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BULLETIN

of

THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 44 - No.

March 1972

A PARTICIPANT LOOKS BACK ON THE CONFERENCE AT JAMESTOWN

Early on a Sunday afternoon, librarians from all over the state began to file into the Bay Voyage Hotel in Jamestown, Rhode Island. The staff of the hotel received the new registrants most graciously and as the doors closed behind them the new occupants could feel the world receding -- as indeed it did for the next four days. This, then, was the site for the "Outreach" Conference sponsored by the New England Center for Continuing Education.

This particular conference, which began on January 31st and ended on February 4th, was the first of four to be held throughout New England. Topics were not picked arbitrarily, but gleaned from var-

ious answers received on questionnaires which had been previously distributed. Since "outreach" seemed to be the most relevant to Rhode Island, this was the one picked for these participants. Topics for the other conferences would be chosen in the same manner.

Some of us attending the conference had been doing "outreach" for many years and were curious to see in what new way this over-used word could be presented that we hadn't heard before and, in many cases, acted upon. The first hour of residence was spent in the lounge putting names with faces. Immediately after dinner (the dining room was also our meeting room) the staff gave us a

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rundown on what they hoped to accomplish in the next four days, what they hoped we, as participants, would gain from the conference, and a day by day outline of the activities. The staff also clarified the point intimated by those who had been doing "outreach" -- the fact that this has been done by us for several years did not mean, necessarily, that we have been reaching the community.

During that Sunday evening warm-up they suggested that perhaps we should take a good look at ourselves and see if the programs we were giving the community were ones we thought they should have and not ones in which they were interested. The staff also explained that in the next few days they hoped to show us (not tell us) how to make an action program to meet the needs of the community. Thus

BALLOT FOR VICE PRESIDENT, MARCH 1972

CANDIDATES (choose one): Mr. Paul Bazin
Miss Roberta Cairns
Mr. Richard Olsen

Mail this ballot to RILA - 150 EMPIRE ST. - PROV., RI 02903
mail BEFORE March 30th, 1972.

we saw the new way this subject could be presented. It not only shed new light on the word "outreach" but was definitely food for thought.

The rest of Sunday night was spent in getting to know each other -- an invaluable part of the program for as the days wore on and we became more and more involved in our work inhibitions, reservations and other disguises were dropped.

And so the conference began. From Monday through Thursday the participants and staff talked, ate, drank and breathed air which reverberated with target areas, purposes, aims, objectives, and other jargon.

Monday morning, after a brisk walk and breakfast, the participants and staff settled down and started to work. Our first problem was to pick a target area -- we had already named our priorities in the questionnaires but now we must narrow the field and pick the #1 priority. The target areas naturally differed and one could almost form a mental picture of the community from which each participant came by the target areas

³ he (or she) had chosen. Several minds pursued the same line of thought: teenagers, homebound, poor readers, but there were a few isolated cases such as interdepartmental, trustees and public relations. Why we had picked our particular areas was obvious but how to relate these needs to our purposes and aims was something entirely new.

The next two days we wrangled discussed, questioned, wrote, scratched out and rewrote. The staff circled among us directing our thoughts toward the goals we had set for ourselves. At all times the staff was extremely aware of our problems and sensitive to our reactions, making the participants feel free at all times to comment on any point or to question any aspect of presentation. Interchange was often rapid & highpitched.

Wednesday was the day for implementation, on paper, of our plans. Groups of like-target areas convened and had what the staff called "brainstorming" sessions. Everyone had a chance to join in and some of the ideas received were so far removed from

libraries as to seem foreign -- yet remain plausible. The evening was reserved for our guests who were to react to the plans we had been formulating. We soon found that the single evening was not long enough for the reactors to get more than a smattering of what we had been doing but we did get our reactions -- both good and bad.

Thursday was the wrap up with staff and participants on equal terms. The participants had evaluated the program on paper and now the staff was asked, by the participants, to evaluate it orally. The conference was a success, the yardstick the staff used to measure it not being the ability to reach 100% of the participants but, rather, were those participants they had reached really committed.

The actual conference was over but we carried away with us action plans that we couldn't wait to implement, lasting associations with people we had glimpsed here and there, and an overall aura that would not soon disappear.

Virginia Miles,
So. Prov. Branch,
PPL

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PENDING LIBRARY LEGISLATION (as of Feb. 15)

- S 48 Act increasing state aid to free public libraries. Arcaro & Coman. Senate Finance Comm.
- S 876 \$100,000 bond issue for purchase non-fiction books. Newport Public Library. Taylor. Passed Senate. House Corporations Comm.*
- H 2204A Act freezing public school library standards. Solomon. Recommitted to HEW -- division vote June 22, 1971.

* Local bill not of immediate concern to RILA.



H 2392 Act making appropriations Providence Public Library. (Skeleton) Adamo. House Finance. **

H 5059 Act exempting libraries and educational institutions from law regulating sale or exhibition of certain publications. (Chpt. 30 PL 1971 - Marshall Law of last year on pornographic materials). Low and others. House Committee on HEW.

** Not sponsored by PPL.

"Poop-poop-poop"

"The motor car went Poop-poop-poop,
As it raced along the road,
Who was it steered it into a pond?
Ingenious Mr. Toad!"

And the children edged closer and closer to the players as Mr. Toad went from escapade to escapade with Rat, Mole and Badger chiding, commiserating and extricating him from the results of his follies.

The place was the Providence Public Library's Washington Park Branch, where the Xavier Players, at the invitation of the Children's Librarian, Miss Nancy Curley, gave their joyous interpretation of Wind in the Willows. It was theater in the round, with ingeniously costumed animals cavorting among the children, spontaneously involving them in the action from time to time. Later the players brought this same magic and fun to the children in the Central, the Knight Memorial and Mt. Pleasant Libraries, proving once again the appeal and universality of the theme.

We hope that the Xavier Players, a talented dramatic group from Saint Xaviers Academy, under the direction of Sister Eileen, will continue to bring enchantment and happiness to children as they have done in their production of Wind in the Willows.

Cynthia Neal
Children's
Coordinator,
Prov. Public

EXEC. BD. NEWS

The Executive Board of RILA met on February 16 at 10 a.m. at the Department of State Library Services. Members attending were Mr. Alexander, Mrs. Barbara Wilson, Mrs. Sally Wilson, Mr. Whitney, Mr. Guilbeault, and Mr. Olsen. Visitors were Mr. Taylor, Mr. Waters, Mr. Andrews, Mrs. Parent, and Mrs. Hearn.

The treasurer announced that the RILA is now listed as a non-profit organization. This will enable us to use lower rates of postage and be a great savings to the Association.

Mr. Richard Waters presented a program that DSLS wishes to sponsor with the help of RILA and the URI Graduate Library School. As part of a five year goals-planning that DSLS is engaged in, a technique of forecasting called Delphi has been suggested. It involves obtaining public opinion on libraries and their services and working them in with librarian suggestions to indicate areas where growth is needed and practical. They will need both financial and "library"

6 advise from RILA. The Board discussed the proposal and it plans to bring it up again at next month's meeting after individual members have had a chance to study it.

Mrs. Carolyn Hearn reported to the Board on the Nominating Committee's slate to elect a new Vice President/President-Elect to fill the unexpired term of Miss Dolores McKeough.

The vote will be by mail from a ballot in the March Bulletin. Nominees are: Mr. Richard Olsen, Mr. Paul Bazin, and Miss Roberta Cairns. The Board voted to approve the nominations and they were passed unanimously.

Mr. Charles Taylor reported at length on the activities of the ALA Council at the Mid-Winter meeting. He was very encouraged by a new feeling of facing up to responsibilities and the amount of work the Council managed to accomplish. He outlined a number of these accomplishments to the Board.

Mrs. Parent reported on plans for the spring RILA conference. We have been invited to meet at the new campus of Bryant College. By putting the

meeting back a week to May 23 or 25, we will have the facilities to ourselves. A very interesting program is being developed.

Mr. Andrews reported on the status of legislation. Mr. Alexander reported on a meeting with the Bulletin staff and their plans to farm out work on the Bulletin to other libraries. Mrs. Barbara Wilson told of the results of a statistical survey correlating RILA membership with Rhode Island members of ALA -- 71 ALA members (of a total of 120 members for the state) are also members of RILA.

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7 VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES

The following three persons have been selected as candidates for the position of Vice President/President-Elect:

Paul Bazin, Assistant Director at Providence College (since Jan. 1969) He has been a member of the Conference Comm. ('69-71) and Ad Hoc Comm.

Roberta Cairns, Director of Barrington Public Library (since July '71) She is presently a member of the Government Relations Comm.

Dick Olsen, Director of the John Addams Library of Rhode Island College (since '68) He has been a member of the Intellectual Freedom Comm. ('70-'71), Government Relations Comm. ('70-'71), Scholarship Comm ('70) and Executive Board member-at-large ('71).

Deadline for submitting completed ballots is March 30th, see p. 2.

Mrs. Margaret Caldwell has resigned as supervisor of the Providence Regional Systems office. As of February 9th, Mrs. Shirley Butterworth, formerly an assistant at the Rochambeau Branch of the Providence Public Library, is the supervisor of the office.

Mr. Craig Kaspark, a graduate of Wayne State University has been appointed Media Technician at the Providence Public Library as of Feb. 7.

"Woman of the Year" is Mrs. Ruth Jellison, presented by the Woonsocket Kiwanis Club. The wife of the Reverend Frederick Jellison of St. James Episcopal Church, she has worked for a new library in Woonsocket for ten years and finally this year achieved passage of a bond issue assuring the new building.

Chaplin Memorial library has been named as the first supplementary resource center to serve students and other learners. The first person hired is Michael Hunt, part-time, also affiliated with the Ferry Project in Pawtucket.

\$2500 has been donated to the Pawtucket Public Library by Martin Zucker in memory of his parents and also in memory of his own pleasant experiences at the library.

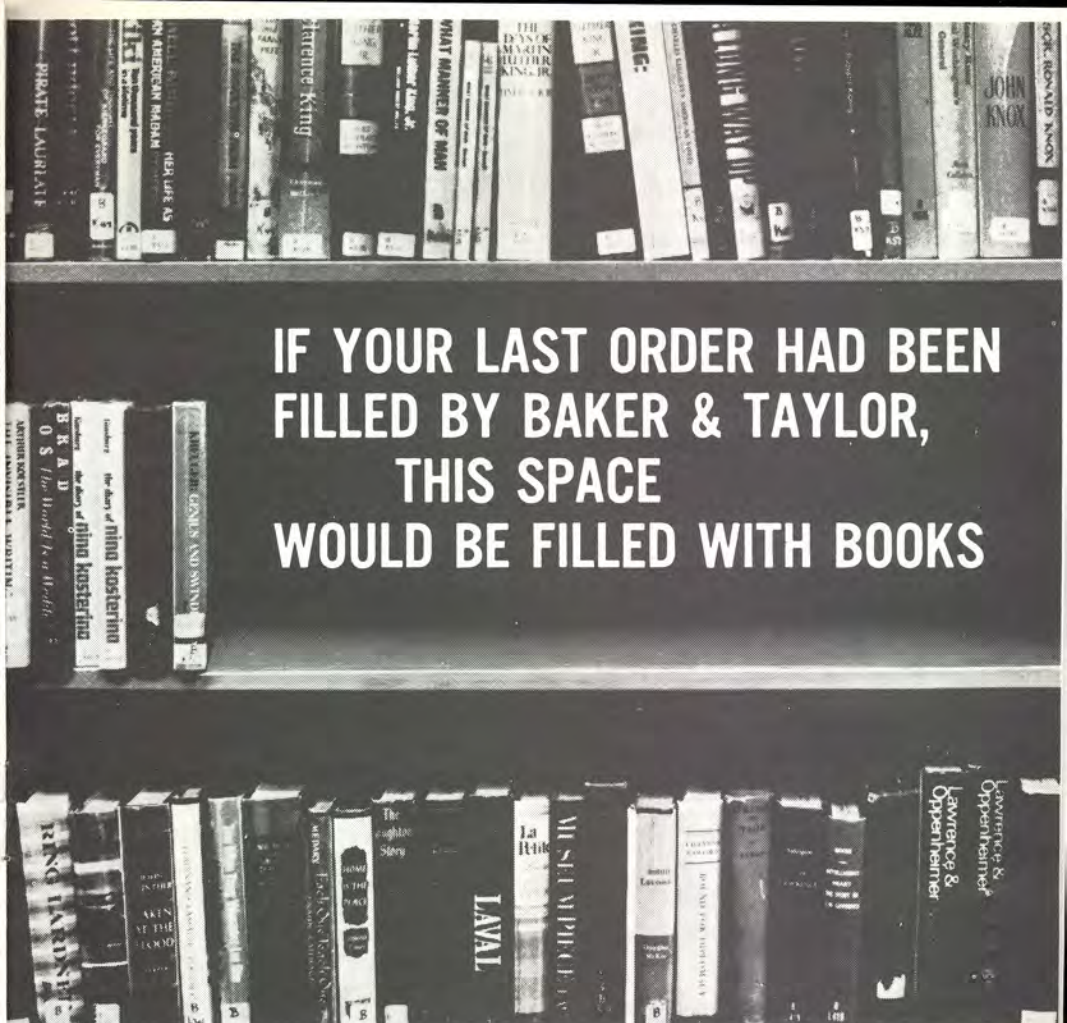
The Rhode Island Medical Librarians met at the new Health Sciences Library at Brown University to discuss plans for the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association New England Regional Group. This will be held at Brown on September 15, 16, 1972.

Although the membership consists mostly of librarians active in the medical field, all persons interested in the health sciences are invited to the sessions. Program, registration information, and place will be announced later.

Warwick Public Library's new head of reference is Mrs. Jane Goodwin who just received her MLS at URI in January.

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NEWS!

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Independent Libraries:

Libraries that are not municipally owned may be affected by a revised state corporate law. It requires the Attorney General to dissolve corporations that have neglected to file an annual report in the Secretary of State's Office. Such papers accompanied by a fee of \$15.00 provide identification of the corporation, of its officers, date of annual meeting, and indication of its assets. According to information carried in the Providence Evening Bulletin, January 13, 1972, Attorney General Richard J. Israel is allowing until the end of March 1972 for filing such reports for 1971. If corporations have gone out of business and the State is required to seek out former directors and officers to dissolve their corporations, court costs may result.

RILA's file of The Bulletin is incomplete.

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CALENDAR

March 8, 1972 New England Round Table of Children's Librarians "What's that Machine Doing on my Bookshelf?"
Framingham State College
(fees, \$2)

March 17... Simmons College School of Library Science Alumni Day. Contact: Adeline Oakley, Bridgewater Public Library, Bridgewater, Mass.

April 3 or 4 ... Assembly of Bulletin by Northern Region at Prov. P. L.

April 3-6...Catholic Library Association. Pick-Congress Hotel, Chicago.


April 13, 14, 15... National Humanities Series
Topic: A Sense of Place.
7:30 Westerly High School Auditorium (a 3 day program with a main program on April 15)

April 16 - 22... National Library Week.

May 1 or 2... Assembly of Bulletin by Island Region at Prov. P.L.

May 23 OR 25... RILA Annual Meeting, Bryant College
-- note date change.

March 15... RILA Executive Board meeting, 10 a.m.



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