

WVLC Newsletter

West Virginia Library Commission

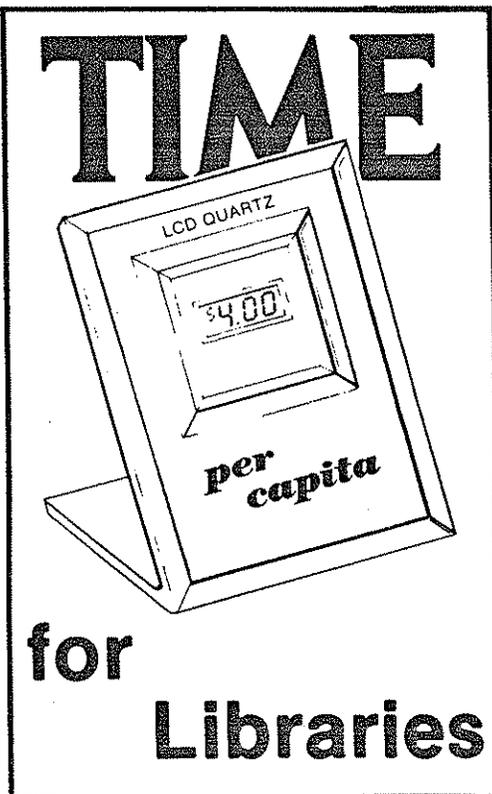
March 1985

Vol. 28 No. 1

Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life - M. Adler

Better libraries for the better life - F. Glazer

WEST VIRGINIANS URGED TO FIND "TIME FOR LIBRARIES"



Frederic J. Glazer Director
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RUSSELL BAKER

APPRECIATION DAY DINNER

The twelfth Annual Library Appreciation Day Dinner sponsored by the West Virginia Library Association and honoring Governor Arch A. Moore, Jr. and the members of the Sixty-seventh West Virginia Legislature will be held Tuesday, March 19th, at the Charleston Civic Center. The evening will begin with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m.. Governor Moore, Senate President Dan Tonkovich and House Speaker Joseph P. Albright will have an opportunity for remarks to an expected crowd of 1,000 library supporters.

Guest speaker for the evening will be author/columnist Russell Baker, twice winner of the Pulitzer Prize. For the past twenty-three years, Baker has written "Observer," a 750-word humor column that appears three times a week in the *New York Times* and 475
(cont. page 2)



"...try to reach recommended goal of 2 books per capita..."

"...utility costs are currently one-sixth of our budget..."

"...new branch at petition of over 500 residents..."

"...increase programs for the elderly..."

"...we definitely need more books; that part of budget is cut each year..."

"...we will not be able to give employees a raise for the second year..."

"...\$4 per capita would mean we could pay the power bill and quit blowing on our hands so we can type. Anyway, who wants to get their hands on an old cold book; wouldn't you much rather have a hot best seller?"

Additionally, the West Virginia Library Commission budget request includes an improvement level request of \$4,348,000 which would build and remodel needed and antiquated facilities in 28 communities. LSCA Title II (Construction) funds have been made available for the first time since 1973. West Virginia is entitled to \$259,940 in Federal funds if state matching funds of \$176,421 are made available.

The grant-in-aid and construction monies will filter into all regions of the state and the expectation of funding at needed levels will depend upon the involvement of vocal community supporters of the library program.

Any inquiries relative to the Library Commission's budget should be directed to David Childers, Assistant to the Director.

WVLC BUDGET HEARINGS

House: March 19, 10 am Room 460

The West Virginia Library Association's Annual Library Appreciation Day Dinner will be held in support of the West Virginia Library Commission's budget which seeks \$4 per capita for the state's 172 public libraries.

Expressions of need have been received from each library, calling attention to the inadequacy of the current state and local dollars needed to maintain their on-going full library service programs. Most heard were:

"...commitment to adult literacy programs..."

"...provide more outreach services to community groups and schools lacking library service..."

"...update old reference books for students..."

APPRECIATION DAY DINNER *cont.*

newspapers that subscribe to the *Times News Service*. Baker is regarded today as one of America's most literate and successful humorists.

Born in Loudoun County, Virginia, Baker lived in Virginia, New Jersey and Maryland. He began his newspaper career in 1947 as a reporter for the *Baltimore Sun* and subsequently worked in London and Washington, D.C..

In 1983, Baker won the Pulitzer Prize for his autobiographical book, *Growing Up*, which has been described as "...a wondrous book, funny, sad and strong. Above all, it can make us see that the family cruelties we have suffered are often cultural and not personal - and that to recognize this is to begin to forgive."

Russell Baker can best be appreciated doing what a good humorist has always done; writing to preserve his sanity for at least one more day.

The Complete Catalog; Everything you wanted to know about West Virginia.

A time frame for the compiling of *The Catalog* would be difficult. From concept to print was roughly two years, but much of the information existed in a file folder well before the concept. Perhaps I should first explain the "why" to help clarify "how long". The Reference Library constantly receives questions on our state, because I kept track of the state documents, the questions usually fell on my desk. Normally the requests were from school children who needed very basic information on the state. The big problem was there was no one source available to them. Information on the State Seal or Flag was available from the Secretary of State, but if you also needed information on the animal or bird, you had to contact the Department of Natural Resources. Rather than have students write to all the different branches of state government, it seemed much more logical to create one source of information.

Decisions on what to include followed two basic principles. First, what questions are asked most often? Secondly, brief items to peak curiosity and encourage further reading were considered. Sources were widely varied. Blue Books, state histories, journals, local history pamphlets, even scripts from displays in the state museum were reviewed.

The original concept was for a looseleaf publication that could be placed in all of the state libraries, public, school, and academic, to give the greatest accessibility. To aid students line drawings were included that could be easily photocopied for school assignments. It was believed that by

making it a 'notebook' type format patrons could copy just those portions they needed. Apparently, we whought wrong. Instead of portions, interest was expressed in the total publication. So . . . back to the printer with a radical change in format.

Though often refered to as a "trivia book", *The Catalog* is actually a fact book. We hope just enough information is included to lead to a further study of our state's history. An effort was made to create a publication that would be of value to readers of any age group. From the youngest school student to the oldest citizen of our state it is a link to our symbols and our heritage.

J. D. Waggoner, WVLC Reference
Department

E. Frances Jones 1917 - 1985



E. Frances Jones, retired Chief Field consultant for the West Virginia Library Commission, died January 30 after a short illness.

Miss Jones was born and raised in Parkersburg. Following commitments to education, a tour of service with the Army in Alaska, and an introduction to librarianship in Ohio, Miss Jones returned to the Mountain State in 1963 as a member of the Library Commission staff.

In her extensive travels around the state, Miss Jones counseled trustees, assisted library staffs, urged the construction of new libraries and the improvement and expansion of those facilities already established.

She was responsible for the establishment of a regional library for the blind and physically handicapped

and the initiation of library service to state institutions.

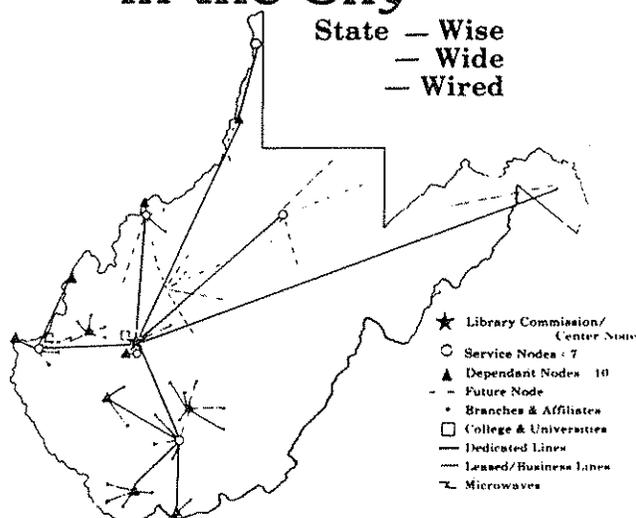
One of her most outstanding achievements was the development of the innovative Marshall University Library Skills Institute.

In 1977, the West Virginia Library Association awarded her its prestigious Dora Ruth Parks Award for Meritorious Service.

After a distinguished seventeen-year career with the Library Commission, Miss Jones retired on September 30, 1980.

It is not often that a person can leave a lasting impression; Miss Jones will, indeed, be long remembered for her immense contribution to library development in West Virginia.

That Bibliographic Highway in the Sky



Library Journal featured an article on West Virginia's statewide automation and networking plan in its February 1 issue.

The article describes the development and current status of the system which was commissioned in November 1980 to Vino Chachra, founder of the Center for Library Automation at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI). After thoroughly investigating the state of the art in library technology, Chachra's report, "West Virginia Library Commission, Library Automation Plan," was presented and endorsed by the Commission in October 1981.

The plan essentially consists of a fourlevel hierarchy anchored by the center node at the Commission. The next tier creates eight regional nodes covering the state. Third and fourth tier levels allow for dependent and shared nodes within each region.

After seven months spent examining the most efficient and economical methods to carry out the recommendations, the VTLS software was recommended by the State's Information Systems Service Division. Running on off-the-shelf Hewlett-Packard hardware, the VTLS system provides for all functions of cataloging, circulation, acquisitions, interlibrary loan and networking as well as easy maintenance and expandability.

The first service node to become operational was Cabell County which also included libraries in surrounding

counties. In June of 1983, the "Southern Five," consisting of Boone, Fayette, McDowell, Mercer and Raleigh counties became the first multicounty operation. At present, seven other nodes have been established at Martinsburg, Clarksburg, Parkersburg, Kanawha County, The Northern Panhandle (Moundsville and Weirton), Marshall University and West Virginia State College. Through the shared system concept, fifteen counties are now part of the program.

A proposal submitted to West Virginia's Board of Regents would extend the system to all other state public and private colleges and universities. This proposal has been included in the Regents' "Master Plan For Higher Education." Schools and special libraries are also encouraged to link up with the nodes within their area, or to access the center through the 800 numbers.

Anticipated new services from the network center include: 1) placing the state's newspaper index online; 2) an automated circulation and booking system for the Commission's film collection; and 3) entering the state's information and referral file for online access.

West Virginia has pioneered several library developments during the past decade - the Instant Library; Outpost Library; the plastic Statewide Borrower's Card - the frontier spirit is taking us to the limits one more time.

Hears To You Expands Service

The Radio Reading Service of West Virginia is happy to report that we are now live and on the air in the Beckley area! We are very pleased to finally be serving patrons in this part of the state. Beckley area radio receivers as well as Charleston and Huntington receivers are available free on loan to qualified patrons in this area. If you know of someone who would be interested in this service, ask them to call the Coordinator at 1-800-642-8674.

Hears To You, has added some new programming of interest; Dr. Byte's Computer News, Grace Wagner's Recipe exchange and Fortune Magazine with Charlie Carter, who calls himself the Fortune Hunter. The Radio Reading Service works hand in hand with the West Virginia Library Commission's Blind and Physically Handicapped Services ---- whatever they can't supply on cassette or disc, we read on the air. Patrons can hear daily newspapers, the West Virginia Hillbilly, the Smithsonian, People Magazine and much more.

12th Annual Library Skills Institute

The twelfth Annual Library Skills Institute will be held May 12-24 on the campus of Marshall University in Huntington.

Besides the first year course in basic library management, additional course offerings will be Cataloging, West Virginia Source Materials, and Utilization of Audiovisual Aids. In-state public librarians attending the first year course will have all expenses except travel paid by the Library Commission. In-state public librarians attending the other classes will have to pay \$100 plus travel. Out-of-state students and nonpublic librarians may attend any class for \$300 (double room occupancy) or \$350 (single room occupancy).

For more information, contact Shirley A. Smith, West Virginia Library Commission, Cultural Center, Charleston, WV 25305, phone: (304) 348-2041.



Secretary of State A. James Manchin presents State Library Commission Director Frederic Glazer with the first official notary public commissions for librarians throughout the state. The Secretary of State called the effort a "benchmark accomplishment".

Secretary of State A. James Manchin, in one of his final acts as the Secretary of State and before assuming the duties of Treasurer of State, and working in close cooperation with State Library Commission Director Frederic Glazer, announces the commissioning of almost 200 librarians throughout West Virginia as notaries public. Manchin, who is the state's notary public administrator, called this initial group of appointments a "benchmark" and said it would bring notaries public closer to the citizens who require their services. "Until now," Manchin said, "there were areas in West Virginia that were literally without the necessary services of a notary public. If a person needed to have a document notarized, he would often be forced to travel to the county courthouse in search of a notary public. But now, we are commissioning librarians throughout the state so people can make the short journey to

their neighborhood library instead of traveling what can often be many miles to the county seat." In addition to providing important notarial service, the move will also establish many West Virginia libraries as voter's registration offices. Utilizing the postcard voter's registration form, which allows individuals to register to vote by mail, the librarians can now act as voter registrars. "What we have done," Manchin noted, "is to make it much simpler and much easier for people to take advantage of their right to suffrage. We have brought government to the people it is designed to serve." Manchin also noted that there are almost 200 libraries throughout the State as opposed to only 55 county courthouses. The commissioning of librarians as notaries public will provide notary services to many areas that have been almost completely without such services before now.

**West Virginia Library Commission
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