WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

Volume 2 Number 2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

June 1933

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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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That little electronic tube or series of tubes constitutes the calling card of the library to the members of any community. For it is only through television that librarians are given the privilege of entering the homes of their communities without knocking. Imagine what an endless task it would be if every librarian were to attempt to visit even a fraction of the homes in their communities to acquaint people with the services of the library. Television can accomplish this in one telecast.

Television, once considered a threat to reading, now offers us more potential library patrons than ever before. To make the best use of the media we must study the methods used by skillful producers and adapt them to our needs. It was with this point in mind that the Ohio County Public Library undertook the task of supplying material about its services to Station WTV-7V, Wheeling, W. Va. The Station was most cooperative, and final arrangements were completed in September, 1954. The library material was taken as part of the Station’s public service policy, and was assigned to the program “Calling All Carra”. This particular program was both educational and entertaining in nature. The services and use of the Library were demonstrated by direct and indirect methods. The public response was most gratifying indeed.

Scripts

There are ways and ways of preparing scripts. After several meetings with Jan and Bob Carr, whose program was both informal and chatty, a comparatively simple method was evolved. It was always kept in mind that it was necessary to bridge the gap between the person in the script and the person in the audience. In other words, when writing the script it is necessary to visualize your potential audience. It is the members of your community you want to use the library, so their viewpoint was always kept in mind. Use of library terminology was taboo, and services were explained in such a way that such comments as “I did not know a library had so much to offer” were frequently heard after a telecast. Television viewers are not passive. Telephone calls were received immediately after a telecast, requesting both books and information.

What were the contents of some of the scripts? A library offers limitless material for television and practically any idea properly handled can be used for a telecast. A short listing should contain: Seasonal and Special events; Changes in schedule; Books; Bookmobile activities; Use of films; Service for shut-ins and many other items. Another very important factor to keep in mind is that it is an opportunity for your Board of Trustees to see in action many of the activities of the library of which they are the governing body.

Remember the Camera

Don’t forget the camera and its uses when you are thinking of your script. It is all important—allow time for it to focus on book jackets, the attractive covers of the records from the music department, and any other devices you may want to use. Frequently the camera can express many things that could not be done by words alone. Properly used, it can do much toward making your program a success.

(Continued on p. 9)
Greetings!

The West Virginia Library Association is moving ahead on many fronts. An earmark of the current amount of business was the recent 32 item agenda of the Executive Board meeting. And thanks to an excellent Board of Directors, all items were carefully considered and decided. Below are some of the highlights of the meeting at Parkersburg April 22.

The fall conference dates were set for October 7 and 8 with headquarters in the Fairmont Hotel. The facilities are exceptional for a group our size.

A Scholarship Committee was established to develop plans for a WVLA scholarship grant to a deserving librarian. Miss Dora Ruth Parks was named chairman with Gilbert Fites and Margaret Bobbitt as members.

Several constitutional changes were approved by the Executive Board and referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for proper presentation to the membership. These changes include the following:

1. Creation of the office of Association Historian.
2. Re-arranging the Constitution and Bylaws for easier reference and amendment.
3. That the State Legislation Committee be called the Legislation Committee, and its chairman be made a member of the Executive Board and also assume the title and duties of the Federal Coordinator.
4. That all special committees be evaluated for promotion to permanent committees.

A sum of $25 was voted for the Nicholson scholarship fund.

Hugh E. Behmer was confirmed for a new term as ALA Councillor.

The Board modified the term of the WVLA LIBRARIES staff by having it start one issue later and continue through the issue following the fall Conference. This will make a smoother transition for all concerned and a better reporting of the fall conference.

Convention time is coming fast. Plans are well underway for the fall conference at Fairmont. Conference chairman Gilbert Fites and Mrs. Mary Conway are busy with local plans. These questionnaires on the program are being used as far as possible for the guidance in building the kind of a program you want. Keep the dates of October 7-8 open and reserve your room at the Fairmont Hotel.

Some of the library wives are cooking up a scheme to get the wives, children and husbands to the conference. The plans call for their entertainment and comfort. Will they call themselves the "Families and Sweethearts of Librarians?"

The redesignation of the WVLA as a chapter of the American Library Association was approved overwhelmingly by West Virginia's ALA members.

Don't forget to get your friends (and you too) to write letters in favor of the Library Services Bill. Your congressman needs your encouragement even though he is already for the bill. We stand to get more than $250,000 per year to speed up the extension of public library service.

"On to Fairmont - October 7 & 8."

Omar A. Bacon, President WVLA Library Association
ADDENDA

The following titles have been discovered since the publication of "West Virginia Imprints and Authors 1954" in the March, 1955 issue of this Journal. Mr. Jerome Foley, Head Reference Librarian at Kanawha Public, merits special thanks for supplying a number of titles omitted in the basic list.

Automotive Safety Foundation.

Benj. Bloom.

Biendorf, Benjamin.

Brenni, Vito J.

Brown, William Griffiths.

Crumley, J. A.

Hoscan, Ray Oscar.

Harvey, Vera Andrew.
"Teaching the stars." Emory University, Ga., Banner press, 1954. 60 p.

Knapp, James.

Miller, Gertrude (Thompson).

The Princeton Company.

West Virginia Cooperative Crop Reporting Service.
A JOHN BROWN EXHIBIT

From May 6th through the 31st, West Virginia University was privileged to exhibit a number of items from the notable John Brown collection of Mr. Boyd B. Stutler, Charleston. Mr. Stutler's collection, which is the most comprehensive in existence, contains perhaps seven thousand items; the Library's exhibit space allowed the showing of only the merest fragment of it, but that fragment created an intense interest. The Harpers Ferry of almost one hundred years ago seemed strangely close and immediate as one looked at the pike taken from Brown in 1859 in what seemed the moment of his failure; Charles Town and its jail loomed up in the lobby of the Library with a microscopic sweep as one looked at the sheet of lined paper on which he had written in a letter to his wife: "Yesterday Nov 2d I was sentenced to be hanged on 2d December next. Do not grieve on my account."

For a folder distributed to viewers of the exhibit, Mr. Stutler wrote the following paragraphs. They are reprinted here for their interest to West Virginia librarians.

Charles E. Butler
John Brown—the homely old farmer and tanner of Ohio and northern New York—the guerrilla captain of Kansas and the raider at Harpers Ferry whose one-man war against slavery set the two sections of the country at arms against each other—is still one of the most controversial characters in all American history. Brown, born at Torrington, Connecticut, in May 1800, capped his militant anti-slavery career by his abortive raid on Harpers Ferry on October 16, 1859, and died in the gallows at Charles Town six weeks later, December 2, 1859. But there is today just as much divergent opinion about the man and his acts as in 1859—95 years ago.

Few men, either directly, or indirectly, have filled more pages of American history. In fact it was said of him a few years ago that no other American except Washington and Lincoln had been so much written about. His raid on Harpers Ferry was insignificant in itself and in its immediate results, but it was the one spark needed to explode the stored-up hates and differences between the two sections of the country. Truly, it was the prelude—though not the immediate cause—of the war between the sections that followed less than two years later. John Brown struck at slavery—the sorest point at issue between the North and South—which he well knew could not fail to arouse both sections to frenzied action. He troubled them more than ever when they nailed his coffin down—John Brown, dead, was a more powerful force than John Brown living, and his old, dead hands reached out from his lonely grave at Bleak House, New York, to turn the pages of history long after his strong frame had molded into dust.

"Why do you collect John Brown?" is a question that is popped at me with great frequency. Of course the more truthful answer without any attempt to rationalize, but perhaps less satisfying to the inquirer who expects wordy words in reply, would be simply: "I don't know!" And now after following the trail of Old John Brown for something more than forty years (counting back to purchase dates set down in books on my shelves) I still don't know what gave me the initial impulse.

It can be certainly stated that the desire to know about John Brown and the tangled mess of national affairs in the middle of the last century did not arrive full blown. So it must have come about progressively through a combination of interests, circumstances and associations. Maybe the war tales of the then not so old Union and Confederate veterans in my home bailiwick in Calhoun County had a lot to do with it. Certainly it was not because of family ties or that my grandfathers or their neighbors had participated in the John Brown affair. Neither was there any special interest in the subject among my elders nor the availability of books about John Brown and his wars in that part of the moral vineyard where I spent my youth and young manhood.

Back as early as 1910, while editing the Graniteville News, I was a student of the catalogues issued by the rare and second-hand book dealers in New York, Boston, and other cities, and what treasures they were! I bought my first John Brown books from Burnham's Antique Book Store in Boston—selections made from the annual catalogue—probably not because I had then a consuming interest in the radical old raider, but because the books could...
June 1955

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

He had cheaply. Redpath's Life of
Captain John Brown was offered at
25 cents, but in lots could be had for
as little as 10 cents. The more I read
the more I wanted: references in the
books led to new titles and magazine
articles. Gradually the books and pam-
plets on this specialized subject be-
gan to pile up and to overflow my lim-
ited book shelves so that even before
the First World War I was very inap-
propriately referring to the lot as a "collection."

For several years I had the field all
myself and did not feel the infla-
tion pressure that came later when
heroes, libraries and collectors, be-
egan competing for the rarer items.

In the process of gathering books,
pamphlets, manuscripts, prints, photo-
graphs, postal items (Brown was post-
mist at Randolph, Va., for eight
years), personal and association items,
newspaper clippings and magazine ar-
ticles - it has all been grazy in my
aul - I have managed to amass some
7,000 pieces in all categories. There
are 103 letters and documents written
by the old raider out of less than 500
known to exist, and this does not in-
clude a mass of related personal pa-
pers ranging from a deed made to Brown
for land at Hudson, Ohio, in 1823 to
the undertaker's receipted bill for
preparing his body for burial. There
are also books and letters in many lan-
guages; many letters from his friends
and enemies, from politicians, includ-
ing Presidents - in fact the collec-
tion now runs the full gamut covering
practically every phase of his activi-
ties. The items have been picked up
from places all over the world, from
Moscow to Tokyo and way-points in be-
tween - a lot of them in person after
searching through stacks and piles in
cut-of-the-way shops, but more by mail
and through dealer contacts. Like
gold, John Brown items are where you
find them, and some rare nuggets have
been turned up in the most unlikely
places.

The pursuit of Old John Brown has
been a satisfying experience - it has
led me into odd corners and down
strange paths, into strange friendships
and complex associations, so now after
more than forty years, looking back
over the field in retrospect, I would
not today swap my protagonist for any
of his contemporaries, or the date
under study for any other period in
American history.

NEW LIBRARIAN AT MARSHALL

Harold W. Apel has been appointed
head librarian at Marshall College.
He succeeds Miss Ross Oliver who
will retire August 31.

Mr. Apel is a native of Port-
smouth, Ohio. He has a B.A. degree
from Miami University at Oxford and
a M.A. from Western Reserve. Mr.
Apel's professional experience in-
cludes two years as assistant refer-
ence librarian and four years as tech-
nical service librarian at Miami Uni-
versity.

The West Virginia Library Associa-
tion welcomes Mr. Apel to our State.

PUBLICITY HANDBOOK

"Good Publicity Helps The Libra-
ry" is the title of a 32-page pamphlet
recently distributed by the W. Va.
Library Commission.

The pamphlet is a compendium of
suggestions on how to develop and han-
dle news. It was compiled by Mrs. C.
B. Allen from an extensive report
made by Mr. Donovan H. Bond. Mrs.
Allen, a member of the Library Comis-
ion as well as librarian for the Har-
dy County Library, has had considera-
table experience in journalism. The pan-
phlet should be of great help to local
librarians.
HARLY COUNTY
The second annual House and Garden Tour was held on May 30 for the bene-
fit of the Hardy County Public Library. Ten of the most historic and beautiful
spots in the County—many of them pri-
ivate homes—were thrown open to visi-
tors.

HUNTINGTON
A classification and pay plan for
the library personnel was developed by
a special staff committee and was ap-
proved by the Board of Directors. It
will go into effect in September. Cop-
ies of this schedule will soon be made
available to interested libraries.

The Library now provides transients
with a choice of paperbound titles on
their signature alone, a free guest
card if they have library cards from
other libraries, or a deposit of $5 if
the first two methods do not serve.

Librarian Omar A. Bacon was elected
Secretary of the West Virginia Council
of Adult Education.

KANAWHA COUNTY
A technical book fund has been set
up by the Kanawha Valley Technical
Council for purchase of specialized
reference works. The first contribu-
tions were presented to the Library in
April.

A section of the parking lot behind
the library has been set aside for the
use of library staff and for a drive-
in book pickup. Patrons unable to come
into the library may telephone for
material, then check it out from the
parking lot attendant later.

Honor book pins are to be awarded to
those children registered in the coun-
ty-wide reading club, Noble Order of
Bookworms, who have read fifty books
or more during the school year. The
summer reading club has a baseball
theme this year.

OHIO COUNTY
The closing of local schools makes
possible an evaluation of Juvenile
work done during the past ten months.
Instruction in the use of the Library
was given to 5,646 children. These were
Girl Scout troops, classes of pupils
of all grades from kindergarten to
high school, and groups sponsored by
the Kiwanis Club on City-County Day.
The total figure for Juvenile circula-
tion for all departments has reached
the pleasing figure of 71,121. In an
attempt to keep alive this interest in
reading, a Trail Blazers Reading Club
is being organized for the summer va-
cation.

The Film Department for the first
ten months of this year has topped all
previous years in the number of films
rented and viewer attendance. The De-
partment had for the month of May the
U.S. Chamber of Commerce film, "It's
Everybody's Business," Prominent local
organizations used it for their meet-
ings.

W. VA. LIBRARY COMMISSION
A library service survey has been
in progress since January in Randolph
and Upshur Counties. The purpose of
this survey is to explore the broad
community characteristics that would
affect a library service program and
to recommend a program for extending
service to the two counties, with aid
from the Library Commission.

The survey was requested by a com-
mittee of citizens headed by Paul C.
Lawson of Buckhannon. It is being con-
ducted by Kenneth Brown, Library Com-
mission Consultant.
SCHOOL LIBRARIES

CABELL COUNTY

April 4 saw the beginning of what promises to be a most fruitful association. On that date a long-planned joint meeting of school librarians from Cabell and Kanawha Counties was held. School library problems were discussed and ideas exchanged. It is to be hoped that this was only the first of many such meetings.

MOUNDSVILLE

On April 26, sixteen members of the Library Club of Moundsville High spent the day in Pittsburgh visiting libraries. The trip included stops at Pitt and Carnegie. Club members were given a conducted tour through the various departments of the Carnegie Library.

NEW HAVEN

The Lion's Club of New Haven helped Wahama High School Library reach its state quota of books. The library circ-

ULATION was greater during this past school year than in any of the last 14 years.

COLLEGE LIBRARIES

MARSHALL COLLEGE

Marshall College has proved again that an active and intelligently-managed pamphlet collection will more than justify the staff time and effort devoted to it. Since 1947 the annual circulation of pamphlets has jumped from 1793 to over 4000 in 1954. This impressive increase is the direct result of a coordinated plan for ordering, advertising and servicing of the pamphlet collection.

WEST VIRGINIA TECH

Miss Eleanor Rowe has resigned as Librarian of West Virginia Institute of Technology to accept a position as Assistant Librarian at the Carnegie Library in McKeesport, Pa.

IV AT OHIO COUNTY (Continued from p.2)

Personal appearances, yes! It is a good policy to identify yourself as being a part of the library; then you are really visiting the members of your community. The first time you do it is rather breath-taking. Indeed a studio of any kind is rather awesome. This particular type of studio with multiple camera, floodlights, power cables, directors, producers and technicians is a little hard to comprehend, too. However, remember, once those floodlights are on and the camera begins to click you are being watched through the air at an incredible speed into the homes of your community. Your picture is on the screen and you have services to tell about, forget yourself, and do it. Make every appearance a personal visit.

Television is the most personal of all media. It comes into our homes, invades our seclusion and intrudes itself into our most private hours. It affects all people whether they own a set or not, and as a consequence its influence cannot be discounted. It presents both an opportunity and a challenge which all libraries should meet. It is both a source of enjoyment and truth, and who better than libraries can furnish such material. This scientific magic has power incomparable to any communication medium the world has ever known, so take advantage of it and transform your electronic calling card into a library card.
| OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF THE W.V.A. LIA
| 1954-1955 |

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Omar A. Bacon</td>
<td>Huntington Public Library</td>
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<td>First Vice-President</td>
<td>Floyd Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Vice-President</td>
<td>Olive Lewis</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Margaret Robbitt</td>
<td>Marshall College Library, Huntington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Nancy Matthews</td>
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<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>E. Hugh Beekley</td>
<td>Bethany College Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Secretary</td>
<td>Dora Ruth Parks</td>
<td>200 N. Quarrier Street, Charleston</td>
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<td>W. Va. Lib. Commission</td>
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<td>Chairman College Sec.</td>
<td>Robert H. Munn</td>
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### WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES STAFF

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<tr>
<td>Editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Editor and Business Manager</td>
<td>Vito Brenni</td>
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<td>Publications Assistant</td>
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<td>Faith Kessell</td>
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### PERMANENT COMMITTEES

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