



LIBRARY COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

2004 Quarrier St., Charleston, West Virginia (25311)

Vol. 14

May 1969

No. 2



KINGWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY
Dedicated April 26, 1969

Over one hundred persons attended this open air ceremony under cloudless skies in shortsleeve temperature. Congressman Harley Staggers challenged the residents "to use the opportunity which the new library offers to search out truth. The completion of the building," he reflected, "took a lot of tall thinking and tall doing. Everyone will have the opportunity, but it is up to individuals now to seek the truth which can make them free men and women."

Dr. John Trenton, President of the Board, and Mrs. Dora Goodin received the keys to the building from Robert C. Bennett, architect, and Carl O. Belt, contractor. Other members of the Library Board include Mrs. J. Wayne Schwab, Mrs. Keith Griffith, W. V. Hawkins, and Phil S. Spahr. Music was provided by the members of the Kingwood High School band.

"PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION"

An Illustrated Brochure

By J. D. King, A.I.A.

Eight new public libraries in West Virginia are featured with detailed sketches of... floor plans and photographs. Financial data is also provided. For example, the following information on the Kingwood building is included; Area 7,436 square feet; cost per square foot, \$31.62; and sources of funding: Library Services and Construction Act \$145,347, Appalachian Regional Commission \$35,574, Local Funds of \$54,210 from a special drive and municipal levy. (The Kingwood project is unique in its passage of an operating levy.)

Direct inquiries to the Library Commission if you wish copies of this publication.

Elkins Public Library building is once more moving along. Water was encountered in excavation. Caissons, which had to be installed to assure a firm foundation, have added to total project cost and delayed progress more than six months. Completion date is now set for late Fall.

College Library buildings are financed under the Higher Education Act. West Liberty College library, a \$1,800,000 structure, is in progress with completion due next January; Salem College broke ground for a \$980,000 structure, one of four buildings to be built in a twelve-month period in the Valley of Learning; and an extension at West Virginia Wesleyan College library to cost \$500,000 was recently announced.

SPARKLING NEW QUARTERS

AT

BERKELEY SPRINGS

Four years of diligent endeavor by trustees and several interested patrons bore fruit when new quarters of the Morgan County Library were displayed at Open House, April 20. New stacks with brightly jacketed books, colorful carpeting, modern furniture, and draperies have changed the former American Legion Quarters into an effective setting for a new library.

The remodeling was assisted by the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public Library Service Center. Directors of the Morgan County Library are Mrs. E. Stuart Kirkpatrick, Chairman, Mrs. J. Rockwell Martin, Mrs. William H. Hunter, Mrs. F. Glenn Kidwell, and Stuart McKinstry.

TWO REGIONAL LIBRARY MEETINGS

In May

Buckhannon

Petersburg

The Grant County Library Board served as host for the Fifth Regional Potomac Valley Library Meeting in Petersburg. "Books, Our First Commitment" was the theme for the meeting which was held at the Hermitage Motor Inn from 9:30 A. M. to 2:30 P. M. The program featured, a discussion of "Lasting Books" by David G. Nuzum, board member and Director of Student Affairs at Potomac State in Keyser; C. Reeves Taylor, President of Potomac Valley Board presided.

The Grant County Library Board is now operating a walk-in service on the lower level of the bank building in Petersburg. Service, until this year, had been limited to the mobile library which visits every third week from Keyser. Mrs. Saul McCartney operates the new facility. The host board included three Petersburg residents: Mrs. Leland Ours, President, Duke McDaniel, and Mrs. Mary Abby Gensenleiter; Mrs. Gerald Bosley, Secretary, Maysville, and Mrs. Ronald Mills of Mt. Storm.

Mrs. Mary Handlan, Eastern Area Librarian, welcomed the representatives of eight libraries, lectured on children's books, and asked each library for a five minute resume' of last year's accomplishments.

In Buckhannon, Mrs. Lucile McNary co-sponsored a meeting of the Stonewall Jackson Regional Library at the Charles W. Gibson Library May 6. Forty persons attended a program described as the "noisiest and most amusing two hours the library has had in several years." Featured on the program were Mr. Forrest H. Lowe of Clarksville, Tennessee, who gave a demonstration on book mending. Reading aids for the Handicapped were displayed.

Mrs. Margaret Forstall, librarian at the Buckhannon library, welcomed guests from Clarksburg, Elkins, Weston, Philippi, and West Virginia Wesleyan.

"LIBRARY SERVICES
FOR THE
NATION'S NEEDS"

On October 3, 1968 Wilbur Cohen, Chairman of the President's Committee on Libraries, submitted the Report of the National Advisory Commission on Libraries to President Johnson. It should be required reading for

all libraries and trustees. Following are some of the salient points regarding the report and public libraries. A commission of twenty of the nation's leaders headed by Douglas M. Knight, President of Duke, prepared this report. (Reprints have been recently been made available from the American Library Association Publishing Service at 35¢ each. Write to 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Ill. 60611

This comprehensive study covers all types of libraries, but certain of its conclusions regarding public library needs are worth noting: "Yet, important as the public library is, there are few social services so unequally provided to the American people. Residents of some cities can command the resources of enormous institutions holding many hundred of thousands, or even millions, of volumes. At the other extreme, some 20 million Americans, largely in rural areas, have no public library service at all, and some 10 million more have access only to very small libraries with very inadequate collections and little or no service from professional librarians. Indeed, only residents of cities of substantial size or of areas served by well-sustained county or regional library systems are likely to have access to reasonably adequate library service. It is essential that measures be taken to extend at least basic local public library service to every American. The encouragement of library systems, inter-library loans, and other similar approaches can give everyone ultimate access to all the library resources he needs."

In commenting on library user needs, the following observation was made: "Fifth, the Commission believes that the nation's library and other information systems will continue to be a shared responsibility of federal agencies, the states, municipalities, educational institutions, and many other public and private organizations. No monolithic federal or other centralized administrative control seems either feasible or desirable. There will have to be many different kinds of information systems and working relationships among a variety of institutions if we are to provide effective access to relevant information for our society. New systems, roles, and relationships are likely to emerge at different rates of speed in response to widely varying user needs."

The construction needs for public libraries were projected by the Commission on the basis of American Library Association studies, "Space requirements for replacement and new growth for public libraries have been estimated at \$1,132 billion for the period 1962-75."

THE VALUE
OF
READING
NLW EMPHASIS

Over two hundred news announcements appeared in West Virginia newspapers due to the impetus of National Library Week. Elkins Headline: recommended "Tote that Book!" Princeton Editorial: "The ability to read is like the ability to listen. It implies a mind that is disciplined to receive and entertain ideas..... A good reader, like a good listener, knows how to use his mind." Morgantown: Frank Heaster, "Asking me why I like to read, is like asking me why I like to breathe. It would be hard to go on living without doing both." Martinsburg Editorial: "The Public Library Requires Public Help: a plea for general tax support. A Series on "What Reading Means to Me" in the Sunset-News Observer in Bluefield included many pithy comments: C. A. Clyborne noted, that he agreed with Woodrow Wilson, "I use not only the brains I have, but all that I can borrow: The library is the one source where you can get the greatest brainpower existing, or which existed in the past. From books, you can tap the brains of the Voices of Authority."

PERSONNEL
NOTES

At Moundsville City-County Library a reception was held by Library Friends on May 24 to honor Mrs. Maxine Davidson, new librarian. A graduate of Florida State University's Library School, Mrs. Davidson has served most recently as Assistant Librarian at West Liberty State College.

Miss Sarah Estes is new librarian in charge of the Reference Service of the Headquarters Library at the Library Commission. Miss Estes, a graduate of Peabody School of Library Service, has most recently worked on the staff of the Brooklyn Public Library. She hopes to visit a number of Teletype Installations in the near future.

LIBRARIES
IN
STATE INSTITUTIONS

For months, Miss Nancy Taylor and her staff have been working like beavers to have their libraries ready for inspection during May, traditional period for Open House. Over 6,000 new volumes have been installed in the attractively furnished rooms. Library Assistants Carol Parsons at Colin-Anderson Center and Lakin Hospital, "Sam" Stalnaker at Spencer, and Donald Hansen at Barboursville and Huntington, invite their library friends to stop by for a visit.

Every effort is being made to treat hospital residents like patrons in a public library. Library cards are being issued which hopefully will be honored as patients leave hospitals and visit public libraries in their home communities.

Periodicals, paperback books, and many audio-visual aids, such as recordings, viewmaster slides, and pictures, are being stocked. The Libraries will need volunteers to supplement their regular staff in order to bring hours of service up to 45 per week. Volunteer assistance in these libraries from neighboring communities will be welcomed.

"Open Your Heart and Your Hand to the Mentall Ill," theme for Mental Health Association, 1969.

KEEP UP TO DATE
WITH
LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS

New and pertinent publication for the librarian and the trustee: "An Overview of the Library Services and Construction Act, Title I" by Ray M. Fry, published by R. R. Bowker, 1180 Avenue of the Americas, New York, 10036 \$7.65. A second volume by the same company is "The Library Trustee" by Virginia Young, \$8.25. From the American Library Association "Costs of Public Library Service, 1968, and a "Primer About Library Systems." The Library Commission will supply copies of the American Library Association publications gratis. The Bowker publications will be ordered and loaned as regular library materials.