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LIBRARY LOOKOUT

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Library Commission
Clara B. Johnson, Executive Secretary

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NEW YEAR RESPONSIBILITIES

At this beginning of a New Year librarians in West Virginia may well take stock of accomplishments in the year just past and then plan a new working program to forward the services of libraries in the months ahead.

One of the first problems in all libraries is that of finance. Have you made a study of your budgetary needs for 1944? In a useful library handbook, The Small Public Library, is this statement:

"It is the library board and not the librarian who holds the responsibility for raising adequate funds to carry on library service. Upon the trustees rests the need to mold public opinion to an understanding of the place the library should hold in the community and to analyze the needs of the present and plan wisely for the future. With real understanding and faith in the library project no board would hesitate to ask for adequate public support."

Every librarian and board of trustees working together should consider the basic standards for libraries in areas the size of their own, make a detailed budget to meet the requirements of such standards, and should present the budget requesting public funds for public library service under these standards to the proper governing authority.

Work on budget requests should begin early in the year so that all preliminaries can be taken care of before the deadlines for town, city or county budgets.

Every library needs a body of friends of the library helping to arouse public opinion favoring adequate public support for library services. You will find progressive, clear visioned persons in your community willing to speak to authorities in behalf of better budgets for better library service. Seek out these friends and enlist their support. Organized community groups, clubs, and lodges are often willing to submit resolutions to officers in the promotion work for better libraries. It takes only the time and interest of a well informed librarian, trustee or friend to interpret the library needs to the group. Can you get the matter of a better library budget presented to leaders in your town?

STATE PLANS

At its meeting on December 15th the West Virginia State Planning Board authorized the establishment of a library committee to work out ways and means of improving inadequate Library facilities in the state. The board heard a talk given by Mr. W. P. Kellam, chairman of the West Virginia Library Commission, on existing library service in West Virginia. Mr. James F. Ferry, Executive Secretary of the Planning Board reports that procedure for appointment of the committee is now underway and it is expected their study will begin soon.

This post-war library planning movement holds hope for the future, particularly through planning for improvement of state-wide library service. There is need for revision of the state library law, need

for state aid for public library service in every county and more acutely in the third of the counties of West Virginia that have no local public library service whatever and there is need for an increase in appropriation for the Library Commission for work in extending its facilities.

In addition to its part in state library development each library may have plans for the expansion of its own service: for new additions or building, for bookmobile or branch service, for a separate children's department or work in adult education or other growth in service which should be written into community post-war plans. Your local planning committees are formulating projects for public improvement after the war. The library should be prepared, at least, to participate in the possible fulfillment of such a program. Has the need for improvement in the library been called to the attention of these key men? Is the local planning committee drawing up blue prints for better library service in your town?

For study of your local plan we refer you again to, Post-war Standards for Public Libraries, a pamphlet costing \$1.50 published by the American Library Association, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. It can be borrowed from the Library Commission for a short period loan. We will appreciate your sending us information of your local library plans for development.

RURAL WEST VIRGINIA REELS

"Our whole club and even community enjoyed the books I am returning. I think this library system is a god-send to country people who enjoy reading." It is a farm woman from Swiss, West Virginia, speaking, one of many rural club women who are enjoying the services from the West Virginia Library Commission.

Books are loaned directly to individual residents of the state who have no local libraries for ours is a service by mail. The request comes to us by postal card or letter and the books are sent by parcel post. So the Library Commission is a library as close to every borrower as his mail box. The only cost is a few cents for postage.

Through the cooperation of Miss Gertrude Humphreys, State Leader, Home Demonstration Work, Agricultural Extension Service in West Virginia, of County Home Demonstration Agents and of leaders in the state Farm Women's Bureau, a program of reading is offered by the Library Commission to all Farm Women's Club members. The book list, "Call to the Colors", is available in every county and reading leaders in the various clubs are selecting titles to suit their study of war problems and post war issues. Recreation leaders have made wide use of the list, "Reading for Fun", and some are telling their friends and neighbors about the book lending services from the Library Commission.

Mention of the Commission reading services has appeared in the paper West Virginia Farm News, from month to month which has attracted many new borrowers to Library Commission services. They write such grateful notes as these:

"We are having such a good time reading and some of the women have not got through with their books. I am asking you to extend our loan."

"Seven of our farm women read the book you sent me and they all ask for more books."

"I certainly did enjoy the three books I am mailing to you today, especially Indoor

Gardner, though each one was good. Thank you for the opportunity of making books available to farm women."

"The books I am returning were indeed a great pleasure, I want four more."

"Five books for children were included in our last club loan. The children enjoyed these so much that I'm wondering if you could send us some more."

The Library Commission staff would like to reach many more people in the state who do not have libraries close at hand. The Library Commission belongs to all the residents of the state who pay for it through taxes and to get the good of money spent they are all entitled to be borrowers. We are counting on all of you to help us make our services known throughout West Virginia.

Will you get the information rolling along the avenues in your section? Phone the rural minister, write your P. T. A. friend in the coal mining camp, tell the foreman at the lumber mill, see that the district chairman of the Women's Club knows, mention it to the village postmistress, tell the club president, see that a press note gets into the county seat weekly. Rural West Virginia wants to read. Will you help to let them know that books are available for the asking at the West Virginia Library Commission?

KNOW WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

The cover sketch for this issue of the Library Lookout is of the Old Market House in Shepherdstown which houses the Public Library. Both the building

and the library have a very interesting history as Mrs. C. F. Lymé relates in the following article:

The Shepherdstown Public Library

"The Public Library of Shepherdstown recently celebrated its twenty-first birthday. On October 21st, 1922 members of the newly organized Woman's Club, Mrs. William B. Snyder, president, met with Miss Mary L. Titcomb to discuss their major project, the founding of a public library. Miss Titcomb was a well known figure in library circles, having established in Washington County, Maryland, the first travelling library in the United States.

From that meeting and from the dreams of the women there present has emerged the substantial reality of a library of more than 6500 volumes, open to the public four times each week, conducting story hours for children, and sponsoring art exhibits and concerts for the people of the community.

The library has always been housed in a quaint old building in the centre of King Street, erected in 1800 for use as a market house. The Woman's Club provides heat, light and janitor service and also contributes to the book fund.

Through the years various bequests have been made to the library and it has been able to function with no financial aid from town, county or state. A great help has been the custom of one interested friend who gives lovely books several times each year as a memorial to her husband. The library committee is selected from the Woman's Club and carries on all the work of the library."

Mrs. Lyne is one of several club women who give their services as librarian in the Shepherdstown library. The library serves an area of about 950 population and operates on an expenditure of 35¢ per capita. In a year the circulation amounts to almost 7,000 volumes.

Members of the West Virginia Library Commission: Mr. W. P. Kellam, Mrs. R. C. Ringgold, Mrs. Otis G. Wilson, Mrs. Cliver Shurtleff and Mrs. Emily Gray Shrove and Miss Clara B. Johnson, Executive Secretary, were privileged to attend the "coming of age" birthday celebration (complete with cake and candles) while they were in Shepherdstown for a board meeting. At the Woman's Club meeting Miss Johnson addressed the group. The Commission also visited the Shepherd State Teachers' College where Mr. Kellam spoke at the convocation and they were luncheon guests of Mrs. R. C. Ringgold at her beautiful home, Bellevue, on the Potomac River.

WISE SELECTION

"Boys and girls know what they like. But they are immature. They are not aware of their own potential reading interests until we who are older bring them in contact with many varied possibilities. Then they find their own. And they experience the thrill of personal discovery among books." - Helen Ferris.

If we are to build the future for boys and girls through books it is our responsibility as librarians to select books for the children's section with great care. To do this every librarian needs to have at hand some good book selecting aids.

Librarians will find enclosed a list of aids called, "True Blue Books for Boys and Girls," in appropriate blue color. Any of these tools which you buy will be valuable guides in choosing books for children. Every librarian will want to have several of them to use in wise spending of her book budget.

At the same time as you are adding good new books you will need to be discarding old, worn out books that have passed their period of usefulness. To help you to determine which books should be weeded out from your children's shelves, which books to dispose of, to sell for old paper, find enclosed also "The Blacklist."

We are sending you, too, a book list called, "Children's Books Suggested as Gifts," published by the New York Public Library. The list includes new publications as well as some old favorites. You will enjoy using it as a check list for purchases.

OTHER ENCLOSURES

To public librarians we are again sending several issues of "Readers' Choice of Best Books" to give you a sample book list issued as a part of the Wilson Library Bulletin. The list will not be sent again so if you like to use it perhaps you can spend some of the library's petty cash funds for a subscription to the Bulletin. Order from the H. W. Wilson Company, 950-972 University Avenue, New York 52, N. Y. The cost is one dollar a year.

For some of the larger libraries that have specialized collections we have enclosed copies of "A Reader's Guide to Education," a selected and annotated list of books about the background and problems of American education. The brochure is sponsored by the National Education Association

and the Book-of-the-month Club. It has an introduction by Dorothy Canfield Fisher. Any library not receiving a copy may, if of use, request the same of the Library Commission.

The leaflet, "Books By Mail," is for information and publicity use. Limited quantities may be had on request for distribution to individuals and groups in your section.

"China Book Week" is a list prepared to help you celebrate the special week, March 25 - 31. Through emphasis given in libraries to China and her achievements many more people will come to know and understand our ally in the Far East. Any book on the list is available for your use from the West Virginia Library Commission.

Residents of the state who live in communities that have a public library may ask their librarians to send to the Library Commission for the books they want to read if the books are not available locally. The book is sent to the library and is checked out to the borrower by the librarian. This is the inter-library loan system and it makes any book in the Library Commission available to every person in your library area. We invite librarians to take advantage of this service for their patrons.

The list of religious books will be of interest to some of your borrowers for pre-Ester reading. Any book on the list may be had from the Library Commission.

NEW OFFICERS W. VA. L. A.

Despite the difficulties of war time travel some thirty librarians, trustees and friends attended the one day conference of the West Virginia Library Association in Charleston on October 29th. Scanning the register it was noted that six colleges, two

state libraries, six public libraries, and a high school were represented.

Highlighting the program was a talk given at the joint luncheon meeting with school librarians of the S. E. A. by Miss Lucile Fargo, professor in the School of Library Science, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, whose topic was, "The Fifth Freedom, the Freedom to Read."

New State Library Association officers elected were: Mr. W. P. Kellam, Librarian West Virginia University, President; Miss Isobel Lynch, Acting-Librarian, Kanawha County Public Library, Vice-president; Miss Emma Parsors, Librarian Fairmont State Teachers College, Treasurer; and Miss Florence Reese, Instructor in Library Science, West Virginia University, Secretary. Miss Rosa Oliver, Librarian of Marshall College, was chosen as the state representative on the A. L. A. Council.

Adding a social note to the conference the members were invited to afternoon tea at the Kanawha County Public Library, guests of Miss Isobel P. Lynch and her staff.

Since the meeting the Executive Committee has instituted a system of exchange of duplicate books. Two booklists have already been sent out to West Virginia librarians by the president who announces that the only requirement for participating in the exchange program is membership in the Association. Annual membership dues of \$1.00 are payable to the treasurer.

A TRUE LIBRARIAN? JOIN A. L. A.

Miss Nancy Matthews is serving this year as membership chairman of the Middle Atlantic States for the Children's Library Division of the American Library Association. Miss Matthews, who is the

Children's Librarian, Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling, invites all librarians in West Virginia interested in Children's library work to send in to her their memberships for the calendar year of 1944 and she has sent this notice for inclusion here:

"CALLING ALL CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS! Now is the time to become a member of the Children's Library Division of A.L.A. You may do so by paying your regular A.L.A. Dues and indicating on your membership blanks your wish to join the Children's Division. Affiliation entitles you to get help for your work, to vote for Newbery and Caldecott awards, and to have your name in the A.L.A. Handbook and the Directory of the Division. Membership blanks and information may be obtained by writing Miss Nancy Matthews."

Miss Althea H. Warren, President of the American Library Association, has put it this way:

"There are only two reasons for joining any association. One is because you believe there is important work which can be done by united effort. The other reason is because the association you join holds promise of being able to accomplish that important work."

All of which may be a reminder to us that librarians who have a real regard for their profession become members of their national professional association, the American Library Association. Dues are scaled in salary brackets. If you are paid \$1200. a year or less, your A.L.A. dues are \$2.00; if \$1500. is your salary the dues are \$3.00 and so on. On paying dues you can designate if you wish part of your dues to apply to the Children's Division, the Library Extension Division or other. All who have paid dues receive as part of their membership a subscription to the A.L.A. Bulletin. To broaden your vision of library work you'll want to get this

professional journal and read it to keep abreast of the times in your chosen field.

LIBRARIANSHIP AS A CAREER

When you have occasion to supply reading materials for young women investigating careers, it will be a real service to the profession if you present something on librarianship.

The September issue of Madenoiselle contained a popular article, "Passing the Book", now issued as a reprint by A.L.A. It comes at a time when shortage of librarians is felt in many libraries and so can be used effectively in interesting qualified young women in library work.

A very useful new book on the subject is, Public Libraries in the Life of the Nation, by Beatrice Rossell. Published by A.L.A. at \$1.50. It interprets the profession for young college people. The appendix lists accredited Library Schools.

NEWSNOTES

From newspaper clippings of the past month and from other sources the Library Lookout has received news from libraries over the state:

Weston - Plans were completed at a recent meeting of the Library Board and County Court for painting the interior of the Lewis Bennett Memorial Library.

South Charleston - Christmas stories told by Mrs. Joseph Kraft were presented at the story telling hour on December 18th.

Morgantown - Calls for non-fiction in the Waitman Barbe Library have more than doubled during the past year.

Morgantown - The West Virginia Library Commission staff entertained at a Christmas tea on December 4th librarians, trustees and friends in the city.

Grafton - The Eastern Star Woman's Club, sponsors of the Public Library, celebrated Book Week by having an open house and candlelight tea. Mrs. Martha Moore and Miss Clara B. Johnson of the State Library Commission attended their regular club meeting and Miss Johnson spoke on the Book Week theme, "Build the Future With Books."

Charleston - Before Christmas a collection of dolls from all parts of the world were on exhibit at the Kanawha Counth Public Library.

DATES IN THE LIBRARY CALENDAR

January 16 - 22. State Safety Week.

January 17, Benjamin Franklin's birthday.

Feature books about Franklin as his, Autobiography.

January 17 - 24. Thrift Week.

Exhibit books on conservation and thrift and connect with books about Benjamin Franklin, the great advocate of thrift.

January 19. Robert E. Lee's birthday.

Observance may be carried out in both adult and juvenile departments. The Library Commission has to lend, Gamaliel Bradford's, Lee the American; Douglas S. Freeman's, Lee's Lieutenants (two volumes) and Belle Moses', Gray Knight.

January 21. Stonewall Jackson's birthday.

Of particular interest to West Virginia readers because he was a native son and has associations in the state. Borrow from the Library Commission; Henry Kyd Douglas, I Rode With Stonewall; G. F. R. Henderson's, Stonewall Jackson and the American Civil War; Allen Tate's, Stonewall Jackson, the Good Soldier; and Julia Davis', Stonewall.

January 30. The birthday of our president, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

February 7 - 12. Boy Scout Anniversary Week.

A good time to stress the use of boys' books and to invite displays of model airplanes and other hobby exhibits.

February 7 - 12. National Drama Week.

February 7 - 12. Negro History Week.

February 11. Thomas A. Edison's birthday.

We have Wm. A. Simonds', A Boy With Edison; and Wm. H. Meadowcroft's, Boy's Life of Edison. to loan if you need them.

February 12. Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

From the Library Commission you can borrow John Drinkwater's Abraham Lincoln, a Play and biographies of Lincoln for children by the following authors: the d'Aulaires, James Daugherty, Enid L. Meadowcroft, Helen Nicolay, Carl Sandburg, and Ida H. Tarbell.

February 14. St. Valentine's Day.

February 22. George Washington's birthday.

By a West Virginia author, Charles H. Ambler is,

George Washington and the West. Another book for adults is Emily S. Whiteley's, Washington and His Aides-de-camp. For children you may borrow: the d'Aulaire's, George Washington; Jeanette Eaton's, Leader by Destiny; and Frederick T. Hill's, On the Trail of Washington.

February 20 - 26. Brotherhood Week.

Address the National Council of Christians and Jews, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York City, for leaflets and free materials.

February 23. Ash Wednesday: The first day of Lent. Make attractive exhibits of religious books for Lenten reading. See the Library Commission list enclosed for books available here.

March 15. Andrew Jackson's birthday.

For boys and girls the Library Commission has Helen Nicolay's Andrew Jackson, The Fighting President; James and Marquis, The Courageous Heart; and Augusta Stevenson's, Andy Jackson.

March 25 - 31. China Book Week.

Follow the pattern set up earlier for British Book Week. Mobilize library resources for a Chinese information program. The W. Va. Library Commission has to loan any book on the enclosed list prepared especially for the week. For additional information see the A.L.A. Bulletin for January 1944 and issues to come. Also get Library War Guide. Address Mr. Paul Howard, Chief, Library Program Division, Office of War Information, Washington 25, D. C.

April 9. Easter Sunday.
