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BULLETIN

of the

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 31

May, 1960

No. 2



GREENVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, GREENVILLE, R.I.

BY STOWELL SHERMAN

SPRING MEETING OF THE

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1960

GREENVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Greenville, Rhode Island

PROGRAM

- 10:00 A.M.** Business meeting.
- 11:30 A.M.** "Spring's specials in the world of books"
Miss Edna G. Peck, Chief of Book Selection for Home Reading Services, Boston Public Library.
- 1:00 P.M.** Luncheon—St. Thomas Episcopal Church—\$1.25.
- 2:30 P.M.** "A School Superintendent Looks at the Libraries" Mr. Edward R. Martin, Superintendent of Schools, East Providence, R. I.
- 3:45 P.M.** Tea at the Greenville Public Library.
-

The morning and afternoon sessions will be held in the Greenville Baptist Church.

Parking facilities are available in the rear of the Library and Churches, and behind the William Winsor School across the way after school.

To reach the Library from Providence, Follow Route 44 West to the intersection of Route 116. The Library is located at the intersection. The Church is beyond the Library on Route 44.

GREENVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Three and a half years ago the Greenville Public Library moved up the hill, on the edge of the town, after spending seventy-four years in a tiny building close to the village green. The site and the funds for the new library came from a bequest. Furnishings and equipment were secured through the subscriptions of the townfolk and of outside friends responsive to the library's eagerness to meet the needs of the changing times.

The library had six thousand books when it moved in 1956. Its circulation had reached 6,930. Last year it soared to 17,421. The reason for this is twofold: there are more books and more people. The books now total more than ten thousand, thanks to State and Federal allowances. The Town of Smithfield, which in 1882 the library was incorporated to serve, now finds itself beset with a dozen or

more housing developments in outlying districts.

The children seem to have adopted the library as their own. Teenagers hurry from school to library to use its reference books for home assignments.

At intervals, for the community, there are art shows, teas, lectures, musicales—or a cake-sale to aid some library project. Open three days a week, and with an incredibly small staff—a librarian and a part-time caretaker, plus a score of unpaid volunteer workers—the library so far has met the challenge of its busy days.

The Executive Committee looks forward with pleasure to greeting the members of the Rhode Island Library Association for tea at the Library, at the close of the meeting.

M. B. STILLWELL,
Secretary

BE READY TO DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL

on a Regional Library Association

This is a proposal to reconstitute the New England Library Association into one having greater continuity and more dynamic activities. For the last twenty years, the New England Library Association has been chiefly an annual meeting, held at Swampscott, Mass., for professional communication. It has had no dues nor any formal requirements for membership, no continuity in its board of officers. Between annual meetings, it virtually ceases to exist.

In 1958, a Regional Planning Committee was appointed "to study the feasibility of regional library planning in New England". The Committee has reported that it found that that part of the Association's Statement of Purpose is being carried out in the "planning and holding of regional conferences to encourage the exchange of ideas", but little else was being done toward fulfilling that part of the Purpose which is "to advance the welfare of New England libraries".

The Committee Report recognizes that "there are almost limitless possibilities for joint planning of many types and at many levels for the libraries of all kinds and their associations in this six-state area to undertake". It further recognized that there "might well be legal and financial problems involved in some steps which could be taken but that these are not necessarily insurmountable".

"The immediate task before us," it reports, "is the identification of common problems which can best be attacked by this Association working as a whole or by groups of librarians working together with the encouragement and support of the Association." From this there should evolve a proper framework or vehicle through which programs to solve these problems can be developed. A few of the areas in which we could work as an Association are mentioned here, as suggestions only, of the type of thing we have in mind:

1. A *better public understanding* of the role of libraries and the need for increased financial support.
2. A *better understanding among librarians* of the problems of each type of library, aimed at removing barriers to closer cooperation. The problems of public libraries, large, medium, and small; college and university libraries, venerable and newly established; school and special; are all becoming more closely intertwined in a civilization that can best be described as "exploding".
3. A deeper and more knowledgeable concern for *education for librarianship*.
4. Concomitant with this, some agreement as to *library standards* and a united front to achieve them.
5. *Better communication* between librarians and libraries of all kinds and with the outside. This

is implicit throughout the goals already outlined. Specifically what we have in mind is the eventual publication of a New England library journal to carry out the continuing process of identification of problems of common concern and to assist in solving them."

The Report recommended that each co-operating group be invited to appoint an official representative to meet with the Regional Planning Committee to explore with it the ways in which the New England Library Association should proceed with its stated purpose "to advance the welfare of New England libraries".

It was further agreed by the Committee that a questionnaire seeking answers to specific questions uppermost in the minds of Committee should go to all co-operating groups presently active as well as those which may be inactive.

The Rhode Island Library Association will be asked at the May meeting to state its feelings on the key questions in the questionnaire in order that our officers may know the group mind before answering the questionnaire. These key questions follow. Please review them so that you may give a considered opinion at the business meeting.

10. If your group is a state association, what recommendations do you have to help NELA in its re-organization? What part should the six state associations take in this new regional picture?

11. In the creation of a truly regional library association, which of the following arrangements would your association or group consider more feasible or desirable from your local viewpoint?
 - a.) A *council or federation* of associations with dues paid by your association according to the size of its membership.
 - b.) *Direct dues payments* to the New England Library Association by individual librarians, in other words, an association of librarians rather than of co-operating groups.
12. Which of the two plans (a. or b. above) would you consider more desirable from the viewpoint of a stronger NELA?
13. With respect to representation on the NELA board of officers, does your group have any suggestions to make as to how this might be handled in the future, particularly in the light of the very informal way in which names are now solicited annually from the co-operating groups?

Those who belong to specialized groups are asked to discuss this in their groups and be prepared to contribute some idea of the feeling of their membership as a group.

INVITATION TO CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETING

The following invitation has been received from the Connecticut Library Association:

Miss DOROTHY W. BUDLONG, *President*
Rhode Island Library Association
Providence 7, Rhode Island

Dear Miss Budlong:

On behalf of the Connecticut Library Association, may I extend an invitation to you and members of your group to attend our annual meeting to be held at the Griswold Hotel in Groton on 26 and 27 May.

The first general session will convene at 10:30 A.M. on Thursday, and our speaker for this occasion will be Mildred Savage, author of *Parrish*. At luncheon we will hear from Eric W. Barnes, biographer and author of the young adult book *War Between the States*. Other speakers during the two-day session will be K. Rost Toole, Beeman Lord, Ann Durell, editor for the Junior Literary Guild and Commander James F. Calvert. Commander Calvert brought the U. S. nuclear submarine SKATE through the ice at the North Pole early in 1959.

Reservations should be made directly with the hotel, and as soon as possible. A single room with three meals will cost approximately \$16.00; two in a room, \$15.00, each person.

We hope many of you will come, and we shall look forward to seeing you.

Very sincerely yours,

HENRIETTA T. PERKINS, *President*
Connecticut Library Association

**MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK
EXTENSION LIBRARIANS**

Rhode Island was host to the New England and New York Extension Li-

brarians for their annual meeting on April 21st to the 23rd. The meetings for the first day were held in the Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel, beginning with a discussion of the New England Library Service Film. This discussion was led by Mr. Emil W. Allen, Jr., Assistant Librarian of New Hampshire and Chairman of the Film Committee, and Mr. Dowling and Mr. Levy of the Dephoure Studios were present to fill in the particulars. Mr. Walter Curley, Business Manager of the Providence Public Library, was in charge of a discussion on the reorganization of the New England Library Association. After a social hour in the Garden Room of the Hotel, a welcoming dinner was given, with Governor Christopher Del Sesto and Secretary of State, August P. LaFrance presenting the welcome from the State. Mr. Adolph T. Schmidt, Director of the R. I. Development Council, addressed the librarians on the subject of "Metropolitan Planning and Implications for Librarians".

On Friday, April 22nd, the headquarters of Public Library Services in Rural Areas was the meeting place, with reports from Washington featured. Mr. Wilfred L. Morin, Library Extension Specialist of the Library Services Branch, presented the L.S.A. program, and Miss Germaine Krettek, Director, A.L.A. Washington Office, brought news of library legislation. Then began a bus tour of Rhode Island with visits to libraries, historic and scenic areas via Newport and Jamestown to Wickford, where a coffee hour at the North Kingstown Free Library refreshed the librarians.

Mrs. John J. Hellewell, Librarian of the North Kingstown Free Library, and Mrs. Charles F. Ayers, President of Friends of the North Kingstown Free Library, were hostesses.

Dinner at the Cold Spring House in Wickford began the evening meeting. The "Organization of State Library Extension Agencies, New England and New York", was the subject of a panel discussion led by Irving A. Verschoor, Director of the Division of Library Extension, New York.

The Saturday program was held at the Greenville Public Library, with Mrs. Carleton A. Dexter, Librarian, and Kay K. Moore, President of the Greenville Public Library Association, extending greetings. This meeting began with a discussion of Bookmobile Service, led by Mrs. Jane B. Hobson, Executive Secretary of the Vermont Free Public Library Commission. Mrs. V. Genevieve Galick, Director of the Division of Library Extension, Massachusetts, conducted a panel on "In-Service Training". A luncheon concluded the conference for 1960.

STARVING SCHOOL LIBRARIES

School libraries in Rhode Island are the most undernourished in the nation, spending only 47 cents per pupil per year against a high of over \$2.00 a year. This is the situation which precipitated an all-day conference at Brown University in May 1959 at which the Master of Arts Teaching Program was host. The conference took as its theme: *A better library*

makes a better student; A look at the Rhode Island situation.

The work of this Conference spotlighted the shortcomings of the school libraries in Rhode Island and resulted in much public and professional interest in searching for the solutions to these problems.

Stuart C. Sherman was appointed Chairman of an Advisory Committee on School Libraries to the State Board of Education. His report of the Committee progress made in less than a year indicates the considerable interest which has been aroused. Some of these accomplishments are:

1. Establishment of the position of Supervisor of School Libraries.
2. Preparation of questionnaire for survey of Rhode Island School Libraries.
3. Appointment of committee to prepare for implementing new Standards.
4. Submission of memo on the school library as an indispensable part of the elementary and secondary school program.
5. Grant of \$24,000 to Brown University by Council on Library Resources to find solutions to the school library problem in Rhode Island.
6. Preparation of a draft by Providence Public Library for a manual on the proper use of books and libraries for teachers and students.
7. Distribution of Directory of Rhode Island Libraries by the Providence Public Library and the State Board of Education.

Scholarships were awarded to Miss Katherine Gallivan and to Mrs. Nadine C. Houston to enable them to attend a conference on school libraries at the University of Chicago.

BROWN UNIVERSITY STUDY ON IMPROVING COMMUNITY LIBRARY SERVICES

Under a grant of \$24,000 from the Council on Library Resources Inc., Washington, D.C., Brown's Master of Arts in Teaching Program will sponsor a study of ways to improve school library services in Rhode Island.

The study will seek means of more effectively coordinating university, community, and school library services for the improvement of instruction in the schools of the state. Brown's Master of Arts in Teaching Program will sponsor the study with the assistance of an advisory board made up of representatives from the Rhode Island Library Association, the Rhode Island Association of School Librarians and other agencies interested in the school library situation. The principal advisor for this study will be Professor David A. Jonah, Brown University Librarian.

Included in the study will be an investigation of existing library practices, and actual experimentation with methods of coordinating university, school and community libraries.

A report to be published at the conclusion of the twelve month study will be designed to be of assistance in other metropolitan areas desiring to improve school library services.

ALL RHODE ISLAND CHILDREN CAN HAVE BOOKS

Thirty-million rural people have new or improved public library service; one million have such service for the first time. Sixty-six counties and sixty-eight New England towns which were formerly without public libraries are now receiving service. More than five million books have been added to the resources of rural communities.

Now that we are well into the fourth fiscal year under the Library Services Act, with, at present, fifty-two States and Territories participating, we can take measure of progress apparent throughout the country. Since 1956, state appropriations for service in rural areas have increased 54%; local appropriations have increased 45%. Service has also been extended by 200 new bookmobiles.

All this has been accomplished by federal-state funds. Congress appropriated \$2,050,000 in fiscal 1957; \$5,000,000 in 1958; \$6,000,000 for 1959; and \$6,000,000 in 1960 except that those states able to match on a \$7,500,000 basis would, accordingly, receive such proportions.

Rhode Island qualified for participation in fiscal 1958, when the Rhode Island Plan was approved by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; a Plan that set up an entirely new unit for rural public library service under the Secretary of State; first John A. Notte and now August P. LaFrance.

Credit should be given to individuals and to the Rhode Island Li-

brary Association, due to whose efforts the program was made possible. On the national level, Congressman John E. Fogarty played a primary role in the Congressional legislation, which received support from all Rhode Island Congressmen and Senators. On the home front, laymen and librarians, whose libraries did not necessarily come within the definition of "rural libraries", labored long and faithfully to achieve the necessary requirements for our State's participation.

On July 1st, 1959, Rhode Island's Public Library Services program moved its headquarters from two rented rooms on Benefit Street to adequate, attractive offices in the Roger Williams Building. Finally numbering seven, the personnel of Public Library Services in Rural Areas have made a productive record. Through the Central Ordering, Cataloging, and Processing Center, from April 1, 1958, through March, 1960, 21,316 books have been put into use via rural libraries and bookmobile. Eighty-three new, general encyclopedias now belong to reference collections of the forty-two rural libraries. The bookmobile started service on September 30, 1958, and through March, 1960, has circulated 43,543 books on 184 trips.

During the last two years, the Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor have "talked" on twenty-one occasions, and have made sixty-nine field visits to rural public libraries. Consultant service has also been given at headquarters, and eleven workshops have been held.

Five hundred and forty-six visits to headquarters have been made by librarians and trustees. This last is the most exciting statistic of all, inasmuch as it reflects a 100% participation, a gratifying cooperation, and real enthusiasm for utilizing fully this golden opportunity.

We hope to raise our sights towards better public library service in rural areas, with book resources which are stronger and more accessible to Rhode Island readers of all ages with each succeeding year.

Whereas so many States did not get their programs underway immediately, because of the time involved in submitting plans for approval, in authorizing funds, and in establishing centers with staff and equipment, there is serious consideration now for extending the Library Services Act beyond the five-year limit. If such action comes to pass, we shall indeed realize many of our hopes for lasting gains in library service, here in Rhode Island and elsewhere throughout the country.

ELIZABETH G. MYER, *Supervisor,
R. I. Public Library Service for
Rural Libraries.*

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARIANS ALSO WRITE BOOKS

A touch of scandal appears in the *Saturday Evening Post* for March 19, 1960. The author is listed as Virginia Conroy. People around the Rhode Island Historical Society Genealogical library know her as Mrs. Catton.

When she was asked to write a thumb-nail sketch of herself for the *R. I. L. A. Bulletin*, she made short work of the account of herself, but she has strong words of encouragement for other aspiring authors. This is what Virginia Conroy, author, says:

"I was born in Providence but never lived here until the last five years and am having fun discovering my own birthplace at last. No better place to do it exists, I'm sure, than from John Brown House on the hill.

I've lived and worked in Massachusetts, New York and California. This included several secretarial positions with psychiatrists which also gave me an opportunity to work directly with patients and do medical research. For a time I wrote direct mail advertising in Los Angeles and read scripts for M.G.M.

From the time I could hold a pencil, I have always been a scribbler, and I've carried my writing along as a hobby with any job I held. I find it yields a bonus of self expression, Ego satisfaction and occasional shares of Pacific Tel. & Tel. or a plush vacation.

Anyone interested in writing should write. That means starting where you are and taking advantage of your surroundings no matter how limited. You can write plays for children, verses to accompany your gifts and song parodies for parties. Volunteer to do publicity for the groups you belong to and send letters to your local newspaper expressing your views on current subjects. There is no magic for spurring you on like seeing your own humble words in print and even-

tually you may find yourself getting paid for them. The writers' magazines are very helpful in the beginning to give you a professional slant.

In nineteen forty-two I sold a poem to the *Saturday Evening Post* which later appeared in England and in a collection of my own. The acceptance letter said that they hoped to hear from me again soon. I certainly hoped they would, too. But eighteen years elapsed before I appeared in the *Post* again and that was with my short story *A Touch of Scandal* which was published in the March 19th issue. Such tenacity, you must admit, is a talent in itself. I believe it is heartening to all aspiring authors to hear that I sold it without benefit of personal contact or an agent. They simply picked it out of their slush mail and paid \$1,000 for it. It happened to me. It can happen to you. Inspiration is everywhere. In this case it came from the fascinating exhibit of the 1920's jazz age material which I saw at Providence Public Library."

Miss Martha McPartland will join the author's list shortly with the publication of her *History of East Greenwich—1677-1957* which will be under the sponsorship of the East Greenwich Free Library Association.

Miss McPartland sends the *Bulletin* an account of how the book happened:

"This project which snowballed on me, started in my mind when residents of the town pelted me with questions, such as: "Where is the actual site of the Huguenot settlement?" "Did Lafayette really stay at the Varnum

House?" "Where is Rope Walk Hill?" "Who built that red cottage with the date 1711 on the chimney?" I found myself foundering! Reliable historical material on the town was pitifully scarce.

In 1953 the editor of the local paper requested a sketch of the town's history for a centennial edition. The edition never materialized, but the bug had bitten me and I was in a fever—a sort of historical delirium, as it were. The Rhode Island Historical Society library became my second home and our Town Hall a reading room where I perused land evidence, wills and Town Council records back to 1677. Our own library was rich in genealogies and other material accumulated through the years.

Townspeople were most cooperative. They loaned letters, manuscripts, old account books, diaries and gave freely of their own knowledge of the past. It has taken seven years to compile two hundred and eighty years of East Greenwich history and it has been a fascinating hobby. It is my hope that the book will cover every aspect of the growth of this small New England town and that it will become a useful reference to all Rhode Island librarians."

The Frosting on the Cake

"The taxpayers provide the cake when they support the library through their taxes each year," said Mrs. Charles F. Ayers, President of the FRIENDS OF THE NORTH KINGSTOWN Free Library, "and the FRIENDS provide the frosting!"

Organized five years ago to expand the resources of the library through gifts and services, the "frosting" has included gifts of children's books, folding chairs, a moving picture projector, a program of moving pictures for children and landscaping of the grounds. In addition, the FRIENDS have staged two children's book fairs and hold an annual Christmas Open House with caroling and Christmas cheer before the blazing hearth in the reading room.

Money for these projects comes from two main sources. The first is the annual membership campaign with dues at a dollar a member. The second is the annual summer bazaar, when baked goods and secondhand books (donated or discarded from library stock) are sold to an eager public and bring welcome revenue to the FRIENDS' exchequer.

The FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY group was founded in 1955 after a handful of interested citizens of the town, with more enthusiasm than knowledge of procedure, decided to seek advice which would help them start an organization similar to hundreds of others throughout the country which were already helping libraries to extend their resources. They turned to the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, and were able to borrow a publication which gave helpful hints on organization. Off to a good start with the sound basis it outlined, the FRIENDS have expanded both their membership and their contributions to the library in the intervening years.

GLADYS HELLEWELL

NEW PUBLICATIONS

A new *Cost of Public Library Service* was released in January, 1959. This is a guide to evaluation, with minimum standards, first published by the Association in 1956. This supplement presents minimum library budgets, salaries, costs of materials, and facilities for four types of library systems serving different sets of conditions, based on 1959 costs.

"New Definitions of School Library Service" consists of the papers presented at the 1959 conference of the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago and is now in book form. The book represents a full scale discussion of the role of the school library, with particular attention to changing needs dictated by the new conditions, pressures and demands in the public school system and in American education generally. This should be of particular interest now since "Standards for School Library Programs" has just been published by the American Association of School Librarians.

Standards for School Library Programs, was published by the A. L. A. March 1st, 1960. The new national school standards, the first to be set since 1945, are higher than regional or state ones and will, for most schools, be goals to be attained over a period of several years.

Technical Information Service for Librarians is now available. This service furnishes information to librarians on materials, machines, equipment and systems useful in library operations. Librarians should send their

inquiries to the Library Technology Project at A. L. A., 50 East Huron St., Chicago 11, Ill.

AWARDS

The second Aurianne Award for the best juvenile book of animal life which develops a humane attitude was won by Meindert De Jong for *Along Came a Dog*. Meindert De Jong is a brother of David C. De Jong, a R. I. author.

The Aurianne Award was made possible by a bequest to A. L. A. from a former New Orleans school librarian, Augustine Aurianne. It was established in honor of the donor's father and sister, Pierre and Adele Aurianne. It carries with it a check for \$200.

Recommendations for the 1961 award for the best qualifying book published in 1959 may be made by anyone who is interested and should be sent to Mattie Ruth Moore, Dallas Independent School District, 3700 Ross, Dallas, Texas.

Two new awards have been established by the American Library Association. These are the *Library Literature Award* and the *Clarence Day Award*.

The Library Literature Award, given by The Scarecrow Press, Inc. of New York, will be made for the next five years in recognition of an outstanding contribution to library literature. The Award amounts to \$500 and will be given only in those years when a title merits such recognition.

A jury, serving as a subcommittee of the A. L. A. Awards Committee will administer the Award.

It is hoped that each of these awards can be given for the first time at the Joint Conference of the American Library Association and the Canadian Library Association to be held in Montreal, June 19-25, 1960. Nominations for the Awards will be welcomed by the Juries.

See the Bulletin Committee for the names of the persons on each of these two new awards committees in case you are interested.

1960 Newbery-Caldecott Winners Announced

The John Newbery Medal, given annually since 1922 for "the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children", goes to Joseph Krumgold for *Onion John*. The Randolph Caldecott Medal, awarded since 1938 to the artist of the year's "most distinguished American picture book", was won by Marie Hall Ets for *Nine Days to Christmas*.

Runners-up for the Newbery Medal are: Jean George for *My Side of the Mountain*; Gerald Johnson for *America is Born*; Carol Kendall for *The Gammage Cup*.

Marie Hall Ets, the recipient of the Caldecott Medal, spent her childhood near Wisconsin's great north woods where she developed a feeling for woodland creatures which is often evident in her animal drawings. She has lived in a number of places since 1954, among them Mexico, which is the setting for *Nine Days to Christmas*.

Runners-up for the Caldecott Medal are: Adrienne Adams for *Houses from the Sea*, by Alice E. Goudey; and Maurice Sendak for *Moon Jumpers*, by Janice May Udry.

FOUNDATIONS

If your library should ever plan to apply to any of the Rhode Island Foundations for a grant, you might wish to know that some of the foundations have suggested that these requests be screened through a committee of the Rhode Island Library Association.

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Any interested person may obtain a copy free by sending a stamped, self-

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