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LIBRARY LOOKOUT

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Clara B. Johnson, Executive Secretary

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LIBRARIANS TO MEET

The West Virginia Library Association will meet for a one day conference on Friday, October 29th, in Charleston at the St. Marks Methodist Church. All librarians in the state are invited to attend. Please consider this your personal notice.

Mrs. W. H. Conaway, president of the state association, has prepared the following announcement:

"Notices of the annual meeting of the West Virginia Library Association are being mailed this week to librarians over the state.

The program will begin Friday morning at ten o'clock. Mr. W. P. Kellam, Chairman of the state Library Commission, will give a report of accomplishment and present plans for the future. Mrs. Edward Maclin, president of the Better Library Movement in West Virginia, will outline objectives for the work of local groups in the state-wide movement and Miss Clara B. Johnson, Executive Secretary of the West Virginia Library Commission, will speak regarding the library extension program.

At noon the group will recess to attend a joint luncheon meeting with the members of the Library Section of the State Education Association.

Miss Lucile Fargo, professor in the School of Library Science, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, will be the guest speaker.

Following the luncheon a business meeting will be held with reports of committees and election of officers.

It is hoped that every librarian, trustee and friend of the library who possibly can attend this meeting will do so. All librarians, trustees, and friends of the library are eligible for membership in the West Virginia Library Association and are urged to join this state professional group.

If we are to accept the challenge to librarians and assume the responsibility forced upon us by the war we must unite our efforts that libraries here may serve the people effectively."

Mrs. Conaway will have the Daniel Boone Hotel in Charleston as her headquarters.

CALL TO THE COLORS

Attention! The red, white and blue book list enclosed is for your use. We invite librarians to give it a prominent place on the top of your desks and call it to the attention of every adult borrower who comes to your library.

All the books listed are in the West Virginia Library Commission book collection. They are available to your borrowers through our inter-library loan system. The librarian sends a postal or letter requesting the particular title desired by her patron (best list several choices) and we mail the book to you for a one month loan. The only charge is postage - special book rate 3¢ for the first pound and 1¢ for each additional pound. You, then, check the book out to your borrower who requested it and to others, too, if you can do so within the month.

This is a call to the war effort. Promote the use of books on international understanding, on reports from the battle fronts, on problems of peace making and post-war planning. Do your part to have people in your town well informed.

KNOW WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

The Huntington Public Library featured on the cover of the Library Lookout in this issue serves an area of 97,500 population. It has a book stock of 35,000 volumes and last year circulated 98,256 books. There are six persons on the library staff with Mrs. Madalyn M. Bradford, librarian. The library has operated on a budget of about \$17,000. with a promise of an increase for next year.

The following statement about the library was written by Mrs. Bradford:

"The Huntington Public Library first opened its doors to the public on April 7, 1902, in a small store room of Fourth Avenue, moving into the present library building in 1903. Until 1934 the library served as a city library only but since that time it has been a county library. From the beginning the library has been administered by the Board of Education, first under the Board of Education of the City of Huntington and later under the Board of Education of the County of Cabell.

In July 1942 the Huntington Public Library embarked on a program of expansion which had as its aim the development of new services and the extension of these services to the entire county. Toward this end a complete reorganization of departments has been effected.

This summer saw the opening of the new Reference Room on the second floor and in a few weeks the Reading Room, completely renovated, will be opened as the Circulation Department.

There are other plans for improvements in the Young People's Department and for the establishment of a Professional Library and lounge for teachers of Cabell County and for a Department of Local and West Virginia History. The library has quite a large collection of West Virginia material, most of which was collected by Miss Lewis Harvey, former librarian. These latter improvements, must in part, however, await the end of the war for realization."

THE LIBRARY IN THE COMMUNITY

Miss Isobel P. Lynch, acting librarian of the Kanawha County Public Library, Charleston, brings us this interesting report of the Chicago institute which she and Miss White of her staff attended.

"The Institute conducted by the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago held August 23-28th this past summer proved to be the largest yet held. The chief reason for such good attendance was perhaps the broad appeal of the topic 'The Library in the Community.' Over 200 librarians from the United States and Canada registered for the series of meetings.

The timeliness of discussing the librarians' role in community life in these times goes almost without saying. We as librarians are daily challenged with the task of doing much with little. Just how much can be done was brought out many times over by the various institute speakers.

To cite only a few instances of this point one might mention Miss Mary Rothrock's discussion of rural library service in Tennessee. The creation of a popular demand for library service which will firmly establish library financial support, Miss Rothrock believes, can be achieved by promoting the educational functions of libraries. Rural librarians must use all media of communication - films, phonographs, radio, books, etc. - in order to serve the 72-74% of the rural population which is now without library service. A shelf of

books in a country store is a simple and primary step in developing rural libraries.

The library's role in a community which reflects the pressure of a world at war was illustrated by the activity of the Detroit Public Library in the recent race riots. The Detroit library issued a book list with pertinent excerpts from authoritative books on the subject of racial characteristics. In this instance the library did not "take sides" on a controversial issue; it published the facts so that intelligent citizens could think for themselves. The Detroit library received so many requests for its book list from such varied groups as industrial executives and labor union members, that the library's action and the success of that action are beyond question.

Mr. Stephen Carey, whose topic was 'The School Goes to War,' pointed out that librarians should aid adolescents in answering questions of most importance to themselves, whether or not these questions relate to the school curriculum. Such an attitude might well be taken toward all library users. Our changing lives bring about increasing needs; more people are affected by economic and social influences. Education outside the classroom, in which the public library has a vital part, must be broad enough to meet the personal lacks or maladjustments of individuals.

The practical means by which a library can fulfill its educational function were emphasized by Mr. Lowell Martin and Mr. Russell Munn. Mr. Martin, who spoke on 'Community Analysis for the Library,' pointed out that a thorough knowledge of the region served is essential for good librarianship. Such knowledge includes everything from the number and kind of churches and how many members they have to the location of neighborhood stores and transportation facilities. Mr. Munn, who talked about 'A Library-Sponsored Community Council,' told how a

Cleveland branch library served as an impartial meeting ground for discussion and promotion of things of interest to the neighborhood's political, economic and social well-being. In such a way a library can sponsor democracy more immediately at home.

It is not possible to cover in detail the stimulating ideas brought out by the Institute. Mr. Leon Carnovsky, in his summary of the week's discussion, however, suggested the most significant points. These are as follows:

1. The basis for a sound democracy is popular education.
2. The library's most significant contribution is in the direction of popular education.
3. The library may well serve as an intellectual center of the community.
4. The library may also serve as the intellectual leader of the community.
5. Education may be conceived of in concrete specific issues. The library can identify and clarify issues and stand for truth against error.
6. The library may exert many methods of leadership through:
 - a. Book selection
 - b. Publicizing of certain books
 - c. Sponsorship of forums on concrete local issues as well as issues of world-wide importance
 - d. Organization of discussion groups
 - e. Organization of community councils
 - f. Carrying influence of library outside the library walls by taking books to people.
7. The library may serve as a focal point for community adult education.
8. There is no distinctive pattern for the rural sections of the United States.
9. The War has brought changes in education methods. The library, for example, can balance the unbalanced high school education.
10. The library should let the people know the facts by combating sensational and spectacular news or rumors."

OUR BORROWERS SAY

The Library Commission extends its service to all residents of West Virginia. If you live in a town that has a public library ask your librarian to write us for the books you need. Inter-library loans are for one month.

If you are helping to sponsor a club library you may request a "traveling library," a box of books which may be kept three months.

If you live away from any public library service write us directly. Books are sent by mail to individuals for one month.

The Library Commission is a state department supported by public funds. It is your library and we invite you to make full use of its services.

Our borrowers say:

Fairmont - "Our demands are increasing for the many different types of books and as we never like to turn anyone away but endeavor 'to have the right book at the right time' we just could not come any-way near responding if we did not have the Library Commission at Morgantown and the State College here to help us out."

Lewisburg - "We thank you for sending such a splendid assortment. Many of the books are already being read."

Burlington - "I think this lending library is a wonderful thing for rural people who do not have the opportunity of a public library."

Westmoreland Community, Huntington, - "Thank you for sending a most interesting assortment of books. I am sure they will be greatly enjoyed by our readers during the next three months."

Clarksburg - "The books you sent are received. Thanks for lending them to us. Will you now please send any books you have in that would be interesting reading for the Ladies Home Missionary Society?"

Keyser - "The nice selection of books came yesterday and we put them on the shelves immediately. They were going out fast when I left. We appreciate your help."

Sand Fork - "My 4-H club wishes to sponsor a service project for the community and have decided to organize an adult reading circle among the patrons of the school. Will you please advise us about securing books for our project?"

WHAT BOOK TO BUY?

Are you puzzled about what books to order for your public library? The smaller the budget the greater care should be exercised in choosing books for purchase. Every book added should be approved by some reliable source. There are book selecting aids available which you should have to consult.

A standard guide for the selection of current books is The Booklist, published semimonthly by The American Library Association, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill., \$3.00 a year. Annotations are given as well as classification numbers and subject headings. Over 100 books are described in each issue.

The Wilson Library Bulletin, published by the H. W. Wilson Company, 958 University Avenue, New York, N. Y., at \$1.00 a year is a "required" periodical in public libraries. You will enjoy the articles about Book Week, suggestions for poster, exhibit and publicity ventures, notes of libraries and of books and authors.

The special section, "Readers Choice of Best Books", which is a part of each issue of the Bulletin suggests many good books for purchase. The September and October copies of this section are sent you with this issue of the Library Lookout as a sample. Please examine them and see for yourself that for this section alone the Wilson Library Bulletin would be a real help to you in your work.

The carpenter needs a hammer, the seamstress a needle and you need the tools of your trade. Secure for your librarian some book selection tools.

THANKS TO V.B.C.

That men in the services are enjoying the books you contributed to the Victory Book Campaign is evident in letters received by Miss E. Leonore White, Charleston, state director of the campaign. Here are some excerpts:

USS Cabot, Fleet Post Office,
New York City, New York

Miss E. Leonore White, Director,
Victory Book Campaign,
Kanawha County Public Library,
Charleston, W. Va.

Dear Friend:

Just a note today on behalf of all hands aboard this ship to thank you for the books you collected at the time of the Victory Book Campaign.

A portion of the books collected by your unit made their way to this ship and are being greatly enjoyed by all hands.

This will let you know that your assistance in this project was not in vain and

that it is being utilized to the uttermost.

Cordially yours,
(Signed)
RODERIC LEE SMITH,
Chaplain, USS Cabot

From Fort Bragg, North Carolina:

"These books will be divided among the libraries at the five service clubs on this post in a manner which will insure that the greatest possible number of enlisted men will be able to enjoy them.

The work of you and your committee is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,
(Signed)
V. M. ROBERTSON
Major, Infantry
Chief, Special Service
Branch"

From The Station Hospital, Camp Butner, N. C.:

"In behalf of the patients of the Station Hospital, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your kindness and efforts to aid the recreational facilities of the Station Hospital, Camp Butner, North Carolina.

Yours very truly,
(Signed)
J. M. BLACKWELL,
Captain, M A C (AUS)
Adjutant, Hospital
Branch"

From The USO, St. Albans, W. Va.:

"May I take this opportunity to tell you how much the War Industry workers and their families in this vicinity are appreciating and enjoying the books which you sent us last week.

Certainly the Victory Book Campaign has been a success, and I feel that those who contributed so generously to it in your area, will be happy to know that their generosity is giving much pleasure to others.

On behalf of all the people who are using the USO Club here in St. Albans, may I again thank you for the books which we have received.

Sincerely yours
(Signed)
M. Clare McCann
Director"

SOLDIERS ON MANEUVER READ

Elkins in the heart of the West Virginia Maneuver Area offers reading facilities to soldiers having leisure time through the little public library sponsored by the local Woman's Club. The library occupies a front room on the ground floor of the Y.M.C.A. building where the soldiers come to swim so it is a handy place for them to stop and read.

Miss Elizabeth Ray, the librarian, told me during a recent visit that the men often sit all evening reading. Sometimes they "camp" by her desk and visit as she checks out books to regular borrowers. They are as privileged to borrow books as residents.

The Library sponsors a table of gift books and magazines which the soldiers are free to carry away to their tent barracks and to pass along to others to read. Tables equipped with paper and ink invite the men to use the library for writing letters and ash trays suggest that smoking is permitted.

Major Joseph J. Johnston, Ordnance Special Service Officer, of the Directors Headquarters, W. Va. Maneuver Area, XIII Corps, Elkins, advises us that troops from the W. Va. Maneuver Area at the present time are operating in Preston, Tucker, Grant, Pendleton and Randolph Counties. Elkins is the headquarters for the area and other towns in which men spend their leisure time are Davis, Thomas, Parsons, Franklin and Petersburg.

GIRL SCOUTS IN LIBRARIES

The Library Commission had as visitors recently Mrs. James R. Thomas of Charleston, a regional committee woman of Girl Scouts, and Miss Katherine McCulloch, executive secretary of the Girl Scouts of Monongalia County, Morgantown. Mrs. Thomas explained that the Girl Scout organization has been asked by the federal government to extend their program because of the unprecedented need for giving young girls something interesting and constructive to do in the war effort. She is interested in seeing information materials to help start Girl Scout Troops placed in all public libraries in West Virginia.

Miss McCulloch has very kindly submitted this outline of the Girl Scout program:

"The Public Library can be a big source of interest and help to every Girl Scout. Following the list of requirements for every badge in the Handbook is a list of references necessary to carry

out the activities. Many of these books will be found on the shelves of your library. That is the practical side of it. But we want our girls to know also the joy and pleasure one can have through book friends. Books may be trains or ships or airplanes or even magic carpets that take you to all parts of the world to see strange sights. A Girl Scout who has made friends with books need never be lonely, for her book friends who eat their food with chop sticks or those who tend the herds on the hills near our Girl Scout Chalet will be comrades for the day.

The Girl Scout program is divided into ten different program fields. Under each of these fields are badges which can be earned by doing ten or 15 different activities. The Community Life field and the Literature and Dramatics field lend themselves especially to service and work in our local libraries.

Activities Nos. 7 and 8 in the Community Badge under the Community Life field, if completed satisfactorily will enable a Girl Scout to greatly assist a Librarian in her duties as well as help earn a badge for the girl.

Ways in which a Girl Scout might help at her Public Library: 1. Assist with a story hour at the Library, 2. Participate in observance of Book Week such as making posters and distributing leaflets, 3. Learn about different sections of library and how to find the book you want, 4. Mending books, 5. Cleaning marked-up books.

Call upon the Girl Scouts in your community. They are always willing to serve."

West Virginia librarians will find work with such youth groups a very important library service.

TO GIVE AWAY

Miss Jessie Griffin, Reference Librarian, West Virginia University Library, makes this offer to Lookout readers:

"The West Virginia University Library has many unbound duplicate magazines which may be secured by the libraries in the State for the cost of transportation. This duplicate list is extensive and can not be sent to each library, but any libraries wishing to take advantage of this opportunity should send want lists to the Reference Department, and the requests will be filled in the order of receipt.

Periodicals in various fields, are available. In many cases there are complete volumes and long runs. This is more generally true of the titles indexed in the Abridged Readers' Guide."

The Library Commission still has a dozen or more copies of The Problems of Lasting Peace by Herbert Hoover and Hugh Gibson; Doubleday, 1942, for distribution to libraries. Just ask.

Also free for the asking at the Library Commission are copies of:

American Negroes, A Handbook by Edwin R. Embree. John Day, 1942.

Public Affairs Pamphlet, "Freedom from Want, a World Goal" by Elizabeth E. Hoyt.

Quantities of the booklist called, "Mobilizing our Brain Power."

Clip sheets for your newspaper publicity, "The Public Library, a vital need."

U.S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 1847, "Rural Library Service."

DATES IN THE LIBRARY CALENDAR

October 24 - 30. British Book Week.

Will be celebrated in public, school and college libraries. It is sponsored by the International

Relations Board of A.L.A. to interpret Great Britain to the people of the United States. An excellent opportunity for displays of your books on England and for meetings to discuss them. It may well serve as a pattern for similar book weeks devoted to other nations. See special British Book Week number of the A.L.A. Bulletin, October 1943. Send for the packet of display material from the British Information Services, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City.

November 1 - 7. American Art Week.

Call attention to local artists and craftsmen by bringing their work before the public. Exhibit your art books in connection.

November 7 - 13. American Education Week.

General theme is, "Education for Victory."
"In the schools of today are the voters of tomorrow who will decide the peace. Education for victory cannot wait. It is a wartime necessity."

November 11. World Government Day.

Armistice day is a good time to bring out all your books on the understanding of democracy and good government.

November 14 - 20. Children's Book Week.

Features the theme, "Build the future with Books." Celebrates the 25th year of Book Week. Library periodicals are full of suggestions for observances. Please send the Library Lookout an account of what your library does to recognize the week. Have you bought the attractive poster? Costs 25¢ at Book Week Headquarters, 62 West 45th Street, New York, N. Y. Manual of suggestions is free at the same address.

November 25. Thanksgiving Day.

A truly American holiday. Books help to build regard for American tradition and ideals.

December 25. Christmas Day.

Be prepared to suggest well recommended gifts for children's bookshelves. How about making the library a present of The Horn Book? It is a magazine published six times a year. Subscription price, \$2.50. Address 264 Boylston Street, Boston. It gives an appraisal of books for children. It's another helpful book selection tool for the Librarian.

ANNUAL REPORTS

A table of statistics compiled from "The Public Library Annual Report to the West Virginia Library Commission" is attached. The response to this first call for an annual report was very gratifying and we want you to know your cooperation is much appreciated.

You will find this statistical accounting worth some study; not only to determine the place your library fills in state-wide library service but also to compare it with the standard scale as given. It will be well for every library to set a goal for improvement this year and then to work hard to accomplish it.

Many libraries included some very worth while news in the space "Report of Progress". Some notes were: Securing new shelving, new furniture, moving into more spacious quarters, lengthening hours, starting a card catalog system, improvement in class of books circulated, raises in salaries and securing first appropriations from the town board.

In addition to getting the annual report form, The Library Commission also received mimeographed copies of narrative reports from librarians at Huntington, Kanawah County, Ohio County and Marion County. Such well written annual statements to the public are a valuable way to report achievement and to indicate needs and future objectives.