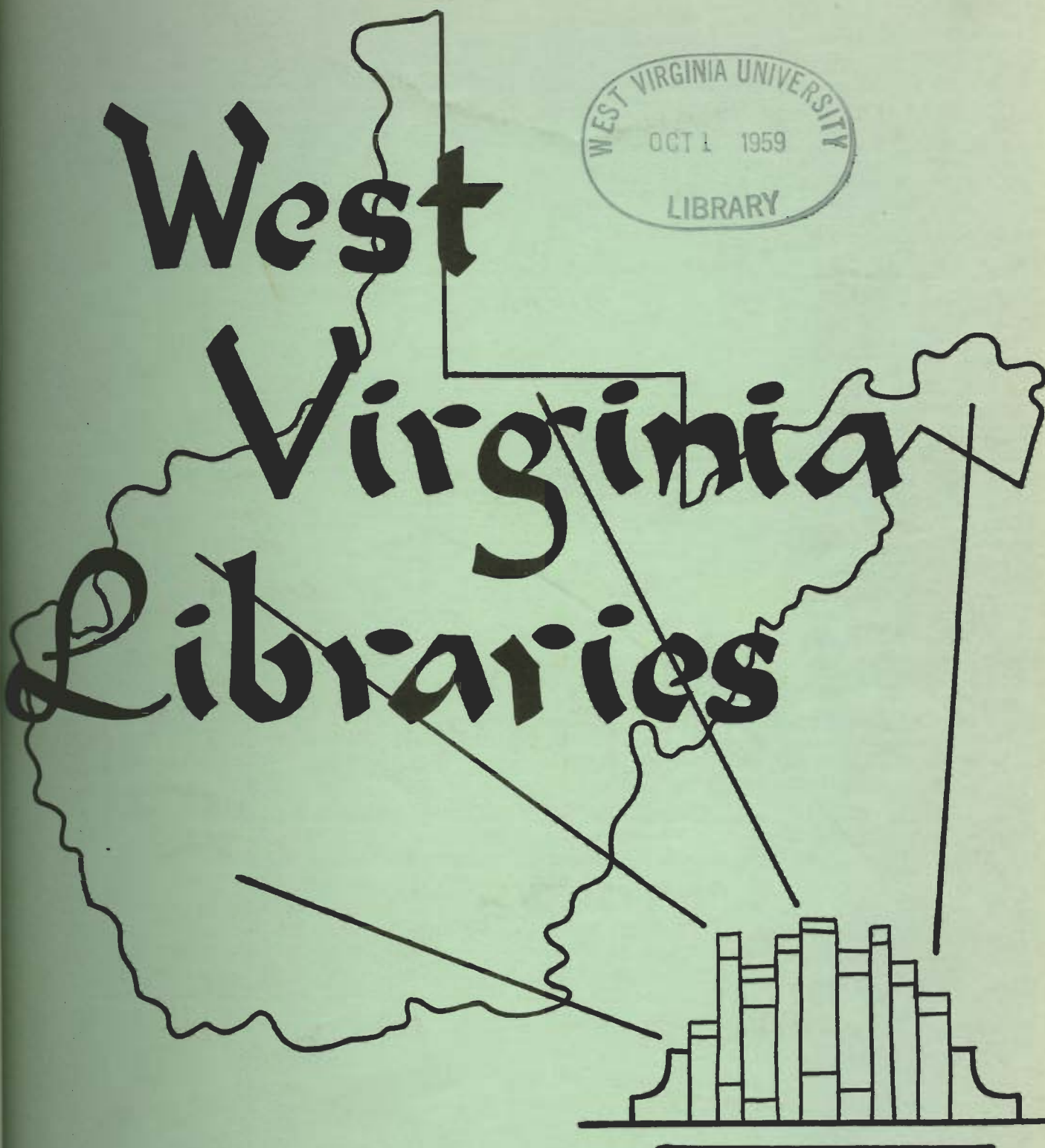


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ANNUAL MEETING

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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WEST
VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION WILL
BE HELD:

OCTOBER 16-17

HUNTINGTON, W. VA.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

AN OUTSTANDING PROGRAM IS BEING ARRANGED
COMPLETE DETAILS WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

ANNUAL MEETING

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KANAWHA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

June 3, 1959 was a significant day in the history of the Kanawha County Public Library. On this day the Library completed 50 years of public library service to the citizens of Charleston and Kanawha County.

The history of the Kanawha County Public Library began in July, 1908 when a committee of the Woman's Kanawha Literary Club was appointed to organize action in support of a public library in Charleston.

Their hopes became a reality when on June 3, 1909, with a few hundred books and one librarian, the Charleston Public Library was opened to the public. Its quarters were in the Y. M. C. A. Building on Capitol Street, with Miss Mabel Delle Jones as the first librarian.

In the early years of its existence, the Library's quarters were changed frequently. The first move occurred in the summer of 1912 when the Y. M. C. A. needed space to accommodate its own expanding services. Rent-free rooms were provided by the First Presbyterian Church on Quarrier Street, and the Library moved into the former residence of the pastor. On May 15, 1913, the Library was moved to the Y. W. C. A. Building on Virginia Street, just east of McFarland. On September 3, 1914, the Library secured quarters at McFarland and Kanawha Streets (Kanawha Boulevard). The Library remained here until March, 1921, when it moved to the Red Cross Building on the levee near Capitol Street. Finally, in May, 1926, the Library moved to its present site. The

Charleston Library became the Kanawha County Public Library in 1934.

The present home of the Kanawha County Public Library is the old Capitol Annex Building located at Lee, Hale, and Dickinson Streets in downtown Charleston. The building was erected in 1904 to house the State Supreme Court, the Auditor's and Treasurer's offices and the offices of the Adjutant General. Later, the West Virginia Department of Archives and History occupied the top floor.

Organizations and institutions such as the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Morris Harvey College, the State Teachers Retirement Board, and the West Virginia State Medical Association also have maintained offices in the building at one time or another. Since 1949 the Charleston Children's Museum has occupied rent-free quarters in the building.

The Kanawha County Public Library said "welcome" to visitors with an open house and reception on June 3, 1949. Mabel Delle Jones (Mrs. Raymond H. O'Brien) the first librarian and Mrs. John Norvell, Sr., charter member of the Woman's Kanawha Literary Club were guests of honor.

The library received splendid publicity. Generous and enthusiastic support and cooperation in reporting and helping to promote this significant community event came from the following: Charleston Daily Mail, Charleston Gazette, Television Station WCHS, Television Station WHTN, Television Station WSAZ.

In addition, special bookmarks and posters were used. Approximately 500 letters were sent to individuals and organizations in Charleston and Kanawha County. All such channels were

employed to bring this event to the attention of the public.

A reception was held in the Browsing Room for all visitors. Members of the Library Board and the Woman's Kanawha Literary Club arranged the reception and greeted the many visitors. Special displays of old-time photographs and other exhibits of early library materials were shown.

OTHER ANNIVERSARIES

The Clarksburg Public Library celebrated its 52nd anniversary with the community attending open house during National Library Week.

The centennial of the Ohio County Public Library was May 9, 1959. The Wheeling newspapers had excellent articles about the history of the Library. In the lobby exhibit case there was a display of the first minute book of the Wheeling Library Association of 1859, and the early treasurer's report of the Association.