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BULLETIN

of the

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 32

November, 1960

No. 2



AUTUMN MEETING OF THE

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1960

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL
Nursing School Auditorium
Providence 7, Rhode Island

PROGRAM

- 9:00 - 10:00 A.M.** Registration—Coffee Hour—Exhibits
- 10:00 - 11:00 A.M.** Business Meeting
- 11:00 - 12:00 A.M.** *The Fundamentals of Good Display and Exhibits*
Jens G. Sorensen, Head of Display Department,
Shepard Company.
Mrs. Kay K. Moore, Trustee, Greenville
Public Library
- 12:00 - 12:30 A.M.** Tour of St. Joseph's Hospital Libraries
Exhibits
- 12:30 - 1:30 Noon** Luncheon, Auditorium, Nurses' Residence
- 1:30 - 2:00 P.M.** Tour of St. Joseph's Hospital Facilities
Exhibits
- 2:00 - 3:00 P.M.** *Some Possibilities for Library Co-operation
in Rhode Island*
Mr. John Humphry, Director, Springfield
City Library
Professor Elmer Smith, Brown University
- 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.** *Workshops on Care and Repair of Books & Magazines*
Dick Briggs, Bro-Dart Industries
Steve Irwin, Demco Library Supplies
Bill Quigley, Gaylord Bros., Inc.

On the Bus, the Hospital may be reached by No. 11 (Broad St.). Get off at Plenty Street. The Bus stops in front of the Hospital. Go up Peace St. (opposite side of Street to Hospital). The Auditorium entrance is the last door of Residence toward Elmwood Avenue.

By car, the Hospital is on Peace and Plenty Streets between Broad Street and Elmwood Avenue. Peace Street is a One-Way Street from Broad to Updike; Two-Way from Elmwood to Updike. Updike intersects Peace St.

There are three parking lots belonging to the Hospital on Plenty Street; two on Peace Street. These may be used as long as space can be found. The Providence Police have kindly suspended the Two Hour Parking regulation on Peace and Plenty Streets for this day for *your* convenience. We hope you get there first. Wednesday is the doctors' free day; your competition should be less than usual.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

We have all heard and read about Rhode Island's various climates—meteorological, political and business. There's a library climate in Rhode Island too, and it has never been more favorable than right now. For the first time on a national legislative level librarians are being supported enthusiastically by Congress. This national recognition of libraries as vehicles of education is slowly but surely sifting down to state and local levels. With all this in mind I have appointed a new committee in the R. I. L. A. whose long-range mission is Planning and Development. This committee will, with your help and backing, evolve a state-wide library plan which will put *good* library service within the reach of every resident of Rhode Island. You will hear more about this committee at our annual meeting on November 2.

Very shortly most of us will be wrestling with our library's proposed budget for 1961. Take advantage of this new and favorable library climate and ask, through your trustees, of course, for more adequate financial support of your library. If you don't publicize your library's needs everyone takes for granted you're happy with what you have. Let's make 1961 a year that's notable for better financial support of libraries in Rhode Island.

HISTORY OF ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

In August 1, 1891, the Harris Estate on Broad Street between Peace and Plenty Streets was purchased by Bishop Harkins. This Estate, in the then most fashionable part of Providence, was to become St. Joseph's Hospital. Dedication was in 1892 on March 19th, the Feast of St. Joseph. The Hospital was staffed by Franciscan Sisters, as it still is, though now of a different Foundation. Six years later, in 1898, a School of Nursing was organized, which was approved by the Board of Registration in 1915.

On a raw, cold Sunday morning in February (1930) a young student nurse alerted the Administration to fire. All patients were promptly removed to other hospitals or nursing homes; no one was injured, but considerable damage was done to the building. A month later a renovated Hospital was again open to the public.

Affiliation with Salve Regina College, Newport, was entered into in 1948. Students at Salve Regina who wished to major in Nursing were to receive their clinical experience at St. Joseph's Hospital. This is an arrangement which is still in effect.

For the students of the Hospital Nursing School, affiliation with Providence College for the teaching of the basic sciences was provided in 1951. The nursing school student at St. Joseph's must thus attend Providence College for anatomy, physiology, microbiology, etc., before coming into residence at the Hospital.

A new wing was opened in 1954. This houses the Medical Library, the Interns' bedroom quarters; and, on the First Floor, the Accident Room and the Clinics, as well as various departments pertaining to the running of the Hospital.

With a comprehensive program of patient care, education and research,

St. Joseph's Hospital has become one of the medical and health centers in the Providence area.

The Hospital contains 310 beds and 60 bassinets. Hospital care is available for acute medical, surgical and obstetrical conditions.

Outpatient clinics are held regularly. These clinics are for patients who cannot afford cost of private medical care.

The Hospital conducts a School of Nursing and courses for medical, X-Ray, and operating room technicians.

In its activities in the care of the sick, in medical education and in medical research, St. Joseph's Hospital is making a contribution toward progressive development of medicine in Providence Plantations and the State of Rhode Island.



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COUNCIL ON LIBRARY RESOURCES STUDIES BOOK-CHARGING SYSTEMS

A detailed questionnaire regarding circulation methods of book-charging, of handling reserves, and of sending out over-due notices has been received by a number of Rhode Island libraries. Some of the smaller libraries have been mystified by the detail requested. K. K. Moore has been asked to see if he could clarify the subject.

He has answered: "Perhaps the best method of explaining the project is to quote from Mr. Verner W. Clapp's letter of July 27, 1960, which accompanied the questionnaire."

"The Council on Library Resources, Inc., has engaged the firm of management consultants, George Fry & Associates of Chicago, to undertake a comprehensive study of book-charging systems under the guidance of an advisory committee of librarians.

"The ultimate purpose of the study is to provide you, as well as all other librarians, with material concerning improved methods of book-charging in such a form that each librarian can select the most economical and effective components of a system applicable to the specific local operations.

"The first of many steps in this study is the comprehensive collection of information through a questionnaire which has been devised in discussion with the advisory committee. The success of the study depends to a great extent upon the prompt return of all properly completed questionnaires. Of major importance is the receipt of your personal comments and suggestions.

"Please complete the attached material and mail it in the enclosed addressed envelopes in accordance with the instruction sheets within two

weeks after receipt by you, if at all possible.

"Thank you for performing your part in this important study."

The questionnaires are divided into three sections—two of them apply to each library circularized, and the third applies to those libraries with branch libraries. The questionnaire card carries a list of 60 questions to be answered—some of which will not apply to a specific library—plus some basic statistical information regarding the size of the library and library staff, which affects the other information obtained. The second section which applies to all libraries is in the nature of an operation analysis, in which the librarian is asked to compute the time spent in charging a book out, in "reserving" a book, and in sending out overdue notices. In addition, the librarian is asked to comment on whether the system in use at this li-

brary provides the needed information concerning books in circulation, and what suggestions the librarian might have to meet demands for service, or to reduce time spent in actually processing books loaned out.

This initial study is being made of public library systems. At a later date similar questionnaires are to be sent to university, school, and special libraries, in order to survey their needs as well.

Although the questionnaire seems quite formidable, it would seem to be a worthwhile project. Even if you don't know the name of your particular charging system—describe it, and indicate how you arrange your charge files. If you don't know the exact number of books overdue in a year, estimate it, and mark your figure (*Est.*).

Who knows, perhaps when the report is finally published, you will be

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able to find some steps which will greatly help your own library in increased efficiency and economy.

K. K. MOORE

ANY DAY

(EDITOR'S NOTE: A series in the form of a column is projected which will give all of us a key-hole view of a work day—any day—in the life of a librarian. In time this column will cover all types of libraries which are included in our membership. Be ready for your turn. Elliott Andrews of the Journal-Bulletin has given us the kick-off column.)

The Deadline Devil faces us each morning at 8:30. We usually hit the news library door on the run and continue running until the presses roll for the last edition.

The picture editor wants a head and shoulders for a one-column cut to go along with an obituary, or a view of a trash-strewn roadside to illustrate a feature on litterbugs.

The city editor asks us to check the spelling of a name or an address. His assistant calls for the clips on the Blackstone Valley Sewer Authority.

A feature writer wants to know what we have on the history of the United Transit Company. It turns out that what he really wants to know is Sen. Green's connection with the U. T. C. This involves three files: the United Transit Company, the United Electric Railway Co. and the old Rhode Island Company. Actually, most of the information he seeks is in the last one.

Fifteen minutes before first edition deadline, the Providence police stage a gambling raid. Now the fun begins. Biographical clips on all of those picked up by the police must be pulled. The picture file must be checked. We discover that the "Owl's Eye," the club where the raid took place, has long had a reputation as a gambling establishment under several different names. All of these names must be checked out. In fifteen

minutes the rush is over. We made it. The story is on page one.

And so it goes through six editions until the City hits the street. Then we have nothing to do except index and file yesterday's clips, cuts and pictures in preparation for tomorrow at 8:30.

WEEDING OF FICTION

I have been asked to describe our system of weeding our book stock, especially fiction. I'm afraid the Barrington system is our own homemade one, and may be unorthodox and cause some A.L.A. committee to shudder in dismay.

First, let me say that we are always discarding. I don't mean every week, but now and again throughout the year, whenever I have the time. I make the decisions in the adult and teen-age sections, the Children's librarian does it for the junior. Last year we added 1115 adult books and 445 junior, but we discarded 652 adult books and 587 junior. The number of junior books discarded was so high because no systematic weeding has been done for several years; and then, too, some titles were replaced. We weed so regularly for several reasons, foremost of which is the problem of space. We simply have no room to expand; and to show how literal minded I am about room, let me say that I count the number of mysteries and westerns added during the year and discard at least that number. We keep mysteries and westerns separate from the rest of the fiction, and separate from each other. There's just so much space there and no more. Bulging stacks cause bulging catalogs. I have seen some librarians adding more shelving and more sections to the card catalog in a library already hard pressed for room, and at great expense, too, when a thorough weeding out of old, worn, and obsolete books would have reduced the book stock by a third and saved three or four drawers in the catalog cabinet.

I find that patrons tend to browse in the stacks more, when the books are in good condition and the shelves not too crowded. Good looking book stacks, like anything else that's good looking, attract. I think when users of a library see so many old, moth-eaten books in a library, they get the idea that the librarian, staff and trustees are probably old and moth-eaten as well!

Of course, this job of weeding is easier for the librarian if she has a Board of Trustees in favor of the idea. I have.

Being somewhat conservative, I have been using the 1950 Fiction Catalog and Mrs. Hansee the 1956 Children's catalog to determine what goes out and what stays. The general rule is whatever is no longer listed in these two bibliographies and has not been read for two years is discarded.

Now we come to the exceptions. Local authors (town and state) make us pause and ponder. At least, we can cut down on the number of copies, and, if there's no call for a title, and it really has no literary virtue in it, I discard. Then, of course, we have books that never were listed in any selected list of best books—books by Kathleen Norris, Faith Baldwin, Elizabeth Seifert, etc. Each time I weed I discard a few of the worst looking ones. In this way I have discarded all the E. M. Dell books; Temple Bailey is on the way out and Warwick Deeping has been cut down to five titles. One of our patrons told me I would be sorry that I had discarded so many books by Wilkie Collins, when there was a Collins revival, as there has been of Melville and Verne. I replied that when that time came, newer and better editions would be published; and in the meantime I would have the room for books that people wanted to read.

The mechanics of our weeding process are: to stamp the book "Discarded" in several places; to take the book

pocket and card out; to take the cards out of the catalog and shelvest file (we use all these cards for scrap cards). We use an accession book here, so we mark the title "Discarded" in that. I know of some libraries where the shelvest card is kept with the notation, "Lost, stolen, destroyed or discarded" as the case may be. A few times I have wondered what we did with a certain book, and such a file would be handy in that case, but I don't feel it is worth the extra time expended or the purchase of a cabinet in which to file the cards. In 1950 the Barrington Public Library had a book stock of 28,342. In 1960 we have 33,970. You can see how slowly our stock grows. I sometimes get criticized for books I add, and sometimes for those I subtract, but not too often, and who has a perfect score anyway?

SUSAN E. DEMERY, *Librarian*
Barrington Public Library



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TRUSTEESHIP AND LIBRARY MEETINGS

"What does a trustee gain from attending meetings of professional librarians?" My answer to this question must of necessity be personal, but I am confident it is not unique.

I had served on other Boards of Trustees in the community but had come to the position after experience in the field concerned as a volunteer worker. I knew intimately something of the purposes and problems of these institutions before I became involved in setting policy.

It was with particular humility that I approached my first meetings as a trustee of the Providence Public Library. I felt only partially prepared to vote on the proposals which come before trustees on expansion, contraction or readjustment of services, the nature of personnel policies or the best methods of financing so large an operation. I felt the need for rapid orientation in the library world, for a kind of perspective setting before dealing with specific problems one at a time.

I, therefore, considered it fortunate when I was offered an opportunity to attend last year's regional meeting of the New England Library Association. I was not disappointed. The three-day conference, designed primarily for the professionals, gave me a quick insight into the nature of the library's role as an educational pivot in the community and a new understanding of the importance of the librarian himself who must carry out the many-faceted demands of his position.

Specifically, I found most worth-

while the "Clinic on Metropolitan Libraries and Their Problems"; finding here a yardstick against which to measure the performance of the Providence Public Library. Equally timely seemed the discussion on school libraries and the relationship of the public library to them. It was heartening, too, to see librarians as a group giving time and thought to social concerns in planning for "Library Service to an Aging Population."

From the point of view of encouraging trustee attendance at library meetings, I feel that a one-day program designed in part for that particular group might draw more response. Although the role of trustee must vary from library to library depending on its size, financial needs, and structure; we might learn from each other as well as from the librarians we seek to help.

At the meetings of the R. I. Library Association, I have gained a sense of the variety of needs and opportunities for service which await development on the local scene. I have shared, too, the librarians' pride in high standards already set in Rhode Island.

Most compelling at any conference, however, be it local or regional, is the wonderful array of books around which all activity revolves. It is a treat to be exposed to the latest and the best books, be it in exhibit form, a bookmobile or the local library.

It is with a feeling of gratitude that a library trustee discovers that librarians as a group are exceptionally dedicated and interesting persons. Policies are only as good as their implementation at the front desks. The front desks are in good hands.

MARTHA P. SHERMAN

YOUNG ADULT SERVICE IN SMALL LIBRARIES

by MARCIA BEGUM
Providence Public Library

Although many magazine articles discussing library service to teen-agers have appeared in the last few years, most have been directed to the large or medium-sized library where there is a specific young adults' room and a specialist in charge of work with young people.

The small rural or neighborhood library with a single librarian, however, also has teen-aged readers, and it is certainly as important to provide them with individual service as it is in a larger library.

A pleasant, attractive corner with books selected for young adults should be possible in even the smallest library. A few shelves marked for YA can be set aside, even if money is not available for the purchase of a special collection, as books from the adult shelves can be gathered daily and put into the allotted space. If the budget can be stretched to cover the purchase of a few new titles, this money might be used for teen-age books—standards such as Maureen Daly's *SEVENTEENTH SUMMER*, a few of the better romances by Rosamond DuJardin, Betty Cavanna or Anne Emery, perhaps some science fiction titles or some good YA biographies. The majority of books should, of course, be adult titles. The 1960 ALA publication *YOUNG ADULT SERVICES IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY*, a useful discussion of YA work, states

"In the smallest library units, a Young Adult collection can be set up with as few as 100 to 200 well-selected titles with frequent changes to keep the collection alive."

This small YA section should be easily accessible, preferably located near the adult area of the library and in no way affiliated with the children's department. A colorful sign

should clearly indicate it as the YA section. Use of book jackets with cellophane covers whenever possible adds to the attractive appearance of the area.

There are several book selection aids useful in organizing the collection and in working with the young people. *AN AMPLE FIELD* by Amelia Munson (ALA, 1950) is an excellent guide to the reading interests of teen-agers. "Library Journal's" Junior Libraries section, reviews both teen-age books and adult books for young adults. "Top of the News", published quarterly by ALA Young Adult Services Division, is also useful, as are such standard aids as "Saturday Review", "Booklist," and "Virginia Kirkus Bookshop Service."

BOOK BAIT by Elinor Walker (ALA, 1957) discusses selected adult books for YA. *PATTERNS IN READING* by Jean Roos (ALA, 1954) is an excellent annotated list which teen-agers can use themselves. A new edition of this is scheduled for fall publication. The New York Public Library publishes annually *BOOKS FOR THE TEEN AGE*, useful for book buying and book selection.

The individual librarian will, of course, select her books and arrange her YA corner according to her readers and her library. It is surprising what can be done with limited funds and space to attract more teen-agers to the library and to keep them coming—and reading.

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VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED— STATE HOSPITAL

Volunteer help is needed at the State Hospital for Mental Diseases in cataloging the library for the student nurses whose schools affiliate with the State Hospital for their psychiatric training. The work could be done at times which suit the convenience of the volunteer. There are perhaps two hundred books. The National League for Nursing has issued a manual for use with nursing school libraries. This manual can be seen at nursing school libraries in the state.

The manual recommends that the Bellevue classification system be used. This is based on the Dewey and need deter no librarian familiar with that system.

The Volunteer Service of the Hospital is also looking for volunteers to conduct reading groups for patients, giving book reviews, reading suggestions, etc.

Contact Dorothea Benson, Supervisor of Volunteer Services, HO. 3-8100, or write her at the State Hospital for Mental Diseases, Howard Rhode Island.

LITTLE ORPHAN RHODY

Monumental indifference to the local library is the normal state of affairs with city fathers. The New York Public Library once published a budget appeal entitled *Father Knickerbocker's Stepchildren*. Certainly Rhode Island is in no more favorable position. We too are orphans or stepchildren. And who among us does not have to struggle to achieve and maintain status?

Why is this so? Well, too many of us are ladies for one thing. Ladies in the sense that we are not aggressive fighters. We should perhaps try being fishwives.

What to do? How about a Friends of the Library group? The *Readers*

Digest is full of pretty little stories about how one person or a small group of people in the time it takes to say ker-choo have changed the status quo to an utopian situation.

More to the point, skim the *Library Journal* or the *Wilson Bulletin* for the last ten years and note with awe the many instances of putting the local library on the map. In all cases this was accomplished by the fiery determination of an unusually dynamic librarian and/or an active Friends of the Library group. For an account of one such circumstance, both amusing (Bennett Cerf got into the act) and astounding, see the *Library Journal* 79:807-15, 1 May 1954 for what happened in Dallas, Texas. After their fashion, the squabble became Texas-size and the results equally so.

In our own locale, the *Bulletin*, as a preliminary to this issue, attempted a survey of the Rhode Island situation.

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A postal card questionnaire was sent to some 40 libraries. As we go to press, six libraries have responded. It is to be supposed that the other 36 do not have Friends, since those who have usually want to brag about them. Brief reports of these six follow:

Auburn Public Library: Membership 130 women. Organized in 1931 for the sole purpose of aiding the library. Has been of immeasurable assistance. Donates \$25 per month for purchase of new books, plus several hundred dollars annually. Meetings of community interest are held monthly October thru May. Budget \$150 per year. The club has bought new library furniture and paid for redecorating the library.

North Kingstown Free Library: Membership 250. Organized 1955. Accomplishments include purchase of children's books, chairs, a motion picture projector. Paid for landscaping of library grounds. Programs include movies for children, book delivery to the house-bound, and an annual Christmas Open House. Dues \$1.00. Budget \$510. The organization provides speakers for National Library Week, and has purchased benches for the library entrance.

Wm. H. Hall Free Library: Membership 400. No dues. Voluntary donations. 5 program meetings a year. Have various means of fund raising: bridge, auctions, etc. They have provided the library to date with a flag pole, a silver service, electric mimeograph machine, sound motion picture projector and screen, flood lights for parking area, and money for books. Their current project is remodeling the kitchen.

Providence Athenaeum: Friends of the Library Group organized in 1956. Members of the Athenaeum were invited to join. Since that time, over \$28,000 has been given to the library. At the present time, some of this

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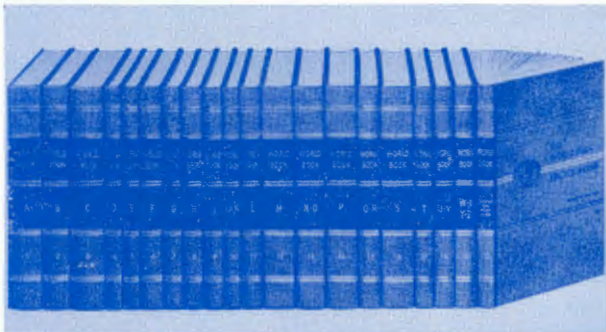
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amount is being spent to enlarge the Children's Room and to modernize the lighting. None of this would have been possible without the gifts of the Friends.

Providence Public Library: For thirty or more years the eight branches of the Providence Public Library have benefited from the help and counsel of a Branch Neighborhood Advisory Committee for each branch. Membership on these committees changes periodically and appointments are made by the Librarian from names submitted by the Branch Librarians. In the past, two of these committees have been instrumental in the drives for new branch libraries for their communities and all the committees have made real contributions to the branches they serve. These committees meet at regular intervals with the branch librarian acting as secretary of the group. All phases of the branch library's activities are reviewed by the

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committee. The Providence Public Library looks upon the members of the Branch Neighborhood Advisory Committees as good will ambassadors for the Library. Although we do not use the term "friends" in our BNAC program the people who serve on these branch neighborhood committees are true "friends of the library."

John Hay Library of Brown University: A Friends of the Library group was organized in 1938. Currently they have 550 members. There are no regular dues but voluntary contributions are solicited. There is no actual budget; funds are used as supplied. A quarterly publication is issued, and four lectures a year are given. The bulk of the gift money is used to add to the library's Lincoln Collection. Occasionally, funds are raised for special projects.

The John Carter Brown Library: Some years ago it became clear that the income from the Library's endow-

ment, ample when it was established in 1900, was in this day hardly enough to pay current costs of maintenance. Nothing remained from that source for the purchase of the historical Americana upon which the international repute of the Library is based. Recognizing a need for action in this situation, a group of friends met in 1944, and brought into being a vigorous organization called the *Associates of the John Carter Brown Li-*

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brary. More than half of the members live outside Rhode Island. Twenty-five different states and three foreign countries are represented. Each Associate makes an annual contribution of at least five dollars.

Since its establishment, the Associates alone have borne the responsibility and distinction of carrying on the development of this useful research library of Americana, adding to the collection many hundreds of books and a distinguished speaker for the annual meeting. It is an active, successful organization invaluable to John Carter Brown Library.

Roger Williams Park Museum: One of the more successful operations in Providence Plantations is that at Roger Williams Park Museum, brought into being by the determination and enthusiasm of one small woman to whom even the sky is not the limit. Miss Maribelle Cormack, who also conducted the "Friends Survey" has written of her interested and generous Friends.

"It would be difficult for this writer to overemphasize the effect of this organization on our science museum. It grew out of the Planetarium Committee, a group of public spirited citizens, who raised the money for the installation of a planetarium in the Museum's north wing. Between Election Day 1952 and Decoration Day 1953, they raised some \$12,000 by selling the sky at so much a star; extra, of course, for large chunks of celestial real estate like the rainbow and the milky way. While there were a number of large donors, the great majority of donations were in one to five dollar gifts. This was excellent because it meant that literally thousands of men, women, and children felt a personal interest in the completed work.

Because of the large amount of labor, brains, and material donated, there was a balance of some \$1800.

This was used to restore The Hall of the American Indian, which is as modern as any similar display in our area. Seeing what could be done with relatively modest sums of money, the Friends were organized shortly after 1953. We now have about 150 members. Dues range from \$3 up for adults. There is no top limit. \$1 for elementary school children. Members receive notices of all activities and a Monthly Star Sheet with the latest sky news. Our budget is about \$1200 a year. Income is derived from three sources: 1) Dues, 2) Contribution box, 3) Profits from our sales desk. If we had 1000 members, think what we could accomplish!

The Friends have given us:

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Is currently sponsoring the entire cost of the renovation of The Hall of Wild Life with modern habitat groups;

Has paid insurance on valuable loans to permit us a wide range of current shows, from Vanguard rockets to primitive art.

Over and above the actual work and donations of the Friends, the prestige which such an organization gives the Museum with the city authorities and in the community has been considerable.

The face-lifting at the Museum is

proof of what a small staff can do with the aid of a devoted band of "Friends." If you remember our Museum "before", come and see it "after".

Results of this poll seem to show that not enough Libraries have such organizations and clearly point to the fact that they can do an infinite amount of good. If you don't have a Friends group at your library, why not organize one now?"

MARIBELLE CORMACK,
Roger Williams
Park Museum

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION — 1960-1961

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