARY SYSTEM

"American Dreams"

There will be humanities series in the public libraries of Tupper Lake, Peru, Plattsburgh, Ticonderoga, the Akwesasne Reserve, and in Massena, in neighboring St. Lawrence County. Humanities scholars in literature, history, women's studies, Native American and Afro-American studies will lecture before the general public on the books and history topics in the series. The overall subject is American identity, seen from a number of different perspectives. Paperback copies of the readings will be available to series attenders at sponsoring libraries two weeks before the lectures so the audience will be able to come to "class" well prepared. Lectures last about an hour. They are followed by a discussion on the work at hand and the humanities issues it illuminates. Admission is free. Everyone is invited to attend. The programs are funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

"Films in the Humanities" 1988

This is a seven week festival of new documentary films made with the support of the New York Council for the Humanities. Each film showing will be enhanced by the personal appearances of the filmmaker and of a scholar well versed in the issues the film explores. Free ranging public discussions and wonderful films made the 1987 "Films in the Humanities" a smash success. We're hoping for more of the same with these new films! The festival will take place in four sites in Essex County: the public libraries of Keene Valley and Westport, the Wadham's Grange, and Persell Hall in Essex. Free.

Upcoming programs in these series are:

Wed. Apr. 6  7:30 p.m.  "Learned Hand and the Bill of Rights"  U.S. Constitution lecture by Vt. Supreme Court Justice Frank Mahady. Hand House, Elizabethown (962-4514)

Thurs. Apr. 7  7:30 p.m.  "Are We Winning, Mommy? America and the Cold War" Film, with filmmaker Barbara Margolies and Prof. Travis Jacobs, Middlebury College. Keene Valley Library (576-4335) FILMS IN THE HUMANITIES

Mon. Apr. 11  7:30 p.m.  A River Runs Through It, Norman Maclean. Lecture by Prof. Alan Steinberg. Paul Smith's College, Peru Library (643-8618)

Mon. Apr. 11  7 p.m.  Ceremony, Leslie Marmon Silko. Lecture by Prof. Maurice Kenny, North Country Community College. Akwesasne Library (358-2240)

Tues. Apr. 12  7 p.m.  The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald. Lecture by Prof. Peter Bailey, St. Lawrence University. Massena Library (315-769-9914)

Wed. Apr. 13  7:15 p.m.  One Hundred Years of Solitude, Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Lecture by Prof. Stuart Voss, SUNY Plattsburgh. Ticonderoga Library (585-7380)

Wed. Apr. 13  10 a.m.  The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin. Lecture by Prof. Douglas Skopp, SUNY Plattsburgh. Plattsburgh Public Library (563-0921)
Thurs. Apr. 14 "Maschile" Film with filmmaker Carlos Ortiz and Middlebury College
7:30 p.m. anthropologist and jazz musician Dr. Frank Fairfax. Wadams Grange (962-4314)
FILMS IN THE HUMANITIES

Tues. Apr. 19 
Moby-Dick, Herman Melville. Lecture by Robert Buckeye, Curator, Abernethy
7 p.m. Collection, Middleby College Library. Tupper Lake Library (359-9421)

Thurs. Apr. 21 "Metropolitan Avenue" Film, with filmmaker Christine Noschese and UVM
7:30 p.m. sociologist Dr. Beth Mintz. Persell Hall, Essex (963-4502)
FILMS IN THE HUMANITIES

Mon. Apr. 25 The Unsettling of America, Wendell Berry. Lecture by Prof. Richard Sweterlitsch,
7:30 p.m. UVM. Peru Library (643-8618)

Mon. Apr. 25 Love Medicine by Louise Erdrich and New Directions in Native American Writing
7 p.m. lecture by Dr. Joseph Bruchac, poet and publisher. Akwesasne Library (358-2240)

Tues. Apr. 26 The Narrative of Frederick Douglass Lecture by Prof. John Myers, Civil War
7 p.m. historian, SUNY Plattsburgh. Massena Library (315-769-9914)

Wed. Apr. 27 Henderson the Rain King, Saul Bellow. Lecture by Prof. Alan Steinberg, Paul
7:15 pm Smith's College. Ticonderoga Library (585-7380)

Wed. Apr. 27 The Narrative of Frederick Douglass. Lecture by Prof. Norbert Kuntz,
7 p.m. St. Michael's College. Plattsburgh Public Library (563-0921)

Thurs. Apr. 28 "Radium City" Film with filmmaker Carole Langer and Dr. Bryan Higgins, Center
7:30 p.m. for Earth and Environmental Science, SUNY Plattsburgh. Persell Hall, Essex
(963-4502) FILMS IN THE HUMANITIES

Thurs. May 5 Marianne Moore: In Her Own Image" Film with director Jeffrey Schon and
7:30 p.m. Prof. Brett Millier, Middlebury College. Westport Library (962-8219)
FILMS IN THE HUMANITIES

Mon. May 9 Selected Poems, Robert Frost. Lecture by Prof. Albert Glover, St. Lawrence U.
7 p.m. Akwesasne Library (358-2240)

Tues. May 10 The Woman Warrior, Maxine Hong Kingston. Lecture by Prof. Cathy Smith.
7 p.m. St. Lawrence University. Massena Library (315-769-9914)

Wed. May 11 Notes of a Native Son, James Baldwin. Lecture by Prof. Stephen Donadio, Chair.
7:15 p.m. American Lit. and Civilization, Middlebury. Ticonderoga Library (585-7380)

Thurs. May 12 "Do Not Enter: the VISA War Against Ideas" Film with filmmaker
7:30 p.m. Robert Richter and lawyer Terri Thorfinnson. Wadams Grange (962-4514)
FILMS IN THE HUMANITIES

Thurs. May 19 "The Real Julia" Film with filmmaker Dan Kluger and Prof. Stephen Donadio,
7:30 p.m. Chair, American Lit. and Civilization, Middlebury. Westport Library (962-8219)
FILMS IN THE HUMANITIES

Tues. May 24 The House of Mirth, Edith Wharton. Lecture by Prof. Donald Makosky,
7 p.m. St. Lawrence University. Massena Library (315-769-9914)
Wed. May 25  Stone for Lippera, Harriet Doerr. Lecture by Prof. Brett Millier, Middlebury
7:15 p.m. Ticonderoga Library (585-7380)

Wed. May 25  The Woman Warrior, Maxine Hong Kingston. Lecture by Patricia Austin, Adj.
10 a.m. * Lecturer in English, SUNY Plattsburgh. Plattsburgh Public Library (563-0921)

Tues. June 7  The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin. Lecture by Prof. Bruce Weiner
7 p.m. St. Lawrence University. Massena Library (315-769-9914)

Wed. June 8  Ceremony, Leslie Marmon Silko. Lecture by Dr. Joseph Bruchac, poet and
7:15 p.m. publisher. Ticonderoga Library (585-7380)

* Separate children's programming available at these Plattsburgh Public Library daytime
  programs. And bring a brown bag lunch!

NEH-funded "American Dreams" programs will continue to run in the CEF System through
June, 1988. The Essex Humanities Series was founded by Abby Zito, who developed and
directs "American Dreams." Barbara Kunzi administers "Films in the Humanities."
Stanley A. Ransom, Director of CEF Library, is the institutional grant administrator for
the Humanities Series.

American Dreams. RD 1, Box 244, Middlebury, VT 05753 (802) 388-7650
Essex Humanities Series, Box 14, Essex, NY 12936 (518) 963-4502
CEF Library, 17 Oak St., Plattsburgh, NY 12901 (518) 563-5190