

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

VOLUME 5
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JUNE
1952

WVLA PREXY RESIGNS

Robert North, Jr., currently President of WVLA and Librarian of Kanawha County Public Library since November 1, 1949 has resigned to take a position as Second Deputy Director, Erie County Public Library, Buffalo, New York. He will take up his duties there in the middle of July.

The Erie County Public Library is a federated group of libraries including the Buffalo Public, the Grosvenor, and 25 others throughout Erie County. Organized mainly by contracts with the separate units, the county library provides centralized planning, budgeting, purchasing and personnel policies. Service is decentralized, with lending and return of books and other services interchangeable throughout the system. Its budget for 1952 is \$1,800,000.

Since Hugh Beheymer, Bethany College, the President-elect of WVLA is now in Australia on a Fulbright Fellowship, Miss Rosa Oliver, Marshall College, Treasurer of WVLA will be acting president during his absence.

Mr. North has so well outlined the work as planned by the Executive Council that all plans of the organization should move forward to completion adequately.

WVLA wishes Mr. North and his charming wife, Marion the best of everything. We have enjoyed working with both of them and we will miss them greatly. We know that our loss is Erie's gain and that the Norths have left us better librarians by having been with us.

LIBRARY SECTION AHE WVEA

College Librarians surveyed the field of School Library Education as offered in West Virginia and compared it with ALA recommendations and with those advocated by the North Central

Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, at the Spring meeting of The Association of Higher Education at Glenville State College on March 28, and 29.

Mrs. Nora Buest from the Federal Security Agency, Office of Education, a specialist for school and childrens libraries and Mr. John T. St. Clair, Assistant Supervisor, Division of High Schools, of West Virginia were guest experts on call for any information required from the group.

In the light of this discussion, the Committee on Certification and Library Training Committee will present its recommendations to WVLA at its meeting at Potomac State on October 10-11, 1952.

71ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE - ALA

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt will be one of the principal speakers at the ALA's 71st Annual Conference to be held in New York (at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel) June 29 to July 5.

Mrs. Roosevelt, who cabled her acceptance from India to ALA Headquarters in Chicago, will speak on the subject of books as bridges to international understanding, at the third general session of the Conference at 2 P.M. on July 3.

"Books are Basic" is the Conference theme. Three other general sessions will relate books to culture, technology, and industry, and to freedom of inquiry.

More than 5,000 librarians from all parts of the country are expected to attend the Conference which annually is one of the largest of the nation's professional gatherings. In addition to the general sessions there will be more than 150 business and program meetings covering all phases of librarianship.

During the Conference week, seven divisions of the ALA will be in special session.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS AT ALA.

PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Clarksburg Public Library

During the winter months the AAUW featured weekly story hours for children each Saturday morning at the Library. Usually there were two groups for different age levels, with almost capacity attendance. These meetings for children were continued into spring by the friends of the Library, who are giving programs of varying interest to children. There have been demonstrations of instruments and rhythms of music; the growth of folk music; records and pictures of birds and moving pictures of birds and their young. All, and especially the bird song records, have proved great attractions.

On the adult level the Friends of the Library have sponsored book reviews and adult musical programs on records. In the case of music to be presented in concert series analytical notes and record previews have been given, otherwise programs of general interest. The Clarksburg String Quartette under the leadership of Prof. Jose Singer of Salem College planned for May 21st a concert.

Under the sponsorship of the AAUW local branch an exhibition of paintings by the young artist Constantine Kermes, who used for his models the Shakers and other Pennsylvania Dutch Groups, and of the wood sculpture of Einar Olsen, was held in the Library for two weeks. It will be followed in late May by an exhibition of the paintings of a native Clarksburg artist, Justina (Carskaden) Hart - Mrs. C. H. Hart. Both artists have had one man shows in New York City and have elsewhere been in national exhibitions, and it is a privilege to be able to show their work.

Much interest has been shown in a small exhibition of the accountments of General J.A.J. Lightburn, who was, we understand, W. Va.'s one Northern general during the Civil War. Photographs of General Lightburn with his great friend General Stonewall Jackson are on view:

the commission signed by Lincoln, battle and dress swords, battle maps and compass and other personal equipment were loaned by General Lightburn's granddaughters, Miss Grace Lightburn and Mrs. Jason Bailey. The Photograph of Stonewall Jackson and an interesting photostat letter concerning his academic appointment were loaned by David Carper.

Kanawha County Public Library

Mark L. Crum, Jr., of Pittsburgh has been appointed by unanimous action by the Board of Directors KCPL to succeed Mr. Robert North, Jr. as Librarian.

Mr. Crum's library experience includes reference and branch work in the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, where he also served two years as administrative assistant to Mr. Ralph Munn, Director of the Library.

Recently he has completed 15 months active duty as an army reserve officer. During this time he was appointed library officer at the Anti-aircraft and Guided Missiles School, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Crum was graduated from University of Pittsburgh in 1943, where he later pursued graduate studies in political science. He completed his library training at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1948. He will take up his duties at KCPL on June 16.

Crum is married and has one daughter eight years old. The Crums will live at 1538 Clark Road, Charleston.

Senator Harley M. Kilgore has named KCPL a government depository. Although there are 8 others in the State, KCPL is the only public library so designated. KCPL will not receive all government publications but will be allowed to pick and choose those which will best meet the needs of its clientele.

A big attraction of the Annual Children's Spring Book Festival will be the original illustrations of the

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Kanawha County Public Library (Cont'd)

Newberry prize book "Ginger Pye."
The department will be gaily decorated for the event.

Annual Report.

Year's end figures show a total circulation of 491,123, an increase over last year of 3.3%. Adult circulation was 134,341, a decrease of 6%, while children's book circulation was 356,582, an increase of 7.3%.

There were 8049 volumes added to the collection during the year making a total of 139,569.

Staff News.

Mr. Mark L. Crum, Miss Frances Alderson, Mrs. Mary Tatterson, and Mr. George Williams will attend ALA in New York, this summer.

Miss Dorothy Twohig and Miss Lillian Thompson who have been working in Boys and Girls Department for several years, will be graduated from Morris Harvey College this spring. Miss Twohig will remain in the department, but Miss Thompson will leave in August to accept a teaching position in Coronado, California.

Mrs. Helen Miller of the Circulation Department resigned effective June 30th.

Huntington Public Library

News has been received from Mr. Bert H. Early, Secretary of the Board of Directors that the board has decided to employ Mr. Omar A. Bacon as Librarian for the Huntington Public Library. Mr. Bacon is a graduate student at the University of Illinois Library School and former librarian at Watertown, South Dakota.

Mr. Bacon will replace Mrs. Madelyn M. Bradford who resigned to be in charge of adult services at Lane Public Library, Hamilton, Ohio.

Marion County Public Library

Everyone is reading!! Or so it seems to the MCPL Staff. Our circulation has more than doubled since last year

at this time. Non-fiction books seem to be more popular than ever before.

One faculty leading to the promotion of more reading is the Children's Room. This room was recently decorated by the Fairmont Junior League. Lovely Mother Goose murals fill the walls, and gaily painted furniture is placed throughout the room. This room is sponsored and supported by the League.

Another activity contributing to the increased Juvenile circulation is the weekly Storytelling Hour. These hours are conducted by the League.

The theme for February which was "Americanism" was carried out in many ways. The Education Committee sponsored by the Community Council held an art display in the Library lobby, from the schools in Marion County. The art work portrayed the rights and freedoms of the American People. One large poster of particular interest was done in the traditional red, white and blue colors and had phases of American Life, with the Statue of Liberty predominating. It was done by a group of 18 students from Mannington High School. All library books and articles concerning Americanism have been in prominent places throughout the library.

Moorefield Public Library

At a meeting held Feb. 13, plans were made to build a library building in Moorefield. One-third of the goal of \$3000 needed for the building was pledged or given by those present or pledged on behalf of organizations represented.

Ohio County Public Library

April has been a busy month at the Ohio County Public Library, not only from a circulation viewpoint, but on the community relations level.

A Career Conference held for students at Bethany College had among its speakers, Virginia Ebeling and Carolyn Hansen. Different phases of librarianship were discussed, training, types of work, and future opportunities.

The following meetings were also attended by the Librarian and members of the staff:

Ohio County Public Library (Cont'd.)

A meeting on Mental Health, conducted by the Children and Family Service Association.

Southeastern Recreational Conference, at Oglebay Park. Book and Film exhibits, as well as bibliographies were prepared for these two events.

Other meetings in which the staff participated were:

The Wierton Film Clinic, held in the new Wierton Community Center, which was attended by representatives of the libraries participating in the Oglebay Institute Regional Film Library.

Wheeling Council of Social Agencies.

The Ohio County Public Library participated in "City-County Day", by having over 100 high school students observe and receive instruction in the Library's program. This was part of a county-wide plan, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, whereby students observe the activities of the city and county government.

Music Department

The fourth and last Chamber Music Concert was held in the Listening Room of the Music Department on April 27 th. The performance was given by the Caldwell String Ensemble, under the direction of Henry Mazer.

Raleigh County Public Library

Mrs. Frank Bivens was named assistant librarian on April 2 and took over her task the same day, announced Mrs. C. H. Graham, Librarian.

Mrs. Bivens is the former Miss Elizabeth Ann French and succeeds Mrs. Felix Fisher who was forced to take temporary leave of absence in January and, finally to resign due to her health in February.

Mrs. Bivens attended Beckley and Concord Colleges. She has a 13 year-old son and nine-year-old daughter. Her husband is an employee of the Amere Gas Utilities Company in Beckley.

St. Albans Library

Through the efforts of community minded organizations and individuals, St. Albans will open its own library June 1st. Mrs. John T. Keenan who received her library training from the University of Washington will serve as librarian in a volunteer capacity. KCPL will assist with a large deposit collection and will also do cataloging, registration, and telephone reference work.

COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWS

Personals from:

West Virginia University

Librarian Charles E. Butler, a Guggenheim fellow, will sail in June for Ireland to gather material for his next novel. Howard H. Lapham will be in charge in his absence.

Robert Munn has been appointed chief of reference. He comes to us from Pennsylvania State College.

Miss Beatrice Annan joined the library staff as a junior cataloger. A native of New England, Miss Annan worked for several years at both Brown and Yale.

Miss Barbara Burhans, Junior reference librarian, plans to attend the Map Workshop at the University of Illinois, June 9-25.

Miss Elizabeth Tarver, chief of technical processes, is going to New York City in June to participate in the conference of the cataloging section of ALA. The topic for discussion is "Subject Analysis of the Catalog."

Miss Eloise Newlon, senior catalog librarian, plans to attend ALA.

Potomac State School

Mrs. Elmore Martin of Keyser has accepted the position of assistant librarian at Potomac State School. She fills the vacancy made by the resignation of Mrs. Bill Simmons. Mrs. Martin formerly was employed in the West Virginia University Library.

Marshall College

Miss Rosa Oliver, Librarian, will attend the ALA annual conference.

Sherwood Kirk has resigned to accept

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Marshall College (cont'd)

a position as Senior Assistant Librarian, at the College of Agriculture, University of Nebraska.

Concord College

Miss Ora Peters reported as being possibly stricken with polio in the last issue of this paper has been removed from the hospital at Milton to a Huntington Hospital. It is with welcome relief that we learn that Miss Peters does not have polio. Following an operation to remove blood clots from each leg, it is expected that Miss Peters will recover rapidly.

SCHOOL LIBRARY NEWS

And So Little Time

Libraries have always existed for one or both of these purposes: to preserve the books in which the knowledge up to any one time may be found, and to provide the means by which the people may become acquainted with that knowledge. The library in the school definitely comes under the latter category. Librarians have always had to consider whether their chief duty is that of being "Keeper of the Books," of being "Housekeeper of the Library", or of being "Disseminator of Knowledge."

Few librarians today try to be only "Keeper of the Books," for books today are to be used. But the school librarian has a hard time in reducing her house-keeping duties to the vanishing point so that she has time to do her chief job - getting the right material to the right person at the right time.

In this work she has to know the materials, the people, and the curriculum. She has to work with the teachers and the pupils, and in many cases with the community.

The word materials is used purposely, because the school of today uses all materials which convey ideas. This means that the school library is concerned not only with books, periodicals, newspapers and documents, but also with that host of new audio-visual materials.

Usually the school librarian's "people" are the teachers and the students. To be able to work successfully with them, she must know their needs, their abilities, and even their idiosyncrasies. And then she must be well acquainted with the curriculum, including the aims and purposes of the school. Years ago the chief aim of the school was to impart facts to be learned. But today the chief aim is to educate for democratic living. There is much disagreement on just what this means. But the librarian needs to know the philosophy of the particular school in which she works so that she may fit the library service to that end.

Many schools today serve not only the needs of the school children, but the needs of the community as a whole, especially adult education needs. If this is the case, the librarian has to fit her library to these needs, as well.

One particular difficulty which libraries are sometimes having to meet today comes from the present almost hysterical state of public opinion. In their zeal for combatting anything which may be a danger to our national security, some people would have libraries fall into the very condition for which they blame the totalitarian countries - that is, censorship and banning of "subversive" material. The trouble comes, of course, in determining what is subversive.

It goes back to the aims of education, which today include the aim of training people to think straight, instead of stuffing them with facts, to be repeated parrot-like when the occasion demands. School librarians should read the Library Bill of Rights as agreed upon at the 1948 meeting of ALA in order to form judgments for surmounting this difficulty if it should arise. (Ed. Note: W.V.L.A. adopted this Bill as its own in Oct. 1951.)

And how does a school librarian, especially a teacher-librarian who has to spend most of her time teaching, find the time to help all the teachers, and pupils, and maybe townspeople too, find the material they need? Or, how does she find time to build up her library and cooperate with people so much that they will use it? Well, at home the busy housewife has time

(continued on page 6)

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Editor....Virgil J. Wynne, W. Va. Institute of Technology, Montgomery.

Co-Editor....Margaret S. Bobbitt, Marshall College, Huntington.

Editorial Assistants.....

Rosa Oliver, Marshall College, Huntington, Association News.

Nancy Mathews, Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling, Public Library News.

Mary Shipper, Potomac State School, Keyser, College Library News.

Hazel Fisher, Thomas Jefferson Jr. H. S., Charleston, School Library News.

EDITORIAL

The decision to leave a community to take a new position is not always an easy one, and it is especially hard to leave one's partners half way through an undertaking. I know that my departure from West Virginia may be trying for a time to the Association, especially with the vice-president abroad. However, I feel sure that together we have planned well this year, and that the values of a professional library organization in this state will be felt more and more.

I shall always appreciate your confidence in asking me to be your president. The opportunity to work with you all has been welcome, and I know that I shall look back on it as having been all too short.

It has been a pleasure to be here. I have learned a great deal, and it is very likely that the benefits I take from my sojourn in West Virginia will not all be realized for a long time. I shall carry with me countless friendly recollections, and thus prove that travellers can be content. There is no satisfactory expression for my feelings. Farewell.

Robert North, Jr., President.

And So Little Time (Concl'd.)

to be a real mother and wife when she reduced her housekeeping to a minimum, and then gets her children to help a lot in doing it. So, the school librarian reduces her housekeeping to a minimum by using many available labor-saving devices, and then entrusts most of this minimum to the members of the "Library Club" while she works with the teachers and the students, finding for each one what he needs, or better yet, training him to find it for himself.

—Irene M. Coons, Colorado Library Association Bulletin, April, 1952.

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Public libraries in West Virginia do not receive the financial support they need to give citizens minimum library service. College libraries may be better off but that is a debatable point. Legislation is needed to improve the plight of some existing libraries. Money is needed to provide service where there is none, or virtually none. Wider public understanding of the service which libraries exist to perform is necessary to provide the means for it.

A strong professional organization could help create this understanding. Only people who believe in the work they are doing and join together to make themselves heard will command the attention which libraries in this state need - and need badly - for their development.

Everyone who is interested in libraries, everyone who sits on a library board and thereby says he is concerned about the use of books; everyone who earns his bread answering people's needs for information, ideas and enrichments; all of these ought to belong to the West Virginia Library Association. To join is an act of self-interest which strengthens our fellows and furthers the position of libraries of the state.

No one else will do much for us until we do this much for ourselves.

SEND: \$2 for personal membership and \$5 for institutional membership to Miss Rosa V. Oliver, Treasurer, at James E. Morrow Library, Huntington 1, West Virginia., today.

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Fairmont, West Virginia

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Buckhannon, West Virginia

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Behymer, E. Hugh, Lib'n.
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Marshall College, Huntington, W. Va.

