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BULLETIN

OF THE
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 5.

JUNE, 1932.

NO. 3.



GREENE PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1932, GREENE PUBLIC LIBRARY, GREENE, R. I.

MORNING SESSION.

- 10:00 Address of Welcome.
Miss Mittie Arnold.
- Business Meeting.
Reports of Officers and Committees.
Election of Officers.
- Some High Points of the New Orleans Conference.
Miss Mary R. Lucas, Providence Public Library.
Miss Janet Merrill, South Providence Branch of the
Providence Public Library.
Miss Esther C. Cushman, Library of Brown University.

LUNCHEON AND INSPECTION OF LIBRARY.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

- 2:00 In Defense of Genealogy.
Mr. Mahlon K. Schnacke, Assistant Librarian, Library of
Brown University.
- Subject to be announced.
Professor William M. Randall, Editor of the Library
Quarterly.

INSPECTION OF EXHIBITS.

BULLETIN
OF THE
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Published every now and then,
and designed to be of interest
to librarians of Rhode Island.

R. I. L. A. BULLETIN COMMITTEE

JOSEPHINE A. HOPE,
PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNISE KANE,
CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL, PROVIDENCE
MRS. DOROTHY H. HELLEN,
ELMWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY, PROVIDENCE

Vol. 5. JUNE, 1932. No. 3.

THE GREENE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Greene Public Library was started about ten years ago as the result of the determination of a few of the residents to have a library. A number of books were donated; more solicited from the neighbors; and permission was granted, by the School Committee, to use part of the Greene School House. We had some cases made, installed the books, and made a start by announcing that the Library would be open every Saturday afternoon.

Within a short time we had outgrown our school room, and a decision was made to construct a building. After much travail, land was given for a site, and contributions, made by our friends and neighbors, were equaled by the family of the late Edward E. Arnold. This enabled us to start our building. Moving pictures and public whists are given two or three times a month to help decrease our indebtedness.

HOW TO GET THERE.

As the regular bus to Greene does not run at convenient hours, it is planned to charter a coach which will leave the New England Terminal in Providence at 9 A. M., running via Reservoir Avenue and the Pawtuxet Valley. Stops can be made at convenient points along the route to pick up groups. Members from Westerly and vicinity can take the Rhode Island Coach Lines to Washington and get the special coach there. The fare will not exceed the regular rates, which range from \$1.50 for the round trip from Providence, to 70 cents from Washington. The cost will be less if enough make the trip.

The library at Greene is a short distance south of the Coventry-Greene road, (Route 117), across the railroad.

SUMMER SCHEMES FOR THE SMALL LIBRARY.

With the library as a center of community interest, so much can be accomplished to

react both in favor of its patrons and towards arousing a spirit of cooperation in them. One library I have in mind in particular was fortunate enough to have a very attractive exhibit or lecture room. At various times, through the enthusiasm of the librarian, seconded by the members of her board, and the town residents themselves, worth while collections of samplers, old dolls, quilts and maps were shown, and these might be supplemented by family treasures of old glass, silver or hand-woven rugs.

Turning to the Children's Room, many plans may be worked out to keep the children in touch with its atmosphere of books, in spite of the many outdoor activities and interests. One librarian, whose young patrons were for the most part from foreign backgrounds, had a sewing club for her girls, in which she endeavored to foster the handiwork of their grandparents, in colorful embroideries; though the young ladies themselves much preferred to spend their time on the modern "art goods" procurable at Mr. Woolworth's.

A particularly pleasant habit was carried out in a community where the attractions of the beach drew the boys and girls from any regular attendance during the summer. When a few children had drifted in and seemed in the mood to stay a while, the assistant asked them if they would like to hear a story, which she either told or read to them. Those preferring their own books sat at the far end of the room, so that a happy atmosphere prevailed, and how the children's eyes lighted up at the suggestion of a "story."

A brook, overhung with trees, ran back of this same library, and passers-by might often see a little group seated on the grass, all intent on the tale brought to them in such ideal surroundings.

In one town, the older girls helped to make scrap books for the use of the tiny brothers and sisters they so often had to keep their eye on; while a club for boys was organized to help them in building model airplanes, which was enthusiastically attended, closing in August with an exhibit and prizes.

It is of interest to know, that in these times of depression, one library is selling its discarded books for use in summer camps. Many parents would be glad to avail themselves of this opportunity to stock up the beach or mountain cottage for the inevitable rainy day, at the low prices charged.

If you are a part of a community fortunate enough to possess a Garden Club, interest among its members may be aroused to such an extent that they will keep the library supplied with flowers twice a week. It has been tried out in many places. The flowers are usually brought in on

Monday and Thursday mornings and the club members take all responsibility in arranging the flowers themselves, this service being taken in charge by two members at a time. When the library lacked proper containers, such as baskets and pottery bowls and vases, many of the club members either loaned or gave pieces in glass and metal suitable for this purpose, so that the nucleus of a very attractive collection was begun. A small room where an oil-cloth covered table and running water are convenient, with a supply of old newspapers to keep things in order, is ideal for arranging the bouquets. The effort to inaugurate this sort of plan is more than repaid when you see the tired faces light up, refreshed by the soft bright colors and summer perfumes.

WALTER R. CALLENDER.

In the death of Walter R. Callender, the Providence Public Library has lost a valued member of the Board of Trustees. He was elected to the Board in 1909 and for many years served on the Executive Committee. His interest in the Library and its work was not limited to the fulfilling of his duties as a trustee and a committee member. In 1929, through his generosity, the Library received as a gift from the estate of his father, Robert Callender, more than 350 books. In 1931, a notable gift came directly from Walter R. Callender when, by his direction, the Yale University Press sent to the Providence Public Library 25 sets of "The Chronicles of America," "The Pageant of America" and "the Yale Shakespeare," a gift that included 2625 volumes. This benefaction made it possible for every branch library as well as the Central Library to have these important works on its shelves. In Mr. Callender's will just announced, the Library is named as a residuary legatee.

THE NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE.

RHODE ISLAND'S CONTRIBUTION.

Thursday, June 30. Afternoon Session.

A Book Thief's Vade Mecum.

Mr. John T. Winterich, Author of "Primer of Book Collecting" and Editor of the "American Legion Monthly," Providence, R. I.

Friday, July 1. Morning Session.

New Books—or, What have you?

Miss Bess McCrea, Assistant Librarian and Director of the Training Class, Providence Public Library.

The Librarian Looks at the Staff and Himself.

Mr. Clarence E. Sherman, Librarian, Providence Public Library.

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SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE.

We repeat—summer is almost here! And some of the things that go along with it, including plans to help boys and girls spend their summer vacation enjoyably and profitably. Following are a few of the things that Rhode Island libraries have done and are going to do to further these ends.

Last year, the William H. Hall Library, Edgewood, conducted a world tour through books. A large placard, bearing the words "Wm. H. Hall Free Library World Tour via Bookland Cruiser", and illustrated by scenes from many countries, gave the regulations for passengers. Children who joined were given tickets of colored paper on which the names of the countries to be visited were printed. A book of routes (lists of stories, books of history and folklore of the various countries) was kept at the desk to be consulted by the passengers. After the second port had been visited (the second book had been read) the passenger was given a map on which to trace out his route by coloring in the countries visited. A brief diary of the trip was kept by each passenger. The trip was not over until ten places had been visited (ten books read). Although all the 85 members did not read the required number of books, some read many more.

Last summer, at the Elmwood Library, the children had a Patchwork Puzzle. Each patch in the quilt represented the title of a book, either by pictures, transposed letters, or reviews. There were forty patches in all. They also made use of notebooks supplied by Gaylord Brothers which provide space to record the books by author and title, and to give the impressions of each book. The child whose notebook showed the best selection of books and the clearest and most concise reviews was declared the winner. Another summer, two of the best written reviews was posted on the bulletin board of the children's room each week. Still another device has been a clock with book characters, old and new beside each numeral. The children were to guess the names of the characters and write descriptions of their favorites. They have also made use of the travel contest here, but, in this case, the children wrote letters home to their friends about their trips.

With summer approaching and the prospect of more children at home than ever before, the Providence Public Library and known as the Lakewood Town Hall, deeded

its branches have made several interesting plans for summer reading for boys and girls. Some of them will follow a "Covered Wagon" trail across the continent; others will form themselves into a club and choose their "Pathway to Other Lands and Other Days"; still others are to follow the "Stepping-stones into the Gateway of Bookland". No matter what plan is followed, an effort will be made to have informal book-talks and story-hours throughout the summer.

The children of the Westerly Public Library are to follow "The Rainbow Trail" this summer. Books from all classes must be read to make the arc perfect in all its colors, and, for the boys and girls who complete the entire schedule, a special celebration will be held during Book Week.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE.

From Auburn, we hear that the Library Club is providing a shelf for summer reading.

For two months, the William H. Hall Free Library has had an exhibit of mutilated books in the show cases. A printed placard reads:

"Your Library.

Through the generosity of the late William H. Hall this library is yours. The vandals who have damaged and defaced these exhibits for their selfish and criminal delight have defied the law and affronted you. You can help by supplying confidentially any information or suspicion which you have as to the person or persons who may be guilty, by promptly reporting at the desk any damage or defacement which you discover in the course of your reading. Your reward, the enjoyment of a book or magazine which is not mutilated, torn or defaced."

The Library Committee.

Laws relating to the protection of library property are also included.

The Kingston Library tells how it has raised money to carry the library through the year, by a fair in the summer, and a Christmas store for the children at the librarian's house. The children have proved to be good patrons, for most of the articles sell for five and ten cents and they are thereby able to do their Christmas shopping. In this way, an encyclopedia, a revolving bookcase, a card catalogue cabinet, book troughs and some valuable sets of books have been bought.

Last December was the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the Lakewood Free Library. The Old Warwick Library Association was incorporated December 9, 1881 and was opened to the public in a room at the home of George Anthony, Old Warwick, March 4, 1882. It started with a collection of 1320 volumes deeded over by previous library organizations dating back to 1834.

Today the library is located in what was known as the Lakewood Town Hall, deeded to the Library Association in 1930. At the end of the library year Oct. 1, 1931, the library had 9297 volumes, and a circulation of 10,220 as compared to the 605 of the opening year. The library is now opened eight hours a week.

This summer, as an economy measure, the Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library, Pawtucket, will be closed for a period of five weeks, from Aug. 1-Sept. 5, inclusive, for the purpose of general repairs, cataloguing, etc. Patrons will be allowed to take out not more than four books, and may keep them for the closed period. This privilege is both for those that go away and those who stay at home.

The library in Shawomet has just received a donation from a friend incognito of Ellis's "The People's Standard History of the United States" in six volumes; also a legacy of \$1000 from another friend. A literary club in connection with the library, the Ladies' Round Table auxiliary, planted a Siberian elm on the grounds of the library in commemoration of the George Washington Centennial.

There will be several interesting exhibits at the Westerly Public Library during the summer months: of Connecticut and Rhode Island artists in the art gallery; of furniture, prints, textiles, costumes, and other items of interest for the Washington period, in the museum. Many of the articles will be loaned by local collectors. The Westerly Historical Society and the D. A. R. are cooperating with the library in arranging this exhibit.