



LIBRARY COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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NEW STATE PLAN READY FOR DISTRIBUTION

Trustees and librarians can secure copies of the State Plan outlining the programs for library development made possible by The Library Services and Construction Act by writing The Library Commission at 2004 Quarrier Street, Charleston. July 1967 was a bench mark in library aid in the state with nine library boards qualifying for cash grants through meeting minimum requirements for Regional and Service Center Libraries. In addition to five Regional Libraries which have been assisted since their establishment, four more libraries qualified. Mary H. Weir Library at Weirton, Ohio County Library at Wheeling, Martinsburg Public Library, and Kanawha County Library at Charleston.

FUNCTIONS OF A CENTER LIBRARY

The designation as a Center Library is offered to libraries which are directed by a professional librarian and whose operating budgets are \$25,000 or \$1.00 per capita, whichever is the greater. It is expected that libraries serving as centers should provide expert reference service. To achieve this goal, several have invested initial grant money in microfilm, and upgraded their non-fiction holdings.

Some of these libraries have been asked to assist neighboring libraries with supplementary book collections. The Traveling Library Service performed by The Library Commission since early days has been phased out. In the past libraries had to take "pot luck" in books shipped to them; they can now make their own selections of books through a Center Library.

Additional requirements for Center Libraries concern the legal organization of the library: the library board must be appointed in accordance with the W. Va. Code, Sec. 1-11, Chap. X or be organized and operating under a special law prior to 1963. Assurance of free library service from The Service Center for persons residing in the service area is one of the dividends of the new plan. In the case of Brooke and Wayne counties, free service has been accorded residents in adjoining counties. The main library facilities of the Mary H. Weir Library and the Cabell County Library have been extended.

Title III of the Library Services Act authorizes the financing of Inter-library cooperation through networks established for Inter-library loan. On November 2, several college and public librarians met at The Library Commission Office to discuss the feasibility of a communications network. Pictured at the right is Dora Ruth Parks, Executive Secretary, who conducted the meeting. Seated to her right is Earl Rich, Chairman of the Commission and Lucille McNary, who directs the Alpha and Stonewall Jackson Regional Libraries.



Front row in this shot shows Arthur Flandreau of Concord College, Stephen Halamy of W. Va. Tech, and William Myers of Weirton. The second row shows Carl Johnson, Jr. and Victor Young of The W. Va. Tech staff, Albert Carlson of Glenville State College, John Scott of W. Va. State, and Sandra Peterson, new Reference Librarian at the Commission who will work with the proposed network.

Mr. William Myers appears again with a new cast. On his right is Jeanine Kreyenbuhl, new director of Ohio County Library, and Nancy Jo Canterbury, Program Specialist for School Libraries. Martha Myers, Director of The Miracle Valley Region can be glimpsed in the rear. Nicholas Winowich, Director of Kanawha County Library, and Robert Munn, Director of Libraries at West Virginia University, were also in attendance (but apparently camera shy!)



COMMENTARY
ON
CONSTRUCTION

West Virginia libraries are experiencing a flurry of new construction activity as evidenced by a ground breaking ceremony at Kingwood, the laying of a cornerstone at Martinsburg, and the dedication of new library buildings at Barboursville, Romney and Glenville State College.

Ground was officially broken for the \$235,000 Kingwood Public Library on August 24th. About 100 persons watched as Dr. John Trenton, Chairman of the Kingwood Library, turned the first shovel full of dirt at the site of the new library which is scheduled for completion in about a year.

More than a thousand people braved the heaviest rain of the year to attend the dedication of the Hampshire County Library in Romney on September 28th. Loudon L. Thompson, president of the Library Board, as master-of-ceremonies, recognized the members of the Library Board, The Hampshire County Court, The Hampshire County Board of Education, the Mayor and Town Council of Romney and The Permanent Endowment Committee of the Library for their contributions in making the new library a reality. Carl Belt, the contractor, presented the keys of the building to Architect Keith Williams who then presented them to Mr. and Mrs. Holland Rannells of the Library Board. Later in the evening, Governor Hulett C. Smith, who had been delayed by the weather, made a short dedication speech. Mr. C. E. Campbell Beall, member of The West Virginia Library Commission from Martinsburg, attended the dedication ceremony.

The new \$194,259 blue brick building of the Barboursville Branch was dedicated on October 8th. Mr. James Nelson, Director for the Cabell County Library, served as master-of-ceremonies for the ribbon cutting and dedication program. Miss Lori Bias, a second grade student who read 102 books last summer in the Barboursville reading program, cut the ribbon. Sam Harshbarger, president of the Library Board and Charles C. Astle, vice-mayor of Barboursville, were the principal speakers. Mr. Astle traced the growth of the branch library from its opening in 1946 with 600 volumes to its new building with space for 20,000 volumes. The West Virginia Library Commission was represented at the dedication by its chairman, Earl E. Rich, of Welch.

U. S. Senator Jennings Randolph was the main speaker at the dedication of the new Robert F. Kidd Library at Glenville State College on October 13th. As a part of the annual homecoming week-end, tours of the library were arranged for parents and alumni the morning of the ceremony.

Dr. Todd H. Bullard, president of Potomac State College, Keyser, was the principal speaker for the cornerstone-laying at the new Martinsburg Public Library on October 15th. C. E. Campbell Beall, president of the Martinsburg Library Board, presided at the ceremony. Mayor Edwin A. Miller, County Court President Robert Burkhart and Finance Committee Chairman, Sol Cohen, placed its cornerstone. The Friends of The Library prepared a list of donors whose names were placed in a capsule inside the cornerstone as a permanent record.

MILESTONES
IN
EXTENSION SERVICE

Monroe County Bookmobile observed its twentieth anniversary in September. This was the first bookmobile placed in a small rural county in the state. The West Virginia Library Commission assigned its Field Worker, Doris Wood, to direct

the project during its first two years. Miss Wood, who is now Director of the Clermont County Library near Cincinnati, Ohio, made a return visit to Union for the observance.

Congratulations are in order for Mrs. Isabel Cruise and the Trustees of the Monroe County Traveling Library. This library has earned distinction in the service which it performs for senior citizens in remote areas of the county. The bookworms at the Andrew S. Rowan Home for The Aged at Sweet Springs as a result of the service, have adopted the motto "You Are Never Too Old To Learn."

Upgrading of Alpha Regional Library Service was the theme of the annual workshop held this year at Spencer. Mrs. Lucille McNary, Regional Librarian, presided at the meeting in the new Headquarters at 345 Market Street. Book deposits which have been the chief means of extending library service located in small stores and post offices are being officially abandoned. A new Pioneer bookmobile loaned by The West Virginia Library Commission will supplant the deposit system. Staff from seven libraries participated in a lively discussion about the new extension program. New drivers from the two bookmobiles in the area were introduced - Elmer Legg from Clay County and Charlie Weaver who will pilot the new unit in the five-county Alpha Region.

A share of the old Traveling Library Books have been combined with the library in the new Book Express Office. This facility is located at 4104-A MacCorkle Avenue, S. E., in the Kanawha City area of Charleston.

Thirty communities will be affiliated with The Book Express Office for public library service;fifteen local libraries and fifteen communities where the mobile units operate a branch library service; libraries served are located in Union, Beckley, Fayetteville, Summersville, Richwood, Green Bank, Marlinton, Lewisburg, White Sulphur Springs, Princeton, Bluefield, Welch, Logan, Mullens and Oceana.

The new staff in Kanawha City headquarters includes: Mrs. Ruth Hutzler, chief clerk, Miss Sandra Campbell, and Mrs. Mary Lou Hudson, clerical assistants; staff on mobile units includes: "Flying Book Express,"..... Charles Vassar, library assistant, and Gene Holstein, driver-clerk; "READ-O-RAMA unit,"..... Merle Moore, library assistant, and Keith Lanham, driver-clerk. The Chief Field Consultant, E. Frances Jones, will continue to supervise the Book Express service until an additional consultant is recruited.

A book selection meeting for librarians in the Book Express Area is to be held on Friday, December 1, in the new office.