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OMAR BACON LEAVES WEST VIRGINIA

All readers of this journal were distressed to hear that Omar Bacon was leaving Huntington and West Virginia. We all knew that this was inevitable someday; we just kept hoping that "someday" might be--say--1987. The following tribute to Mr. Bacon was written by Floyd Miller, a colleague and friend--and, incidentally, also a man to whom West Virginia librarians owe much.

In 1952 Omar Bacon's entrance into the community of Huntington and the library world of West Virginia was little noticed. Huntington had a new librarian--good. "Who is this man--Bacon? Where's he from?" He sat beside me in a summer course at the University of Illinois, a nice guy--very quiet. Little did we realize the potentiality for achieving set goals that lay beneath his placid demeanor; or that he would quickly become a guiding force in the library activities of West Virginia; or that six years later the Huntington Advertiser editor would acknowledge "Loss of Bacon Blow to Library."

Mr. Bacon showed himself to be an advocate of the positive program. When comic book censorship drew many librarians behind the barricades of their approved children's books, Mr. Bacon's picture appeared on page one of a Huntington newspaper with a pile of "horror" comics received in the library's 10 for 1 exchange program. When librarians first discovered the utility of paperbound books, Mr. Bacon was at the front of the vanguard proclaiming the merits of what he called the "kleenex" editions--buy them, use them, throw them away. The
present slogan used by the West Virginia Library Association—
MORE BOOKS AND BETTER LIBRARIES FOR WEST VIRGINIA—was coined
by Mr. Bacon.

Wherever he went Mr. Bacon talked library and the place
of the library in the community. The library is a potentially
vital force in educating people in their social and political
roles; an informed citizenry is a necessity in dealing with
the problems of today. This message attracted people, and they
sought his leadership. He served on the Board of Directors of
the Huntington Rotary Club and was secretary of the West Vir-
ginia Council for Adult Education, president of the West Vir-
ginia Library Association, superintendent of First Methodist
Church School, and held offices in and served on numerous
organizations and committees. At the 1956 W.V.L.A. annual ban-
quet Mr. Earl Rich, Chairman of the Board of the West Virginia
Library Commission, really paid tribute to Mr. Bacon when he
expressed appreciation for the service of the W.V.L.A. Ex-
tension Committee to the Commission in accomplishing its pro-
gram. Omar originated the committee and served as its chairman
for two years. In Huntington he leaves a re-activated and ins-
pired Friends of the Library organization to continue work
toward better library service for the city and county.

"I'm Omar Bacon, Huntington Librarian. You have a
fine collection of West Virginia books!" Through West Virginia
he went introducing himself to librarians as he visited their
libraries. Every trip was planned to include time for seeing
libraries and talking library matters. At each leave-taking
he parted from a new-made friend. The visits provided him with
additional information to enable assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of West Virginia's library program. His varied experience in school, college, and public libraries had prepared him for empathic relationship with all librarians and knowledge of different types of libraries. Soon public librarians sought his advice; school librarians requested his appearance as a program speaker; college librarians appreciated his understanding of and comments on their activities. He caused all librarians to become aware of the need for unity of purpose and action. Under this influence, membership in the Association increased; school librarians came to identify themselves with college and public librarians by establishing a section in the W.V.L.A.; the Association members, as a group, supported the program of the Library Commission and the appointment of a school library supervisor. Through his understanding of library affairs, the warmness of his personal relations, and his sincerity of appreciation, he came to be, in this writer's time, Mr. Library of West Virginia.

Omar was devoted also to his family; Nargo and Bob were soon well-known to us all. They attended the Association meetings and frequently accompanied Omar when he came to Executive Board meetings. Flaxen-haired, Bob was admired by all; Nargo's love encompasses the family and is the keystone of its solidarity.

This is the man—the librarian—the family—that leaves us for the Columbia River Regional Library with headquarters at Wenatchee, Washington. There Omar will coordinate and direct library activities over a 15,000 square mile area. With
the energy, enthusiasm, and faith of the pioneer of an earlier day, Omar departed from West Virginia with plans to make this Library Services Act demonstration project a permanent part of the lives of the people of the apple country.

* * * * *

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

At its June 14th meeting, the Executive Board of the West Virginia Library Association agreed that the regular Annual Conference would not be held this year. It was felt that holding a conference in the State would cut too deeply into the attendance at the Middle Atlantic Regional Library Conference. This is to be held at Atlantic City during the period October 2-4, 1958. The Executive Board strongly urges all West Virginia librarians to attend. The program is an excellent one.

The Executive Board also agreed that a Business Meeting of the Association will be held at Atlantic City if a quorum can be assembled. The present officers of the Association will continue in office for another year.
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear fellow members of WVIA:

As Summer begins, the most exciting news I can think of is looking forward toward Autumn when WVIA and five other state library associations will sponsor the MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGIONAL LIBRARY CONFERENCE in Atlantic City on October 2-4. After seeing the program that the Conference Committees have planned for MARLC, we decided that this is an event that every librarian and trustee in West Virginia should have an opportunity to attend. To encourage as many librarians as possible to go to the Atlantic City meeting, we are omitting the annual meeting originally planned for Huntington this year. And to make it easier for all WVIA members to make the trip, we are planning to charter a bus to go through West Virginia, picking up WVIA members along the way, and on to Atlantic City—if enough people are interested. Details about MARLC and the proposed chartered bus are to be found elsewhere in this issue.

Another of our fine librarians has left West Virginia. Mr. Omar Bacon, a past president of WVIA, has left Huntington for the Far West. Floyd Miller's tribute to Omar is elsewhere in this issue. To all of us who had the pleasure of knowing and his delightful optimism will be sorely missed.

National Library Week in West Virginia this past March was successful in spite of our late start. Under the able Chairmanship of Mr. John A. Jones of Weirton, a lot of attention was focused on our libraries, their facilities and their needs. With this year's experience behind us, Library Week in subsequent years will be an increasingly important annual event. It is most gratifying to learn that NLW in 1959 will be held April 12-18. The Chairman of the national Steering Committee is Mr. Theodore Miller whom many of you will remember as the banquet speaker at our Beckley meeting last fall. You will be hearing a lot about our plans for NLW '59 in the coming months.

Mr. Nicholas Winowich, our Membership Chairman, has done a fine job in getting membership renewals for 1958. If your name is not among those who have renewed, please do so right away.

Don't forget the Conference in Atlantic City in October. And please return the postal card now so that we can include you in our plans.

H. W. Apel, President
West Virginia Library Association
HUNTINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

"There have been some changes made" in the Huntington Public Library in the past months. Mr. Omar A. Bacon, our librarian, resigned. He is now Director of the Columbia River Regional Library, with his headquarters in Olympia, Washington. He will live in Wenatchee, Washington. Mrs. Bennett, our Administrative Assistant, is now Librarian of the City High School in New York State. We welcome a new staff member, Mr. Stewart N. batter, as Reference Assistant. He came to us from Chillicothe, Ohio. Our financial status is much improved due to a major change in allocation of funds. The Cabell County Court has allotted $172,000, the proceeds from a District Debt Levy, to be used for the Library and the Cabell County Recreational Program. This fund will be administered by the Board of Education.

Our summer reading program, "Reading to Lead," is attracting many youngsters. There will also be a talent program, "The Children's Hour," each Saturday morning at the Main Library.

LIBRARY COMMISSION

Two new bookmobiles were delivered in January. They are pontoon boats on Ford chassis. One was purchased from state funds, the other from Federal funds. They are on exhibit in Raleigh, McDowell and Marshall Counties during May and June. Both are loaded with new books which are a part of the two basic collections ordered and processed for new regions.

The Library Commission's state appropriation for 1959 fiscal year is $99,000, the same total which was appropriated for the 1958 fiscal year.

The House Appropriations Committee approved $5 million for the Library Services Act, 1959. The Senate is trying to get the full $7 1/2 million approved. If $5 million is the figure, West Virginia will qualify for $100,000 (Federal), or the same as 1958.

Requests for surveys for regional development have been received from Raleigh and Fayette Counties (Region 8 in West Virginia's state plan). At its meeting on April 26, the Library Commission authorized the Consultant staff to begin surveys as soon as possible. A letter from Mr. Rees, Chairman of the Commission, has gone to county representatives who have requested surveys.

Parkersburg and Wood County have also requested a survey. The Commission took action on that request.

Written survey reports have been completed for Marshall and McDowell Counties. The Advisory Committee in McDowell has accepted the survey reports.

The Library Commission has leased an old super market at 1718 Washington Street, East, Charleston. Loan, Reference, Order and Processing Departments will move to that location as soon as necessary alterations are completed, probably about July 15.
Consultants, administrative staff, and traveling library collection will continue in present location, 2004 Quarrier St.

The film which was produced by the Library Commission, "Books, Lots of Books," has been in constant use since its completion last November. Twenty-one foreign librarians saw it when it was previewed by the Library Services Branch. It has made several trips out of state for the purpose of previewing by other state and local libraries. Three copies are available for circulation of one week.

The film is a step-by-step portrayal of how a regional library develops in West Virginia. All shots are from actual situations in West Virginia.

MUSKOGEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

May is a very important month for our library. We were incorporated May 18, 1859. Next year will make our Centennial. By special act of Legislature, passed May 31, 1933, we were given the name of Muskogee County Public Library.

The Library's cultural program has expanded with an increased number of class visits from the local schools. We were pleased to note that the Shakespeare recordings had 764 High School students as listeners.

Summer activities include a reading program at the Elm Grove Branch. This will include the grades from fourth to seventh. After the required books are read, the readers receive two theatre tickets donated by a local theatre owner. The Harrison Branch will conduct an "Around the World Reading Contest" for grades two through five. The contest will close with a party at which prizes will be given. Also, books on Crafts, Games and Stories will be sent to camps and the Fresh Air Farm.

The Main Library will feature "Under the Story Book Umbrella". This will be a story hour of favorite stories from Shirley Temple's Story Book, and others, and will be both recorded and live. These story hours will be held outside on the lawn under a huge striped umbrella.

The Library has a complete file of The Wheeling Intelligencer which has been transferred to microfilm. From the old papers we are cutting articles on the city's development, and biographies of prominent residents.

FROM ABOUT THE STATE

CALHOUN COUNTY LIBRARY with 13,000 books, twelve bookmobile stops throughout the county, all kinds of magazines and your favorite record is rated as one hundred percent library in West Virginia. The formal opening of the DRY HILL PROSPERITY COMMUNITY LIBRARY was held from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, at the Community Building. Any resident of the two communities may check out books. Membership in a Farm Women's Club, or Country Life Association is not required. The library is a project of the Education Committee of the Country Life Association. A special meeting of the ST. ALBANS Public Library Board was required last month at the Library. Because of the rapid growth of St. Albans and surrounding communities, there had been a great increase in the circulation of Library books at the present overcrowded small Public Library. The ST. ALBAN-
The H. Weir Public Library was announced. The appointment was made effective April 1. At the same time, it was announced that Mrs. Weir, widow of Ernest T. Weir, founder of Weirton Steel, selected June 2 as the date for the dedication and opening of the new library named in her honor. The library is a gift to the people of Weirton from Mr. and Mrs. Weir. Donations have started to arrive at the headquarters of the POINT PLEASANT Junior Woman’s Club for the club’s drive for funds to equip and maintain the Mason County Library. Donations to the library equipment fund have been received from many clubs and church groups, as well as from individual givers.

WILB Public Library Board has drafted a long-term program designed to realize a $30,000 library building for that Tyler County town within five years. The present library has completed 30 years of service. The LANAHA COUNTY Court was ordered by the State Supreme Court to participate in financial support of the Kanawha County Public Library in Charleston. The unanimous decision upheld the constitutionality of an act of the 1957 Legislature providing for three-way support of the library by the County Court, the County Board of Education, and the City of Charleston. The appointment of William C. Ayers of North Baltimore, Ohio, as librarian of WEIRTON’S Mary.

COLLEGE LIBRARIES

DAVIS AND ELKINS

Miss Virgie Harris, Associate Librarian of Davis and Elkins College, died Saturday morning, April 15. She was born in Barbour County, March 23, 1895, of pioneer stock and she spent the greater part of her life in the area.

Miss Harris served Davis and Elkins College as Registrar from 1921 to 1941, and she was District Superintendent of Library Extension for the Works Progress Administration in Huntington from 1941 to 1943. She was Librarian at Southern Seminary and Junior College from 1943 - 1945 and Records Librarian of David Memorial Hospital during 1945/46. Miss Harris was Assistant Librarian at Davis and Elkins College from 1946 to 1952, and Associate Librarian since 1952.

Her service of the profession and to our association will be greatly missed.

WEST LIBERTY STATE COLLEGE

Frederick R. Darkis, Jr., of Durham, North Carolina (Western Reserve, 1938) has been appointed Assistant Librarian effective July 1, 1948. Mr. Darkis is a graduate of High Point College and holds the Master’s Degree in history from the University of Tennessee.

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

Mr. Floyd W. Miller, will become Chief Reference Librarian of the West Virginia University Library effective July 1, 1948. Mr. Miller comes to the University from Glenville State College, where he has been Librarian since 1949. Mr. Miller is a Past President of the West Virginia Library Association and has taken a most active part in the affairs of the Association.
MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGIONAL LIBRARY CONFERENCE
October 2-4, 1958
THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL, ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.

The West Virginia Library Association is one of the six state library associations sponsoring the MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGIONAL LIBRARY CONFERENCE, October 2-4, 1958, at the Ambassador Hotel in Atlantic City. Our regular Annual Meeting will be omitted this year in order that more of our members can attend MARLC. The programs which have been arranged will be interesting as well as informative; there seems to be "something for everybody"-for all librarians, trustees and friends.

Six general sessions, with each of the six state library associations as hosts, are planned for the three-day Conference. There will also be Discussions, "Conversation Corners," and business meetings of the various state associations. A Banquet Meeting on Saturday evening features Willy Ley, author, as speaker.

WVIA is Host at the Friday afternoon session. Your President will serve as general chairman for the meeting with one of our Trustees from West Virginia introducing the Speaker.

We would like to see as many Librarians as possible from West Virginia at MARLC. It has been suggested that WVIA arrange to charter a bus (Greyhound or equal) to start at the western part of the State and to pick up Librarians at various points along the route to Atlantic City. This seems to be an excellent way of keeping the cost of transportation as low as possible and having good fellowship and "talk" on the trip. If enough Librarians are interested in going to Atlantic City on a chartered
bus, we will try to make the necessary arrangements. Please return the postage-free card inserted in this issue of WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES promptly so that we can proceed with our plans. A separate card for making hotel reservations is also included.
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Harboursville Branch
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Mrs. C. B. Allen
Moorefield, West Virginia

Miss Lorena Ammar
Kanawha County Public Library
Charleston, West Virginia

Mrs. Wilson Anderson
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Mrs. Catherine D. Apel
309 Forest Road
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Mrs. John J. Austen
1506 Pierce Avenue
Columbus 14, Ohio

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Mr. Frank V. Badger
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Central Union Building
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Miss Hester N. Brown
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<td>Miss Lena Harris</td>
<td>506 Randolph Avenue</td>
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<td>Miss Virgie Harris</td>
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<td>Mrs. Margaret Hogg Hilliard</td>
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June 1958

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Mr. John Edward Scott
Institute, West Virginia

Mr. Harry Lee Shanklin
Hurricane, West Virginia

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Miss Mary Shipper
Potomac State College
Izys, West Virginia

Mr. Donald C. Shunk
1524 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia

Mrs. Olive Shurtleff
1447 College Park
Fairmont, West Virginia

Mr. Robert Simmons
Kanawha County Public Library
Charleston, West Virginia

Miss Evelyn Simon
Box 199
Spencer, West Virginia

Mrs. Cedric Smith
Hinswood
Cheating, West Virginia

Miss Edith Smoakler
2737 Daniels Avenue
South Charleston 3, West Virginia

Miss Frances Springston
1607 Dowey Street
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Miss Helen Stockert
12 Madison Street
Buckhannon, West Virginia

Mrs. Daisy Jett Summers
Ialem, West Virginia

Mrs. Charles A. Sutton
2209 1/2 Washington Street, East
Charleston 1, West Virginia

Miss Ruth Sweeney
2112 Liberty Street
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Miss Nancy Taylor
Kenmore Lane
Huntington, West Virginia

The Reverend W. Carroll Thorn
202 S. Penn Street
Wheeling, West Virginia

Mrs. Emma Louise Vaughn
207 Fayette Pike
Montgomery, West Virginia

Miss Betty Jane Wade
Shinnston High School
Shinnston, West Virginia

Miss Emily Walls
West Virginia Library Commission
2004 Quarrier Street
Charleston, West Virginia

Mrs. Vennelda Ware
Barbourville,
West Virginia

Mrs. Walter H. Wilson
Gassaway Public Library
Gassaway, West Virginia

Mrs. Otis G. Wilson
619 South Terrace
Huntington, West Virginia

Mrs. R. M. Wilson
361 Main Street
Logan, West Virginia

Mr. Nicholas Winovich
1538 Clark Road
Charleston, West Virginia

Miss Carolyn Matthews Witcher
Box 76
Institute, West Virginia

Miss Mary B. Wolfe
Box 28
Sophia, West Virginia

Mrs. Edna Woolery  
Bethany College Library  
Bethany, West Virginia

W. Robert E. Zapf  
George A. Flohr Company  
59 Walnut Street  
Cincinnati 2, Ohio

W. Robert L. Zimmer  
118 Jefferson Park Drive  
Charlottesville, Virginia

W. C. B. Zipf  
Massants County Public Library  
H. Marys, West Virginia

Institutional

Beckley College  
Beckley, West Virginia

Carnegie Library  
25 Green Street  
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Clarksburg Public Library  
Clarksburg, West Virginia

Byrd Bros., Inc.  
131 Gifford Street  
Syracuse, New York

Charles W. Gibson Library  
East Main and Sedgwick Streets  
Buckhannon, West Virginia

Glenville State College Library  
Glenville State College  
Glenville, West Virginia

Harrison-Upshur Regional Library  
5 Marion Street  
Buckhannon, West Virginia

Kanawha County Public Library  
Lee and Hale Streets  
Charleston, West Virginia

Marshall College Library  
Huntington, West Virginia

Union Carbide Chemicals Company  
The Library  
P. O. Box 8004  
South Charleston 3, West Virginia

West Virginia Department of Archives and History  
State Capitol Building  
Charleston, West Virginia

Mary H. Weir Public Library  
3442 Main Street  
Weirton, West Virginia

West Liberty State College Library  
West Liberty, West Virginia

West Virginia Library Commission  
2004 Quarrier Street  
Charleston, West Virginia

West Virginia University Library  
Morgantown, West Virginia

West Virginia State College Library  
Institute, West Virginia

West Virginia Wesleyan College Library  
Buckhannon, West Virginia

Williamson Public Library  
Williamson, West Virginia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 AM - 12 Noon</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 AM - 11:30 AM</td>
<td>Coffee and buns - to honor exhibitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 PM</td>
<td>General Session: &quot;Books, Services and Staff-Facing Up to Personnel Shortages&quot; - Panel with Ralph Blasinghame, Jr., Chairman.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:15-5:30 PM</td>
<td>Round Table Discussions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 PM</td>
<td>Reception.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 - 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Coffee Hour - Exhibit Area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Business meeting of WVLA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>General Session: &quot;Books with a Past, Present and Future - Rare Books&quot; - Eliel K. Shaffer, Speaker. State Host for this session; West Virginia Library Association.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15-5:30 PM</td>
<td>Round Table Discussions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 PM</td>
<td>General Session: &quot;Question of Modern Poetry&quot; - John Ciardi, speaker.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Coffee Hour - Exhibit Area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>General Session: &quot;Books, Research and Defense&quot; - Panel with Lowell A. Martin, Chairman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>General Session: &quot;Books for Exurbia, Suburbia and Innerurbia - Community Development and its Effects on Library Planning&quot; - Dr. Philip M. Hauser, speaker.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Banquet: &quot;Conquest of Space&quot; - Willy Ley, Author, Speaker; Master of Ceremonies: Emerson Greenaway, President, American Library Association.</td>
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MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGIONAL LIBRARY CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

The Round Table Discussions on Thursday and Friday afternoons will provide an opportunity for an exchange of ideas and help in specific areas, with a leader and a resource person for each session. The subjects to be discussed are:

1. "Friends of Libraries - Why and How?"
2. "Audio-Visual Centers - Whose Responsibility?"
3. "Book Collections - Are They Meeting the Needs?"
4. "Public Relations - Good or Bad?"
5. "Paperbacks - Help or Hindrance?"
6. "Technical Processes - What are the Essentials?"
7. "Family Reading - Practical or Academic?"

Conversation Corners are planned for: Public Libraries, School Libraries, Special Libraries, College and University Libraries, and Trustees. At least one person who is well-versed in each of these areas will be available to help the conversation along.