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LIBRARY

LOOKOUT

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Issued Quarterly by the West Virginia
Library Commission
Dora Ruth Parks, Executive Secretary

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REPORT ON OUR LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Attendance at sessions of the legislature is a worth-while experience. Those librarians who attended from time to time will surely agree that through such an experience one's perspective gains depth into the matter of the relationship of the public library to other state interests and needs.

The appropriation for the Commission as finally approved by the legislature was \$20,700 for each year of the biennium beginning July, 1947. The appropriation for 1945-1946 and 1946-1947 was \$16,350 per year.

Other legislation directly affecting public libraries is the amendment to the 1945 public library law. This was introduced by Senator Harmer of Harrison County. So far as is known it passed without any opposition in either house. It provides that a donor may specify use of his gift to a public library and that the title for property or other gifts may be vested in a trustee or trustees of the donor's choice. Trustee in this case does not mean a library board member. This amendment, it is hoped, will encourage endowments and gifts for public library purposes.

Have you remembered to thank your legislators and the Board of Public Works for their interest in better libraries?

THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS

In 1943, expenditure per capita for public library service in West Virginia was .07; in 1946, it was slightly more than .10. In 1943-1945, the average number of books mailed by the Commission to public libraries and communities was about 50 per month; in 1946, the average had risen to approximately 1,200 per month.

New libraries were started in New Martinsville and Paden City in 1946. Each is supported by the local governing authority. New Martinsville also received some rather generous gifts from local industries for the initiation of the service. In 1946, Wheeling acquired a record collection, and a music room was equipped for listening. In October, 1946, Cabell County was given \$5,000 for the purchase of a bookmobile. The benefactor, Mr. Switzer, also made provision for the Huntington Public Library in his will. This library also has a new record player and a movie projector.

In 1947, plans are under way for expanded or new buildings in Charleston, Fairmont, and Moundsville. Radio story hours have been or are being conducted by the libraries of Charleston, Clarksburg, Wheeling, Bluefield, Fairmont, and Huntington. Most of the programs have been jointly sponsored by some other community group. Clarksburg is doing a radio "Great Books" program at 5 p.m. each Saturday.

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DID YOU KNOW that the word library originated partly from liber, bark, "the bark of trees having, according to Roman tradition, been used in early times as a writing material." Perhaps instead of library, in years to come, we shall have "plasticary" since library materials now are often made of plastics!

COMMISSION NEWS

In February, Governor Meadows announced the appointment of Mr. Kyle McCormick of Princeton as the new member of the Commission to fill the unexpired term of Mr. W. P. Kellam. The complete list of Commission members now is as follows: Mrs. Oliver Shurtleff, Fairmont, Chairman; Mrs. C. F. Lyne, Shepherdstown; Mr. Kyle McCormick, Princeton; Mrs. Emily G. Shreve, Martinsburg; and Mrs. Otis G. Wilson, Huntington.

On April 12 and 13, Mr. McCormick attended his first meeting. Other members concluded very quickly that the talents which he brings to the Commission are real assets.

While welcoming one new member, the Commission bids farewell to another. Mrs. Emily Gray Shreve will not be living in West Virginia and will therefore not wish reappointment at the expiration of her term, June 30, 1947. Mrs. Shreve has been a very loyal member not only in her attendance of meetings but also in her work for it as a laywoman. It is with much regret that Commission members say good-bye to her, but they believe that her interest will always include books, libraries, and the work of the Commission and the promotion of both.

Miss Frances Price, Assistant at the Commission became part time staff member of the Pittsburgh Carnegie Library this year. She is also working toward a higher library degree. Miss Kathryn Henry of Morgantown, former librarian at Magnolia High School, New Martinsville, replaced Miss Price. It is unfortunate that the Assistant cannot be personally identified throughout the state. Both Miss Price's and Miss Henry's personalities have permeated various counties through loans of books and correspondence with

borrowers, but both of them have expressed a desire to visit with borrowers now and then. It is particularly good, therefore, that you visit us at headquarters when in Morgantown. We are always glad to see you.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS IN OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Huntington. The new member of the Huntington Library staff is Miss Emily Johnston, formerly of the San Diego, California, Public Library.

Charleston. Kanawha County Public Library has two new staff members. Miss Edith Kennedy, Head of the Adult Department; and Miss Nancy Richardson, member of the Adult Department Staff. Miss Kennedy comes to West Virginia from Minnesota. She has also done library work in Oakland, California. Miss Richardson comes from Tennessee and embarks on her library career in West Virginia.

A. L. A.--SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 29 TO JULY 5

The following letter from Miss Marie D. Loizeaux, Editor, Wilson Library Bulletin; The H.W. Wilson Co.; 950 University Avenue; New York City, may be of interest.

"In response to requests from many librarians in this area the Missouri Pacific Railroad in cooperation with connecting railroads is planning "The Library Special" to carry librarians from various parts to the ALA Conference in San Francisco in June. Mr. Ernest J. Doerste, New York City Passenger Agent, has made up an itinerary which promises to be exceedingly interesting. I am suggesting to him that his agent in your vicinity sees that you have copies of this itinerary and plan with you to make connections for librarians from your area who would like to join the special train.

"If not enough librarians plan on the trip to warrant a special train, special cars can be added to regular trains as needed, so we may be sure of having accommodations."

Both the Kanawha County Public Library and the Ohio County Public Library will be represented. Are there others?

POSTERS

"Libri-Posters," 9x12, now available for display on bulletin boards in public buildings, churches, veteran's organizations, Y's, stores, etc. Price 10¢ per poster. Write H. L. Mihic & Co., 16 West 55 Street, New York 19, N. Y., for details. Mr. Forrest Carhart of the University Library talked with Mr. Ivins of the Mihic Company about these posters at a recent library conference and is very enthusiastic in his recommendations.

AMONG LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS

The newly appointed library board for Waitman Barbe Library, Morgantown, is Mrs. Irvin L. Neville, five year term; Dr. David Dale Johnson, four year term; Dr. William E. Brooks, three year term; Mrs. V. O. Havener, two year term; and Mr. John E. Crynock, one year term.

The Morgantown Post, April 23, 1947, made the following comment in its report of the meeting of the city council. "The election of five new directors to the Waitman Barbe Public Library (Board) was approved by Council following the report of a special committee composed of Councilmen George D. Hott, Chairman, John Crynock and C. B. Stark to recommend candidates for the vacancies...."

"The committee also voted that under terms of the statute providing for Library (Board) directors, hereafter directors appointed will serve for a term of five years."

Morgantown City Council is to be congratulated on its awareness of the first essentials of good library service--a good board of directors. For it is this group of people who set policies for the library and back the librarian in his or her service to the community. It is liaison officer between librarian and community. Special mention, too, should be made of the work of Mrs. Havener and Dr. Brooks who have been members of the board for several years.

RICHWOOD. A business man who was talking with a Library Commission worker during the state Planning Conference in November asked, "Are you familiar with the Richwood Public Library and the fine work it is doing in that community?" Of course she said she did know about the effectiveness of this library. He commented further, "That's the sort of thing I would like for my community."

KNOW WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

The library featured on the cover is the Milton Branch of the Huntington Public Library. News of the use of expanded library service in Cabell County appeared in the Cabell Record, December 19, 1946. This was written by Raymond E. Jimison.

"A well known radio show has its 'Pot of Gold' program which gives away money each week to some lucky listner. Now Milton doesn't have a 'Pot of Gold' program but it does have something that we are just as proud of and which gives hundreds of hours of entertainment and education each week to

its many readers. By this we mean the Milton Public Library.

"It is often said that we who live near a thing know less about it than those living in the distance. But I do not think that this can be said about the people in Milton, for almost every family in Milton has either an adult or child reader who uses the books of the library.

"I have always had a great fondness for books and since both my home and business are located on the same street as the library, I make frequent trips to it, either for a book for myself or to take my son Jimmy down to make a selection from their children's books....

"The Library has registered borrowers living in Culloeden, Ona, Salt Rock, Chestnut Knob, and all nearby communities....

"And the nicest thing about the Library is the consideration that is shown all patrons by the librarian, Mrs. Mattie Ball, who seems to take a personal interest in helping you in selecting the books she thinks you would like the most....

"I personally feel that the great success of this Library has been due partially to the wonderful attitude and help it has received from the many Milton people. Deserving especial mention at this time is the donation by Miss Lora Danford of five popular Book-of-the-Month selections from her own library. They have now been cataloged and placed on the shelves for your use. Inside each book is a plate bearing Miss Danford's name. These books were a most acceptable gift....

"The Library is especially in need of several small things to make their service better. For instance, they need a display magazine rack to

take care of the fifteen magazines they receive regularly and the ones that are donated each month by the patrons. Also needed is a metal waste paper basket. A bulletin board which has been needed for sometime is being donated by a friend of the Library. They would appreciate any books that you might have that you no longer need, or a small gift of money can always be used to purchase books and magazines and to make the many little repairs that always need to be done.

"If you haven't been a patron of the Library, make 1947 your starting time. I feel sure that you will enjoy it very much and benefit greatly by its use. Remember, it's for you and yours...."

Mrs. Bradford has written recently that the American Legion is giving the Milton Library a magazine rack and several other articles of equipment.

The Milton Library was one year old February 14, 1947. Its services are made possible through an appropriation from the Cabell County Court to the Huntington Public Library.

Last year, more books per capita were read from the Milton Library than any other library in the state.

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CORRECTIONS in statistics which appeared in October, 1946, Library Lookout.

Kanawha County Public Library has 23,122 active registered borrowers.

Holidays Cove's per capita expenditures is 37¢.

NEWS FROM OUR BORROWERS

MADISON--"For a study course, I would like to borrow from your library the following books. Perennials Preferred by Helen Wilson; The Plant Doctor by Cynthia Westcott; Garden Design by Marjorie S. Coulter; and Design in Flower Arrangement by John T. Arms."

LETART--"Please send some mysteries also a book on numismatics. I am interested in old coins."

LEWISBURG--"We will be looking for another Traveling Library in a short time for these empty shelves look too lonesome. The last of May we will be wanting 50 books for our Story Hour for the summer--ages 5 to 10. The children are already asking when it will begin."

LOST CREEK--"I am returning the 8 magazines loaned me and I wish to thank you for the loan of same. The articles asked for are very good and worth-while."

"If you have other magazines which give information regarding adjustment of soldiers return home from service, or family life or problems of returned service men, please send me by return mail."

KNOB FORK--"I am doing a study on Trigonometry Fundamentals and Principles. Will you please send me a text on trigonometry?"

"If available I should also like a good text on the principles of physics."

KEYSER--"Special request for the Keyser Public Library: James, Practical Basket Making; Blanchard, The Basketry Book; Gallinger, Basket Pioneering." If you do not have any of these would like to have something about basket making. This is for a girl scout leader."

KEYSER--"I am delighted with the assortment of "easy" books which you recently sent."

ELLENBORO--"Please send me a book on child psychology or mental hygiene in children from pre-school through high school that has been published in the last ten years.

"If you can't supply any books mentioned in the last paragraph send me Chancellor, John Miller, Helping Adults to Learn or Johnson, Alvin Saunder, Public Library, A People's University."

PHILIPPI--"The Silent Grove Farm Women's Club of Philippi has asked me as their education chairman to borrow a consignment of books listed in the recommended reading list. We would like to have as follows: Burma Surgeon Returns, Journey into America, Spin a Silver Dollar, Your Child Meets the World Outside, Rooster Crows, Living with Children, and Management in Homes. You may substitute if these are not available."

MARLINTON--"Please send me by parcel post collect three or more books on cats. The books should give me some history, some of the characteristics, and kinds of cats, also some superstitions about cats."

"Please send me a book or two on doll making. I want to make two dolls representing Caesar and Cleopatra and I need some instructions."

SWEET SPRINGS--"Will you please send me two good books on old furniture--would like one on Hepplewhite furniture, if possible. I have Ormsbee's book on Early Furniture Makers so do not need that one. Would like Nutting's Furniture Treasury in three volumes or some other good books. I have a reading card on file there, should you need a reference."

ATTENTION PUBLIC LIBRARIANS!

The Commission has undertaken a new project which we hope will prove to be of real service to public librarians. This project is started as an experiment in guidance in book selection. We realize that public librarians are rushed by the public for the latest best seller that is sweeping the nation. Since the same type of book will not fit into every community, it is our belief that the librarian would like to have an opportunity to read, or at least scan, the current "rave" before spending precious library funds on it. With this conviction in mind, we are purchasing two copies of each book which appears at least three times on the best seller list in the New York Herald Tribune.

One copy will remain at headquarters for examination by university students taking classes in library science and exploratory reading. The other copy is available to public librarians upon request for examination before purchasing. These will be loaned for one week. As we wish to make them available to as many librarians as possible as quickly as possible, they cannot be loaned to library patrons.

The presence of these books at the Commission does not necessarily indicate that we recommend them. We hope they will aid you in selecting books which will best fill the needs of your borrowers. Let us hear from you. We shall welcome your comments on the books and any suggestions you may have.

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Singer, Dorothea M., The Insurance of Libraries. American Library Association, is available from the West Virginia Library Commission, Morgantown.

PERIODICALS

Periodicals are a vital part of every library. They are the best source of current material. The Commission receives numerous questions on topics of current interest, the answers to which cannot yet be found in books. To take care of such requests, the Commission subscribes to a number of periodicals. Many of our borrowers have already become acquainted with this service, having received two or three magazine articles in answer to their questions. We are taking this opportunity to inform all of our patrons of this service. Any of the periodicals listed below may be had upon request for a period of two weeks. These cover the period from January, 1946, to the present.

AMERICAN CITY	NATURE
ATLANTIC MONTHLY	TRAVEL
AVIATION	POPULAR MECHANICS
BUSINESS WEEK	RADIO NEWS
CONGRESSIONAL DIGEST	RECREATION
FOREIGN AFFAIRS	ROTARIAN
HARPERS MAGAZINE	SURVEY MIDMONTHLY
HYGEIA	SURVEY GRAPHIC
MAGAZINE OF ARTS	THEATRE ARTS
NATION	TIME
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC	
AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH	
AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW	
ASIA AND THE AMERICAS	
CONSUMERS RESEARCH BULLETIN	
VITAL SPEECHES OF THE DAY	

FUNCTIONS OF THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY COMMISSION

1. Development of effective state-wide public library service.
2. A program of county and regional public libraries.
3. Stimulation of local appropriations.
4. Formulation of standards of service for public libraries.
5. The gathering of statistical information from all public libraries of the state.
6. Advisory information service to existing public libraries and in the establishment of new ones.
7. Encouragement of citizen and trustee understanding of the functions of the American public library.
8. Cooperation with other state agencies.
9. Development of high quality personnel in the public libraries of the state--encouragement of training to meet demands of good service; encouragement of adequate salaries; encouragement of satisfactory schemes of appointment; advisory service in the placement of public librarians.
10. Provision of direct service of books and guidance in their use to areas and communities yet lacking public library service.
11. Reference work not involving lengthy research.