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LIBRARY

LOOKOUT

LIBRARY LOOKOUT

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Library Commission
Dora Ruth Parks, Executive Secretary

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BOOKMOBILE! BOCKMOBILE! BOCKMOBILE!

In February, the office of the Attorney General gave a ruling on the expenditure of funds contributed by organizations and individuals to the Library Commission for the purchase of a demonstration bookmobile.

Within twenty-four hours after the ruling was printed in the newspapers, the Library Commission received a telegram from one county asking to be the first on the list for a demonstration. Since then, two other counties have expressed a desire to be among the first to have a demonstration.

Contributors to date are as follows:

University of W. Va. graduate	
(anonymous)	\$400
Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority	75
W. Va. State Federation of Women's Clubs	100
Morgantown A. A. U. W.	25
W. Va. Farm Women's Council	100
W. Va. Library Association	100
Phi Upsilon Omicron (Home Economic Professional Sorority)	10

Huntington Women's Club	\$ 5
Clarksburg Senior Social Studies of Washington Irving High School	30
Clarksburg Women's Club	10
Clarksburg Rotary Club	5
Clarksburg Quota Club	5
Clarksburg Lions Club	5
Clarksburg College Club	<u>10</u>
TOTAL	\$880

During the war, clubs contributed to clubmobiles. Special funds were raised for all types of relief and efforts were all out for winning the war. The job before us now is a much more difficult one--that of winning a peace.

At a recent meeting of the Ohio Library Association, Edwin J. Blythin, vice-president of Western Reserve University, made the following statement:

"Libraries must respect the integrity of all fields of knowledge, must keep up with the advances in business and technology, must preserve the culture of our day and must cater to adult education."

He said that there are only 2,200,000 of the 75,000,000 adult Americans who are college graduates, and 32,000,000 adults did not complete the eighth grade.

"We take libraries for granted but (millions of) people in the United States do not have access to a free public library.... The need for them is shown

by the tremendous appeal of correspondence courses and by the fact that only four per cent of those who start such courses complete them."

Bookmobiles are one of our greatest assests in adult education.

Has your organization contributed toward the purchase of a Demonstration Bookmobile for the Library Commission? Have you, as an individual, done so?

OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD!

January issue of Library Lookout gave a report on the Library Development Fund, and announced that Mr. Paul Howard is now in Washington acting as Director for the American Library Association's Federal Relations Program. Mr. Howard's activities in behalf of the American Library Association are made possible by contributions to the A. L. A. Development Fund.

"Demonstrations in Rural Library Service" are probably the most important goal in the Association's Federal Relations program.

On March 12, the Public Library Service Demonstration Bill, H. R. 5742, S. 1920, was introduced by Representative Emily Taft Douglas and Senator Lister Hill.

Congressman Douglas in her introduction of the bill made these statements:

"Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill which is modest in title and in authorized expenditures but which can open endless vistas of a fuller life....

"The bill, sponsored by the American Library Association, provides for demonstrations of library service in communities which do not today possess such service. It would authorize to each participating state twenty-five thousand dollars annually for the next four years, in order to assist state agencies to show how library service can be extended through the use of bookmobiles and library deposits.

"It is a shocking fact that thirty-five million American citizens have no library service whatsoever. More than six hundred counties in the country (roughly one out of five) are without a library. An equal number have only small libraries in the county seats which serve no rural people. Almost every state, in fact, has large areas without any service....

"Experience has shown, however, that good rural service can be provided by using a large enough administrative area with a widespread system of branch libraries, service stations, and bookmobiles. Where the people have been offered such service, they have learned to value it and never want to be without it again.

"Books have become a necessity in an unstable world, and we cannot afford to deny large numbers of our people the chance for this basic means of education.

Nor can the big cities, with well-stocked libraries, be oblivious to the lack elsewhere. The cities are forever being repopulated by people from the country, and the quality of urban citizenry is therefore dependent on the quality of the whole country.

"In a sense a library is yeast for all the worth-while life of a community. Its services are supplementary and illumine every civic and cultural project. It is not competitive with other agencies, but enriches the work of each. The scope of a country school is meager if the students cannot supplement their reading beyond the one or more basic texts. A child lacks an essential of growth in our modern world if he is cut off from the intellectual leaven of a library. Adult education, similarly, becomes impossible without recourse to books. The wide-awake citizen is crippled in the pursuit of his interest if he cannot check his own experience against that of others, whether that interest lies in farming, health, child care, canning, vocational guidance, science, or politics. In a country where we, the people, are the government, it is necessary that there should be authoritative information available throughout every section of the land. In an era of vast and swift changes, it is imperative that the citizens have material to keep abreast of the times....

"While rural library service is spreading, it is not doing so with enough speed to keep pace with the needs of our time. This bill would allow state agencies to give samplings of their services....

"In addition to books, the service would supply educational films, current magazines, and pamphlets.

"A brief analysis of the bill follows:

Purpose

"1. To provide a demonstration of adequate public library service to people now without it or inadequately served.

"2. To provide means for studying various methods of providing public library service primarily in rural areas and for studying the effect of planning on an area basis upon the development of library service.

Provisions

"1. State library agencies may submit plans for use of federal funds in demonstrating public library service primarily in rural areas. These plans shall be drawn entirely by the state agencies and need not be uniform throughout the country.

"2. Two types of plans may be submitted: one, calling for a basic demonstration using twenty-five thousand dollars per year for four years in each state, financed entirely by federal funds; or, an expanded plan may be added to this which would allow states to match an additional twenty-five thousand dollars to fifty thousand dollars of federal funds annually for four years."

This bill is especially important for consideration by West Virginians. Our state ranks forty-sixth in the amount of public library service available to the total population.

The West Virginia Library Association has appointed the following State Federal Relations Committee:

Mr. W. F. Kellam Coordinator
Mr. Charles E. Butler, Publicity Manager
Miss Eleanor Hamilton, Member to interpret Association's interests
Miss Dora Ruth Parks, Member to coordinate work of Library Commission with activities of committee.

Write to these people for information. Promote this program through your newspapers and community activities.

AMONG WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES
AND LIBRARIANS

Mr. Robert Harold Simonds, formerly of the Minneapolis Public Library Staff, has become a member of the Kanawha County Library staff. West Virginia librarians are happy to welcome Mr. Simonds to the state.

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY is planning an expanded program of service. More space will be available in the present building. Mrs. Conaway, librarian, writes she can't sleep for planning.

There are interesting developments in CABELL COUNTY. In February, a branch of the Huntington Library was opened in Milton. In April, a branch of the Huntington Library was opened in Barboursville. These branches are supported by appropriations from the county court of Cabell County. Other municipalities are asking the Huntington Librarian, Mrs. Bradford, how and when service can be available to their communities. Cabell County's "Friends of the Library" are a group of people whose interest in library development is an inspiration.

In McDOWELI COUNTY, committees, appointed at a November meeting of representatives from all parts of the county, have been busy studying different types of library service which is in operation over the country. An effort is being made to determine the most suitable type of service for that area.

In MONONGALIA COUNTY, the AAUW study group took library development as its topic of study. A committee interviewed members of the Waitman Barbe Library Board and members of the city government as their first point of departure. The second meeting was one for comparing results from interviews. The committee then asked for a reading list to be prepared by the Library Commission which would give information on specific problems within the county. A third meeting was a discussion of the advantages of county-wide library service. Members of other organizations were invited to this meeting, and a film, showing a county library in operation,

was the basis for discussion. A fourth meeting was a panel discussion, which included representatives from various county and municipal groups, for the purpose of getting as many points of view as possible before as many people as possible. A committee has been appointed to do some specific follow up work and the May meeting of the Association will be devoted to library problems in this county and plans for the next year for continued participation of AAUW in working out these problems.

Mr. Haught, Chairman Library Board, BUCKHANNON, writes:

"If it comes within the range of your field of service, I will appreciate it if you will provide us either with a model set of by-laws for library boards, or with a copy of what you consider a good set of by-laws in use by some well organized board." (We sent Hall, Library Trustee. Experience has shown that the by-laws in this book are adaptable to almost any situation)

Mr. Haught continues:

"You will be interested to learn that we have recently completed painting the interior of our library.... Beginning in February, we enlarged our program to include evening hours, seven to nine o'clock, four evenings in the week, Tuesday through Friday."

From PADEN CITY:

"It would be greatly appreciated if you would send us any information you

have available regarding (establishing a library) also whether it would be possible to obtain state aid."

The Commission will be able to advise by correspondence and field visits in this case. It can send a collection of five hundred books for use in getting a service started, but there are no state aid funds available for assisting in the development of library service in West Virginia. The number of calls which come to the Commission for State Aid indicates that many counties would organize county libraries if they had the benefit of some assistance from the state.

The sketch of the library on the cover is the RICHWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY (Nicholas County) and was drawn by Lois Thompson.

"The subject and need of a Public Library had often been discussed in Richwood, but nothing definite was undertaken until the Spring of 1942. At that time the problem of juvenile delinquency becoming more and more evident, the mayor and council then in office, made plans to combat it by passing a resolution to the effect that 'a public library should be immediately organized under the name of RICHWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY and thereafter operate for the use and benefit of the people of the City of Richwood.' It was an entirely new venture for Richwood, but one that has proved to be both popular and worthwhile.

"The City Council made financial provision for the organizing and operating of the library with an appropriation of

\$2,000 for the first year, and has continued to finance it with yearly appropriations. The administration and operation of the library was delegated to the Richwood Organizational Camp, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, organized for the purpose of operating recreational centers, camps, etc., and whose membership consists of representatives from each business corporation, civic, and religious group in the city.

"The board of directors of the Richwood Organizational Camp, Inc., immediately took steps to carry out the plans of the City Council in establishing a Public Library. A Library Committee was appointed and work was started on the project. A room in the E. E. Buck Building on East Main Street was rented, overhauled and made ready for use. Arrangements for tables and chairs were made, and books were ordered. Accordingly, after several months of planning and labor, the first Public Library in Nicholas County was opened to the public on August 14 and 15, 1942. The real business of functioning as a library began on August 16 and has continued since.

"Numerous civic groups, the Nicholas County Board of Education, the local High School and instructors, church groups, lodges, and innumerable individuals gave both moral and financial assistance to the project.

"The Library had not long been in operation until it began to experience growing pains. More shelf space was

necessary and the Vocational Training Class of the Richwood High School built benches and a magazine rack.

"From an original book stock of 770 books, the number has grown to approximately 4,000. Twenty-six adult and children's magazines are received regularly and the library is a regular borrower from the West Virginia Library Commission, having borrowed and circulated over a thousand books from the Commission during the past year. The circulation averages between 1,200 and 1,500 books each month which maintains a real live interest in the library.

"Additional service offered by the Library includes a Story Hour for children each Saturday morning. This work is under the direction of the Librarian, Mrs. Hopkins Reese, and has been ably supported by the Richwood Girl Scouts, students of the High School, and others.

"The Library is open the afternoon and evening of each week day, with Story Hours each Saturday morning."--Mrs. Hopkins Reese

NEWS FROM OUR BORROWERS

The collection of books at the Commission is for three purposes. 1. People without any library service may borrow from the Commission, but this service will never be as adequate as it could be if furnished at the county level. 2. Libraries and clubs may borrow large collections of books to stimulate interest in the development of

library service within their county.
3. The Commission acts as a clearing house for specific reference questions from over the state.

In March, a brief survey was made of reading by counties from the Commission collection for the past eight months. All except seven of the fifty-five counties in the state had used the collection during that period.

18 counties borrowed from				1-50	books
8	"	"	"	50-100	"
9	"	"	"	100-200	"
6	"	"	"	200-300	"
1	county	"	"	300-400	"
1	"	"	"	400-500	"
5	counties	"	"	500-1000	"

Counties which borrowed the largest number of books were Brooke, Marshall, Calhoun, Boone, and Cabell. Next in line were Nicholas, Roane, Mason, Taylor, Preston, Wyoming, Greenbrier, and Mineral.

The fact that the number of books sent out into the state has doubled during the past two years, indicates that people read according to the amount of stimulation they receive for reading and that books must be available, if people are expected to read. The Commission collection is only four years old, but use of it has increased steadily since its beginning.

BURLINGTON: "The books were enjoyed and we feel that this is a grand opportunity for a great deal of reading. We are very grateful."

COTTAGEVILLE: "Will you please advise as to the manner in which the West Virginia Library Commission operates? I am a farmer, in a rural district, and a lover of books. Is it possible for me to have access to books via mail?"

Our answer: "We are enclosing leaflets which explain services of the Commission. Please remit in stamps when postage is involved, since the Commission does not handle cash.

"We prefer that you ask for books on a given subject rather than titles because our staff is limited, and the books are in constant circulation over the state. These two factors make it impossible for us to guarantee specific titles to an individual. However, if you send us a list of several titles which you desire, perhaps some of the titles will be available when you wish them."

NEW MARTINSVILLE: "Please send me for the month of March: One World, Wendell Wilkie; one recent good biography--I've had Carver, Hull, Eisenhour--one good recent religious book.

A TRIBUTE TO MISS MERRILL

On April 1, Miss Julia Wright Merrill retired from active library work. Since Miss Merrill plans to make her home in Cincinnati, those of us from West Virginia who are near enough Cincinnati to visit or shop there, are glad to know that we can see Miss Merrill now and then.

Library development in West Virginia has been influenced by her. From the time the legislature authorized a Commission in 1929, she had been available for advice. Moreover, she has made visits to the state to assist with planning. Always, when new legislation was desired, Miss Merrill was ready with just the type of outline which was needed. Our good library laws, which are really second to none in the country, are due in part to information which Miss Merrill was able to give to those who drew up the bills. Because her office was a clearing house for public library problems, many mistakes were avoided. Results and experiences from all over the country were at her finger tips.

ATTENTION LIBRARIANS

A Library Institute, sponsored by The Western Reserve University School of Library Science and the Ohio State Library, will be held at the Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, July 8 through July 20. This type of in-service training is especially attractive to those librarians who are unable to leave their posts long enough to finish a complete course in library science. It is helpful to the trained experienced librarian, because it affords quick refresher information and ideas for new projects.

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION meets in Buffalo, New York, June 16-20. Eleven West Virginia Librarians are already making plans to be there. Make your reservations early. Hotels are crowded. It

should be a grand meeting--the first since Milwaukee in 1942. We have a big job ahead of us. Join with others of the profession in working out our real post-war problems.

Miss Nancy Matthews, Children's Librarian, Ohio County Library, Wheeling, and the West Virginia Chairman of the Children's Library Association has asked that this announcement be made in Library Lookout:

"When you join the American Library Association, you (may) automatically become a member of the Children's Library Association, at no additional fee. When filling out ALA membership blanks, though, be sure to indicate in the proper place, your desire to be affiliated with the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People, Public Library Section, Children's Library Association. Let's see the names of all West Virginia Children's Librarians in the ALA Handbook, and in the Division Directory! Anyone who wishes to become a member, please notify Miss Matthews."