



SEPTEMBER, 1942

VOL. I, NO. 2

# LIBRARY LOOKOUT

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Issued Quarterly By The West Virginia  
Library Commission

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### STATE MEETING

The Executive Board of the West Virginia Library Association has voted not to hold the 1942 meeting of the Association which was scheduled tentatively for Jackson's Mill the week-end of September 26. The decision was made because of transportation problems arising out of the war situation. The news comes as a great disappointment, and it is hoped that in 1943 conditions will have improved so as to make it possible for a state convention to be scheduled.

### BUCK HILL FALLS REGIONAL CONFERENCE

In line with the cancelling of meetings of large groups because of the war crisis, the Regional Conference, slated to be held at Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania October 22, 23 and 24, has been postponed indefinitely. Naturally, it is to be regretted that librarians from West Virginia will not have the opportunity to exchange ideas and opinions with members of the profession from Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware and the District of Columbia, the other states which were to have participated in the Conference. However, it may be necessary to forego all such meetings for "the duration." If this proves to be so, librarians will be obliged to depend entirely upon professional literature and correspondence in order to acquire inspiration and new thoughts for their work. Certainly we could all improve our libraries if we spent more time reading the ALA Bulletin, Library Journal, and similar publica-

tions and adopted for our own uses more of the progressive plans for improved service printed in them.

### LIBRARIES AND THE WAR

At the Milwaukee Conference of the American Library Association the Council of the Association adopted a statement of library policy in connection with this country's war effort which every librarian in the United States should keep in mind and around which shape a well-defined program embodying both juvenile and adult services. The Lookout wishes to quote the entire resolution as it was adopted on June 26, 1942.

"The American Library Association believes that the American people are faced by three problems of such dominating importance as to demand the concentrated efforts of all agencies. They are:

1. How to make our maximum contribution to the winning of the war;
2. Whether we as a nation wish to return to pre-war conditions or to continue progress toward democratic goals;
3. Whether and to what extent we want our country to participate in the organization of the world for peace.

"The Association therefore recommends that every library give the greatest possible emphasis for the duration of the war to those materials and services which will give people the facts and ideas that will enable them to make intelligent decisions on these important questions; and it calls upon its officers to assist libraries in carrying out this program with all the means and imagination at their command.

"Libraries must always refrain from telling people what to think. They cannot avoid the responsibility of helping them to decide what to think about."

Thus, the resolution would seem to imply that it is the business of libraries to keep completely abreast of the current trend of events and ideas which is making history at a pace so rapid it is scarcely comprehensible. For many years librarians have recognized this responsibility. Victory demands more than recognition, however. These are times for action. In addition to possessing as much material as possible at hand and ready for immediate use, libraries should inspire their patrons to evaluate the facts and figures contained in the books on their shelves. They should sponsor book reviews, arrange discussion meetings, and prepare reading lists in an effort to throw additional light on the war material they provide for the use of the public.

The United States Information Service was organized for the purpose of assembling factual information. Government documents are wholly factual in character. Hundreds of our best writers are unearthing facts for public consumption. These are the stock in trade of public libraries. ARE WE MAKING THE MOST OF THEM?

#### LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Whether we know it or not--whether we choose to believe it or not--whether we have learned it through practical experience or not--library trustees are the backbone of public libraries in America today. They are the individuals who work just as hard or perhaps harder than the regular staff to provide good library service for the people of the community, and they put in their hours without pay! The only times their thoughts turn to money are

when they install fluorescent lighting fixtures in the reading rooms, or when they seek extra funds in the budget for the purchase of children's books, or when they try to get a raise for you. The public scarcely realizes that library boards exist. Scldom do they receive praise for their efforts. The American Library Association recognizes the value of library trustees, however, through an annual award given to one or more outstanding trustees for their contributions to library development. The following is a portion of the Citation of Trustees, released from A.L.A. headquarters August 14, 1942:

"The second annual award of the Jury on Citations of Trustees was made at the Milwaukee Conference, June, 1942. The late James Oliver Modisette was unanimously elected by the jury to receive the citation of award. Mr. Modisette had been active in promotion of libraries in his own state since 1926, and served on the Louisiana Library Commission as its Chairman, and at the request of the Governor of his state had acted as a one-man commission during governmental reorganization in Louisiana.

"The first awards of the jury were made at the Boston Conference in June, 1941. Two trustees were selected by the jury to receive the citation of merit: Rush Burton, Lavonia, Georgia, in recognition of his enthusiastic support of library service which fostered cooperation resulting in countywide library service for Franklin County, and the other to William E. Marcus, Montclair, New Jersey. The jury recognized Mr. Marcus' unfailling interest in basic library problems, his willingness to study these problems and to work toward the solution of them.

"The third annual award of the jury will be made at the Toronto Conference in June, 1943. The jury asks that recommendation for trustees to be cited for outstanding achievements or contributions to

library development be sent to the jury."

How about a few candidates for this signal honor from West Virginia next year? Address correspondence to Laurance J. Harwood, Chairman, Jury on Citation of Trustees, American Library Association, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

#### WIDE-AWAKE MARION COUNTY

The Public Library of Marion County, headquartered in Fairmont, is engaging in a diversified program of community service which might be considered by a less up-to-date and far-seeing library entirely outside the scope of activity for which it was originally intended.

Mrs. Nell C. Conaway, Librarian, reports that in addition to the conventional routine of loaning books and other reading matter, the library in Marion County is selling war stamps and bonds, conducting classes in weaving and clay modeling, sponsoring a weekly story hour, and, believe it or not, transporting all of those extra-curricular activities via bookmobile into the rural areas of the County. The story telling and art projects are made possible through the cooperation of the Story Tellers League of Fairmont and the County Art Center.

The Library and the Marion County Council of Civilian Defense are also working in close cooperation in the dissemination of war information material.

Recently the Library has extended book service to the children at Camp Bellaire where underprivileged boys and girls are given vacations they would not otherwise receive.

For all these fine projects and others which will, no doubt, be undertaken in the future, the

Library Lookout extends hearty congratulations to the enterprising staff of the Public Library of Marion County.

#### EXPANSION IN OHIO COUNTY

In addition to the central library and the bookmobile which travels the length and breadth of the County, Ohio County Public Library now boasts an attractive and very active branch library. In April of this year Warwood Branch began to serve the people of that community, and, according to Miss Eleanor Hamilton, Librarian of the Ohio County system, neither hot weather nor summertime laziness can lessen so much as one iota the pride and enthusiasm of the patrons in their new branch.

#### PAINTING "ORGY" AT ELKINS

To use the exact words of Miss Anne Dunlap, Librarian, Elkins Public Library, "The Library Staff has indulged in a perfect orgy of varnishing this summer. Shelves, furniture and, with the help of the janitor, the floors were done. The result of the work has been greatly praised." Miss Dunlap also reports that the War Information Service at Elkins has been developed extensively. More material is needed, however, and she would appreciate receiving any worth-while duplicate pamphlets from other libraries.

#### BETHANY COLLEGE NOTES

E. Hugh Bohymer, Librarian at Bethany College, and his staff report considerable activity this summer. In addition to taking care of regular summer school work, he reports that the Library has been redecorated, and that the Literature Collection has been recataloged and reclassified. For this undertaking the revised scheme developed by Miss Edith Markloy, University of Alabama, and used

in the Howard Tilton Memorial Library at Tulane University, was employed.

Robert Martin, A.B. Bothany College, received a B.S. in L.S. from the Library School of the George Peabody College for Teachers this year and has recently accepted a position in the Library of the University of New Hampshire where he will be head of the Circulation Department.

#### FROM THE EASTERN PANHANDLE

The Shepherdstown Public Library celebrated July 4 with a special flag display which featured the colorful cover illustrations of "Old Glory" brought out recently by the 300-odd magazines which participated in the flag contest sponsored by the National Publishers and United Flag Associations.

August 25 and 26 the Library sponsored an art exhibit and studio tea at Erwin Cottage, the home of Miss Addie Ireland, prominent West Virginia painter. Miss Ireland's paintings were exhibited.

#### "BOOK HOUR" AT WEST LIBERTY

A series of monthly student book reviews called the "Book Hour" have proved very popular and caused much favorable comment at West Liberty State Teachers College during the summer months. Tea is served to those in attendance, and it is planned to continue the programs during the fall.

The Library also intends to continue issuing a monthly bulletin which advertises its services and announces some of the more important books added to the collection during the month. The project was begun a year ago.

WPA AND THE WAR

The Commission has recently been notified of the appointment of Mrs. Elsa Vaught to the position of Assistant State Supervisor of the War Information Phase of the W.P.A. War Service Project. No doubt many librarians in the State know Mrs. Vaught and are familiar with the work she is supervising. If not, her name should be added to your directory of individuals who are active in the "all out" program to develop library service in West Virginia.

Through Mrs. Vaught the Commission has been able to secure a limited supply of "Instruction Sheets," compiled by her for the use of her workers in the development of the very important war phase of library activity. Write to the Commission for this free material. It will prove helpful.

One of Mrs. Vaught's most timely projects at present is the assembling of exhibits on such subjects as consumer education, opportunities in the armed forces, health, and nutrition. These exhibits are being prepared with the assistance of the W.P.A. Crafts and Visual Aids Project for use in the agency's War Information Centers in the State.

MASON COUNTY LIBRARY NOTES

Mason County Library, under the supervision of the Work Projects Administration, War Service Project, is concentrating its activities on war services. It is planned to continue the vital work for "the duration." The library is featuring the two hundred technical books loaned to it by W.P.A. Also, it is calling to the attention of borrowers the material it possesses on defense on the "home front"--pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and books which treat of consumer education, nutrition, health and many similar subjects

New registrants from the numerous trailer camps in the vicinity of Point Pleasant are increasing circulation at the library.

A frequently-revised list of available rooming and boarding places is being used extensively by individuals and families who have recently moved into the area to work in the war industries. Thus it would seem that Mason County Library is a shining example of a public institution which has adapted its resources to play an important role in the winning of the war.

#### WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY NOTES

Beginning August 1 of this year, the West Virginia University Library will serve as a depository for all the printed cards issued by the Library of Congress. It is the only such depository in the State.

Any West Virginia library interested in acquiring free copies of American Foreign Policy in Canadian Relations, by J.M. Callahan, Macmillan, 1937, and Proceedings in Statuary Hall and the Senate and House of Representatives upon the unveiling, reception and acceptance from the State of West Virginia of the statue of Governor Francis Harrison Pierpont, Gov't print. off., 1910, should address a request to W.P. Kellam, Librarian, West Virginia University, Morgantown.

#### THE SCORE IN WEST VIRGINIA

A recent American Library Association report dealing with the public library situation in the sev-

eral states reveals the following figures for West Virginia:

1. Nineteen Counties entirely without service.
2. 1,010,452 persons with no public library reading opportunities.
3. Seven cents per capita for library support each year.
4. Tie with Texas for 42nd place in the rating of library service by states.

The illustration on the cover of the current issue of the Lookout represents the Clarksburg Public Library, in our opinion one of the most attractive in the State.