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CONTENTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK	2
WEST VIRGINIA BOOKS FOR WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOLS	5
CAPITOL COMMENTS	12

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES is the official organ of the West Virginia Library Association. It is published quarterly. Contributions and other Communications should be addressed to the Editor or to the appropriate Editorial Assistant. Subscription is included with the membership dues. Annual subscription is one dollar to non-members.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As vacation periods draw to a close, there remains another event to be awaited eagerly. I am referring, of course, to the annual conference of the West Virginia Library Association which is almost at hand.

I extend to each of you a most cordial invitation to COME TO THE CONFERENCE. I feel that you will find the speakers delightful, the progress informative, the exhibits outstanding, the accommodations attractive, the conversations scintillating and Wheeling welcoming.

The responsibility of promoting library service and librarianship in West Virginia does not rest exclusively with librarians. If we are to achieve any degree of success in accomplishing these goals, we must of necessity depend upon others to assist in the work that lies ahead. For that reason, it is most important that we urge members of our library boards, staff and friends to attend the annual conference in Wheeling on October 21 and 22 so that they may have the opportunity of participating in our discussions and plans.

What will one see, hear and do at the WVLA Conference?

Here are some highlights.

1. The program committee, for example, has scheduled a trustees breakfast meeting (beginning at 8:30 a.m.) on Saturday, October 22. Mr. Curtis P. Smith, Chairman of the Trustees Section, will lead the discussion.
2. We expect to have 25 outstanding commercial exhibits this year. Please plan your time so that you will be able to look them over carefully. All exhibits will

be located in the rooms directly behind the mezzanine and will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You will find new and interesting books, bindings, supplies and equipment. In addition, Friday, October 21, between the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. has been officially designated as time to VISIT THE EXHIBITS.

3. A reception will be held at the Ohio County Public Library on Friday, October 21 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. All members will have an opportunity of meeting and talking with the conference speakers.
4. Our speakers are:
 1. MISS GERMAINE KRETTECK, Director of the American Library Association's Washington Office. Her address will be given at the first general session on Friday morning, October 21.
 2. DR. ROY BIRD COOK, Pharmacist, historian, author and friend of West Virginia libraries and librarians. Dr. Cook will speak at the Friday luncheon, October 21.
 3. MARY LEE SETTLE, West Virginia author, whose new book, KNOW NOTHING, will be published in October. Copies can be purchased at the convention and will be autographed. Miss Settle will be the banquet speaker.
 4. MISS ELIZABETH NESBITT, Associate Dean, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Carnegie Library School, author, teacher and librarian will address the conference at the Saturday luncheon, October 22.
 5. General Sessions - There will be two - one each on Friday and Saturday mornings.
 6. Following the luncheon on Saturday, we suggest that you plan to visit the libraries in the vicinity:

Mary H. Weir Public Library in Weirton
Ohio County Public Library
Phillips Memorial Library, Bethany College
Wheeling College Library
 7. A social hour honoring conference exhibitors will be held on October 20, Thursday evening beginning at 8:30 p.m.

All persons attending the conference or any of the sessions are expected to register. The conference registration

badge is issued upon payment of \$1.00 registration fee and will admit you to all sessions.

The registration form should be returned without delay so that we may make definite arrangements with the hotel for the meal events. If you place a reservation in advance and find that you must cancel, please notify the registration committee at least 48 hours in advance.

Hotel reservations for the conference period should be secured as soon as possible. Headquarters will be at the Hotel McLure.

It has been a privilege for me to serve as President of the West Virginia Library Association during the past year. Thank you for giving me that opportunity.

So many persons have been kind and generous with their time and talent. To each of you I extend my sincerest appreciation.

Nicholas Winowich
President

WEST VIRGINIA BOOKS FOR
WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOLS

by

Robert F. Munn
West Virginia University Library

More than 3500 books have been distributed to West Virginia high and junior high schools during the past month. These books were part of the West Virginia Heritage Bookshelf. Each Bookshelf included twenty-five volumes and two maps on all aspects of the State--history, folklore, literature, economics etc. Every county in West Virginia received at least one Bookshelf, with up to five going to the more populous.

The story behind the distribution of the Heritage Bookshelf is an interesting one. It all started with the feeling that West Virginians often lack pride in their State. In large part, this lack of pride is based on an appalling ignorance of the State's history and traditions. It is true that the schools of West Virginia have done a highly creditable job in attempting to arouse this pride-based-on-knowledge. The annual Golden Horseshoe Contest has been perhaps the most successful venture in this direction. However, the schools of West Virginia have been handicapped by a serious and long-standing lack of books.

The school libraries in West Virginia, with a few notable exceptions, are far below the national standards. Many teachers, eager to increase their students' knowledge of the State, are handicapped by a lack of books. Some of the most

effective teaching devices--reports, class research projects, outside reading--are impossible in many schools.

In November of 1959, officials of West Virginia University and the West Virginia Foundations, Inc., approached the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation with a proposal designed to help overcome this critical need for books on the State's history and heritage.

The proposal was simple. It included:

- the placing of a basic library of West Virginiana in as many schools as possible. The books would deal with all aspects of the State--history, literature, natural resources, folklore, etc. The original goal was at least 20 volumes in each library.
- the offer of the West Virginia University Library to assume the responsibility of selecting, assembling and distributing the collections.

The proposal was received enthusiastically by the Board of Directors of the Benedum Foundation. The Board agreed to grant the W.V.U. Foundation enough money to place a library of West Virginiana in some 141 high and junior high schools throughout the State.

Then the fun began

What were the two dozen "best" books on West Virginia? Which of these were suitable for secondary school use? Should out-of-print books be included? If so, were there enough copies available at reasonable prices to warrant their inclusion?

What about maps?

How much should be spent for one title?

Which is better--one splendid title at \$14 or two good ones at \$7 each?

Many teachers, librarians and scholars were invited to examine lists and make suggestions.

It soon became evident that several books on which virtually all consultants agreed--real West Virginia classics--were long out of print. They cost, when they could be found at all, as much as \$50 apiece. Clearly, they had to be reprinted. Among them: Wills DeHass' History of the Early Settlement and Indian Wars of Western Virginia; Doddridge's Notes; and Louise McNeill's Gauley Mountain.

And then there were the books that had not yet been written. Despite problems of time and funds, arrangements were made for the publication of two badly needed works--Dr. Musick's Ballads, Folk Songs and Folk Tales from West Virginia; and Charles Shetler's Guide to the Study of West Virginia History.

A complete list of the 25 books included in the West Virginia Heritage Bookshelf appears at the end of this article. The decision to include a given title was based on many factors--the book's general appeal and significance, its utility to the schools, its cost and, of course, its availability. Every effort was made to include at least one book on each major aspect of West Virginia.

Unfortunately, there still are a number of subjects for which no suitable book could be located. It should be

stressed that the failure to include a given title does not indicate that it is without merit. Many splendid books were omitted because they are too specialized, too costly or because their reprinting presented insoluble economic or legal problems.

There are nearly 400 secondary schools in West Virginia. The available funds permitted the donation of collections to only about one-third of these. Therefore, it became necessary to devise an equitable system of distribution. The county was selected as the basic unit. Each county, no matter how few secondary schools it has, was allotted at least one collection. The maximum was five. Each County Superintendent was asked to designate the school or schools in his jurisdiction to receive the libraries. The Superintendent of State Catholic Schools, on the same pro rata basis, was asked to select four parochial institutions.

Titles Included in the
WEST VIRGINIA HERITAGE BOOKSHELF

1. Ambler, Charles Henry, 1876-1957
A History of Education in West Virginia. Huntington:
Standard Printing and Publishing Co., 1951 1010p. illus.

Out of print.
2. Ambler, Charles Henry and Festus P. Summers.
West Virginia, the Mountain State. 2nd ed. Prentice-
Hall, 1958 584p. illus.
3. Clagg, Sam E. and Robert L. Britton.
West Virginia Atlas. Huntington: Marshall College,
1955 49p.

May be purchased from the authors.
4. Core, Earl.
Plant Life of West Virginia. New York: Scholar's Li-
brary, 1960 224p.
5. Davies, William E.
Caverns of West Virginia. Morgantown: West Virginia
Geological Survey, 1958 330p. illus.

May be purchased from the Geological Survey.
6. Dayton, Ruth W. (Mrs. Arthur S.)
Pioneers and Their Homes on the Upper Kanawha. Charles-
ton: West Virginia Publishing Co., 1947 320p.

May be purchased from the publisher.
- *7. DeHass, Wills, 1818-1910.
History of the Early Settlement and Indian Wars of
Western Virginia. 416p. First printed in 1851; Reprinted
in 1960 by the McClain Printing Company, Parsons, W. Va.
- *8. Doddridge, Joseph, 1769-1826.
Notes on the Settlement and Indian Wars of the Western
Parts of Virginia and Pennsylvania. 320p. First printed
in 1824. Reprinted 1960 by the McClain Printing Company,
Parsons, W. Va.
9. Haught, Oscar L.
Coal and Coal Mining in West Virginia. Morgantown: West
Virginia Geological Survey, 1959 35p.

May be purchased from the Geological Survey.

