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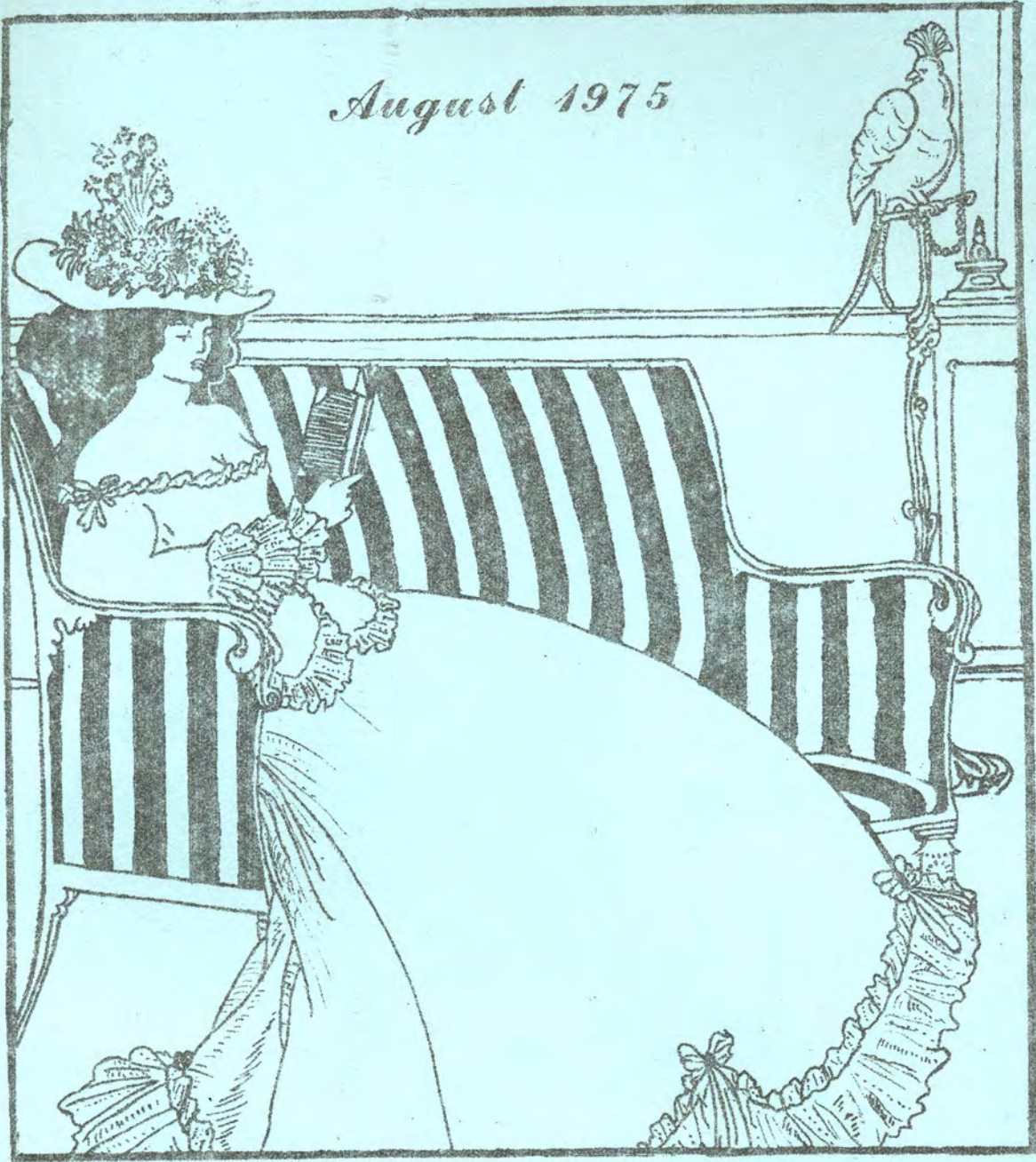
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BULLETIN

August 1975



Rhode Island Fiction Issue

EDITORIAL NOTICE:

Beginning July 1975 the Bulletin will appear on a monthly basis. News and articles should be submitted to the editor or assistant research editor by the first week of each month. The Bulletin staff can only promise to publish the news it actually receives from the library community.

The Bulletin is a publication for public, school, academic and special libraries of Rhode Island. Published by the Rhode Island Library Association, it is open to news and discussion of interest to RILA members. Articles contained herein, however, do not necessarily reflect the ideas of the RILA membership or the Bulletin staff, or the Bulletin advertisers. All articles about library matters are welcome, all should be signed, and should not exceed ten double spaced typed pages unless the editor is consulted.

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THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

We sit here writing busily away on what is Rhode Island's singular holiday. And we are thankful for this brief respite from routine chores which allows the completion of another Bulletin. More of a respite does not appear likely this summer season, what with the season's ever increasing pace of library activities.

RILA is busy filling committee vacancies and committees are busy organizing fall programs and campaigns. Richard Robbins, director at Warwick Public Library, will chair RILA's Public Affairs Committee. Beth Perry of Rhode Island College and Sydney Wright, coordinator of the Western Interrelated Library System, will co-chair the RILA Conference Sub-Committee. Diane Kadanoff of the Cumberland Public Library has been appointed chairwoman of the Membership Committee, and Sherrie Bergman, director of the Wheaton College Library, will hold a similar position on the Nominating Committee. Some appointment is expected shortly to fill the vacancy at the top of the Government Relations Sub-Committee. And it is hoped that the Trustees' Sub-Committee will soon be revived, for it could prove invaluable in planning the Rhode Island Governor's Conference on Libraries.

This month's Bulletin cover feature is an excellent critical article about local fiction entitled "The Setting is Rhode Island", by our old friend Ellen Spilka. Also included are articles by Curt Bohling on the boom in library business, by Kathleen Gunning on CRIARE's new ILL code for undergraduates, by Matt Newell on a recent continuing education survey, by Linda Hodgman on the state documents committee, as well as a short story by the editor.

The Bulletin staff continues to seek articles on contemporary library matters, on library history, on library procedure, on innovation and experiment from library staffers, trustees, library school faculty and students, administrators, and librarians, about all types of libraries. Letters to the editor, either in response to previous Bulletin articles or current questions and issues are also most welcome. Articles may be scholarly or popular in tone, and may run from a few paragraphs to about ten typed double spaced pages in length. The editor or research editor will be happy to advise anyone wishing to make a contribution. Just telephone.

Illustrations again this month, with the exception of a cover from Aubrey Beardsley, are by Judy Finberg of Brown University.

BUSINESS BOOMING

by Curt Bohling

Patrons made considerably more demands on the Pawtucket Public Library in fiscal year 1975 than they did in fiscal 1974 according to our annual cumulation of statistics. Every indicator of use level was up for the period July 1, 1974 through June 30, 1975 as compared to the previous year. Circulation of books went from 210,433 to 243,572, an increase of 15.7%. Door count indicates that patrons entered the building 173,035 times during the year, averaging 14,419 per month, contrasted with 10,770 per month the last eight months of the previous year. Reference work is also increasing, so much so that four professional librarians are now needed to handle the job that three covered a year ago.

I have noted that this substantial increase is being felt in almost every urban library in the country after more than a decade of gradually declining use. The reason is that people are turning to libraries in their hour of need. Everything costs more and many

THE SETTING IS

RHODE ISLAND



-by Ellen Spilka,

former R. I. regional coordinator and
now director of the Stevens Memorial
Library, No. Andover, Mass.

If you asked the average Rhode Islander to name some novels set in Rhode Island, he would probably come back with a blank stare and very little else. If you asked a Rhode Island librarian to give you a list of Rhode Island novels, you would probably get, "Oh well, there's Benefit Street of course, and there's that Irishman --- I can't remember his name --- and there's Florence Simister for the children, and uh! well, there's probably a listing of them that I could get for you."

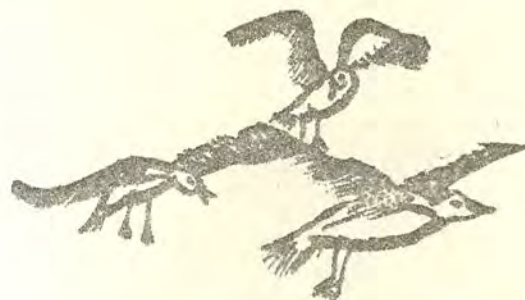
I once asked an extremely literate and knowledgeable gentleman, who writes Rhode Island stories, what other Rhode Island fiction he knew of. He came up with Benefit Street, and after a bit of hard thought, remembered that Irishman, and after some more thinking, remembered The Plastic Age. That was about it, as far as he could figure out.

Rhode Island is certainly not rivaling Massachusetts, where almost anyone could reel off names like Melville, Alcott, Marquand, Hawthorne, O'Connor (who actually came from Woonsocket but wrote about Boston) and Howells, and many many more. However, to look on the bright side of this dismal Rhode Island fictional nothingness, if the afore-mentioned librarian does try to list novels and stories set in Rhode Island, he finds that it certainly can be done. The list will actually be a manageable job, whereas in Massachusetts, a listing shouldn't even be attempted unless some graduate student wants to make a research project out of it.

When I was a Rhode Island librarian who liked to make lists of books --- I set out one day to list Rhode Island fiction; just in case anyone ever asked for a list of Rhode Island fiction. No one ever did, but you can never tell. Besides I felt quite sure that the job would take an hour at most and I like lazy projects like that. But it turned out to be more than an hour's work and when names like James Fenimore Cooper and Henry James, Thornton Wilder, and Van Wyck Mason appeared on my list, I began to suspect things were more complex than I had originally thought they would be.

One thing I hadn't counted on was Newport. All the above gentlemen wrote about Newport and so have many others. Newport is a natural dramatic setting, and it would be hard to wander around the cliff walk for long without beginning the plot of a murder

mystery or a gothic novel, or something in your head. The cliff walk is an eerie place with those roses blowing around in the fog, and the walk itself, crumbling away under your feet; with sea gulls screaming, and crazy castles rising out of the mists. Newport has been a natural for more than 200 years, and Newport is where James Fenimore Cooper comes into this Rhode Island list.



When we think of James Fenimore Cooper (and most of us don't anymore,) we think of Indians gliding through the forests of upper New York State being quite noble, and boring, and long winded. Apparently Cooper found Indians elsewhere and Wept of the Wish-ton-wish, is about King Philips' War and the Narragansetts. Red Rover, published two years later in 1829, is about the navy and also about Newport.

Newport novels and indeed the whole Newport mystique fall into two categories... colonial and revolutionary Newport, and the gilded age in Newport. The best of the romantic colonial Newport books are by that old pro, Van Wyck Mason. Stars on the Sea, and Eagle in the Sky, are his Newport novels. Stars on the Sea is a novel that wanders with its characters from Boston, to Newport, and then to Charleston, South Carolina, and Kentucky.

Van Wyck Mason is an author who is popular with intelligent, middle brow men, and it's easy to see why. His 18th century scene is a combination of sentimentality and and cynical realism. His people experience cold, hunger, rape ... they are burned out of their houses. One of the main characters loses her scalp and her life to a bunch of Indians in a quite sudden and shocking scene at the end of the book. Stars on the Sea is well written, respectable, and interesting. Of course, it has plenty of sex and romantic claptrap, and violence --- necessary ingredients in most successful American trade books. After all, publishing is a business to most writers, not an art, and Mason is in the business of writing best sellers. It's either "love and death" or your book won't sell. Still, Stars on the Sea should be read, especially during the Bicentennial silly period. 1776 was a pretty grim scene. For Rhode Islanders, I doubt there is a better account of 18th century Newport and Jamestown. Unfortunately for us, the novel only stays in Rhode Island for the first third of its length. By that time you are hooked, however, and you'll probably stay on for the trip to South Carolina and eventually Kentucky.

Another novel set in 18th century Newport, which unfortunately struck me as a huge bore, is Strange Wives, by Shirley Barker, published in 1963. I guess it can be put into the "there's nothing new under the sun," category because it deals with intermarriage and the love affair between an 18th century Anglo Saxon Newport girl and a Jewish, Newport young man. It is pretty heavy going but at least points out the fact that Rhode Island was the first real home for Jews in America and the situation is certainly a Rhode Island natural. Strange Wives is not well written. It does fall in place with other Rhode Island fiction that often reveals quite an obsession with the subject of Jews in our midst. Fear of Jews is evident in House of Five Talents, Benefit Street, and The Sudden Guest. Strange Wives deals exclusively with the subject of Jews in Anglo Saxon territory although essentially it is an acceptance of Jews, and interesting, in that

it attempts a very thorough acceptance back in the 1700's. This, of course, only inflicts 1963 thinking onto another period so it doesn't mean much. It is amazing though, how often Jews appear as a problem in these Rhode Island novels.

Alas, with very few exceptions, our Rhode Island novelists look like a bunch of amateurs. What might have been one grand exception was Henry James' gilded age Newport novel Ivory Tower. But completion of that novel was interrupted by his death in 1916. In addition to him and Van Wyck Mason, other candidates for the professional status are Louis Auchincloss, Christopher LaFarge, and Thornton Wilder.

Auchincloss is well known for society novels. While New York is his usual setting, The House of Five Talents is set in Newport with a bunch of New Yorkers as the characters. There is no problem with this book. I mean a publisher would print it, and it would sell for a while. It's minor league Henry James or Edith Wharton. It's good. It's interesting. It's competent. You don't have to get embarrassed when you read it. You won't get very excited either, since it is merely an account of the psychological and social problems encountered by a nouveau riche family. One of the problems is that their wealth and their family were founded by a Jew. Or so they suspect. Or so they fear. This is certainly quite a problem.

Newport continues as a natural setting, attracting most recently the tremendously talented and versatile Thornton Wilder. Theophilus North, published in 1973 and currently available in a paperback edition, is really enjoyable. The hero is a school teacher who encounters in Newport, a number of troubled and guilty souls caught in selfish little traps of their own design. He manipulates each sinner towards goodness, or freedom --- which is really the same thing, if freedom means freedom from evil. In a religious sense, freedom does mean just that, and this is sort of a happy go lucky religious book. The situations are fresh ones. We don't have heavy handed rehashes of old problems, but rather a series of situations, semi-comic, semi-tragic, but always original. The people and the plots are as cool and refreshing as an ocean breeze off the Atlantic, and the Newport setting is highly appropriate.

The book is a connected series of episodes or short stories, each with moral overtones. Theophilus North is a "do-gooder" which is an unfortunate position for anyone to be in. He's pretty much of a non-human type, but after all, it is a religious book, and it is a civilized relief from much of what we find in modern novels.

But Wilder is not a Rhode Islander, and so, like Henry James, Louis Auchincloss, James Fenimore Cooper --- I feel that the Newport setting is almost outside of Rhode Island reality. Newport is Rhode Island's shining pride. It is a stage setting that attracts powerful people for a time --- but not forever. Newport is a bit fanciful compared to the Rhode Island most of us know --- Pawtucket, West Warwick, South Providence, Hope, Warren. These are real places where people live out their life times. Newport, as a setting for a novel has a quality of glamour and unreality. I'm thinking of novels now, that are so deeply rooted into their place: Studs Lonigan into Chicago, David Copperfield into London, Tom Sawyer into Hannibal, that they convey the place almost as much as the personalities involved. Newport novels are almost outside of Rhode Island.

I think some of the most famous names on my Rhode Island list are renting Rhode Island for a little time. They don't own it, and they don't want to. When they "rent" Rhode Island, they are usually "renting" Newport. Naturally this is more a psychological or spiritual feeling about the authors and their novels than a realistic one. Edward McSorley didn't live in Rhode Island when he wrote Our Own Kind. Nor did Mark Twain live in Hannibal, Missouri when he wrote his masterpieces. But they once lived there, more in the sense of ownership than in the sense of renting, or passing through. Owning a place is probably best represented when an author is writing about his childhood impressions--- the vivid deep felt impressions. And so when Newport is "rented" for a novel, that novel

may be tremendously impressive, but simple emotional life and commitment will probably be lacking. Commitment to the novel is there---but commitment to the place?

I don't want to put down Theophilus North because I think Wilder is renting Newport. This is an excellent book and Newport is certainly honored to be chosen for the setting. My point is that I am looking for Rhode Island as a heartfelt experience in itself, rather than looking for an excellent novel that is using Rhode Island.

BASIC RHODE ISLAND

Christopher LaFarge is more in the "ownership" category than the Newport renters, and his book, The Sudden Guest is worth anyone's time. It is a sincere attempt to get at Rhode Island in a moment of tremendous upheaval. Because there are two more ambitious and exciting books that I want to mention, I hesitate to say this is the best Rhode Island novel, but it might be, because of the writing and because of the subject. The Sudden Guest is the hurricane of 1938. The Sudden Guest is also the great wash of immigrants engulfing Rhode Island shores---taking over Anglo Saxon territory and destroying the very fragile, indefensible position of the Rhode Island Anglo Saxon snob. Old Rhode Island society is pretty far gone by 1938. On a third level, The Sudden Guest is a sudden confrontation between the main character and her life, her personality, her isolation from social reality. The "guest" is self realization.

The main character is a maiden lady trying to protect her beautiful South County summer home against the hurricane and all the other unwelcome sudden guests in Rhode Island. Jews? You bet! All over the place! Even more delightful--a ratty couple of French Canadians from Lonsdale. This is an excellent book. Rhode Islanders, go ahead and read it if you can find a copy. Sophisticated, serious, and essentially committed to a Rhode Island of increasing tensions and interest.

CREATIVE WRITING 1 AND 2

I have mentioned books up to this point as "not embarrassing." This implies that various other novels exist that are definitely embarrassing. Unless we want to say they are camp.

The Plastic Age, by Percy Marks is about Brown student life in the 20's. It is camp,



and a very embarrassing account of an America incredibly wet behind the ears. It is "Creative Writing 1; . In its day it was considered quite daring, due to many "swear words" and lots of drinking, and talk about sex, and a lot of other things that are now down at the eighth grade level of behaviour.

Which brings me to the subject of the best known Rhode Island novel, Benefit Street by David DeJong. Rhode Islanders know this book and it is probably the most frequently requested Rhode Island novel. I like it, and yet for some reason, I don't like it. Unlike The Plastic Age which is Creative Writing 1, Benefit Street seems to be Creative Writing 2.

Benefit Street is not heavy going, but it is awkward, self conscious, imitative, and quite condescending towards its characters although DeJong seems serious in his interest in the setting. The setting is familiar to all Rhode Islanders, and there is fine authenticity of street names, and places such as Prospect Terrace, and downtown stores. The general atmosphere of DeJong's Benefit Street rooming house is also quite authentic. Dreary, rainy back yards, and winter mornings, and crummy, ratty apartments, are all well represented. The book can call up memories to many Rhode Islanders who once lived on this ever youthful street.

However, the problem comes with the people. They are just boring. Standard homosexual, standard prostitute, standard landlady with heart of gold under gruff exterior, standard burnt out cases! Benefit Street is populated by all the losers DeJong can dream up, or rather automatically produce after he read dozens of similar novels. The value to us lies in the local setting and for this Benefit Street will probably always be read, at least in Rhode Island. The book ends with the hurricane, but compared to LaFarge's hurricane, this is just a description of a physical phenomenon. LaFarge turned the hurricane into a symbolic social situation, an essential fact of Rhode Island life.

IMMIGRANT NOVELS

Mill Village, by Alberic Archambault is a valuable little book. It makes no pretense of being a professional novel. It is quite primitive and quite awkward but not embarrassing at all because it is honest in its simplicity. The time is late 19th--early 20th century. The novel tells about a French Canadian family coming to a town in Connecticut near the Rhode Island border to work in the mills. It is very straightforward--neither angry nor pleased with the mill life experience, and this acceptance of life as it is reflects the passive, stubborn French Canadian nature. They are kindly, modest, hardworking. Their goodness is very real.

The family comes to this area. They live in a company-owned house and work (all the family works in the mill according to the Rhode Island pattern of family labor.) The father loses fingers on both hands in mill accidents. There is no workman's compensation. He is simply out of work from then on. Accidents that made a man unfit to work were not considered the responsibility of mill owners. It was just bad luck for the workman. He should have been more careful.

The family survives. Some return (or retreat) to Canada but many refuse to leave, and the second generation ends up in Rhode Island moving towards prosperity and away from the mill life through business, politics, and the acquisition of power and sophistication.

I like this book. It is important because it does describe a historical process very difficult to find recorded anywhere else, either in fiction or non fiction. The hardships of mill life were never as devastating in Rhode Island as they were in Lowell and Lawrence, Massachusetts. Mill Village! Mill Town! Mill City! When you get to the city period, as in Lawrence, things got really rough. There was plenty of suffering in Rhode Island, but the scope was smaller and was on a human scale. Copies of this modest book are available

in some libraries, but it will take a bit of searching, and the book will soon be very hard to find. Unfortunately, there is nothing else like it.

A smaller group, the English immigrants to Rhode Island mills in the 19th and early 20th centuries, is competently handled by Hedley Smith in The Yankee Yorkshirer and More Yankee Yorkshirer, two collections of short stories. The setting is around Graystone in North Providence and nearby Smithfield. The English immigrants of this period came to America with textile skills and they were more sure of themselves than the average immigrant group arriving here with no knowledge either of textiles or the English language. The English probably suffered the least of any immigrants to Rhode Island and their easy assimilation into Rhode Island life is reflected in the good humored work of Hedley Smith. These are pleasant little stories, reflecting the undramatic lives of sensible, shrewd, and sometimes eccentric working class people. As in Mill Village, the overall impression is that these immigrants made no mistake in coming to America. It turned out to be considerably better than England and/or Quebec. They worked hard, they suffered, they prospered, and in an unspectacular way, they lived the American dream, at least during the last fifty years.

The two best immigrant novels are My New Found Land, by Dean Brelis, and Our Own Kind by Edward McSorley. My New Found Land is not well known, which is a shame. It was published in 1963, and the author is currently a C.B.S. news correspondent. In spite of its awkward title, the novel itself is excellent. It is very well written and provides us with a sensitive account of a Greek family in Newport during the Depression years. The situation is stock---weak, drunken father, strong mother holding family together, fatherly priest, sensitive son trying to adjust to two worlds. In spite of all these obstacles, the book manages to be rather fresh and not just a tired imitation of similar novels. There is a dramatic episode involving the killing of a rich society child by his own pet bear. The bear is then killed by the horrified father and the immigrant Greek boy witnesses the death of the Anglo Saxon mystique of strength, as the rich family crumbles in the experience. The Greek boy is tremendously scarred by witnessing this death of the old order through a grotesque accident, but he does survive. Here again is the theme of The Sudden Guest. The newcomer watches, almost in disbelief, as the old Rhode Island families crumble away during the thirties. Rather hesitantly, the immigrant moves into this void and takes over. Immigrants don't push their way into positions of power in any of these books. The older residents just seem to wither away in front of them, and the history of Rhode Island seems to show that this, indeed, was the case.

The book deals with the boy's efforts to grow, within the constant tug-of-war life of Greek tradition pulling him one way, while America pulls him towards another pattern of existence. Nothing very unique in that story line but Dean Brelis writes beautifully and this is definitely the most complex book we have about immigrant life in Rhode Island. It's a serious book---a good book--- and I hope it will become better known, at least within Rhode Island.

THE BEST RHODE ISLAND NOVEL

I like The Sudden Guest very much. It is the best written Rhode Island novel. I like My New Found Land, again because it is beautifully written and has the basic Rhode Island experience (alien newcomer) as its theme. But I love Our Own Kind and it is the one Rhode Island novel I've read several times. It is well known and whenever it is mentioned publicly, a new flock of readers descend on the libraries to get a copy.

Our Own Kind comes closer to the Providence bone than anything I can find. Not as perfectly written as The Sudden Guest, it has a depth of feeling beyond any of these other novels. It's Irish. It's Catholic. And it is Providence. Edward McSorley is not renting Providence. He is really an owner of the territory.

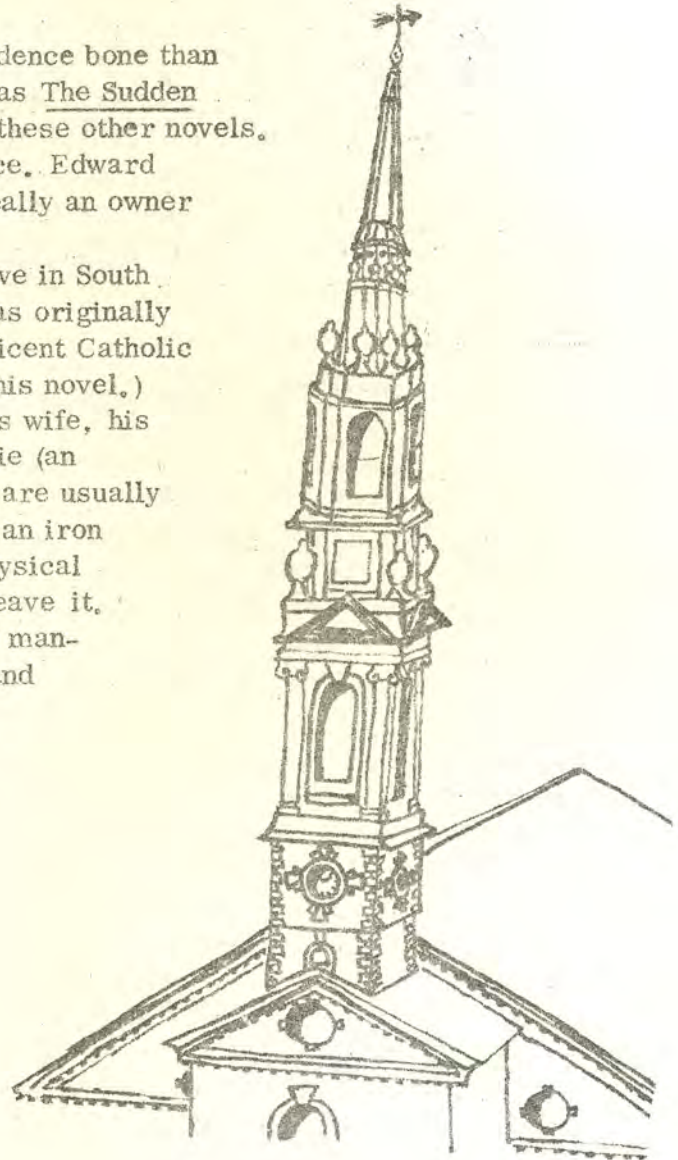
The story involves the McDermotts who live in South Providence around 1912. South Providence was originally Irish territory, as may be seen by the magnificent Catholic church still standing there (St. Malachi's in this novel.) Ned McDermott, the grandfather, supports his wife, his wife's old maid sister, and his grandson Willie (an orphan) plus a variety of other relatives who are usually down on their luck. The grandfather works in an iron foundry. He is much too old for the fierce physical strain of his job, but there is no way he can leave it. His job is all that stands for his own sense of manhood, and all that stands between his family and destitution. He knows that when he can no longer work he will die.

The book concerns the grandfather and his grandson, Willie. The relationship of the orphan to the old man, their love for each other and dependence on each other for emotional fulfillment is the theme, and without any excessive sentimentality, the book conveys real emotional life. The emotional life resembles Dickens but is more intense than Dickens. We are reminded of the relationship between Pip and Joe Gargary, but somehow Ned McDermott is an awful lot smarter than Joe Gargary even if McDermott can't read and write. Joe

Gargary couldn't read or write, but he couldn't think or respond either in any intelligent way. Ned McDermott is always thinking and responding to his great Irish heritage, to his Providence reality, and to his dreams of the future embodied in Willie. Gargary is very childlike. McDermott is no child. He is all man in the old-fashioned sense of the word.

In addition to the two central figures, Our Own Kind, is an account of a large Irish family, uneducated, full of malice and fear. They fear each other, but they are also full of love and loyalty for each other. They are loyal to their Church and to their home in Providence. There is much love for Ireland and for all the great Irish culture, a culture that they understand emotionally, not intellectually. In other words, they understand it.

Our Own Kind is a dignified book. It is a love song, a folk song, a lovely book! The people live in poverty, ignorance, suffering, and tragedy---real tragedy rather than the kind of cerebral tragedy suffered in House of Five Talents. Nobody in Our Own Kind is



worried about whether their family was founded by a Jew. They know very well where they came from and who established them in the world. They are trying to stay alive and they aren't always succeeding.

It isn't complex, but it is a very touching book. It is the one absolute must for anyone who wants to experience the basics in Rhode Island life. A Library Journal of May 15, 1946 said, "If you read one novel a year, read this." 1946 was also the year LaFarge published The Sudden Guest, so I should think two novels should have been read that year.

McSorley followed this book with The Young McDermott. It is very similar but not quite as good because of the loss of his best character, Ned McDermott at the end of Our Own Kind.

"AND SMILE AS WE MURMUR THE NAME OF OLD BROWN"

Of course there are other Rhode Island writers. Many from THE HILL. H. P. Lovecraft can hardly be included in my Rhode Island list because his setting is not Rhode Island. His setting is out of this world. The East Side probably looks like The Shadow Out of Time and Other Tales of Horror, to many people who lurk around the threshold there, but basically I'm talking about Rhode Island as it looks to most of us.

The two Brown writers of national greatness are Nathaniel West and S. J. Perelman. Nathaniel West went through Brown, but he was a New Yorker and he wrote about New York and Hollywood, not about Rhode Island. S. J. Perelman has recently been proclaimed "one of our great natural resources." I expect he will soon be designated a "National Historical Site." But he hasn't written any novels. However, everyone worships the ground Perelman walks on, and that ground was originally Rhode Island. Dreams born in the Albee Theater in Providence went around the world in 80 days. He is Moe Juste and his oeuvre contains some of the greatest lines in English comic literature.

John Hawkes is a great American novelist who resides at Brown. He does not write about Rhode Island. If he ever did, as with West, and Perelman, I would not be qualified to comment. He's in the upper strata and his work is receiving competent criticism from professional critics. In the same general area, R. V. Cassil and Maurice Dolbier are Rhode Island writers who do not write about Rhode Island. E. Howard Hunt of Watergate fame, or notoriety, is a Brown graduate. He has written many novels and although his imagination is very well developed, he has never turned it in Rhode Island's direction.

The names go on and on, and the confusion is obvious. At the Providence Public Library under the heading "Rhode Island Fiction," there are approximately 180 books on the shelf. These include Rhode Island people who write novels, but not necessarily novels about Rhode Island.

JUVENILE FICTION

Rhode Island fiction for children lends the impression that all children in Rhode Island walk around in colonial costumes, fight the British, farm the fields, and make friends with friendly Indians. I don't know of anything but colonial and revolutionary stories for children, although perhaps there is something else. At least what there is will come in handy for parents and teachers during the Bicentennial.

My own favorites are the two "Little Maid" books by Alice Curtis but that's because they were the books I read when I was a child. Librarians tend to throw "Little Maid" books away now. Like Shirley Temple, they are irrelevant. Naturally they are about the Revolution.

The Florence Simister books should be easier to locate. As with adult fiction, we do not have any overflow of Rhode Island fiction for children. It might be interesting to hear about some of the children who worked in Rhode Island mills for 12 or 14 hours a day, 6 days a week, beginning at the age of 4. But we probably won't.

WHY BOTHER?

If most novels with a Rhode Island setting are so ordinary and unknown, why should any of us bother? Why not spend our time on a "Massachusetts" novel like "Moby Dick?" We should, but when we do, we see the difference, of course. Moby Dick is not a Massachusetts novel. It is a novel that deals with universal ideas. It can be read with understanding in Massachusetts, or London, or Paris, or Rhode Island.

Massachusetts happens to have major universal novels. It also has minor local novels (The Rise of Silas Lapham, Little Women, The Last Hurrah, etc.) which reveal more of Massachusetts than of God, to the reader. Minor Rhode Island novels (and they are all minor) will reveal Rhode Island to those who care about the place, better than Rhode Island histories or Rhode Island sociological studies. The novel---any novel, allows for an expression of feeling and experience beyond histories. In the case of local experience, it is the only form of writing that can give us an emotional sense of place. In this particular place, the setting is quite remarkable and the experiences worth knowing about. I hope these minor Rhode Island novels will be read and preserved. Most are out of print and very hard to find, even now. I also hope that many Rhode Island experiences and personalities will be written about in future novels. Rhode Island is varied, dramatic, and brimming over with great stories.

I don't want to make a plea for minor novels as such, but rather a plea for valid expressions of the Rhode Island story. Our Own Kind, The Sudden Guest, Mill Village, My New Found Land, were worth writing and printing. They are worth preserving and reading. I hope there will be more. If there are clinkers in the future, as there have been in the past---it is no tragedy. The only tragedy would be a dearth of further exploration in fictional form of all the untold Rhode Island stories. The Italians, the textile industry, the changing role of Newport, the struggle between the French Canadians and The Church, personalities like Marvin Barnes, Joe Doorley, Howard McGrath, Louis Gelineau.

Rhode Island needs many more Edward McSorley's. It needs men and women like him, who can somehow convey in honest words, a real place. As I wander through certain Massachusetts streets, I can say, "It looks like something out of Louisa May Alcott." The Mississippi is "Mark Twain." Nebraska is "Willa Cather."

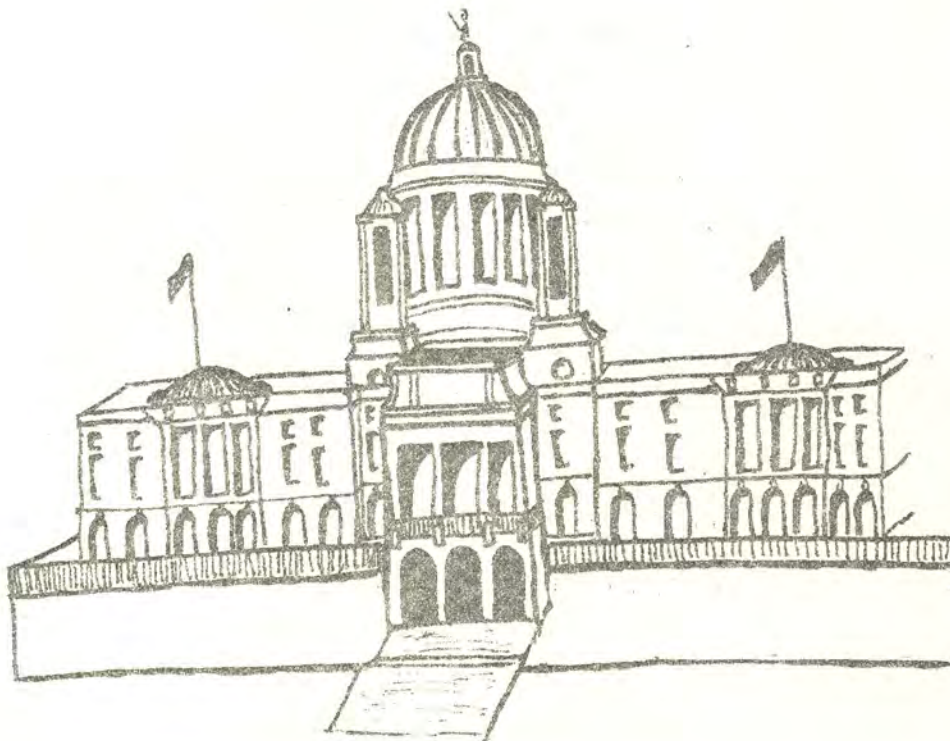
A great regional writer, even if he transcends his region, will inevitably be that region to the multitudes who read his book.

Rhode Island is blessed with drama, and humor, and melodrama, and beauty. Only the novel can bring it all to life for us.

RHODE ISLAND FICTION (An Incomplete Listing)

Alberic Archambault	Mill Village	1943
Louis Auchincloss	The House of Five Talents	1960
Shirley Barker	Strange Wives	1963
Dean Brelis	My New Found Land	1963

James Fenimore Cooper	The Red Rover	1827
James Fenimore Cooper	Wept of the Wish-ton-wish	1829
David DeJong	Benefit Street	1942
Didama	Three Holes in the Chimney	1885
Edwin Gilbert	Newport	1971
Christopher LaFarge	The Sudden Guest	1946
Hortense Lion	Mill Stream	1941
Edward McSorley	Our Own Kind	1946
Edward McSorley	The Young McDermott	1949
Percy Marks	The Plastic Age	1924
Francis Van Wyck Mason	Eagle in the Sky	1948
Francis Van Wyck Mason	Stars on the Sea	1940
Nancy Potter	We Have Seen the Best of Our Times	1968
Gilbert Rees	I Seek a City	1950
Hedley Smith	Gift of Armor	1968
Hedley Smith	The Yankee Yorkshireman	1970
Hedley Smith	More Yankee Yorkshiremen	1974
Carter Vaughan	Dragon Cove	1964
Mildred Walker	Quarry	1947
Delphine Washburn	Newport Woman	1967
Thornton Wilder	Theophilus North	1973



JUVENILE FICTION

Alice Turner Curtis	A Little Maid of Newport	1935
Alice Turner Curtis	A Little Maid of Narragansett Bay	1915
Nance Faulkner	Tomahawk Shadow	1969
Rosalys Hall	The Bright and Shining Breadboard	1969
Marjorie Hayes	The Young Patriots	1941
F. N. Monjo	Slater's Mill	1972
Florence Simister	Daniel and the Drum Rock	1963
Florence Simister	Girl With a Musket	1959
Florence Simister	The Pewter Plate	1957

INTERLIBRARY LOANS FOR UNDERGRADUATES

by Kathleen Gunning, chairperson CRIARL
Interlibrary Loan Committee and Interlibrary
Loan Librarian at Brown University

The Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries (CRIARL) has begun to offer interlibrary loan service within the state to undergraduates on a one-year trial basis. The 1968 National Interlibrary Loan Code does not cover borrowing for undergraduates by academic libraries. Therefore, in the past, many college libraries have not offered this service to their students. However, the combination of an increasingly varied undergraduate curriculum, including adult and vocational education programs plus the sharply rising cost of library materials has made it impossible for any one library to acquire all the items necessary for its students' research.

In recognition of this problem CRIARL is conducting an experimental program during the 1975-76 fiscal year which allows undergraduates, through their own college library, to borrow from academic and public libraries within the state. CRIARL is composed of Barrington College, Brown University, Bryant College, Naval War College, Providence College, Providence Public Library, Rhode Island College, Rhode Island Historical Society, Rhode Island Junior College, Rhode Island School of Design, Roger Williams College, Salve Regina College, Seminary College of Our Lady of Providence, and the University of Rhode Island. These Consortium libraries were encouraged to undertake such a cooperative program in extending service to a large new group of users because of the success of a 1973 agreement which authorized a liberal lending policy for CRIARL faculty and graduate students.

Last fall the directors of Consortium libraries appointed a committee to formulate the guidelines for a lending policy appropriate to undergraduates. This committee was faced with a series of problems generated mainly by financial constraints. CRIARL libraries wanted to assume responsibility for their undergraduates' research needs yet did not have access to additional staff or funding. With the limited resources available, the Consortium could only commit itself to processing course-related requests. This problem is especially acute because requests placed by undergraduates are frequently less bibliographically complete and require more staff time to verify than those submitted by more experienced library users. Each undergraduate request is screened to determine whether the student's needs might not be met by materials in the school's own collection and whether or not it is course-related. If the library does not have the needed material, the librarian either 1) tries to borrow it for the student, 2) writes a referral letter to another library if the material needed is course-related but too extensive or not specified clearly enough.

for an interlibrary loan request, or 3) refers the student to a member of the Rhode Island Interrelated Library System to aid the student with requests not directly related to course work.

Clearly defined guidelines for this service were desired by member libraries to insure that different institutions would interpret the agreement in a consistent fashion and that the larger libraries would not be burdened with more requests than they could handle. To keep the workload within limits dictated by staff size, CRIARL libraries do not send subject requests or more than two requests per student at one time.

Referral letters are a major way of filling gaps in service which these limitations might create. CRIARL members have exchanged lists of subject strengths to improve the success rate for locating needed items. Through such a listing the unique strengths of smaller libraries are not overlooked in processing undergraduate requests. Referral letters based on this information on the collections of individual libraries are used when the student 1) needs more than two items more quickly than they can be provided under existing interlibrary loan guidelines, and 2) when the librarian cannot locate specific titles in the student's subject area. The referral letter indicates sources already checked by the librarian and thus avoids duplication of effort at the referral library.

The committee also had to decide what kinds of items could be requested. Because most undergraduate research requests are for recent materials, the agreement would serve only a limited purpose if no in-print materials could be exchanged, as the National Code stipulates. CRIARL libraries have agreed in principle to allow the lending of in-print materials. Without setting exact limits for price or period of loan, we decided that each institution would interpret this agreement as generously as possible, subject to the demands of its own academic community. In addition, the agreement covers all types of material normally lent on interlibrary loan by each of the CRIARL libraries. Since policies regarding the loan of non-book materials, bound periodicals, etc. differ among Consortium libraries, the committee is currently engaged in compiling a directory of the lending policies of each CRIARL library. This directory is based on the recently published Inter-library Loan Policies Directory by Sarah Thomson. It will be ready for use at the start of the fall semester when the volume of interlibrary lending increases.

This set of lending statements combined with the list of subject strengths will make it easier for librarians to decide whether referrals or interlibrary loans are the most appropriate means of obtaining materials not available in their own library. Yet published policy statements or subject listings never cover all possible contingencies. To facilitate contacts among the staffs of CRIARL libraries, especially when unusual research problems arise, the committee has assembled a list of the personnel, hours of services, and telephone numbers of the reference and interlibrary loan departments. Through these various measures we hope to simplify as much as possible the complications which arise in inter-organizational communication.

Consortium libraries are closely tied to the R. I. Interrelated Library System. Therefore the committee has attempted to make the CRIARL guidelines as consistent as possible with those of the public library network. The most difficult problem arose in the effort to mesh policies on the provision of photocopies to undergraduates. According to the 1973 CRIARL guidelines for loans to faculty and graduate students, the lending library provides the first twenty-five exposures of each request free. This provision was easily coordinated with the R. I. Interrelated Library System policy of providing the first ten exposures free on all interlibrary loan requests. The undergraduate population of Rhode Island is much larger than that of faculty and graduate students, yet no federal or state funding is available to underwrite the provision of free photocopies to undergraduates by the lending library. Thus the committee was charged with determining the best method of

financing such a service. Three alternatives were discovered. The cost could be borne by 1) the lending library, 2) the borrowing library, or 3) the individual undergraduate student.

If the lending library were to finance the photocopies, undergraduate requests could potentially place a large burden upon the libraries which would receive the majority of these requests. Yet in keeping with each academic library's responsibility to support its school's curriculum, CRIARL libraries were reluctant to make students pay for course-related items. After much discussion, Consortium members agreed that the borrowing library will pay for the first twenty-five exposures of every request which the borrowing library makes for its undergraduate students. This agreement encourages the borrowing library 1) to screen the requests on the basis of research need, and 2) to disperse its requests among other CRIARL libraries to alleviate the demands on staff time at any one institution.

This reimbursement policy is incompatible with that of the R. I. Interrelated Library System, but CRIARL's lack of federal or state funding does not render a smoother interface possible. As a member of CRIARL and the R.I.I.L.S., the Providence Public Library will still provide ten free exposures per request to all Rhode Island libraries for local library users.

Consortium libraries are eager to enlist the aid of public library personnel in publicizing this new service to undergraduates. We hope that the reference staffs of public libraries will inform undergraduates placing interlibrary loan requests that they can submit research requests to their own school library. Public libraries accepting interlibrary loan requests from a CRIARL undergraduate are encouraged to ascertain the student's academic affiliation and to include that information on the request. A CRIARL institution will not send materials from its collection on interlibrary loan to its own students if they place requests for these materials at another library.

This policy is intended to cover the needs of the average student who has frequent access to his/her own academic library and therefore can reasonably be expected to check the college library catalog for research materials. However, the committee realizes that some part-time and extension school students have acute problems in getting to their school's library. We have no desire to deprive these people of needed items and as a result are currently working on a policy to cover these special cases. We hope to create a special designation such as "non-campus student" for whom a modified set of rules will apply.

In fact the committee has begun a study of the whole problem of access to academic libraries in an effort to determine the various ways in which R. I. academic libraries might be able to provide service to patrons outside their primary clientele. This investigation is being conducted in contact with the ACRL Committee on Community Use of Academic Libraries which published its Draft of Access Policy Guidelines in the May 1975 College and Research Libraries News.

To inform public library staffs of the new CRIARL policies, the committee is preparing a one-page sheet for use at R.I.I.L.S. reference desks, plus a book flier which can be handed out to undergraduates seeking interlibrary loans. These items should be available in September when the academic year begins.

We also wish to foster continued contact between CRIARL and R.I.I.L.S. library staffs so that we can maintain a steady flow of communication and library resources. To this end, specific members of the Committee have volunteered for liaison duties with each of the interrelated library regions. These people are: Beth Perry, Rhode Island College (831-6600 ext. 522) - Providence; Elizabeth Burns, Roger Williams College (255-2361) - Island Region; Sylvia Mercier, R.I.J.C., Warwick (825-2215) - Western Region; Frank St. Pierre, R.I.J.C., Providence (331-5500, ext. 32) - Northern Region; Kathleen Schlenker, U.R.I. (792-5935) - Southern Region - Kathleen Gunning, Brown University (863-2169) DSLS.

These members of the committee are available as resource people to answer any questions public libraries may have regarding these CRIARL policies. They will also be contacting the regional library centers to provide them with the materials mentioned above.

We on the committee wish to stress that the policies which are in effect have been adopted on a trial basis subject to modification as the need arises. These policies will be formally reviewed on a regular basis in an effort to arrive at a set of procedures which will promote the most complete and efficient service possible. We welcome any suggestions or comments from other members of the library profession, and hope that these changes in our policies will also be helpful to libraries throughout the state in providing materials for library users.

REPERCUSSIONS:

An Irish Tale

- by Lee Flanagan

©1975

"In the end one cannot
divorce libraries from the
context in which they operate.

- Robert Usherwood*

In the dismal December dawn, snow began to fall on the city of Derry. The already leaden sky, the cobbled streets, and the bomb scarred store buildings grew more grey and more cold. Suddenly an old yellow sedan came into view. As the sedan, carrying two men, slowed to make a turn at the public library, its engine backfired. An English soldier in a sandbag hut at the corner of the library awoke abruptly. Misinterpreting the sound, he dashed outside and shouted an order to halt at the vehicle. The driver, already half a block away, did not hear the soldier's voice above the rattle of the car. Confused and half asleep, the soldier shouted again, raised his rifle, and fired twice. One bullet hit the hinge of the car's boot and lodged there. The second splintered the car's rear window, struck the back of the driver's head, and blew his face through the wind-screen. The car veered sharply to the left, knocked over a telephone kiosk, and crashed into a high wall. With ashen face, the soldier approached the smoking wreck. A glance at the blood across the car's bonnet told the soldier that the driver was beyond help. Opening the passenger door the soldier pulled out the other man, unconscious, face and knees shattered and bleeding. One of four armored vehicles which stood at the ready in the library precinct now arrived with more soldiers. Within 30 minutes the dead driver, an unemployed Irish catholic mill worker, was in the county morgue. The injured man,

*Robert Usherwood, "Books, Bombs, and Bullets" Wilson Library Bulletin, April 1972, 718-725 - a chilling factual account of the civil war in Northern Ireland and its effect on libraries, an extremely valuable article without which "Repercussions" could not have been written.

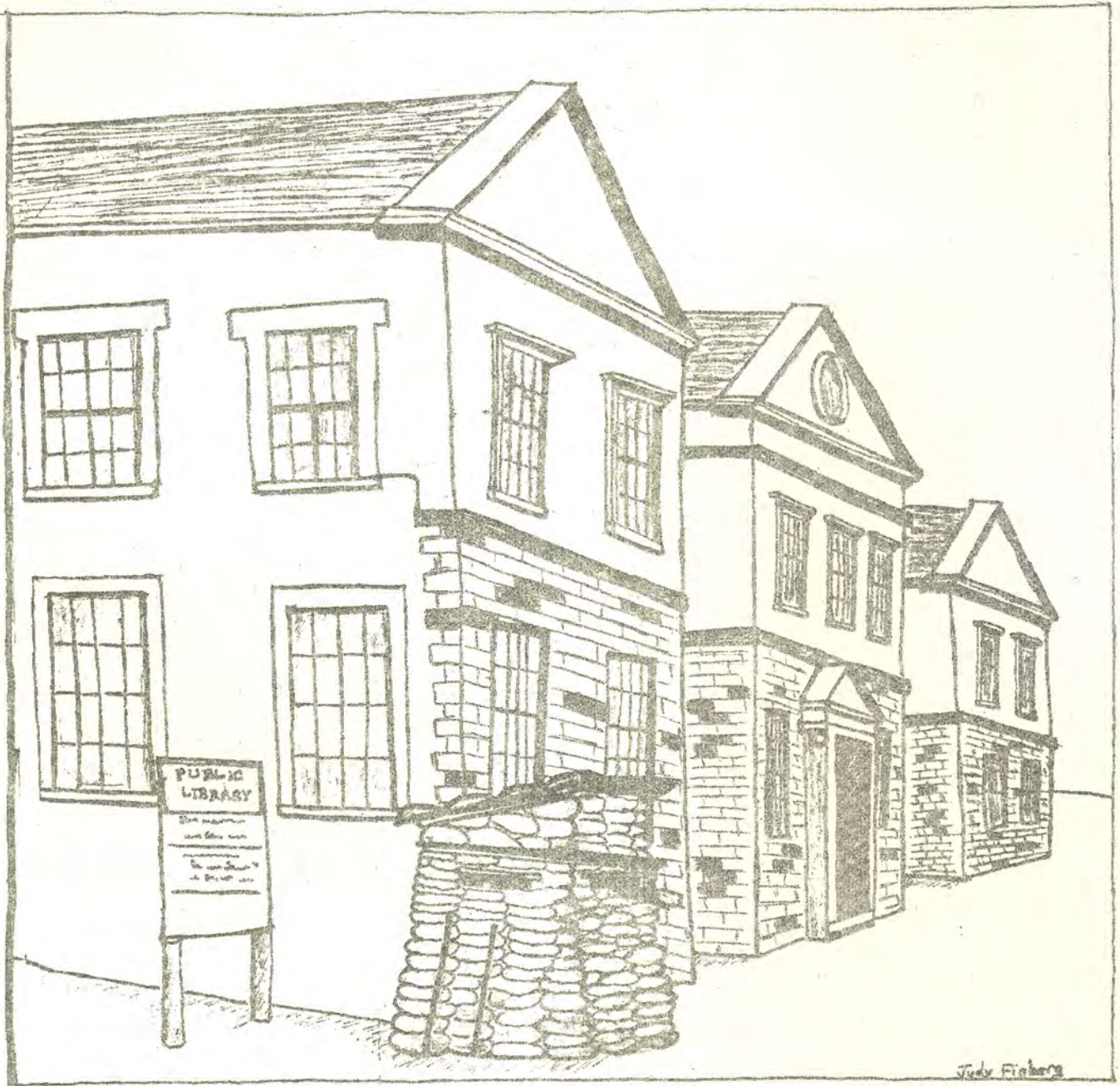
his brother, was in the operating room of the city hospital. And the soldier had been placed under arrest by his commanding officer.

Fearing riots, the English began to move additional troops into the city. Derry already bore more resemblance to an army camp than most of the camps in Ireland. The new troops reinforced those already in the no-man's land between the Protestant and Catholic districts, between the barricades of burned-out buses and the opposing walls with rudely painted signs demanding "No Popery" or "Join the Army of the People". Before the morning commuter rush had commenced, the wrecked automobile had been towed away, the street was swept, and snow was covering it. By the time Christmas shoppers flooded the streets and the library opened at ten that morning, the only public record of the English mistake was a special supplemental edition of the Protestant morning paper. Even that was hardly the record of a mistake with its headline "Gunmen Shot Attacking Library." In the Bogside, or Catholic section, however, another more bitter, more profound record was made in the hearts of the dead man's family and friends, and in the mind of a blackhaired man in the command of the local Republican Army. He smiled as he looked down from his apartment window at children playing rebels and soldiers in the snow, in preparation for the continuing struggle of a future generation.

Outside of the library, armoured cars and soldiers behind gun emplacements and sandbag fortifications remained at their stations. In the library there was no struggle and little noise. Beyond the entrance where a porter checked shopping bags and parcels and identification cards, there was almost no sign of war past, present or future. A small sign had been placed on the soft grey wall near the porter, requesting patrons to notify the staff should patrons chance upon unknown objects. But the sign, posted in 1957 when an incendiary device disguised as a book had touched off a fire, had faded, and had been nearly forgotten.

At noon the snow still fell, and there were few people in the library when a pretty, dark haired young woman approached the main desk and asked to see the chief librarian. Happening to be on the other side of the desk, he turned and politely asked what she wanted. She promptly identified herself as an assistant editor from Women Together, an Irish women's political periodical and organization opposing all violence. And she requested the use of the library's meeting room for her organization at the end of the week. The chief librarian, a Unionist appointee, shook his grey head negatively, and explained that it was library policy to maintain neutrality on all political and religious issues. As a public, tax supported institution, he said, the library must remain non-judgmental, representing all points of view on all subjects. The library board therefore could not countenance support of any political cause or organization, even to the limited extent of lending its meeting facilities. Visibly disturbed, the young woman then asked if she could simply place a poster advertising her organization on the library's community bulletin board. The chief librarian again shook his head, and reiterated that that also would indicate library support for a particular political idea. The library, he concluded, was open to all ideas, as manifest in a nearby "Christmas Collage," a grey mass of newspaper cuttings presenting different sides of the civil war.

Several feet away sat a black-haired man, in a green Burberry jacket, near the library's standing Union Jack. Overhearing the chief librarian's justification of neutrality, the man in the jacket smiled as his eyes fell on a large picture of the English queen hanging on the far wall. Hardly a neutral symbol he thought, that Queen whose life style is light years away from that of Irish worker's wives, of pretty radical editors, of not so pretty neutral librarians. The black-haired man smiled again when he looked back at his newspaper, the Ulster Protestant. He would have preferred the Catholic



GUN EMPLACEMENT, DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1971

United Irishman but the library did not subscribe to that. Inside of the man's jacket was a folded copy of Resistance, the Irish Republican Army's magazine. This man who had contributed more than a few articles, unsigned or course, to Resistance, left the library suddenly.

As darkness descended that same day, the library staff prepared to close. A little girl, holding a rag doll, and her mother, picked up their books, said goodnight to the porter, and opened the front door to find the snow still falling. At that moment, from a speeding green car, a large parcel was thrown at the sandbagged machine gun emplacement five yards to the right of the library door. The mother froze in terror, and the child looked at her in bewilderment. In a few seconds, as the car disappeared on a cross street, an explosion heard across the city blew away the gun emplacements and the face of the library. An hour later, an Irish policeman two blocks away picked up a shredded, blood-soaked rag doll from the snow on the sidewalk. In reaching for the doll he trampled a sheet of singed paper into the gutter clush. It was a statement of the library's non-political policies.

RILA SURVEY ON CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Matthias Newell, Librarian,
University of Rhode Island

When the RILA Education Committee first met in November 1974 and chose continuing education as the work for the year, a survey was planned to elicit input from the Association's membership. The mid-Winter Conference on February 20, 1975, saw the questionnaire distributed. The coordinator of the Providence Interrelated Library System and secretary of our Committee, Mrs. Connie Cameron, also included the questionnaire in a mailing. Forty-five questionnaires were returned, representing about 7% of the Association's membership. The results were tabulated and this article attempts to inform the membership about the findings.

The first question was about utilizing human resources, that is, providing librarians with knowledge to improve performance. Twenty-two respondents wanted to learn more about supervisory skills in personnel management as their first choice for workshop topics. This was followed, but not too closely, by 13 indicating their first choice was to learn about evaluation and performance review of programs and personnel. Supervisory skills also ranked at the top among second choices with 14 so indicating, and evaluation followed with 12. The other first choices were: management by objectives (7), volunteers in the library (3), resume writing, job interviews and staffing (1). Clearly, the majority wanted to learn first about supervisory skills and secondly about evaluation and performance review. Supervision got the largest vote of first choice of the seventeen topics presented as possibilities in the survey.

Further knowledge about subjects that would improve the informational skills of librarians was the topic of question two. Computer systems network get the top count as first choice (12), followed closely by training in audio-visual techniques (11). Other first choices were: new and costly reference tools (9), referrals and Rhode Island resources (6), management of local records or local history (3), Rhode Island subject headings (2). Second choices had a different lineup: referrals (12), reference tools (7), local history (7), audio-visual techniques (5), computer systems (4), Rhode Island subject headings (2). Three choices were almost evenly marked, if first and second choices for question two are added together, namely: computer systems (18), referrals (18), audio visual techniques (17).

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Topics on planning and library management were the third area of choice. The first choice in this area, by a wide margin, was proposal writing and grantsmanship or alternative sources of funding (16). A strong contender was public relations with 12 first choices. Trailing were space management and building renovation, including new developments in library furniture (8), statistics and their uses (4), market research for libraries (3), how to treat federal monies and continue federal programs (3). Second choices did not have the same large spread or the same order as the first choices; federal monies (12), statistics (8), space management (8), market research (6), public relations (6), proposal writing (4).

There was no contest on the question about the format preferred. An overwhelming number (26) preferred workshops with no credits. Mixed media presentations (7), and credit courses (5) ran poor second and third. The place preferred was Providence (21) with the next choice for alternating between Providence and regional libraries getting only 12 choices. The time preferred was evening (17), then morning (13), with afternoon trailing (6). The majority (22) felt that no compensatory time would be given for continuing education while 19 felt they could count on getting compensatory time.

This sampling of the Association's membership gives the Education Committee a clear indication of the major interests as regards continuing education. The large number of respondents who opted in their first and second choices for supervision (36), evaluation (25), and proposal writing (20) will not be disappointed as the Education Committee makes plans in the months ahead.

STATE DOCUMENTS

- by L. E. Hodgman

The State Documents Project Committee dates back to October, 1973 and has been chaired by Nancy Peace, librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society since then. The Committee's recent seven month investigation into the effectiveness of document distribution and preservation has resulted in a 12 page written report which it is hoped "will provide the basis for more effective organization of the agencies responsible for the State's records and documents --- the Rhode Island State Library, the State Records Center, and the State Archives."

Ms. Peace states that it is apparent there is no rational plan for the collection of published and unpublished state documents and although in 1973 a consultant, Roger McDonough, was engaged by the State Documents Committee, his pertinent recommendations were not accomplished largely due to the lack of state funds. The current recommendations of the Committee have been posited after careful examination and discussion of Mr. McDonough's report. Recommendations of the State Documents Project Committee are as follows:

1. That at least one more professional librarian and a clerk are needed at the State Library if a satisfactory program for collecting, processing, and distributing documents is to develop. Clear job descriptions for existing and future staff positions within the State Library are also needed.
2. That there be two types of repositories -- full and partial--which receive state documents. Those designated as full repositories would receive and retain a copy of every document published by or for the State of Rhode Island. Those designated as partial repositories would receive only such documents as the librarian deemed useful to the library's clientele.

The State Library and the University of Rhode Island Library would be designated as full repositories, and the following institutions would be designated as partial repositories: Rhode Island College, Bryant College, Providence Public Library, Pawtucket Public Library, Warwick Public Library, Westerly Public Library, Brown University, Rhode Island Junior College, Barrington Public Library, Salve Regina College, Roger Williams College, The Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence College, and Barrington College.

3. That the Digest of Annual Reports be continued but the State Library be provided with the modest sum needed to reproduce complete reports in those cases the State Librarian determines necessary. The leasing of a printer-collator to enable such copying is recommended. The committee further recommends that the reports of those state agencies which are not currently included in the Digest be added, as the primary value of the Digest is in its usefulness as an index in state agencies and their reports.
4. That a committee be established to advise the Secretary of State and the State Librarian on policies and programs concerning state documents and records. The advisory committee should also be responsible for approving additional libraries as depositories for state documents.
5. That the State Records Center, the State Archives and the State Library be joined into a single administrative agency within the Office of the Secretary of State, and that a strong professional program with clearly defined responsibilities and job descriptions be developed for the agency.
6. That the State provide a building with appropriate facilities for archives and records, the Department of State Library Services, and parts of the State Library, such as the documents distribution program.
7. That future governors' papers be considered state papers and be placed in the proposed State Archives and Records Center.

Nancy Peace has met with Glen Kumakawa, the Governor's assistant, as regards these recommendations and she reports that he is interested in the Committee's work and receptive to their desire for a State Archivist who would be responsible for the implementation of the records program. All of this of course entails the availability of necessary state funds and Ms. Peace, noting my scepticism on that point, cheerfully informed me of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission which will make available \$14 million of matching funds for records programs in the states. The bulk of this money will be available in 1977 and the Committee hopes to be able to apply for some of it.

CALENDAR

Please note that you can telephone news of upcoming library meetings to anyone on the Bulletin staff, and that news will be listed in this section of the Bulletin. Be sure to include day, hour, place and subject of the meeting.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 8 | Cooperative Juvenile Book Review Meeting, "R. I. Indians," Providence Public Library, 9:30 a. m. |
| September 17 | RILA Executive Board Meeting, Champlain Library, W. Warwick, 7:30 p. m. |

- September 22-26 Media Production Week, DSLS. Call Peter Salesses for information, 277-2726.
- September 26 Reception and Tour at the R. I. Historical Society Library, 52 Power St., Providence, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. All RILA members are invited. If you have not received an invitation contact Nancy Chudacoff, 331-0448.
- September 27 New England Library Trustees Association Annual Meeting, "The White House Conference on Libraries," Wentworth-by-the-Sea, Portsmouth, N. H.
- September 29-30 New England Library Association Annual Conference, "The Art of Practical Library Politics," Featured speakers include critic Judith Crist, talking about motion pictures, and A. J. Anderson arguing the case for censorship. Wentworth-by-the-Sea, Portsmouth, N. H.
- October 16 Software Preview, DSLS, call Peter Salesses for information, 277-2726.
- October 20 Monthly Adult Book Meeting, "Feminist Poetry, Westerly Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
- October 26-30 American Society for Information Science, Annual National Conference, Sheraton Boston Hotel, Boston, Mass. For information write Ruth Tighe, NELINET, 40 Grove St., Wellesley 02181 or telephone 617 235-8071.

NOTICE TO BIBLIOGRAPHERS

The new N. E. Bibliographic Instruction Collection is a volunteer activity of a group of academic librarians in the Boston area. The Simmons College School of Library Science Library has provided space for this non-circulating reference collection of print and A-V materials used in bibliographic instruction efforts of libraries in the New England region. Donations of bibliographies, guides, "pathfinders", B. I. course outlines, scripts, statements of objectives, tests, etc. are earnestly solicited. The Collection is available for browsing to any librarian at any hour when the Simmons College Library is open.

TOO MUCH U. S. EDUCATION?

- Kevin Phillips, in San Francisco Examiner,
May 19, 1975

One of the few good things about the current recession lies in growing evidence that it is awakening Americans to the danger of too much education.

Caroline Bird, the author of "The Case Against College" begins with the point that only 25% of college students are "turned on" by their work. The Carnegie Commission estimates that 5 to 30 per cent of students are in college reluctantly. Jacob Mincer of Columbia University states that of "20 to 30 per cent of students at any level, the additional schooling has been a waste, at least in terms of earnings." Yet to coddle these marginal students, intellectual standards are being reduced.

Ms. Bird also cracks another clay idol, the notion that a man finishing four years of college will earn \$199,000 more between the ages of 22 and 64 than a man who merely completes high school. First, she notes that over half of the people earning more than \$15,000 a year in 1972 did so without the benefit of a college degree.

Try these mathamatics. Suppose a 1972 Princeton-bound high school senior, instead of going to college, had been given the \$34,181 that his four years at college would cost. If he went to work, and put his money in a savings bank at 7.5 per cent interest (compounded daily), by the age 64 he would have a total of \$1,129,200 or \$528,200 more than the lifetime earnings of a male college graduate. Even by age 28 his passbook would contain \$73,113, enough to buy a substantial business.

Tilford Gaines, chief economist of New York's Manufactures Hanover Bank, worries about U. S. education equipping too many graduates for only intellectual work. He calls for a "restructuring of public attitudes toward employment" away from an attitude that downgrades physical work."

The sum total of U. S. education now requires an annual public and private outlay of \$100 billion. But the cost is not simply in dollars; we are also distorting our economy and our society. It is time to stand up and demand a careful cost-benefit analysis for every dollar spent.

RHODE ISLAND SALUTES WOMEN

- Connie Quirk,
Publicity Chairperson,
R. I. Dept. of Community
Affairs, Providence

On June 19 Governor Philip W. Noel declared 1975 Rhode Island Women's Year in conjunction with the United Nations' celebration of International Women's Year on a global scale.

President Echevarrios of Mexico set the theme for the United Nations' International Women's Year conference there last month when he welcomed the women delegates by declaring that women have long been limited by society's definition of them as the patient, long-suffering and, by implication, passive half of humanity. While women have had ample opportunity to practice these virtues, any student of history knows that women have also embodied



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courage, intelligence and determination in all areas of human endeavor and progress.

This is perhaps especially evident to librarians who have contact with the written record of women's achievements. While not every library may have these books collected in one central place, as does the Lincoln Public Library through a special grant, I am sure all libraries have selections on women in all fields which we hope to celebrate in 1975. The Coalition for Rhode Island Women's Year requests your help infocusing the attention of the general public on women's historical contribution to society during this special year.

The Coalition plans to celebrate women's achievements in the social, economic and political life of Rhode Island as well as demonstrate the existence of many barriers to the full use of women's talents and creativity. Over seventy organizations are represented in the Coalition which is working through a planning committee to sponsor one major event each month from July through January, 1975. The R. I. Library Association and its member libraries can celebrate with us through displays, lectures, films or whatever technique seems most appropriate.

The schedule of themes, events and programs is as follows and can serve to guide your planning. The second major aspect of the celebration will be a process for selecting and honoring women each month for their contribution to that particular field. Anyone can nominate a woman to be honored by calling the Commission on Women at 277-2734.

AUGUST	<u>Women in Civic Affairs</u> Politics, volunteers, social action (religion)	August 26 Rally Providence City Hall
SEPTEMBER	<u>Homemakers and Family</u> Foster parents, health and home aids	Midland Mall displays Home crafts show September 20
OCTOBER	<u>Business and Industry</u> Unions, executives, professionals, non-traditional jobs.	Oct. 18 conference R. I. Junior College Women's Bureau & Coalition for IWY to co-sponsor
NOVEMBER	<u>Communications and Arts</u> Radio, newspapers, TV, theatre, arts.	Theatre production
DECEMBER	<u>Health and Education</u> Nursing and medical services, education and vocational schools	Brochure of health and educational services in R. I.
JANUARY	<u>Finale to honor all those recognized during year.</u>	Banquet or luncheon

RILA EXECUTIVE BOARD

The RILA Executive Board, on July 30, examined proposed funding legislation for 1975-76, heard reports from the Administrative, Long Range Plan Implementation, and Public Affairs Committees, approved Bulletin editorial policies, and approved the following motion:

"The RILA Executive Board urges the President of the United States to withdraw the nomination of Dr. Daniel J. Boorstein as Librarian of Congress and secondly to submit the name of a librarian with recognized administrative and professional experience."

R. I. HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTICE

Budgetary limitations have regretfully forced the R. I. Historical Society to charge an admission fee for non-members for use of the library. We hope your readers will understand and will realize that their fees help maintain the library so that the staff can continue to make historical materials available to the public. The new fee schedule is:

Elementary and secondary school students - no charge

Daily reader's passes for non-members - \$1.00

Four month passes for non-members - \$5.00

(note: reader's passes do not allow access to closed stack areas)

The individual membership fee remains \$15/ year and allows stack privileges, admission to the Library and the John Brown House, and reduced or free admission at any Society event. Member's fee also includes a subscription to R. I. History and to the Society's monthly newsletter.

INSTITUTE ON DEVELOPING LIBRARY SERVICES RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

Syracuse University of New York's School of Information Studies has announced an "Institute on Developing Dynamic Public Library Services Responsive to Community Needs." The purpose of it is to train public library personnel in evaluation and planning, enabling them to conduct analyses of their own libraries. Participants will learn how to:

1. Construct a community profile.
2. Evaluate present library resources and services.
3. Develop and implement a long-range plan of services responsive to known needs in their own communities.

The Institute will be divided into three phases:

- I. Sept. 26-30, 1975 - 4 days
(Adirondacks Conference Center)
Learning techniques of date identification, collection and analysis.
- II. Oct. 1, 1975 - Jan. 9, 1976
(Home Library)
Conducting analysis of their own community and library and producing action report.
- III. Jan. 10-13, 1976 - 3 days
(Syracuse, New York)
Reporting, revising, developing strategies for implementation of plans developed in Phase II.

Thirty-five persons from public libraries serving communities of 100,000 persons or less in the Mid-Atlantic and New England states will be invited to participate.

We recommend two persons--any combination of professionals, non-professionals, and/or trustee (or Friend of the Library) - attend from each library to facilitate the analysis, evaluation, planning and implementation.

Public library system or state library consultants and persons from branch libraries are also invited to apply.

Each person or team will develop an action report encompassing: the community profile, the library evaluation and the long-range plan for library services to the community. We expect that this report could have a major impact on developing local services responsive to community needs.

Selected participants will be paid \$15 a day, plus \$3.00 per day for each dependent at home - for the seven days of residence. One member of the team should expect to spend approximately one half to one day a week during Phase II developing the Action report. Participants must meet their own expenses for travel, housing and meals. There will be no charge for tuition and instructional materials.

Persons interested in participating in this Institute should send name, position, name of library and address, telephone, number of communities and number of people served by the library.

Persons interested in participating in this Institute should complete all of this information and mail to: Ruth Patrick, Coordinator of Continuing Education, School of Information Studies, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York 13210.

Completed applications must be received by September 8, 1975. Accepted applicants and alternates will be notified in early September.

If you have any questions contact Ruth Patrick, (315) 423-4930, 2911 or Roger Greer, (315) 423-4511.

GALLIMAUFY

Wanda Moskwa reports that the northern region is losing another bright, young and energetic librarian, Carol Letson is moving to Greenfield, Mass. Carol's husband will be teaching physics at Greenfield Community College in the Pioneer Valley. In her barely two years at Mohr, Carol, together with Ellen Spilka, Greenville, Mary Ellen Hardiman, North Providence, and Elodie Blackmore, East Smithfield, formed the Woonasquatucket Special Education Project which, after evaluation, will become another cooperative collection available to all northern libraries on request. Results of Carol's survey of library use by fourth-graders was published in the School Library Journal in an article "Practically Speaking," January, 1975, issue. We'll miss Carol's pleasant personality and her valuable input in our region. We wish her well in Greenfield - certainly the summers will be an improvement over Rhode Island.

Hope Gardella reports a good bit of news from South County. The Peace Dale Library has conducted a successful poster contest "Pride in Your Property for 1976," for local grammar school students. Also at Peace Dale, Judy Einhorn has been appointed to the Library staff. After graduation from the URI Library School, and prior to the Peace Dale appointment, Ms. Einhorn served at the Westerly Public Library in the reference department.

The Kingston Free Library has been running a series of free movies featuring "popcorn queens": Ginger Rogers, Carole Lombard and Bette Davis.

The influx of "summerites" in South County is not spending all its time at Scarborough Beach and the local supermarkets. Several libraries reported record increases in attendance and circulation statistics. On July 7, the Robert Beverly Hale Library had the busiest day in its history with a circulation of 441 during the four hours it was open. What would be a comparable figure for the Providence Public Library?

A new unified Board of Trustees of the South Kingstown Public Library is being organized. The system comprises the Robert Beverly Hale Library in Matunuck, the Kingston Free Library in Kingston and the Peace Dale Library in Peace Dale. The members of the Board appointed by the Town Council of South Kingstown are Robert B. Gates, Robert S. Haas, Nancy R. Holley, Gilbert V. Indeglia, Charles D. Nash, Jr., Janice B. Sieburth and Mabel C. Smith, temporary chairperson. When the Board is organized, a permanent chairperson will be elected.

*** Last minute announcement from the Intellectual Freedom Committee: their new Handbook will shortly be in the mail to all RILA members.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

A man's real mistress is life. His feeling for his mistress is expressed with the utmost diffidence and suspicion.

Ralph Manheim, introduction to Celine's Death on the Installment Plan

As every true ironist know, nobody knows very much about anything, compared with what we would need to know to walk securely or wisely through the world.

Wayne Booth, The Rhetoric of Irony

How shall a man live if he can no longer rely upon things turning out differently from what he thought?

Thomas Mann, Joseph and his Brothers

Moreover, at this fair there is at all times to be seen jugglings, cheats, games, plays, fools, apes, knaves, and rogues, and that of every kind.

Bunyan, Pilgrim's Progress, Part I

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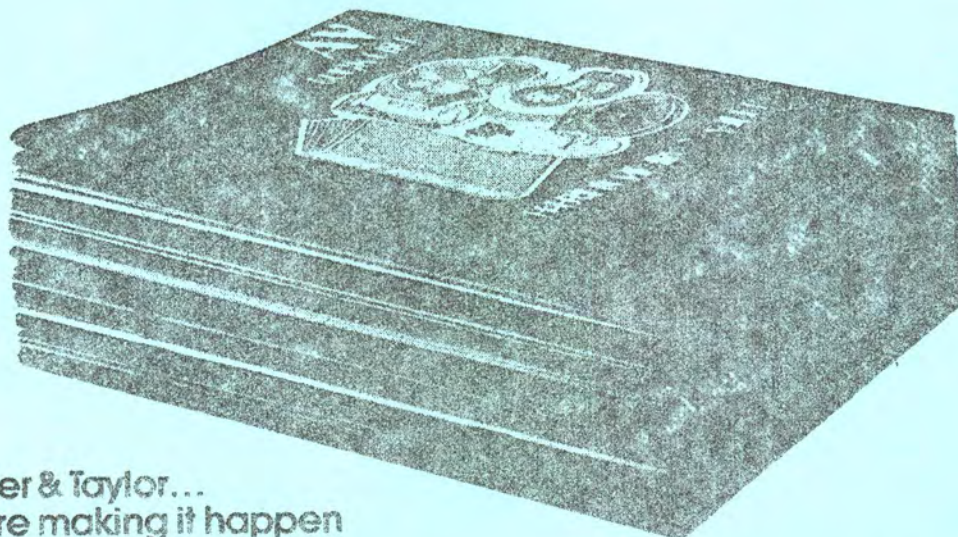
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