PLANS AND POLICIES OF FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
J. Frank Marsh, State President

DEEDS BEFORE WORDS

As a young school teacher, I was wisely advised to make few promises, but rather to go about quietly to get something worthwhile done, leaving talk to follow deeds. In that spirit, I submit a few statements, leaving the main discussion to veterans who have really done something in the field of library service.

TREES BREATHE THROUGH LEAVES

Scientists tell us that trees breathe through the leaves exposed to the air and the sunshine cast at the end of branches and limbs. So it is with organizations. The life-giving breath must come through individuals who live in close contact with the life and spirit of the real people to be served.

Friends of the Library should be everywhere in the state ready to give strength to the work of the main offices and libraries. To change the comparison, groups of friends of the Library may make up what the Communists call "cells" from which larger bodies and movements may grow. To change the picture once more, the Friends of the Library may serve as foot soldiers under the leadership of the Library Commission.

TO WORK FOR UNITY

Many related organizations under many names are naturally and properly interested in spreading library service. This may become confusing to citizens and law makers interested in the library movement. Friends of the Library have no separate part to play. We wish to be only enthusiastic, practical friends in the movement for more and better libraries as administered as to serve more of our people more efficiently.

While Friends of the Library will always feel free to make suggestions and recommendations about the improvement of library service, we will naturally follow the lead of the trained experts who devote all their time and talents to this human but technical work.

APPEAL TO SPECIAL GROUPS

Many well-organized groups have a real interest in better reading material for more of our people. In my present position as governor of the Rotary clubs of our state, I know the active interest of these 50 clubs in libraries. In my January Monthly Letter, I expect to bring to the attention of all these clubs the great opportunity for service through being Friends of the Library. The same holds true for Kiwanis, Lions, Quota and many other civic organizations. Many churches, too, are ready to help. Membership on a church education board makes one realize the potential strength here for improving library service in our state.

REACH ALL THROUGH SCHOOLS

Our school system is the only organization required by law to serve the minds of all the citizens of the state. In many isolated communities, (see DEEDS BEFORE WORDS on page 2)
DEEDS BEFORE WORDS
(continued from page 1)

for many years to come, the schools will be the only agency to put good books into the hands of thousands of mentally hungry children. Friends of the library will certainly cooperate vigorously with the school officials and benefactors who are the friends closest to all the children.

EXAMPLES—CONDITIONS, RIGHT AND WRONG

Recently I heard two reports from teachers in widely separated places in our state. These reports, summarized briefly below, show "condition without library service," and "conditions with library service."

One teacher had made a community survey. The house-to-house study showed that the homes of the neighborhood had only about a dozen readable books for young people. The school could afford only the minimum of text books. The teacher related that many of the children went to a near-by town trash pile and pulled out old dirty funny books and torn cheap magazines to read. This is a shocking scene for our great proud Mountain State. Friends of the Library should help see "that it can't happen here" much longer.

The other teacher reporting was serving in a one-room school in a county having a standard library organization. She related with evident satisfaction how she distributed allocations of highly suitable books from the branch library backed up by the county library. She reported that the pupils and parents were appreciative readers, and that the general tone of the neighborhood was being improved by much reading of well-selected books.

COOPERATE WITH PUBLIC LEADERS

Our libraries are in desperate need of increased budgets—state, county and municipal. Better public budgets can be secured only through political leaders. Such leaders are more approachable and liberal-minded than many idealistic people think. We should approach candidates and party leaders to secure planks in platforms favoring the further enlightenment of our people through the generous support of libraries.

Budgets are generally worked out and, as a rule, finally determined before well-meaning lobbyists begin to work for increases. Friends of the Library should cooperate with the leaders in the field of library services in reaching the key budget makers before the figures are frozen.

It is our hope that Friends of the Library will prove a potent force in helping lift our beloved state to a higher level in library service.

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NEW BOOKMOBILE IN SERVICE

The West Virginia Library Commission's first demonstration bookmobile went into service December 2, 1947, as a part of the Monroe County Library Demonstration which is being conducted as a joint project by the Commission, and the Monroe County Court and Board of Education.

More than two-thirds of the cost of the bookmobile was contributed as gifts from state civic groups and individuals interested in the Commission program.

Mrs. Oliver Shurtleff, Chairman of the Commission reports that two other counties have requested demonstrations since the Monroe project began in September, and that all counties asking demonstrations should address their requests to the West Virginia Library Commission, Morgantown, West Virginia, or to a member of the Commission.
At times, following meetings of our organization, I have been the victim of silly cracks about how I and my lady friends were enjoying our association. I find that most males in our state seem to regard interest in libraries and library work as belonging distinctly in the domain of femininity — something to be avoided by a man of great self-respect.

Also in social activities, I find this to be true, and I am urged to abandon my bridge playing habits and enjoy a man’s game of poker down at the club.

In my early youth, I had the advantage of a small library, and it was worth much in learning American history—the Indian fights and the pioneer life of the early days. Daniel Boone, George Rogers Clark, Simon Kenton and even the renegade Simon Girty became familiar figures to me as I read Roosevelt’s Winning of the West and similar stories.

As a longover from this, I am today much interested in ridge-running over the hills and mountains of West Virginia and often invite my poker-playing friends along. But I find that they have lost sight of the art of walking and do not get far from their autos.

A point I make is that West Virginia is at the bottom of the list in library service among the states in the union, and that the he-man complex has something to do with it. The conception abounds too much that a library exists for the purpose of affording idle women silly love stories or mystery yarns through which they escape complete boredom.

The conception of a library as a center of information for technical and other research and/or obtaining facts in any field of knowledge, does not seem to be prevalent.

(see THE HE-MAN COMPLEX on page 5)
West Virginia Libraries

January 1948

WVU ACQUIRES CIVIL WAR COLLECTION

The West Virginia University Library in December purchased a collection of books on the Civil War gathered by Dr. W. E. Brooks, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Morgantown.

There are over 600 volumes in the collection, of which over 400 were not previously in the library. They include biographies, reminiscences, campaign documents, standard histories, and other works dealing with the Civil War periods Lincoln, Grant, and Lee are especially well represented. Dr. Brooks is the author of Grant at Appomattox, Lee of Virginia, and other works.

With the Civil War material came 34 American and English first editions, Hawthorne, Longfellow, Whittier, Bret Harte, Bryant, John Hay, Swinburne, and others are represented in fine copies, in some cases of several works.

At the same time Dr. Brooks presented to the University a lion in bronze by Carl Akley, the sculptor and explorer. This figure is one of five studies made by Akley for a Theodore Roosevelt memorial.

The A.L.A. Conference will be held at Atlantic City, New Jersey, June 30-July 3, 1948. Because of the fact that very few librarians from West Virginia were able to make the trip to San Francisco last year, it is anticipated that a large number will be on hand at Atlantic City.

The A.L.A. advises that single rooms are very limited in number, but there are plenty of double rooms. Reservations should be made as soon as possible with the Housing Bureau, 16 Central Pier, Atlantic City, New Jersey.
THE NEXT STEP?

There may be a few obscurities in the two paragraphs below, but they tell a story of library service which is worth putting together here. They are taken from various releases of the West Virginia Library Commission.

Miss Doris Wood, Field Worker, Monroe County Library, to Miss Doris Ruth Parks, Executive Secretary of the Commission, December 3, 1947:

"Putting "Demonstration" on that bookmobile was the best thing we have done yet. That gets the idea across better than anything I could ever say. People are now saying—What is the next step?"

Miss Wood to Miss Parks, December 19, 1947:

"Finally got over (to Boscoe...re) and found Mrs. Black who wrote to you from there... I said I'd do whatever I could. Mrs. Black is very nice; I talked about what they could get from the Library Commission and what I thought about their joining a county system when one was set up, etc."

Miss Parks to Miss Wood, January 6, 1948:

"Five hundred books are being mailed today to Mrs. Black for the Bosco...re Library. We have included a lot of the old favorites in fiction and a rather generous supply of books on crafts, music, history, homemaking, and other materials which provide the "know how" in several fields. I hope you will visit that library when you can, even though your schedule is full in Monroe County. I expect the people who are sponsoring the reading room will want some professional help."

NEWS OF FEDERAL RELATIONS

The A.L.A. Relations office had only 3 days notice so that they might prepare for the hearings on the Library Demonstration Bill, December 9. Postal cards were sent from Morgantown on December 7 asking individuals to wire the House Subcommittee on Education but unfortunately many of them did not reach their destination until too late to be of use. However, Mr. Howard reports that the hearings went well and he feels that the Committee will recommend the bill be passed. He said there was a "softening" on the part of some members of the Committee and at least on complete change of mind. We still need to continue contacting individual congressmen to make sure that they vote for the bill as they have already pledged. To date, Senator Beveridge is the only one of the congressmen from whom we have not received a definite commitment.

The new Federal Coordinator for West Virginia will be Mr. Charles Kemp, newly appointed librarian of West Virginia Wesleyan College.

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The Morgantown Beck on Saturday, January 17, carried a full-column editorial on the Waitman Barbe Library, which is the public library in that city. After a lengthy and informative discussion of the history and present situation of the collection, the article suggested that some civic group take on the responsibility of raising privately enough money to match the municipal appropriation.

Mrs. Betty Burmaide, Librarian of the Barbe Library, has made good use of her resources. With a per capita income of 18 cents she has over 25% of the population registered and circulates 2.6 volumes per capita for the entire city. Only Martinsburg, with 99 cents per capita, and Charles, with 86 cents, exceed this ratio among city and town libraries listed by the Library Commission.
THE CHARLESTON LISTINGS

Those who attended the annual meeting of the West Virginia Library Association in Charleston in October had a chance to see the new demonstration bookmobile of the Library Commission which was on display. Commission members met in Charleston at the same time as the Association and the state organization of the Friends of the Library.

The Friends meeting was the first one held by that organization for several years. Highlights of the meeting were the adoption of a new constitution; the formal adoption of the name, Friends of the Library instead of the older Better Library Movement; and the election of officers for the coming year. Dr. J. F. Barish of Athens was elected president; Mrs. E. L. Sousebusch of Huntington vice-president, Mrs. Earl Hubel of St. Mary treasurer and Miss Mildred Pizer of Huntington secretary.

The thirty-third annual meeting of the West Virginia Library Association was exceptionally well attended. A brief summary of the meeting is given for the benefit of those who were unable to attend.

Several changes in the constitution were adopted. The vice-president is now the president-elect. This is in keeping with procedures of the American Library Association.

The immediate past president shall be the A.W.A. Councilor of the Association.

Annual dues henceforth will be two dollars per year instead of one. The increase in dues is necessary if the Association is to continue its activities.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Mrs. Mallon M. Bradfield of Huntington; Vice-President, Forrest Carhart of Morgantown; Secretary, Charles E. Butler of Charleston and Treasurer, Mrs. Vivian R. Boucher of West Liberty.

The Association voted to affiliate with the Middle Atlantic Regional Library Association in the event that a regional division is contemplated by the A.W.A.

The Association voted to continue the publication of West Virginia Libraries. This bulletin was begun during the past year as an experiment on the part of the Executive Board. Plans for a staff and objectives were to be left up to the Executive Board.

Mr. Hugh Beamer presented a petition to the Executive Board asking that the college librarians of the state be granted permission to organize as a section of the West Virginia Library Association. Upon the approval of the Board, the petition was presented to the membership and permission was voted. This is the first sectional division of the Association. Sections for public librarians and school librarians are in process of being organized.

Invitations were extended to the Association from Huntington and the Bethany for next year's meeting.

The highlight of the afternoon meeting was an address by Mr. Simeon T. Griswold, Librarian of West Virginia University who spoke on, "Thought and Action in Library Service." A number of people have asked for copies of Mr. Griswold's talk, and it is hoped that they will be available soon.

The highlight of the entire convention was the dinner meeting at the feller Hotel on Saturday night at which Mr. Paul Howard, Federal Relations Director of the American Library Association spoke on the importance of libraries in national and local affairs. Mr. Howard was introduced by Mrs. Douglas C. Tomlies of Huntington, state president of the A.W.A. and member of the library Board of the Huntington Public Library.

Other guests included Mr. R. C. Andrews, Mayor of Charleston, Mr. Douglas C. Tomlies, Mayor of Huntington, Mrs. W. W. Trent, State Superintendent of Schools and members of the Library Commission.
West Virginia Libraries begins a new era in its history with this issue. The Executive Board of the WILA, at its December meeting, appointed an Editor and an Editorial Board to manage the journal. Henceforth it will be published quarterly under the direction of Miss Betty Nettles, of the Big County Public Library.

Although West Virginia Libraries is the official organ of the WILA, it will not be strictly a professional paper. It is intended for all persons interested in library development in the state. The Library Lookout has been suspended by the West Virginia Library Commission, and news of its activities will be carried in these columns in the future. It is therefore desirable that our quarterly have a wider circulation than the membership of the Association can provide.

It is a particular privilege to welcome contributions from the friends of books and libraries throughout the state. This month we are indebted to Dr. J. Frank Marsh, State President of the Friends of the Library, and Mr. Kyle McCrook, Publisher of the Princeton Observer, and a member of the Library Commission. Notes of letter contributors will be found on page 5 of this issue.

A LIST OF BOOKS FOR LIBRARIANS

Miss Doris Ruth Parks, Executive Secretary of the West Virginia Library Commission, has compiled the following short list of recent studies on various library problems. All can be borrowed from the Commission's office in Morgantown if they are not available locally.


Schonk, A. J. Pointers for Public Library Building Planners, A.L.A., 1945. Includes material on selling the project, suggestions on moving, remodeling, and equipment information as well as many other subjects.


HUNTINGTON CLASSIFIES THE SERVICE

The Library Board of the Huntington Public Library adopted and placed into operation a classification and pay plan in August, the first in the history of that library.

In connection with the plan all employees were graded into three classes, professional, sub-professional and clerical, based upon amount of education and training. The Board plans to work toward a grading of work done to fit in with the classification of staff members so that ultimately clerical people will be doing clerical work and professional persons work of professional grade.

At the present time those who are filling positions for which they do not have the proper education are classified as 'testing.'

An increment of five dollars per month for six years is allowed for experience. The number of years experience will be extended later.

Basic salaries for each of the three grades, are as follows: professional $2500; sub-professional $1900; and clerical $1300.

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The West Virginia University Library is opening a new reserve book room in a remodeled building formerly used as a cafeteria. It will seat about 170 students, and is expected to relieve much of the congestion in the main library.

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The Library Commission reports that the Huntington Public and Kanawha County Public Libraries have received substantial budget increases for 1949. Mr. Butler of the latter will have about $50,000 more, according to expectations.

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Hugh Behmeyer and his building program at Bethany are the subject of an article in the December 16th issue of Library Journal.

Coming to Bethany in 1941 "Mr. B" as the students affectionately call him, began a drastic program of library development by weeding out and discarding. Today, the program which is to give Bethany one of the finest library setups in the state is well beyond the blueprint stage and when completed will provide a library of 300,000 volumes, a recreational reading room, microfilm vaults, a projection room, student carrels, and a listening room where students may go to listen to musical selections.

At present, according to Mr. Behmeyer, the library is only giving a minimum of service mainly due to budget deficiencies.

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Mr. Budd L. Demoee of the Detroit Public Library has accepted the position of Chief Audio-Visual Aids Librarian at the West Virginia University Library. He will take up his duties about March 1.

Mr. Demoe is a graduate of the University of Rochester and has a library science degree from the University of Michigan. He has worked in the Seymour Library, Auburn, N. Y., the Aurora, Illinois, Public Library, and the Technology Division and Fine Arts Department of the Detroit Public Library.

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West Virginia University is looking for a serials cataloguer with library school training and some experience. The position will pay $3240 per year at present.