

LIBRARY COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. 17

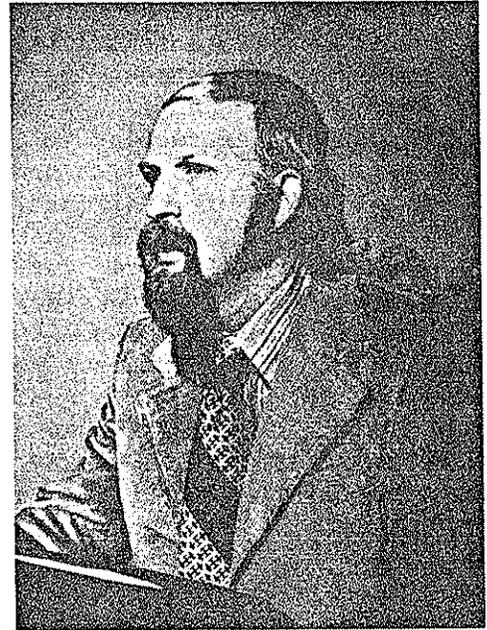
February 1972

No. 1

VIRGINIA'S LOSS IS THE MOUNTAIN
STATE'S GAIN !!!

The new director of the West Virginia Library Commission, shown opposite, reported to work on February tenth. Library Association members who were intrigued and entertained by him in his capacity as speaker and consultant during their October convention can now welcome him as a bonafide resident. He is living on Fort Hill in Charleston with his wife Sylvia, their four year old son and infant daughter.

Born thirty five years ago in Portsmouth, Virginia, Mr. Glazer received his early education there. His academic training was earned at Columbia University where he received a B.A. degree in economics in 1958 and the M.S. in Library Science in 1964. Prior to becoming a professional librarian, the new director was employed in the advertising field. A two year stint as a library assistant in the Special Services Library at Fort Lee gave him the inspiration for a library career. Having been sponsored by the Norfolk Public Library during library school, he returned there to serve as reference librarian in the Business, Technology, and Social Science Department.



Frederic J. Glazer

Most recently the Library Commission's new executive secretary completed five productive years as Director of the Chesapeake Public Library System. He was instrumental in securing a new main building and a branch structure. "Get It At The Library" and "Easy Reader" are examples of a successful poster series which Mr. Glazer created for National Library Week promotions in Virginia and the Southeast. "THE WORLD OF BOOKS" was a weekly ten minute radio program which he sponsored in Chesapeake.

LEGISLATORS
CAN BE
LIFE SAVERS!

On January nineteenth the Library Commission's budget for the 1972-73 year was discussed at the Legislative hearings in both Senate and House Finance Committees in the Capitol Building. Mr. Glazer presented the budget of \$1,177,861 which would raise the per capita funding from 8.5¢ to 62¢ as follows; "It's our pleasure to appear before you today to prevail upon your good judgement in order that library service be extended to the nearly 300,000 people of our state who are without library service, and of equal importance, to seek to expand the level of State support for library service above that of the cost of an 8 cent pack of life savers.

We have presented each of you with a symbolic pack of life savers which we hope will become "library savers" in that they will remind you that the extent of State support for public libraries is only equal to providing each man, woman, and child with one pack of eight cent candy.

If granted, these funds will be channeled directly to the localities as outlined on the pages we have given you. The results of these monies can be realized through providing your constituents with more adequate library materials and services.

Secondly, we should like to call your attention to the needs of a building program to house the collections in six communities. The \$1 million sought from the State amounts to less than 1/4 of the total needed. An infusion of funds from the Library Services and Construction Act, Appalachian Regional Commission, and local sources swell this total to \$4.8 million and will provide for construction funds for Roane, Raleigh, Putnam, Parkersburg, Fairmont, and Clarksburg. At this time all carry over construction funds have been depleted.

Your concern and consideration for raising the level of library service towards minimal standards is shared by the thousands of library users throughout the State and especially by those without recourse to mobile or branch facilities.

Public libraries in West Virginia need not exist to glorify or enhance the level of service in neighboring states, nor should our libraries be the quantitative doormat in measuring library service. You have the opportunity to begin to raise our libraries to the position of second to none and the envy of many.

Our present budget amounts to only point 17% of the state budget. To meet our request would entitle us to point 58% - a very small amount of the total expended by state government, yet meaningful to improve our libraries. To fund localities and construction at present levels will have us still plateaued at point 17%. We sincerely hope that it will be your pleasure to raise us up."

Introduced at the hearings were four Library Commission members: Mrs. William Hopkins from Gassaway, Mr. Harry Esbenshade of Parkersburg, Mrs. Campbell Beall of Martinsburg, and Mrs. Jane Glaser of Charleston. Librarians who spoke for the request included Miss Judy Rule, Assistant Director of Cabell County, Mrs. Mary Louise Graham of Raleigh County, Mr. Elliott Horton of Morgantown, Mrs. Maxine Feldmeir of Moundsville, and Miss Merle Moore of Clarksburg.

NEWS FROM
LIBRARY BOARDS

Mrs. William F. Hopkins of Gassaway, has been elected to serve another year as chairman of the West Virginia Library Commission. Mrs. Hopkins first took over the chairmanship in 1969. Returning to membership on the Commission is Campbell Beall of Martinsburg. He replaces Guy Stone of Charleston. Other members of the Commission include Harry Esbenshade of Parkersburg, Mrs. Holland Rannells of Romney, and Mrs. Richard Glaser of Charleston.

William F. Dalzell, president of the City-County Library Board of Moundsville, passed away suddenly in October. He was a staunch friend of public libraries statewide. In his own community he brought about the merger of two separate libraries and piloted the campaign for the new building completed in 1962. Retiring from the Clarksburg Public Library Board is Clinton F. Israel, who served for 21 years as treasurer. Members of the City Council were unanimous in praise of his services.

TRANSITION
IN COLLEGES

Dr. Kenneth T. Black, Associate Director of the University of Utah Libraries, will succeed Harold Apel at Marshall University. Bruce Arrowood of North Carolina succeeds Mrs. Ruth Murphy at Parkersburg Community College.

NEW FACES IN
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Bluefield Public Library has selected Mrs. Luella Dye to direct the proposed Jack Craft Memorial County Library. Mrs. Dye is still employed at Logan High School and will be serving the library on a consulting basis until next September, when she completes her work at the University of Kentucky. Fred Natale has been appointed Assistant Director at Mary H. Weir Library in Weirton. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Mr. Natale comes to Weirton from the Baltimore County Library System.

Helen Lind is the new children's librarian at St. Albans, a graduate of Peabody Library School and a former staff member at Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore. She succeeds Mrs. Nancy Van Auken who moved to Virginia.

New librarian at the Northern Hancock Area Library in Chester is Mrs. Donald Murray. Working hard to make a new library a reality in Hamlin is Hettie Roush. We would like to welcome Mrs. Pat Cumberledge to Pleasants County Library in St. Marys. She replaces Lorraine Balmain who has resigned.

NEW PROJECTS IN
BOOK EXPRESS AREA

Three new developments are brightening the local scene in central and southern West Virginia. Two libraries with new library boards are working to match funds with the Library Commission for improvement grants: Monroe County Library at Union has enlisted the support of several organizations—the Ruritan Clubs, the Home Demonstration Clubs, the Rotary Club, the County Court, and the Board of Education. Mrs. Betty Dransfield, Board Chairman, reports that funds are assured for building new entrances, installing new lighting, and the removal of partitions. Monroe County since 1947 had used its building as a headquarters for a mobile unit. The renovation will convert it to an attractive Reading Room with more emphasis on walk-in service.

Richwood Public Library had not operated with an active library board for many years. Under the guidance of Mayor Merle White a new ordinance has been passed by City Council to place the library under the regulations of the West Virginia Code. A new board has been appointed and is in the process of organization. The Richwood Board is also planning to earn an improvement grant with renovation of a storefront room which has served as a library since 1942. A new heating system, a modern drop ceiling incorporating better lighting, and a major rearrangement of the room is in the works. The new board has approached the Nicholas County Court for assistance. Both Summersville and Richwood had been dependent solely on municipal support. Since they both serve county residents they believe their libraries warrant a broader base of support.

In Hamlin a brand new library is emerging which represents the cooperation of several agencies. The City Government offered rent free attractive quarters in City Hall, the heart of the trading area. The Southwestern Community Action Program enlisted assistance from Operation Mainstream to build shelving. (Mainstream is a group of senior citizens who are learning cabinet work). Mrs. Brenda Tully of the Community Action Program corralled the support, and Mayor Clarence Monday and the new board chairman, Mrs. Mary Wilkerson, are still firming up the organization.

LIBRARY SERVICES AND
CONSTRUCTION ACT
SLASHED

The Washington Newsletter published by the American Library Association reports on the President's 1973 budget in its January 26, 1972 issue. "Of its \$6.1 billion education budget, \$138,730,000 was earmarked for library programs."

Public librarians and trustees who are interested in construction should take note: Fiscal 1973 proposal by the President is \$16,568,000 less than in the current year. There is no recommendation for Construction funds in Title II, and Interlibrary cooperation is proposed at approximately the same level as in the current year.

A CABIN CREEK PILOT PROJECT
FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Mrs. Dollie Rapping, Director of the New Regional Library for the Blind and Handicapped reports that a former Cabin Creek teacher, Mrs. Helma Turner Forsyth, is sponsoring a canvass of blind readers in one of Kanawha County's famous hollows. Mrs. Forsyth has become blind and is an avid user of Talking Books. WVLC has produced 2,000 copies of a letter in which Mrs. Forsyth says, "You may have a brother or a sister, an aunt or an uncle, or even a father or a mother with whom I shared my love of reading, for I taught English, French, and Speech in your vicinity for twenty seven years. Perhaps that is the reason I feel a special need to tell you about the wonderful program our U.S. Government offers those who can no longer read because of blindness or some other physical disability." The technique of sending a letter home has worked well for schools. It should work for libraries too!

A READER INTEREST PROFILE
FOR STATE WORKERS

"Out of Sight But Not Out Of Mind" Since the transferral of the Library Commission's headquarters library to Kanawha City, use of its fine resources has declined. To rekindle interest in the use of this Social Science and Government collection, the Library Commission is surveying special interests of professionals who are state employees. A special mail service has been designed by Miss Judith Prosser for state employees who complete interest profiles.

WHY NOT STAGE
A BOOK FAIR?

The Book Express Office will make available up to 500 new juvenile publications for display. About sixty publishers supply advance copies of their books to state library agencies. Public libraries have found these a lively source of materials for special displays, and college libraries use these to supplement their resources for the students of children's literature. Write to 3701 McCorkle Avenue, S.E., Charleston, W. Va. 25304, Attention: E. Frances Jones.

START PLANNING FOR NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK NOW!

Honorary Chairman: Jim Comstock, Editor of Hillbilly

State Theme: "LIBRARIES.....WHERE IT'S AT!!!!"

For West Virginia materials contact the Instructional Materials Center
300 McClain Avenue

Date: April 16-23, 1972 Morgantown, West Virginia 26505

Co-chairmen: Mr. James Smith of the IMC Center and Mrs. Janet Callaghan, University School Librarian in Morgantown