A SALUTE TO THE LAND DOWN UNDER

This year Australia is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet, at what is now Sydney Harbor in January of 1788. These convicts were the first of 162,000 transported by Great Britain to Australia during its eighty years as a penal colony. A large number of present day Australians trace their ancestry back to these unfortunate souls.

Because of this anniversary and because of the recent popularity of a spate of Australian motion pictures -- "Breaker Morant," "Gallipoli," "My Brilliant Career," "The Man From Snowy River," and, of course, "Crocodile Dundee" - I decided now would be a good time to find out more about this distant country.

Two videos owned by C-E-F were an easy place to start. "Australia, Secrets of the Land Down Under" (VHS, Color, 45 minutes) by International Video Network, 1987 provides a good introduction. It's just the thing for those of us who know kangaroos from koalas, but not much else on the subject.

This video is done in a typical travelogue format and the cinematography is beautiful. As I know very little about the geography of Australia, I found it helpful that each area was located in color on a map before it was covered. It illustrates very well the diversity that exists within Australia: surfing and swimming on the Gold Coast and skiing in the Snowy Mountains (May through September -- don't forget the seasons are reversed down there). Then, there's the fantastically shaped Sydney Opera House and the arid desolation of the Outback. You can find kangaroos on the fairway in Canberra and koalas in eucalyptus trees in Brisbane. You'll see Perth, "the most remote urban area in the world," the wineries of western Australia and many other interesting spots. This is a great overview.

"G'Day Australia: Like Nothing Else on earth" (VHS, Color, 50 minutes), a 1987 Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation Production, is just plain fun. It features a guest appearance by Linda Kozlowski (Crocodile Dundee's American girlfriend) and stars John Jarratt, an entertaining and irreverent Australian bloke. Our cheeky host covers some of the same spots as the previous video (although this one is confined to Northern Australia) -- but in his own breezy style.
He starts out swimming among the fish at the Great Barrier Reef and brings us to the Gold Coast again - "It's like Miami without the vice." Many other tourist attractions are covered but the high point of the show for me was a visit to the Walkabout Creek Hotel, in the Outback, where part of "Crocodile Dundee" was filmed. Jarratt enters the pub ("the Aussie oasis") and introduces us to a friend, Buck. Our host also tells the story of a brahmin bull at the Hunky Doo pub in Darwin that can drink a "stubby" of beer in 40 seconds.

Don't miss this one -- as an extra bonus you can hear the lilting strains of "Waltzing Matilda" as the Outback's theme music.

Ask Marie Chauvin, Film Department Head at System Headquarters about the videos. Organizations may borrow the videos directly from Headquarters, individuals may borrow them through their local public libraries.

Now, I'll mention a few recent books on Australia (which C-E-F also owns).


This is the story of Australia's convict founders. In a scholarly, but very readable style, the author tells their story and the impact that this factor in Australia's history has had on the national consciousness -- "An unstated bias rooted deep in Australian life seemed to wish that 'real' Australian history had begun with Australian respectability . . . "

After the American Revolution, the British had to find a new place to dump its convicts. Transportation presented an alternative to execution in an era when such crimes as poaching a rabbit, or stealing property worth over 40 shillings were capital offenses. Also, it was an excellent way for England to get rid of the dissident Irish.

This is the story of how these people lived (or died) in a topsy-turvy land so different from their home -- where even the plants and animals seemed bizarre to the newcomers.

The Australians (hardcover edition, Simon & Schuster, 1987. $19.95 or paper, to be published in August, $8.95) by Ross Terrill deals with the convict heritage, but also examines the current climate and trends in Australia.

Ross Terrill grew up in rural Australia in the 1940's and '50's, eventually leaving in the '60's to become a teacher at Harvard.

He went back to Australia to research this book, interviewing a large number of people, from the man on the street to the "tall poppies" (the Australian term for biggies). He notes a decline in British influence and new trends developing from the influx of Asian immigrants in recent years. For those, who are interested, Terrill also wrote "Australia at 200," in the February, 1988 issue of National Geographic (the entire issue is devoted to Australia).

On a different note is The Emancipist (Simon & Schuster, 1985. This title is now available in paper from Avon. $4.95) by Veronica Geoghegan Sweeney, a Gone with the Wind-size novel about the trials and tribulations of a young Irishman, Aidan O'Brien, who is transported to an Australian prison for political crimes in Ireland. This is the stuff of which mini-series are made - - the Potato Famine, love, lust, patriotism, rags to riches, ungrateful children -- a good entertaining read!


The first part of the book consists of episodes from the author's Aboriginal childhood. The second is a treasury of Aboriginal folk tales which she heard as a
child, complemented by black and white and color illustrations. It's a charming little book.

This is but a short list of materials available on Australia. I didn't mention Colleen McCullough's best-seller, The Thorn Birds, because I assumed almost everybody knew about it anyway, especially after the mini-series appeared on T.V. I've also neglected Arthur Upfield's mysteries, Nobel Prize winner Patrick White and the critically acclaimed works of Thomas Keneally (as well as many others). These books too, however, can be obtained through your library.

I hope you'll have the opportunity to learn more about this nation which is so much like us (at least before we got so prissy) and yet so different.

So, until next time, so long, mates.

Mary Shaw Hopkins
Editor

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The State budget recently adopted contained no increase to support a 1988 Library Omnibus Bill. This has been a source of much frustration for both the library community and its patrons, who would like library services to continue.

Libraries need to be recognized by the Legislature for their educational and economic impact. Those of us in the library community watch as the State budget includes substantial increases in School Aid, yet provides no increase in Library Aid.

We appreciate the support expressed to us by our local legislators as they respond to the need for library services voiced to them by the residents of our service area. We thank our library and bookmobile patrons who have realized the importance of increased library funding and have carried the message to their legislators. How unfortunate that the work and support of so many will have no positive impact unless the Legislature passes a separate funding bill within the coming weeks.

If C-E-F Library System does not receive enough increased funding for Minimum System Support (we recommend $770,000), the C-E-F Staff and Board of Trustees must plan on cuts in service which will take effect as early as June of this year. It would be a difficult task to explain decreases in service to our patrons, but we would have no choice.

We can only hope that the Legislature will recognize the need to strengthen library programs in New York State before financial hardship becomes a reality.

Now is a critical time. You can help by continuing to write to the following: your legislators, Speaker Mel Miller, Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson and the Governor. Let's work together to keep the library issue alive!

Stanley A. Ransom
Director
MINIMUM STANDARDS

By the time the Trailblazer reaches you, you should be holding in your hands a copy of the Minimum Public Library Standards. It's a thought provoking and a good document, and it will stand the test of time, I believe, for the next few decades.

It requires planning for library services on the part of every library board and staff member. It should challenge you to do your best.

Many of the 146 previously suggested standards have been incorporated into recommendations which accompany each standard. While these are not required, the suggestions may prove beneficial to follow.

We'd like your reaction. There will be several hearings throughout the state to clarify and to discuss this document. I would guess that the standards as set forth will remain pretty much as you see them. Waiver provisions as well as a phase in of three years should allow smaller libraries some flexibility.

The first public hearing will be in Albany, Concourse, Room 5, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Thursday, June 9th.

In addition to the Standards, a library service assessment form, based on one used for Hospital Libraries, is circulating around the C-E-F's 29 member libraries. This form, which includes the new standards, will make it possible for individual libraries to see from this checklist how they are doing and it suggests areas where self-improvement could be considered.

Stanley A. Ransom

PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIANSHIP

A growing shortage of professional librarians, especially school librarians, children's librarians and medical librarians, is causing some alarm throughout the State. The Regents and NYLA have both proposed extra scholarship aid to recruit more librarians.

Librarians train for at least twelve months to become professionals. They take courses in computer applications, reference work, children's literature and services, library services to business and to the disabled and a host of other types of courses designed to give them the philosophy and background as well as the substantial knowledge and practical information to provide a high quality of library services to meet the changing needs of our society.

Many fine people who direct the services in our smaller libraries are not trained professionally, yet do an excellent job. C-E-F Library System is proud of their award winning accomplishments and seeks to assist them further by providing consultant services and workshops.

But for many libraries, especially the larger ones, a professional librarian can plan and carry out improvements in library services based on a consistent and informed philosophy and considerable knowledge and training. Learning to be a good librarian never stops.

We urge our readers with four year degrees to consider taking courses leading to an MLS degree. McGill, Albany, Buffalo, Brooklyn, Queens, Syracuse, and C.W. Post in Greenvale, Long Island, are among the places which grant library degrees and are ALA accredited.
Check with Kathie LaBombard at the C-E-F Job and Education Information Center at Plattsburgh Public Library for further information on schools, courses and financial aid.

Librarianship is a proud profession. You'll be glad to earn your degree and enjoy a career of helping people meet their needs through library service.

Stanley A. Ransom

PERU FREE LIBRARY DEDICATION CEREMONY

On Sunday, May 15, 1988, I arrived at the Peru Free Library to participate in their Dedication Ceremony. I walked through the front entrance and I was immediately overwhelmed by the difference that the new addition had made. A once crowded space now conveys a feeling of warmth and belonging.

I was honored to be one of the speakers along with Senator Ronald B. Stafford and Mrs. Elizabeth Hughes, daughter of Anna Fitzpatrick. Two of the new rooms of the library were officially dedicated to Senator Stafford and Anna Fitzpatrick, two individuals who contributed greatly to the growth and development of the Peru Free Library. The number of people who took the time to participate in this dedication on a beautiful Sunday afternoon was truly a tribute to much hard work and caring. Congratulations!

Leona Salzman
Assistant Director/Head of Outreach

THE STORYBOOK TRAIL IS COMING!

On June 11, C-E-F will be co-sponsoring our second Storybook Trail as part of the Imagination Celebration's Community Showcase Festival. There will be four Trail sites in downtown Plattsburgh, complete with wonderful volunteers who will be reading stories and distributing bookmarks. Mystery items will be hidden at each site for young people to find based on clues given on their bookmarks. If they find all four, they'll be ready to attend the Teddy Bears' Picnic held at Plattsburgh Public Library starting at 3:30 p.m. Teddy Bear will be there, anxious to lead a parade of all the favorite teddy bears that everyone is invited to bring (one bear per person, please). Plan to join us for an afternoon filled with fun, and even a few prizes!

Leona Salzman
DISCRETIONARY GRANT APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

A series of five Grant Application Workshops will be conducted by the staff of the New York State Conservation/Preservation Discretionary Grant Program to assist prospective applicants in planning their 1989/90 applications.

The workshops will include a review of the general guidelines and a step by step review of the instructions for preparing the application.

The announcement and registration form for the workshops are in the process of being printed and will be mailed within the next few weeks.

The revised 1989/90 guidelines and application for the Discretionary Grant Program will be mailed at the end of June.

Here is the schedule for this year's Discretionary Grant Application Workshops:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>The Juilliard School, New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, Watertown</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Rochester Public Library, Rochester</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>SUNY Binghamton, Binghamton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>The New York State Library, Albany</td>
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For more information please contact Roxane McPeters at (518) 474-6971.

Leona Salzman

STAN RANSOM PARTICIPATES AT ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

A forum for the discussion of solid waste management and environmental issues which featured James Frey, Chairman of the Franklin County Waste Commission and Stanley Ransom, Director of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System, was held at North Country Community College on April 21.

Frey, a supervisor of the Town of Duane, has been a key figure in the recent debates surrounding how and where the North Country will dispose of its solid waste products.

Frey holds a doctorate in chemistry, and is a chemistry professor at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Ransom, in addition to heading the C-E-F Library System, is also a folksinger. As the Connecticut Peddler, he performs on guitar and hammered dulcimer, and sings about local events and community problems. He performed two of his songs, during the forum.

The presentations were held in the NCCC Science Building Lecture Hall. There was no admission charge.
MEMBER LIBRARY PROFILE XXV: THE PERU FREE LIBRARY

Editor's Note: I would like to thank Peru’s Librarian, Mary Kay Rillahan, for her cheerful assistance in writing this article.

For the library’s early history I have drawn heavily on an article entitled "The History of Peru Free Library" by former Peru Librarian Jane C. Metcalfe in History of Peru, New York, Lincoln Sunderland, major contributing author and editor.

In June of 1915, sixteen citizens of the Town of Peru met to discuss the possibility of establishing a public library. It was decided that a library association would be established with a membership of $1.00 per year.

Committee members met with Asa Wyndoop, State Library Director, to learn about public library guidelines and State Aid.

Within a month of the initial meeting a model constitution had been prepared and basic library regulations had been adopted. The new library was to be named Peru Free Library.

In September 6, 1915 the library was granted a provisional charter and was given a State grant of $100. The library's Housing Committee secured a lease on a former drug store's quarters on Pleasant Street for $6 per month, payable in advance.

The library was opened to the public on Saturday, October 23, 1915, with Rev. R. H. Stearns as librarian and a collection of 225 books.

In the spring of 1916 the library building committee arranged for a loan of $350 to purchase a "moving picture machine." The profits from these "entertainments" were to be applied toward the payment of the loan and, once that was paid off, the profits would go to a building fund. In addition to the movies, local talent participated in such entertainments as a "Tom Thumb Wedding" - featuring 60 children. A supper was also held as a fund raiser.

By September of 1916 the "Peru Movies" had raised $100. By March 1917, there had been 44 showings, producing an average profit of $2.83 apiece.

World War I caused a delay in the search for a building. The library began to collect county newspapers in December, 1917 which were mailed to Peru boys in the service.

During 1917 Miss Edith Stafford was hired as librarian, at a salary of $3.00 per week. By then the book stock had increased to 943 books.

The library was faced with a debt of $126.40. The trustees and members held an emergency meeting and those in attendance quickly wiped out the debt by pledging subscriptions.

In 1919 a $1200 bequest for the building fund was received from the estate of a Mrs. Heyworth. At this time, the library board decided to proceed with plans for a new building.

Later on that year the library's quarters were to be rented out as a drug store again, but the library was offered the use of a wing of the H.E. Heyworth home.

A fund-raising benefit was held that fall, with a program of patriotic music and speeches by a State Library representative and local dignitaries. The proceeds were to be used to erect a library as a memorial to the over 100 Peru youths who had served in the nation's wars.

The library grew during the 1920's; bookstock, membership and hours were
expanded. Mrs. William Mason conducted a regular children's story hour. A Peru girls' club raised $15 from serving lunches, a food sale, and selling candy. This money was used to buy six chairs for the children's room.

The librarian, Edith Stafford, died in 1925 and the library was run by trustees and volunteers until Mrs. Patrick (Anna) Fitzpatrick was appointed librarian later in that year. Miss Anne Bently was also appointed assistant librarian.

In 1926 Mrs. Fitzpatrick resigned and was replaced by Miss Ethel McIntyre. A proposition placed before the Town of Peru voters to grant the library $600 annually for maintenance was defeated by 13 votes.

Ethel McIntyre died in 1927; Mrs. Diantha Laurenitis succeeded her. The library was granted its absolute charter by the State in that year.

In January, 1928, the library received a bequest from Mr. Horatio E. Baker, a Peru farmer (the name "Baker Library" still appears over the former front entrance). Mrs. Baker selected a property which was purchased for $600, the site of the present library. Plattsburgh architect Alvin W. Inman drew up the plans for the library building.

In November elections that year, Town of Peru residents voted to appropriate $500 a year for library maintenance -- by a majority vote of 4.

The cost of building the new library was $10,000. Aside from the $8000 Baker bequest, contributions to the building fund were made by the estates of G.R. Heyworth, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Thew and Dr. Ladd. The library association raised the remainder. The Peru Garden Club planted trees and did landscape gardening on the grounds. Emore F. Elmore donated a stained glass window to the library in memory of his mother (Note: As a child, C-E-F photographer Carol Bedore was in the habit of stealing Elmore F. Elmore's rhubarb. I am happy to report that she no longer does this sort of thing). This stained glass window is now prominently displayed near the circulation desk in the new addition.

A key to the new library was presented to Mrs. Baker. At the time the new building was open the book collection had grown to 2,875, with a circulation of 3,103 books per year.

The New York State Library Institute Annual district meeting was held at the Peru Library in May, 1925. The district included all Essex County libraries and several from parts of Clinton and Franklin Counties.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick returned as librarian in 1932.

During the 1930's individuals and organizations continued to raise money for the library. In 1935-36 several projects were completed for the library under the auspices of the National Youth Administration.

In 1955 the library joined the C-E-F System.

In 1966 Mrs. Fitzpatrick resigned as librarian. From a framed newspaper account in the newly renovated Reading Room which is named for her, I learned that for over three decades she had a free hand in building and cataloging the book collection; the Library Board had absolute faith in her judgement. She did, however, burn a few books in her day, her reason being "I just will not accept junk that other people find while cleaning their attics."

A fairwell open house was given to honor Mrs. Fitzpatrick on her retirement after "thirty-five years of faithful service." Mrs. Mildred Bromley was appointed to fill the position.

Mrs. Bromley resigned in 1967 and Jane Metcalfe became librarian. The library applied to the Peru Central School district under a grant which allowed public libraries to receive funds for library books made available to students at the school. A
From left, Justine Clemons, cousin Jason Dickinson and sister Ariel, pass some time in the Ronald B. Stafford Reference Room.

The Anna Fitzpatrick Reading Room. The former front entrance is at the right.

CEF Director Stan Ransom confers with Mary Kay. The stained glass window is in the background.

The present Children's Room in the library basement.

Photos by Carol G. Bedor
summer reading incentive program was also begun.

In 1970 new natural maple library tables and chairs were purchased for the main floor and the vice-president of the Board, Joseph Alexander painted a section of the library basement. A general rehabilitation of the interior and exterior of the library took place that year.

Saturday film programs for children began in 1972 and proved so successful that the trustees purchased a film projector and screen for the library.

In 1975 the children's room was moved to the library basement.

Jane Metcalfe retired in 1979 and the present librarian, Mary Kay Rillahan, took her place.

By the mid 1980's the library was becoming extremely cramped for space again and expansion was necessary.

The Peru Library and its very active Friends group launched three years of fund raising projects; much of the money was raised by private and business contributions. A total of $30,000 was raised locally. State Senator Ronald B. Stafford was instrumental in obtaining much of the funding, a special State grant of $75,000. The Peru Library received an additional $21,000 public library construction grant through the C-E-F Library System.

The majority of the library's regular funding comes from the Town of Peru, supplemented by funding from the Peru School District.

Work on the new addition began in the summer of 1986 and the special open house and ceremonial ground-breaking took place on September 2, with Senator Stafford performing the ritual ground-breaking with a "golden shovel."

The new addition was constructed in the same architectural style as the original brick building and added about 2,500 square feet of space. The architect was Ron DeLair of Wareham · DeLair · Architects, Saranac Lake. Not only did the addition, which was finished in February of this year, add more room for shelving and library materials, but it will enable the library to sponsor more public programs. The first such event, which began in February, was the "American Dreams" lecture series. Exhibits by local artists are also planned for the future.

An open house and dedication ceremony for the Ronald B. Stafford Reference Room and the Anna Fitzpatrick Reading Room took place on May 15.

The Anna Fitzpatrick Reading Room, is now an open, spacious room. A crew from Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility, under the direction of Correction Officer Joe Ashline, moved around shelving and painted the rooms. The old fireplace, erected in memory of Charles Stickles Mason, first president of the Peru Free Library, is now shown to advantage. Nan Mitchell, President of the Peru Friends of the Library, Cathie Moore and Jean Schiffler are making attractive Roman blinds for the reading and reference rooms.

The Reading Room, features a new photocopier with money donated from the profits of Stewart's Grand Opening in Peru. In another corner of this room is a public access computer and printer for use by community adults. The computer was provided through an adult computer literacy grant obtained through C-E-F.

Jim Petrashe and his Industrial Arts students from Peru Central School built the new circulation desk and wall units in Mary Kay's office.

At the rear of the building, the Ronald B. Stafford Reference Room is dominated by a large bay window, creating a bright atmosphere for researchers.

Downstairs one finds the children's room. The library is also planning to move this room to the new basement area. Twenty women from the Friends' group have created a lovely sampler quilt to raffle off to raise money for the new children's room.
The drawing is scheduled for July 9; tickets are $1.00 each or 6 for $5. Donations in memory of the late Gert Et esse, a former Board member, are also earmarked for the children's room.

Even the grounds have been refurbished. Bob Gallinger of Willow Brook Nursery worked on grading and reseeding the library lawn, assisted by Board Members Jackie Sabourin, Lee Phillips and Patrick Andrews.

There are also plans for additional shelving in the upstairs rooms and a display case by the new entrance.

In addition to all these improvements the library is operating several programs. There will be a children's summer story hour, with films, stories and refreshments. A pre-school story hour is planned for fall. The library holds monthly film showings at Apple Valley Senior Housing and recently extended the film program to Valehaven Home for Adults.

Book holdings now total over 13,000 and circulation has risen to nearly 22,000 per year.

How is all this possible? Mary Kay praises "a really fabulous, active Friends group." In addition to their help with fund-raising and improvements, the Friends also do volunteer duty at the library three evenings a week. The Friends put out a library newsletter too.

Mary Kay is also most appreciative of her Board - "Each and every one are the most fantastic people! They gave their time, expertise and support to the building project."

The whole experience "couldn't have gone any better."

The Board of Trustees of the Peru Free Library

Jackie Sabourin, President
Patrick Andrews, Vice-President
Terry Sweeney, Secretary
Jean Et esse, Treasurer
Peg Ston
Lee Phillips
John Masella

Mary S. Hopkins

REMEMBER

THE DEADLINE FOR NEWS FOR THE
JULY/AUGUST ISSUE OF THE TRAILBLAZER
IS WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 1988

-10-
CLINTON-ESSEX-FRANKLIN DIRECTORS’ ASSOCIATION

The first meeting of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Directors' Association took place at Paine Memorial Library in Willsboro on May 16. Eleven libraries were represented and several others have expressed interest in the association, although they were unable to attend because of scheduling conflicts.

Janice Allen of Willsboro and Betsy Beggs of Saranac Lake are Co-Chairs of CEFDA. Marilyn Trienens of Westport and Therese Patnode of Lake Placid are the Program Committee. These positions and the Secretary's position, as yet unfilled, comprise CEFDA's Executive Committee, the group's contact people for information. CEFDA issues an invitation to all member library directors to join!

At the first meeting, the group toured Paine Memorial, went over the member libraries' contract with System (which was especially helpful to new librarians), discussed System services and exchanged ideas.

CEFDA will hold four meetings per year. Upcoming meetings are: August 15 at the Peru Free Library and November 28 at the Keene Valley Library.

Janice Allen
Director
Paine Memorial Library

HEADQUARTERS HIGHLIGHTS

LEE SALZMAN REPORTS . . .

In response to a suggestion made by our member libraries at the "Libraries and Literacy" workshop held in December 1987, we recently completed and distributed posters and pamphlets promoting GRASP (Giving Rural Adults a Study Program). Many of our libraries and our bookmobiles deliver the study packets for this program which helps adults pursue their high school equivalency degree at home, and we hope that this publicity will encourage more of our patrons and potential patrons to participate. Thanks to Mary Hopkins and Julie Wever of C-E-F for their excellent work on these promotional materials.

* * * * *

Mike Kulik, the regional VISTA Volunteer that our System sponsors, has been hard at work on a needs assessment of local literacy services. To date, his many activities have included visits to local Literacy Volunteers affiliates, county planning offices, and others. He has sent a survey to LV affiliates and is awaiting responses. Mike is assisting on a North Country Literacy Coalition Committee in the development of a video presentation that will be used to promote the need for improved literacy skills as they relate to the business community. He also recently attended a leadership workshop conducted by Literacy Volunteers of New York State at the Saranac Lake Free Library.

* * * * *
Mary Hopkins has completed a survey of member libraries concerning their need for large print books for children. Eight libraries responded "Yes," and several others indicated a possible need at a later point. We will soon be starting a standing order for large print children's books, and Mary will be including them in the juvenile rotating collections.

* * * * *

Sue McCann, a library volunteer, is beginning work on her computer at home for completion of our Toy Lending Library catalog. We anticipate distribution of the catalog in July or August.

Leona Salzman
Assistant Director/Head of Outreach

**NEWS FROM THE AUTOMATION DEPARTMENT**

As we all know by now, automation is here. By now all of the member libraries have been affected by it to at least some extent. The librarian of each member library has received some computer training either at C-E-F headquarters, on site, or both. As of this writing, computers have been installed in 22 of our 29 member libraries with the rest soon to follow. Each of these libraries also has software to do word processing, data bases, and spreadsheets.

Sixteen of our libraries now have the HOBO mailbox program for use with Apple IIe computers and two for use with Tandy computers. The rest of our libraries will be started on the Apple version shortly.

The circulation routines are being automated at Plattsburgh Public Library, C-E-F headquarters, and the bookmobiles. Almost all of the books owned by C-E-F have been barcoded for use with the automated system, and over half of the books at PPL have been barcoded. These books all appear alphabetically by title on microfiche which are produced by the system. Periodically we have the microfiche duplicated in quantity for distribution to our member libraries. By using this microfiche a member librarian can obtain a better idea of the availability of a title for their own patrons. Eventually we hope to be able to add our member libraries to this data base so all our libraries can all know which libraries own which books. We will then be able to request books directly from the library owning the book by using HOBO.

We have encountered some problems with our automation project. One of the biggest disappointments we have with our present system is that the data base created is not as complete as it should be. There is a generally accepted standard for these book records known as MARC. Our present system falls short of this standard. Therefore we are researching the possibility of changing systems to a system which will conform to the MARC for standards.

We are delaying the attempt to automate the circulation routines of any of our member libraries until we can determine which is the best and most cost effective route for us all to take. By moving cautiously in this area we trust that our ultimate system selection will be the best for all of us.

Hugh Starke
Administrative Assistant

**NEWS FROM REFERENCE AND INTERLIBRARY LOAN**

Spring has brought staffing changes in Reference/ILL -- Sharon McCausland, former Reference Librarian at Plattsburgh Public Library, has accepted the position of Librarian at Clinton Community College. Sharon worked with us for three years as a Central Library staff member, processing subject requests, setting up our data base searching program, managing PPL's Foundation Center Collection, and many other successful projects. We'll miss her, and wish her luck and great success. Clinton Community is gaining a valuable asset.

We're fortunate to have another
talented librarian working with us in Sharon's place -- Shahin Shoar is now the Reference Librarian at Plattsburgh Public Library. Shahin started at PPL as Catalog Librarian two years ago. A native of Iran, Shahin received her MLS from Syracuse University. We're quite pleased to have Shahin in the System. Together with Marilyn Trienens (who has been named Director of the Westport Library Association), Shahin and I have been busy processing subject requests received from member libraries and bookmobile patrons.

Shahin and I traveled to Potsdam in April for a CD-ROM Demonstration Day at Clarkson University. Sponsored by the North Country Online User's Group in cooperation with the NC3R's, this was an open house featuring a number of CD-ROM products and viewing of a live broadcast from Illinois of "Techno-com," a teleconference on CD-ROM technology. Representatives of the vendors whose products we were able to try there participated in the telecast, so it was well organized and very interesting.

The day was a great success for us -- we were able to use some of the products we have been thinking of purchasing, and explore some products we were not familiar with. As always, we took advantage of the opportunity to visit with our colleagues in the region.

We really enjoyed using Clarkson's "Intelligent Catalog," a CD-ROM based public access catalog which has a number of unique features. We were entertained by the audio portion of the catalog, and were impressed by the inclusion of first page texts for items searched, as well as the capability to self-browse at the terminal. It was very interesting, especially considering the affordable price-tag -- about $2500. We were impressed.

We have submitted our Request For Proposal to a number of vendors -- we will be accepting automation proposals through the summer. This has been an exciting project to work on, and has included a great deal of work done by Julie Wever, Outreach Librarian. Without her insights and nimble word processing skills we would probably still be working on the text.

Elizabeth Rogers
Head of Reference and Interlibrary Loan

OUTREACH NEWS

More than 400 children and parents toured the Bookmobile at the Clinton County Youth Fair which was held Saturday, April 30 at the Crete Center. Bookmobile and System staff were on hand to dole out bookmarks and other free items and matched prospective patrons with bookmobile stops in their area. Bookmobile circulation to date has been especially encouraging during this period of uncertain funding. We have also been much more visible this year thanks to the efforts of Mary Hopkins, System PR Consultant; Barbara Deyo, formatter and typist par excellence; and our friendly bookmobile staff.

New and improved bookmobile schedules will be ready for distribution to patrons and member libraries by mid-June which will be just in time for our summer surge of patrons!

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On Monday, June 6, children's literature specialist Micki Nevett will present a workshop on "The Basics of Young Adult Services" at C-E-F System headquarters. Micki will offer advice on such topics as: the psychology of the adolescent, YA literature, informational needs, and ephemeral materials. Program ideas and resource sharing (free materials!) will also be offered. Her presentation promises to be especially relevant to the problem of meeting the needs of YA's in rural communities.

For more information about the workshop, or to make last minute arrangements to attend, please call Mary Hopkins at 563-5190.

Julie Wever
Outreach Librarian
JEIC NEWS

A successful resume workshop was held at Plattsburgh Public Library during April. Paula Jenkins, one of our JEIC assistants, would be happy to schedule a resume workshop for other member libraries if there was an interest. Paula can be contacted at 563-8370.

Three new, humorous interview videos were added to our collection recently. Getting Ready For the Interview covers the fundamentals of interviewing including questions you are likely to be asked and how to deal with illegal questions. Succeeding In Your Interview compares successful and unsuccessful interviews, clearly pointing out what makes an interview a winner. Inner Views: The Seven Phases of the Interview uses techniques such as a mock news report to cover different aspects of the interview. Also added were video reviews for the SAT and GRE exams.

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RAPT IN MYSTERY
SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Materials for the RAPT IN MYSTERY Summer Reading Program, developed by the Nassau and Suffolk County Library Systems, are beginning to arrive. To date, each library that indicated an interest in participating should have received a copy of the program manual with lots of suggestions for promoting and running the program. If any library that wanted to have the program this summer did not receive a copy of the manual, please contact Kathie LaBombard at C-E-F. We are hoping to have the actual materials ready for distribution by early June.

Kathie LaBombard
JEIC Librarian

FILM DEPARTMENT NEWS

Films purchased with New York State Council on the Arts funds:

Ballad and the Source 16 minutes. Color.

A Musical portrait of Walter Pardon, the finest remaining traditional ballad singer in England.

Made in China: A Search For Roots 30 minutes. Color.

Born and raised in Illinois Lisa Hsia grew up as a typical American girl. Her search for roots had taken her no farther afield than Chicago's Chinatown. With verve and charm she takes us on her voyage of discovery when she establishes residence in China.

Masters of Disaster 30 minutes. Color.

The Story of Bob Cotter, a teacher, and eight bright and spirited black elementary school kids. Together they challenged some skeptical observers by organizing a chess team. After much hard work and perseverance they went on to win a national championship.

Mountain Music of Peru 60 minutes. Color.

A colorful documentary portrait of the centuries - old musical culture of the Andes and its importance in the daily lives of its impoverished people.
Musical Holdouts

A colorful and entertaining survey of American traditional music presents isolated individuals and groups who have not become part of the "melting pot" of American Society. They have retained their cultural identities despite pressures from the mass media and popular culture.

New Yorker Special: Handcrafting a Guitar

A beautiful film portrayal of the life and artistry of renowned guitar builder James D'Aquisto. As we watch him build a guitar from beginning to end, the "New Yorker Special," we gain an appreciation for the intricacies of the instrument.

Marie D. Chauvin
Head, Film Department

MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

Ausable Forks Free Library

A recognition dinner honoring Library volunteers was held at the Ausable Forks Free Library on Sunday evening, April 17. Mrs. Ethel Manning, Library Administrator and Trustee, presented Certificates of Appreciation to Joyce Changelo, Edna Dieterle, Grace Drawert, Mary Ford, Connie Main, Evelyn Marks, Pat Ritter, Carol Ward, Shirley Lovett, Francis Lovett, Genevieve Douglass, Helen Douglass, Margaret Nolan, Lucile Tolces, Ted Tolces, Bibi Manning, Ann Straight, Abe Lincoln, Norah Horstmyer, Helene Hanssens, Priscilla Belmore and Anne Better.

The new Board, elected at the Annual Meeting, was introduced: Daniel Manning, Jr. President; Daniel McDonald, Vice President; Angela Whisher, 2nd Vice President; Norah Horstmyer, Treasurer; Merry Vuley, Secretary; and Kathy Endersbee, Recording Secretary. The Librarian, Barbara Pelkey; Assistant Librarian, Gayle Maicus, and trustees, Rosemarie Schoonmaker and Kenneth Laundry were recognized. Elizabeth Rogers, Reference and Interlibrary Loan Librarian at the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System was a guest.

Over 1200 volunteer hours were contributed in 1987, averaging more than 100 hours per month. The volunteers assist with general library work, serve on the Book Selection Committee, do book repair, and make possible the Lecture Series, the Wednesday Bridge Lessons, the Children's Story Hour and Summer Reading program.

Elizabethtown Library Association

Librarian Mary Lou Grinwis reports:

The Elizabethtown Library Association has been active and busy during the last few months.

The computer has certainly been helpful in getting requests to our patrons more rapidly than in the past.

Recently, Joe Wyant, a member of our Board of Trustees, has made us a new table for our children's area. We also purchased new cushion type Storytime furniture. Since January we have purchased many new children's books. We continue to have Storytime Tuesdays at
Betty introduced the new Mooers librarian, Marilyn Bobka, to the gathering. In addition to her library duties, Marilyn is an active arts and crafts person and raises goats. Her husband teaches at SUNY, Plattsburgh.

PLATTSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Katherine S. Cayea, Director reports:

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Patrons of the Plattsburgh Public Library may miss some "old" faces, and may look forward to meeting some "new."

Rita Prunier retired on March 31, 1988 after having worked in the library's circulation department for 26 years. The new face at the circulation desk belongs to Peg Connor, who joined us on March 28, 1988.

Sharon McCausland, who was the Head of our Reference Department left April 8, 1988 to accept a position as Librarian at Clinton Community College. Shahin Shoar has assumed her position as Head of Reference.

Holly Heller is the new face patrons will see at the PPL reference desk beginning May 16. She will also be hidden away in the cataloging department. Welcome to both of our new staff members. They are lucky to have joined us since we have air-conditioning! I'm sure many patrons and Trailblazer readers can remember what PPL was like without it in the summer! Those of us who worked in 90°+ heat for years revel in it still.

UPWARD BOUND READING SERIES

DISCUSSION

Our "American Dreams" Humanities Series came to a close with our final program on Wednesday morning, May 25 at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Patricia Austin spoke on Maxine Hong Kingston's The Woman Warrior.

The terrific success of our series is due to the tireless publicity efforts of
Susan Guest, Head of Adult Services at PPL. Morning programs seemed to have suited our patrons to a "T", which fact will be taken into account in our future programming. Watch for notices of our crafts workshop series to be coming in the Fall.

**IMAGINATION CELEBRATION**

PPL Children's Room will be the scene of a "Teddy Bears' Picnic" on Saturday afternoon June 11. This is the culmination of The Story Book Trail being held as part of the Community Showcase of The Imagination Celebration. Don't forget the "Reading Rainbow" summer reading program at the Library this summer. Think of "Miss Karen" when you're lying on the beach!

**SARANAC LAKE FREE LIBRARY**

Susanne Badore, assistant professor and counselor at North Country Community College, was the guest at the brown bag luncheon discussion at the Saranac Lake Free Library on Thursday, April 21, at noon. The topic was stress and Ms. Badore is an expert in giving stress clinics.

This was the last brown bag lunch of the current season. The next gathering will be Thursday, October 13.

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The Saranac Lake Free Library has recently acquired a 25" Panasonic TV Monitor and VCR for use in the Cantwell Community Room. This purchase was made with monies donated in the memory of the late Grace Taylor. This equipment will allow the library to provide more diversified programming for the benefit of our community.

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In observance of National Library Week, April 17-23, 1988, the Saranac Lake Free Library granted amnesty on all fines owed. This was for one week only to encourage the return of all library books.

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On Thursday, April 14, the Saranac Lake Free Library presented an illustrated talk by Dr. Curt Stager on the Killer Lakes of Cameroon.

Dr. Stager, a biology professor at Paul Smith's College, became interested in the Volcanic Crater Lakes of Cameroon, West Africa, as a graduate student on a Duke University expedition in 1985.

The next year, one of the lakes released a gas cloud that killed 1700 people. Dr. Stager returned to the lake district right after the disaster on assignment for National Geographic Society. His article on the killer lake appeared in the September, 1987 issue of National Geographic.

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The 18th Annual Children's Art Exhibit entitled "Imagination Celebration," featuring works created by local elementary school students, will be shown in the Cantwell Community Room of the Saranac Lake Free Library May 16 through June 9, 1988.

The display has been created and organized by Virginia Jakobe, the special teacher of Elementary Art in grades 1-5 for all of the Saranac Lake Central Schools. She finds it an exciting and rewarding task in being able to help the children express, visually, their thoughts and emotions that perhaps could not be expressed any other way.

A broad array of media and techniques have been used, including: tempera, cut paper, crayon, wood, yarn and chalk.

**GOFF-NELSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

**TUPPER LAKE**

Librarian Chalice Dechene reports:

The library has held a mini-art series, featuring a different artist every month, from January through May. These mini-art shows are a favorite with our patrons. They really enjoy the variety of offerings.

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The Humanities Series, "American Dreams," has been a very successful venture. It has been well attended by an enthusiastic audience.

PAINE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WILLSBORO

Librarian Janice Allen reports:

We have had the privilege of learning basket making under the leadership of Janice Padula, of Plattsburgh, here at the library. Janice conducted a series of four classes during the month of March and another series began May 23. Her students have been very enthusiastic. The finished baskets from the March series were on display at the library during April.

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We would like to announce the addition of two beautiful books given as a memorial to David Irwin by Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle Reynolds. These books are titled A Day in the Life of America and A Day in the Life of the Soviet Union. These are big beautiful books, with a lot of colored photographs. We welcome this and all memorials, just contact us for details on how the memorial program works.

We would also make it known that we have in a new supply of books on tape that are full-length books of popular novels. These would make very nice memorials and we would welcome any memorial donations toward this project. One has been purchased in Mr. Wray Noel's memory. Mr. Noel enjoyed this service over the past two years and know that he would consider this a very worthwhile gift in his name. Any other memorials in his memory would be gratefully accepted.

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We welcome Janet Tucker back to full time and we are most appreciative of our faithful volunteers over these past several months. Some are still lending their services and for this we are most grateful. These volunteers serving still include, Ruth Hathaway, Liz Dwyer, Ann Dwyer, Eira Manning, Ann Choate, Gladys Clark, Christine Yesse, Esther McCready, and Gretchen Boardman. Their assistance has allowed us to run very smoothly.

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The Paine Memorial Library was pleased to begin its season series of lecture programs with guest Cammy Myler as our speaker. She told of her career in the sport of luge, and her experiences at Calgary. The lecture was on May 15th in the main room of the Library.

Cammy was one of twenty New York State athletes to compete in the 15th Olympic games at Calgary this winter. Myler has been lugging since the age of 11, when she was introduced to the sport by her father and brother. She fell in love with the sport and has been in serious training ever since. Her career started after the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid and the addition of a luge track in Lake Placid. Several North Country youth and several from Willsboro started the serious training in the luge program. They went weekly to Lake Placid to take lessons and slide. Cammy truly became enthralled with the sport and went on to perfect her performance. Ms. Myler was a National Champion at the age of 16, and a Bronze winner at Sarajevo and placed 9th in Calgary. Her plans and dreams are still running high as she plans to bring home the top medal in the 1992 games.

Cammy is a former Willsboro resident, but now to be near her training area, lives in Lake Placid. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Myler, both teachers at Willsboro Central School.

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We are just completing the third series of computer instruction classes. Each series consisted of six classes featuring Appleworks, a computer program that can do many things -- word processing, spread sheets, data base.

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