



C-E-F TRAILBLAZER

Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System News

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

STANLEY A. RANSOM
Director

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I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

It's also time to thank those hardworking members of the C-E-F Staff who have been involved in the various phases of the Trailblazer's production -- typing, reproduction, assembly and mailing -- during this past year:

Marilyn Blanchard

Barbara Deyo

Daryl Cosgro

Diane Hayes

Lorraine White

Mary Shaw Hopkins
Editor



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services will take place November 28-30th in Albany. This convocation of 360 delegates and interested citizens will discuss more than 500 resolutions proposed to improve library services up to the year 2000. We are anticipating that many of the recommendations adopted will require State funding to achieve. We hope that by next year the State's funding will be in balance. The Governor's Conference is a forerunner of the White House Conference on Libraries, scheduled to be held in Washington, DC, from July 9-13th, 1991. Many advances in New York State libraries resulted from the 1979 Conference, one such was the formation of the 46 School Library Systems.

Stanley A. Ransom
Director

RECOMMENDED READING

"A Bed by the Window; a novel of mystery and redemption," by Dr. M. Scott Peck. Bantam. 1990.

Dr. Peck, known to millions as the author of "The Road Less Traveled," departs from his usual works of psychological inspiration to create an absorbing mystery novel. The murder of the helpless genius, Stephen Solaris, at Willow Glen Extended Care Facility, has the elderly residents very upset. Did model nurse Heather Barsten drive the scissors into his heart? Could it be crazy Carol? Mrs. Edith Simonton, Director of Willow Glen, works with detective Tom Petri to solve the mystery. In the meantime we learn to appreciate the insights and personalities of the other residents and the staff. This unusual novel is concerned with good and evil, and also recreates a nursing home atmosphere where older people grow and learn, and dying peacefully is proper when the time is right.

Stanley A. Ransom

NEW PROCESSING CHARGES

Baker & Taylor Books has announced an increase in their standard complete processing charge to \$1.04 effective October 8, 1990. The C-E-F Library System will be paying the cost for this increase for books purchased from Baker & Taylor or other jobbers.

Stanley A. Ransom

"FOLLOWING DEWEY'S PATH"

On November 7-8, 1990, a conference on the training and recruitment of librarians was held in Albany. Chaired by Paul Malecki, Director of the Southern Tier Library System, the 80 participants discussed all aspects of the problem. Stanley Ransom, C-E-F Director, was involved in discussions of ways in which directors of rural libraries could be certified after a training program and also how persons not able to attend library school could receive a degree through combinations of off-campus courses and distance learning. This conference resulted in the adoption of resolutions to send to the Governor's Conference and the creation of an LSCA application for a model non-traditional learning program.

Stanley A. Ransom

IN MEMORIAM

North Country libraries lost two very good friends since the publication of the last edition of the Trailblazer.

MARY JANE MINNICH, wife of Wead Library Director Dave Minnich, died on August 23, 1990. In the 1960's Mary Jane assisted in setting up and operating the junior high school library in the Malone Central School System. She also assisted her husband in many aspects of the Wead Public Library in Malone. Mary Jane was a familiar face at System gatherings and we will miss her friendly smile and warm manner.

BARBARA PELKEY - Librarian at the AuSable Forks Free Library died on October 15, 1990. The AuSable Forks Library Board passed a formal resolution on her passing, commemorating her 4½ years of outstanding service to the community and citing especially the growth of the library during her tenure and "her kind and gracious attitude to all those who came for reading material and information."

AWARDS

C-E-F Director Stanley A. Ransom was presented with an Honorable Mention Certificate at the New York Library Association/Social Issues Resources Series Intellectual Freedom Awards program held at NYLA's 100th Anniversary Conference in Rochester. The Award was given for Ransom's defense of the showing of the film "Los Sures," in local correctional facilities, over the objections of a State Corrections Department employee.

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C-E-F Assistant Director Leona Salzman was the Winner of NYLA's North Country Regional Committee's Award for Outstanding Service in Librarianship. Especially noted was Lee's work with the Imagination Celebration, the Storybook Trail and the establishment of the Job and Education Information Center in our area.

THYRA BURROWS RETIRES

On October 18, 1990 the Hammond Library in Crown Point held a reception to honor Thyra Burrows, who had retired as Library Director on August 31. Thyra had been the librarian in Crown Point since 1965.

The new Library Director, who began her duties on September 1, is Deanna Joiner.

The Hammond Library was a runner-up for NYLA's Public Library Section Building Award for rehabilitation of an older building.

DISPLAY PANELS

The System owns two triptych style flannel board display panels, suitable for displaying photos and other types of information on library services. The panels are reversible -- gray on one side, royal blue on the other. Objects are attached with velcro tape. Member libraries may borrow the panels for a two week period. For further information contact Mary Hopkins at System Headquarters.

HEADQUARTERS HIGHLIGHTS

LEE SALZMAN REPORTS:

Our toy lending library catalog is only a cover design and a few instruction pages away from completion. The purpose of this toy collection is to provide parents, day-care centers and other child caregivers with access to toys that will help stimulate the emotional, mental and physical development of children through play. This toy collection is housed at Plattsburgh Public Library, and consists of several hundred toys cataloged according to such subject areas as color recognition, communication, eye-hand coordination and self-concept. Many thanks to Ann Hobson and Barb Deyo at C-E-F and to volunteers at both Plattsburgh Public Library and System headquarters for their efforts in completing this catalog.

An updated edition of our "talking books" catalog should also be available soon. Our first catalog was produced in 1986, and has been supplemented with periodic listings of new acquisitions. We're planning to change the name of the catalog to "recorded books" since so many people tend to associate the term "talking books" with materials available through the New York State Library for the Blind and Visually Handicapped.

A new and developing service is available for print handicapped individuals in our North Country region called Northeast Radio Reading Service. Broadcasts are currently available to Falcon Cable subscribers on Channel 10 every Saturday and Sunday from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The readings broadcast include excerpts from magazines and the Press Republican as well as some radio drama. The planning group, of which C-E-F is a participant, is looking to expand access through other cable companies and eventually to provide radio access. For more information about Northeast Radio Reading Service, contact the North Country Center for Independence at 563-9058.

Lee Salzman
Assistant Director/Head of Outreach

REFERENCE AND RBDB NEWS

We're very excited to be working with the new Reference Librarian at Plattsburgh Public, Jeanene Light, who is working with us on subject requests and on reference projects at our Central Library. Jeanene has great reference skills (and I know she'll be able to find out how and where whales sleep), and brings with her some exciting new ideas and a fresh perspective. I'm happy to have an opportunity to work with her.

We continue to work on our Regional Bibliographic Data Base program, adding and deleting holdings information on our MARC data base. Lettie is responsible for our AGILE data base maintenance, and is working on the unmatched Gaylord records. She and Violet Feazelle from Plattsburgh Public have been diligently adding and deleting holdings information. We have submitted our 1991 project application and are awaiting approval.

Next year's project is exciting and an important step. With help from the North Country 3R's Council and its RBDB funding, we will begin adding records for the Saranac Lake Free Library. Creating a system-wide data base is a long-term project, and we are eager to see progress made.

We are using our 1990 RBDB funds to maintain our Gaylord Circulation systems (one used for the bookmobiles, one for Plattsburgh Public and C-E-F circulation), to fund our AGILE II MARC data base, for personnel costs involved in the project, and for equipment in member libraries. We have been able to furnish the Willsboro, Keene Valley, Westport and Malone libraries with IBM microcomputers and CD-ROM players through previous RBDB funding. We continue to add other member libraries to the list of those accessing the regional database on CD-ROM.

Our member libraries have benefited by receiving equipment and technical assistance from additional NC3R's regional program funding. We have installations in Tupper

Lake and Saranac Lake, where the CD-ROM is being used successfully on equipment and software provided by the NC3R's. We are especially grateful for the support and help we receive from Tom Blauvelt of the NC3R's -- he has answered many distress calls, and has always been able to help us as we forge ahead.

I'm proud of the success of Therese Patnode and the Lake Placid Library in submitting a winning minigrant application to the NC3R's for an IBM-compatible microcomputer, to be awarded in 1991 as part of the regional RBDB program. The Lake Placid crew did a nice job in requesting the equipment, and I hope other members have been encouraged by their success.

As we all prepare for the holidays, we also look forward to the exciting projects and reference questions next year will bring. 1990 has been a good year -- we've had to make some changes, work harder, and give up some services due to our financial situation, but we've also been able to provide good reference and interlibrary loan services. We've made some progress on our other projects, and both of us look forward to a happy and productive New Year.

Elizabeth Rogers
Lettie Liberty
Reference/ILL

OUTREACH NEWS

Despite what have become long-term librarian vacancies at three of the nine state correctional facilities in our area, we are continuing to provide these facilities with a variety of library materials and cultural programming. One highlight of this year's State Correctional program was a series of presentations offered in five local facilities to celebrate Black Poetry Day. On October 17-19, Bernard Finney of Albany, NY read his poetry and talked about the black male image with more than 750 inmates at Altona, Bare Hill and Franklin Correctional Facilities. During

the following weekend, Jacqueline Warren-Moore from the Syracuse Writers Project made a whirlwind tour of five local facilities and shared her poetry with appreciative audiences. As staff at participating facilities indicated a real and ongoing need for more programs of this type, a similar program series will be planned to celebrate Black History Month in February.

The bookmobile department has completed the Third Annual Holiday Turkey Giveaway. Four prizes were up for grabs this year, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Ed Odom of Sun Foods, who donated two huge frozen turkeys, and Grand Union stores, a third time donor of two gift certificates. The names of the four lucky winners drawn on November 9, are: Mrs. Jane Bouvia, Champlain Park; Cathy Poupore, a patron at the Churubusco stop; Marie Beardsley of Port Kent and Mrs. Margaret Strohmeier from Olmstedville.

For the first time since the contest was initiated, we saved, sorted and analyzed the raffle slips, which gave us a fascinating look into stop use and borrowing patterns. (This was sort of a mini version of the user survey which has taken us a year to complete). We learned that 532 patrons at all 70 bookmobile stops participated in the drawing, and a total of 759 slips were entered. Since each patron checked out five items to enter the contest, we could calculate that over 3,795 books were circulated on both bookmobiles during the four week contest. We were impressed at the fortitude of the 23 patrons who submitted 42 slips during the two times we stopped at Morrisonville, until we tallied the slips from the Fort Covington stop. Over the same two stop period, eighty-eight patrons submitted 74 slips. All we can deduce from this is that these patrons took us up on our motto, corny though it was, and really "gobbled up" a lot of good books! Thanks once again to our generous donors, the always great patrons who participated, and our tolerant bookmobile staff (who are hereby warned that an ornament decorating contest is next)!

We are closing out the old year with an eye towards some new changes. The schedules for December - June will be out shortly, and include recently added stops at Easy Street, near School House Daycare, followed by a reinstated stop in Onchiota. Our Thomas Buses representative has assured us that manufacture of the new bookmobile is proceeding according to schedule, and should be ready for delivery in mid-January. Our patrons are anxious to exchange Old Gert for a vehicle with lower clearance so it will no longer be necessary to bound from snowbanks up the stairwell.

As some reflection of the past year seems to be in order, I will close on behalf of the bookmobile department by saying that we have much to be thankful for. To name just a few, our circulation has increased again this year, both bookmobiles appear to be roadworthy enough to continue their appointed rounds until the new vehicle arrives in January, and we have faithful patrons out there everywhere who appreciate our service (and who are also great cooks). Happy Holidays to all!

Julie Wever
Outreach Librarian

JEIC NEWS

The Center is fully operational in our new home at the Saranac Lake Free Library. While C-E-F staff is only there one day per week, the collection is

available to the public Monday through Saturday when the library is open. The staff of the Saranac Lake Free Library has been very helpful to patrons when we are not available.

Patrons from other libraries can go directly to the Saranac Lake Free Library or member librarians can request materials directly from Saranac Lake. Betsy Beggs, Librarian at Saranac Lake and JEIC staff request, however, that all JEIC books returned to member libraries be sent at once to Saranac Lake. This will avoid having patrons receive overdue notices from Saranac Lake. If you have requests for the title returned to you, please check with Saranac Lake before reissuing the book.

Kathie LaBombard, JEIC Librarian, has been busy with a variety of meetings and conferences this Fall. Recently, she spoke about Center services and how to access them to a meeting of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Directors' Association at the Crown Point Library. She was also very pleased to be invited to speak at the Saranac Lake Free Library's Brown Bag Luncheon on November 15. In addition, she attended a conference on "Communities, Schools and Today's Parents" sponsored by the State Education Department and meetings of the New York State Adult Learning Services Advisory Council and the New York State Literacy Council.

Kathie LaBombard
JEIC Librarian

REMINDER

THE DEADLINE FOR NEWS FOR THE
NEXT ISSUE OF THE TRAILBLAZER
IS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1991

NEW VIDEOS

Babe Ruth: The Man, the Myth, the Legend 40 Minutes. B/W - Color.

With a broad face smile, and a 52 ounce bat, George Herman Ruth stood baseball on its ear with a new art form, The Home Run, and baseball was never to be the same.

Baby Songs 30 Minutes. Color.

Songs to sing with youngsters from infants to age 6. This award winning video features songs by Hap and Martha Palmer.

Bedtime Stories and Songs (Sesame Street) 30 Minutes. Color.

Getting ready for bed is a happy experience for children when their Sesame Street friends are there to help them with wonderful stories and lullabies.

Bill Cosby in Aesop's Fables 30 Minutes. Color.

Bill Cosby stars as the storyteller, presenting the tale of "The Tortoise and the Hare" in both live action and animation.

Binocular Vision 26 Minutes. Color.

A wonderfully entertaining look at the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, in which some 40,000 people throughout the U.S. and Canada watch and count birds.

Bunnacula, the Vampire Rabbit 23 Minutes. Color.

A spooky but funny story about a supernatural rabbit who likes to drain vegetables of their juices.

Buttons and Rusty are a Special Christmas 25 Minutes. Color.

It's Christmastime in Chucklewood Park as we get on board the Christmas Tree Train headed for the big city.

Cameramen Who Dared (National Geographic) 60 Minutes. Color.

Behind each thrilling film scene there is always a cameraman. Follow these fearless professionals as they risk their lives to get the perfect shot.

Canadian Doubleheader Steam 60 Minutes. Color.

This special passenger train, pulled by steam at all times, travels through Canada's most spectacular scenery. Starting from Vancouver the train travelled to Jasper National Park and the Cariboo. The beauty of this special steam excursion has been captured in all its glory.

Canyon de Chelly and Hubbell Trading Post 30 Minutes. Color.

Explore deep red-rock canyons, ancient Anasazi cliff dwellings and age-old Navajo traditions.

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Please be sure to check the date due on all videos and return them on time. Other patrons are waiting.

Our policy states that a charge of \$1.00 per day per film/video may be charged for overdues.

Marie D. Chauvin
Head, Audio-Visual Department

MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

AKWESASNE LIBRARY & CULTURAL CENTER

Margaret Jacobs is taking a six months leave of absence from the library -- her leave began on October 29. She and her husband will be wintering in Tucson, Arizona. Carol White will be Acting Director in Margaret's absence.

KEESEVILLE FREE LIBRARY

From Librarian Ann Garcia:

The library had a very successful summer reading program -- we had the most children sign up in quite a few years.

The October Crafts program (Halloween theme) was well attended. November and December craft programs are also planned.

The months of September and October saw the library festooned with apples -- paper and real-life ones. Mrs. Arline King of King Orchard donated a bushel of apples along with beautiful display materials. The patrons were surprised to get shiny apples along with their books.

Thirty-one Brownies visited the library in October and donated the book -- "How to Do Just About Anything."

The library is collecting Campbell soup labels in an attempt to get some new toys for the Children's Room.

We have finally completed a full inventory of the books and card catalog --

adult and juvenile. If there is a book there is a card and vice versa -- weeded at the same time. WHEW!!!

WEAD LIBRARY, MALONE

Director Dave Minnich reports:

Geographically, questions come from everywhere, many of them by phone. Somebody is making a film of E.L. Doctorow's novel Billy Bathgate. Billy was, of course, an associate of Arthur Flegenheimer, a/k/a Dutch Schultz. So far, an individual working on behalf of a research firm connected with that film production has phoned three times to verify whether or not particular family names were found locally in the mid-thirties village directories. Doctorow had done his homework. Since he'd written a novel, otherwise known as a fiction, "all the names were changed to protect the innocent," and everything else is coincidental.

PLATTSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

PPL Director Kathy Cayea reports:

We welcome the addition of two new staff members to PPL:

Jeanene Light has accepted the position as Head of our reference department. Jeanene formerly worked at C-E-F in the Job & Education Information Center. In addition to working in PPL's reference department, she will be assisting Elizabeth Rogers with C-E-F's subject requests.

Tim Hart has accepted the position of Library Clerk, replacing Larry Hahn. Tim will be the new face at the circulation desk the next time you stop in.

Our Library is very happy to have a new water fountain, donated by our Friends group. Helen Ianelli is the President of the Friends, who have had some marvelous plans for programs. These plans have included an open house on November 19, and a "knit-shirt" decorating workshop on Saturday, December 1st. The Friends are also responsible for our beautiful and changing exhibit by North Country artists.

Children's Department

Approximately 50 costumed children enjoyed games, bobbing for apples and breaking the pinata at the annual Halloween party in PPL's children's department on Saturday, October 27.

"Miss Karen" is now taking registrations for pre-school storytime on Thursday at 10:30. Films are also still being shown on Saturday mornings.

PAINE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WILLSBORO

Librarian Janice Allen reports:

This year the Paine Memorial Library was the recipient of a special one-time grant of \$1,000 from the Lake Placid Foundation to be used to purchase books. This Foundation was formed by Forest Press, a book publishing company, of which Melvil Dewey was part owner.

Mr. Dewey, of Dewey Decimal fame, had long ago set up a trust fund from the profits earned through Forest Press. From this money, grants are awarded annually to libraries across New York State to assist them in upgrading their library collections and services.

We applied for our grant to help purchase new books for the rare book

collection, and to update some areas in our children's section. We are pleased to have been awarded this grant and look forward to adding to our collection.

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Herb Longware of Cable Communications of Willsboro has announced a program where the standard installation charge of a first time regular subscriber to cable service will be donated to the local libraries. The Paine Memorial Library in Willsboro and the Belden-Noble Memorial Library in Essex will be the recipients of this program.

The ultimate benefits are shared by the community in the form of new books and other educational materials. The program began in November and will continue until the end of 1990.

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The Friends of the Library are busy planning their annual Holiday Craft Exhibit to be held on Saturday, December 1. This is a very special one-day exhibit where we ask local craft persons to share their work with us. Items are for exhibit only, none are for sale. We find the quality of work offered for this display beautiful, because mostly these are very special items made by the craft persons for themselves, or for a special gift. The workmanship is exquisite and we are very proud to display these works of art.

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

FLASH!

**UPDATE ON THE
GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES**

The Governor's Conference, held November 28-30th, brought together 360 librarians, trustees, elected officials and members of the general public. Participants from the C-E-F area were Keela Rogers, Janet Decker, Donna Hanus, Cliff Donaldson, Patricia Bentley, Helen Ianelli and Stanley Ransom. Over 920 resolutions were considered and 200 voted on, with 30 of these involving intense floor debate. The delegates opted for universal library service, intellectual freedom, consumer health information, increased library support, literacy efforts, more support for school libraries, and a study of rural library service inequities. The Conference opposed government restrictions on dissemination of tax funded information and on "English-only" governmental services.

The Conference delegates were addressed by Governor Mario Cuomo, author William Kennedy and Commissioner of Education Thomas Sobol.

Seven delegates and three alternates in four categories were elected to attend the White House Conference on Libraries, July 9-13, 1991. Stanley Ransom, the only North Country representative elected, was chosen first alternate in the professional librarian category.

Stanley A. Ransom