

LIBRARY COMMISSION

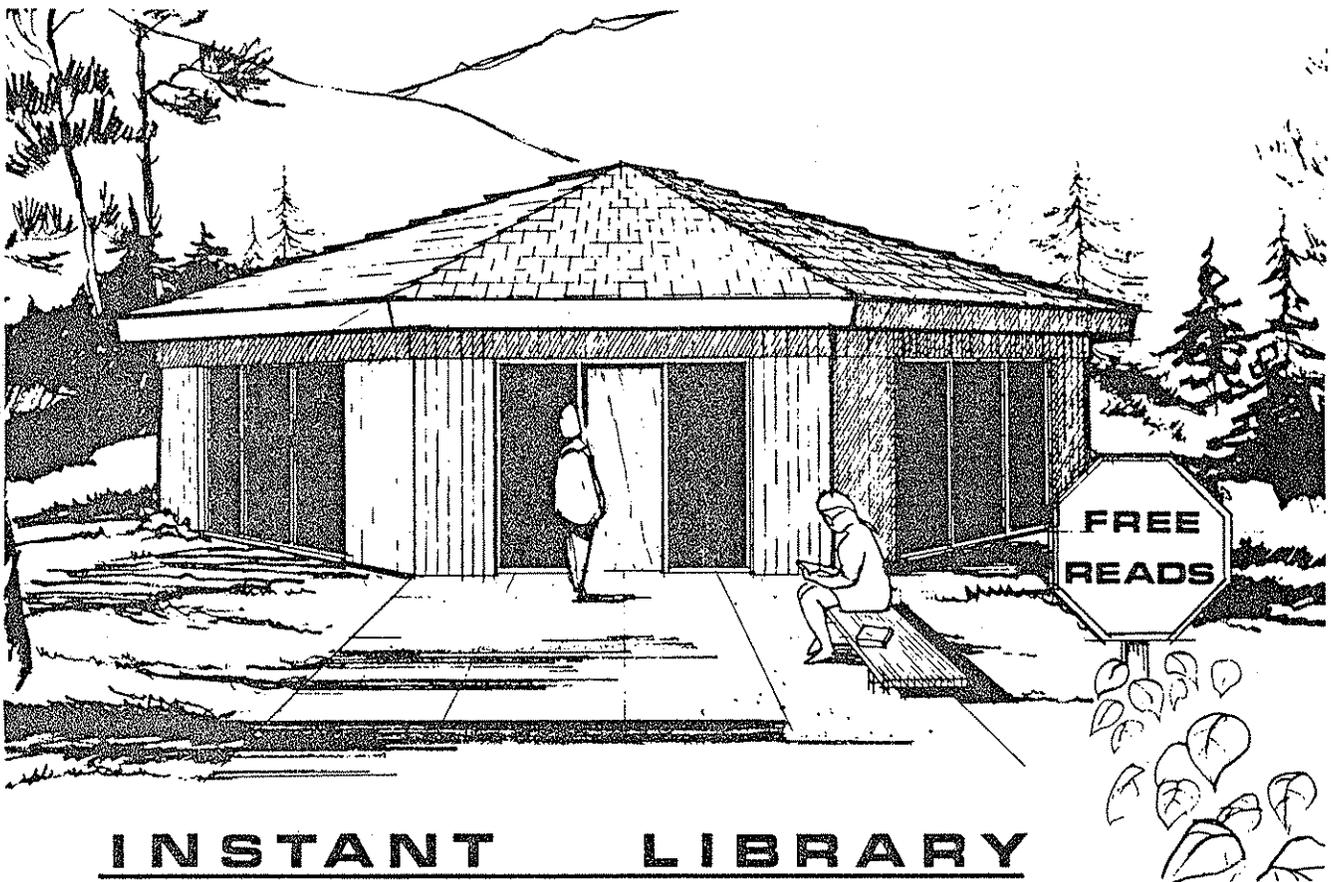
NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. 17

November 1972

No. 4



INSTANT LIBRARY

Labeled as "Carousel" or "Merry-Go-Round" Libraries, the new prefab construction planned by the West Virginia Library Commission is drawing enthusiastic comment. Frederic J. Glazer, Director of the Commission, conceived the Prefab idea and J. D. King, Architectural Consultant for the Commission, with his staff, fashioned, first, a balsa wood model in an octagonal shape and in October, completed detailed specifications for the builder.

The contract to produce two pilot modules was awarded to Game Time, Inc., of Litchfield, Michigan. These novel mini-libraries will afford 1,200 square feet

of space in an all wood shell, constructed on a concrete slab. Fluid use of space will be encouraged with movable equipment; estimates of capacity are 6,000 volumes, 25 readers, and seating for 60 to 100 for auditorium use. A second module of 800 square feet will be available to create a cluster effect, affording a total of 2,000 square feet.

An inventory of potential sites which seem appropriate for the new style buildings produced about 30 suburban locations within or adjoining cities to operate as branches in a library system and a list of 40 potential rural locales where the separate library building will be a novelty on the landscape. "The Instant Library Program" involves several service concepts which go beyond the physical building: a minimum of 30 to 40 hours of service per week will be required (including two evenings and half days on Saturday).

A shared responsibility will be unique in the first year's management of the Instant Library: the Library Commission will provide the shell and supply the basic structure of slab foundation and utilities. In the case of county libraries using the "Instant Library" for branch housing, all operating expense must be borne by the county library. Libraries which are affiliates of Regional or Service Center Libraries, or the Book Express Office, must supply \$2,500 minimum in local support and may then request assistance from the Library Commission. Appropriate sites must be supplied by the local community, and leased locations may be considered.

Applications for Instant Libraries are still being received either directly at the Library Commission or through sponsorship of Center and Regional Libraries.

TRY US -
YOU'LL LIKE
US!

The West Virginia Library Commission is pleased to call to your attention its Code-a-Phone library service, available to all West Virginia libraries. This toll-free telephone service may be used to order books, magazines, and other materials not available in local libraries, or to place requests for the services offered by the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Hooked into a state-wide library teletype system, the Code-a-Phone operates from the Commission's central facilities in Charleston, making available more than 3 million volumes to the library patrons of West Virginia. Emergency information from books and magazines may be requested through this new service. Ask your librarian to contact the Commission directly. In order to save time, the Library Commission suggests that librarians and handicapped readers calling on the Code-a-Phone speak slowly and distinctly, giving detailed information concerning their request.

CODE-A-PHONE NO. 1-800-642-9021

MODEL
A B E PROJECT
at
CABELL COUNTY

An organized effort to attract the Adult Basic Education student to the public library is the goal of a nine month demonstration project centered in Huntington. This is part of a program of the Appalachian Educational Center located at Morehead State University. The \$47,000 grant includes plans for seven additional staff members. According to James B. Nelson, Director, Cabell County Library was selected because "Ours is a strong library with ongoing services to the rural areas and there are a number of adult learning centers throughout Putnam, Wayne, and Cabell Counties". Some of the centers will get bookmobile service while others will have circulating collections.

The target group for the pilot program includes an estimated 10,000 disadvantaged, underachieving, rural, poor adults, many of whom are second and third generation welfare recipients. A ten member Advisory Board is to be appointed for the project; half of the membership of the board is to be representative of the clientele. Serving ex officio on the board will be the director of the Cabell Library and the ABE Supervisor.

Some of the unique activities include: Training each ABE teacher to ask each of his adult students, "1. What do you like to do? 2. Have you been using a library or bookmobile? (If you have, what for? If not, why not?) 3. Do your children use any libraries? 4. What would you like to read? 5. What do you feel you need to read?" ABE teachers will be compensated for the additional paper work which the project entails. Bus service to the Hurricane headquarters of the Putnam County Library is under consideration. Door to door invitations will be extended to recruit adults to public library services and to Adult Basic Education classes by Labauch Literacy workers.

Mrs. Phyllis M. Gould, who has been employed in the Cabell County bookmobile program, has been named coordinator of the program. Her research, interviewing, and planning staff includes Gail Noyes, Ruth Ann Lynch, and Daniel Numrich. Mr. Nelson has recently been appointed to A.L.A.'s Committee on Library Service for the Disadvantaged, along with John Scott.

"TEEN AGE
FRIENDS"
in
MORGAN COUNTY
LIBRARY

John Newbraugh, member of the Morgan County Public Library Board in Berkeley Springs, is the official sponsor of this unique group of sixty teen agers. Some of the goals of the group include "developing public understanding of today's library, acquiring important materials beyond existing budget, presenting film programs, book reviews, and literary awards". Membership is \$1.00.

During a recent showing of Meads Davenport's art, sponsored by the new Hamlin Public Library, a drive for memberships in the Friends of the Library Group was launched (\$3.00 for individuals and \$5.00 for a couple). Raleigh County Library hopes to lead the state when they hold a kickoff campaign meeting of Friends (November 8). Their goal is 600 members.

THE R-O-R
GOES to
GREENBRIER

In October, the Book Express trailer dubbed "The Read-o-Rama" started service in three towns which had no libraries. Several thousand new borrowers were registered in Ronceverte, Rupert, and Rainelle.

The staff working with the unit, Frances Jones, Keith Lanham, and Herbert Beckett, were gratified with the response to ribbon cuttings and band playing. Traffic in the mobile unit at Rainelle can be described only as "wall to wall people". This mobile unit is now on a four week circuit serving Mercer, McDowell, Logan, and Greenbrier Counties.

THE CAST
CHANGES IN
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Two new library directors, both native West Virginians, took their bows in public libraries in September. Clarence Coffindaffer, graduate of Salem College, who completed his library science training at the University of Pittsburgh in August, has accepted the position left vacant by Mrs. Lucile McNary at Stonewall Jackson Regional Library in Buckhannon. Mrs. McNary is now working full-time from the Alpha Regional Library in Spencer. Mrs. Luella Dye, native of Harrison County and graduate of Glenville College, with library science training from the University of Kentucky, becomes the first director of the new Service Center at Bluefield Public Library.

Joining the staff of Mary H. Weir Library in Weirton is John W. Forsys, Jr., who has just finished his training in library science at the University of North Carolina. Mr. Forsys is a native of Weirton who had worked several years under Bill Myers while still a student.

Changes in special staff for Children's Services include Mrs. "Robin" Hobbs who had worked in Cabell County's Children's Department while training at Marshall University. "Robin" replaced Mrs. Dorothy Vass at the Raleigh County Library in Beckley. Mrs. Vass has moved to Washington, D. C., with her family. In Kanawha County, Frances Hubbard, a graduate of West Virginia State College, has just returned from library science training at Atlanta University to succeed Helen Lind in the new St. Albans Children's Room. Miss Helen Lind is now Head Librarian of the Children's Room in Kanawha County's Main Library. Wilma Brown, who served as director of Boys' and Girls' Room in Charleston for twenty-eight years, will be advising Nitro, Dunbar, and South Charleston on children's library services.

John Tribby, graduate of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Library Science, became professional Reference Librarian at Clarksburg in September.

Trustee changes due to resignations include Mrs. R. G. Ogilvie, who replaced Joel Stern on the board of Carnegie Library of Parkersburg and Wood County. New chairman of that board is Don Northrup, a former member whom we welcome back to the fold. Mrs. Mark Russell, a long time member and President of the Williamson Public Library Board, has been replaced by Mrs. Edward M. Sohn.

REPORT
from
W. V. L. A.
AT CLARKSBURG
SEPT. 21-23

The banquet speaker, Dr. Virginia Lacy Jones, challenged the 200 librarians assembled to view themselves "as dynamic educators, concerned with broad fields of communication Assume this responsibility fully aware of the power of knowledge and dedicated to using this power to bring about constructive social action and change".

The members and staff of the Library Commission presented a program on the second day of the convention to stimulate a wider understanding of the Long Range State Plan for Library Development in West Virginia. Fred Glazer, Commission Director, introduced Jay Morrison, from the Governor's Federal-State Relations Office, who reported on the "Implications of the New Administrative Districts in State Government". The eleven new districts represent a partnership approach to a more effective use of federal funds. A Handbook is available which details functions of the District Directors and the composition of the council. Regional and Service Center Libraries were urged to use these new channels, and librarians will be welcomed on the new District Boards.

Four members of the Library Commission participating in a model Commission meeting included Harry Esbenshade, Mrs. Jane Glaser, C. E. Campbell Beall, and Mrs. William Hopkins. The thrust of their discussion on the plan emphasized improved local funding as the foundation of good public library service. Dramatizing the value of libraries was described as the best avenue to improved finance. An original slide production using six carousels with a taped commentary praising the value of libraries concluded the program. (An original production by Commission Staff.)

Hoyt Galvin, the dean of Public Library Building Consultants, discussed the "Planning Team" in an afternoon session. The team consists of the governing authority or library board, the librarian, the architect, the consultant, and the interior planner. He reported the astonishing increase of eighteen percent in construction costs of public libraries in recent years as compared with a five percent growth in general construction cost.

New officers elected were as follows: Josephine Fidler, President, (Marshall University Library); Elliott Horton, First Vice-President, (Morgantown Public Library); Merle Moore, Second Vice-President, (Clarksburg Public Library); Judy Rule, Secretary, (Cabell County Public Library); R. David Childers, Treasurer, (West Virginia Library Commission). Section Chiefs include: Elizabeth Fair, Public Libraries, (Ohio County Public Library); Barbara Bonfili, School Libraries (Morgantown Board of Education); Donna Hudson, Special Libraries, (Medical School Library of West Virginia University); Louis Gill, College and Universities Section, (West Virginia College of Graduate Studies).

BRICKS AND MORTAR
in
OCTOBER

Leading the construction competition in public library circles is the Jackson County Library Board with two ground breakings on September 26th in Ripley and Ravenswood! (If they had been twenty-four hours apart, the Perry O'Brien shovel brigade would have been bombed. They take no chances with these rivals in Jackson County!) The

Abbitt Construction Company of Charleston has the contract for a total of \$417,000.

Cameron Hunter, architect for Zando, Martin and Milstead, completed Bluefield Public Library plans and the specifications have been mailed to six potential bidders.

Construction is to be completed on the Ohio County Library building in Wheeling by November 1. The staff is storing the library in boxes, but moving date is not imminent for equipment is still at the requisition stage. Of state-wide significance is the legal action being instituted by the Ohio County Board of Education challenging the library board's ownership of the building which it has occupied for seventy years. The school board contends that the special law governing the library is invalid. The library board has entered a counter suit to fight the case. Hearings in circuit court have not been scheduled as yet, but library trustees across the state will want to watch this closely.

Still in the planning stage are library projects at Clarksburg, Huntington, Parkersburg, Hurricane, and Shinnston. The Woman's Club of Shinnston has completed a successful public subscription drive to raise funds for the renovation of the interior of the 100 year old Benjamin Franklin Lowe home, located in downtown Shinnston. The renovations were scheduled to begin the first week of October.

In Huntington, library staff and patrons feel they have outgrown their seventy year old facility, which cannot be expanded. Plans are being made to schedule a public referendum, perhaps next spring, to raise local funds for new facilities in Huntington plus three new branch buildings at locations around Cabell County, and a new parking lot for the present facility at Barboursville. Total cost for the five projects is estimated at four million dollars.

Putnam County Library has been offered property at the Putnam Village Shopping center, at the intersection of I-64 and Route 34, provided the land is put to immediate use as a library building site. The offer was made by Mr. Eugene Imbrogno, developer of the shopping center. Selection of a site is the next step for the Parkersburg Junior League, which has adopted a new Wood County Library as a promotional project. The League has already allocated \$15,000 in funds, and has established funding, site, building, and public information committees. The present library building was built for the Parkersburg community by a donation from Andrew Carnegie in 1905, and is not suited for expansion.

The West Virginia Board of Regents awarded the Mellon-Stuart Company of Fairmont a contract for renovation of the library at Fairmont State College and construction of an addition thereto. L. D. Schmidt and Son, also of Fairmont, has designed a two story addition which should approximately double present library facilities. The bid totaled \$1,006,000, including construction of a small television studio within the library. Construction is estimated at fourteen months.

NATIONAL
CITATIONS
on
TRUSTEES

Development of public libraries in West Virginia has quickened its pace in the past few years due in large measure to some outstanding Trustees. The Library Commission has received sample data sheets from the American Library Association which could serve as a guide for library directors or Boards of Trustees who feel they have a likely candidate. The deadline for filing is December 15th; Chairman of this year's jury is: Mary Louise Rheay, Atlanta Public Library, 126 Carnegie Way, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Though selections will be limited to two, assurance is given that equal consideration will be given to trustees of small, medium, and large public libraries. Direct inquiries to Frances Jones at the Commission.

LIBRARIES ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL REVENUE

SHARING

At 12:30 p.m. on Friday, October 20, President Nixon signed into law the new revenue sharing legislation, the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972 (HR 14370). It provides for the distribution of funds to state and local governments over a five year period, effective retroactively to January 1, 1972. For the calendar year 1972, \$5.3 billion is to be distributed to state and local governments, one third to the states and two thirds to the localities. The first round of checks is to be mailed out from Washington early in December, 1972.

Of approximately \$3.5 billion which may be used for "priority expenditures", the term "priority" is specifically defined as (1) "ordinary and necessary maintenance and operating expenses for public safety, environmental protection, public transportation, health, recreation, libraries, social service for the poor or aged, and financial administration; (2) ordinary and necessary capital expenditures as authorized by law".