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RILA BULLETIN



JULY - AUGUST ISSUE 1976

R.I.L.A. Bulletin

July - August 1976

Volume 49, no 1

EDITORIAL NOTICE:

The Bulletin appears on a monthly basis except for a single summer issue in July and August. News and articles should be submitted to the 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, the Bulletin welcomes 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 will be considered, all should be signed and should not exceed ten double spaced typed pages unless the editor is consulted.

Bulletin subscription rates are \$6.00/year for agencies or individuals not holding **membership** in RILA. Advertising rates per issue are \$20 per $\frac{1}{4}$ page, \$35 per $\frac{1}{2}$ page, and \$50 per full page. Call the advertising manager for further information.

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Editor's Notebook



From July 18th to 24th the American Library Association held its centennial conference in the greatest of the typically American cities, Chicago, Chicago, in its incredible prosperity and intense poverty, in its powerful splendor and pervasive squalor, was always impressive. From the Manadnock Building to the Sears Tower, from the Public Library to the Wrigley Building, Chicago is a continuous stable exhibit of American commercial architecture through the past century. Suffering from neither New York's frenetic efforts to destroy everything and build anew, nor San Francisco's rarefied attempt to achieve the exotic everywhere, Chicago is a pure and full joy to the lover of the great American cities.

Not so impressive was the ALA Conference itself. Its theme was "Celebrate," and that was about all that could be successfully managed on many days. Despite 1776 (cute?) meetings and workshops held during the Conference, few rose above the level of a mediocre RILA workshop. Perhaps ALA's Conferences are being gutted of informational substance by pre-conferences, held before the conference and devoted to indepth looks at single topics. These pre-conferences are increasing in quality and in number and in fees, and it is not especially clear why they can not be made part of the regular Conference period. The machinery of the Conference operates beautifully with council business meetings, special ALA committee meetings, exhibits, and the like. There is every appearance of good form, of professional apparatus and procedure. But content, intellectual content such as found at the Modern Language Association or the Mathematical Association of America, is lacking. With few exceptions the presentations are undisciplined and the audiences are uncritical. One never doubts that the American Library Association is not a learned society. And one does discover at its conferences why librarianship in many academic circles is taken no more seriously than home economics departments.

I'm not saying that ALA should be abandoned. Join if you are interested in supporting a fairly effective lobby for federal library funding, or if you're interested in promoting the employment security of librarians, or if you like to be with some very nice people. However, if your primary purpose is to learn, stay home and spend your money on a good book on management or child psychology or communications technology.

On a few other matters - there will be one Bulletin for the months of July and August, a summer issue. Otherwise the Bulletin will continue to appear monthly. Such a decision, approved by the RILA Executive Board, has been made because of rapid increases in printing costs and because of the reduced level of R. I. library activity in the summer.

Special thanks go as always to our contributors, and to those unsung heroes and heroines, our illustrators. This issue's cover was done by Julie Murphrec of URI with other contributions being made by Alan Federico, Pat Couch, Judy Finberg, and Wanda Szymanski.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Lee:

At the close of your very thorough and readable report on the RILA Spring conference (RILA Bulletin, June, 1976, p. 40, Speaker Sam Goldstein is reported to have "claimed that continuing education is an individual responsibility and that the Long Range Plan Committee's suggestion that RILA should mandate it was a disaster." As the Chairperson of the Long Range Plan Committee's Sub-committee on Continuing Education, I would like to respond to Goldstein's assertion.

It was never the intent of the Continuing Education Sub-committee to mandate continuing education. Perhaps Goldstein picked up the term from one of our suggested conference topics: "Mandatory Continuing Education for Professional Librarians." The placement of this topic in conference format rather than that of a workshop, course, or seminar was indicative of its (to the committee) controversial nature.

The CE Sub-committee's report was an attempt to do just what it had been asked to do by the RILA Executive Board; this involved drawing up a long range plan, creating a framework within which meaningful continuing education activities might occur. At all points it is up to the RILA Executive Board, the membership and the agencies involved to accept or reject these suggestions.

We agree heartily with Goldstein that continuing education is an individual responsibility. Basic to the CLENE definition of CE is the assumption that the individual carries basic responsibility for his or her own development. It is the Association's responsibility to provide opportunities for this development to occur.

Sincerely,
Jo Ann M. Fuchs
Chairperson
Long Range Plan Committee
Sub-committee on Continuing Education

* * * *

R. I. L. A. Dues for 1976-77 membership were due July 1, 1976

DYN - O - MITE

or Sharing the Power of Books with Young Adults

© 1976 by Margaret A. Edwards,
formerly YA librarian, Enoch Pratt Free
Library

I sometimes think that the most wonderful thing about Television is that little button on the set that turns off the gangster shootouts, the soap operas, the F.B.I., and the talk shows. However, in the last few years there have been several programs for those with I.Q.'s over 90. On Public Broadcasting the BBC has dramatized Elizabeth I reincarnated by Glenda Jackson and presented Lee Remick's Jenni Churchill. We have met George Sand in the NOTORIOUS WOMAN and lived and laughed and romanced our way through the Edwardian era in UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS. Here in America Hal Holbrook has recreated Mark Twain and Lincoln and Eleanor and Franklin have lived again. What golden opportunities to have advertized our hundreds of books on English and American history and literature! Did anyone at A. L. A. headquarters explore the possibility of persuading Mobil Oil to let Alastair Cook include books and libraries in his remarks on the programs or even to include American public libraries as co-sponsors of the programs? When outstanding dramatization of books appear on TV, there are a large variety of corporations and foundations mentioned as sponsors. Why does not A. L. A. induce one of them to sponsor a series of dramatizations that would send readers flocking to libraries all over the country? Because A. L. A. is not especially interested in the promotion of reading.

Though I knew this, I took hope when I opened AMERICAN LIBRARIES for January 1976 for on the very first page I read the headline "People will be talking about THE ADAMS CHRONICLES, Public Television's Major Bicentennial Series!" Then in smaller print, "this evocation of early American life will undoubtedly draw thousands of people to their local libraries to learn more about the times in which the extraordinary Adams family lived." "Hurrah!" I thought, "At last, A. L. A., is getting with it." Alas, at the bottom of the page I read, "Little Brown and Company" a publisher's ad.

On page 13, the editorial stated that "with this issue we help launch the A. L. A. Centennial celebration" and that they do beginning with several pages with illustrations telling what a bash the annual conference will be in Chicago this year. This is followed with an A. L. A. pictorial Scrapbook with snapshots of pioneer librarians going to conventions, of Cutter with a fine set of whiskers. There is one of Dewey with the class of library economy of 1888, one of R. R. Bowker and another of Poole at a convention eating ice cream with four lady librarian admirers. The accompanying reproduction of a handwritten note says Mr. Poole is stouter than of yore, but the same fellow we knew on the Canadian trip of 1900. One gathers from this Centennial Celebration issue that in the last 100 years, the big thing with us is going to conventions.



One hundred years ago Melville Dewey made the remarkable discovery that all knowledge could be divided into ten classes and then subdivided by decimals to cover all the ramifications of each of the ten classes of knowledge. So, with Cutter's aid, a number could be assigned to each book in stock with a corresponding card filed in a drawer. With the books shelved by number and the drawers of cards put in the catalog, information in print was made available to the public. Library schools were organized to train librarians to make the catalog work and the American Library Association organized for business.

ALA was organized around a system for cataloging knowledge and making it available. It was not organized to promote the reading of books that would inspire and enrich the masses of people. Our founding fathers were so enthralled by the system Dewey gave them, that their consuming idea was to make it work with little thought of making books the yeast to leaven the lump of society. And to this day this philosophy is adhered to by A. L. A., library schools, most administrators of public libraries and the majority of staff members.

Of course, the retrieval of information is essential and of consummate importance but it is not a big enough idea on which to found a profession for it is not primarily concerned with the human condition, the rock on which the other professions rest. Though A. L. A. overlooks the fact, we do have an enormous potential for alleviating the human condition, for enriching and inspiring people, for being a true profession. Some maverick administrators, the childrens and the young adults librarians know this. Adams, Jefferson, Franklin et al. also organized a system to make government work but the system in itself was not so important to them as the possibility it had for insuring life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to the generations.

There are today more dynamic, creative, out-going librarians than ever before but as long as our main concern is to make Dewey's system work, we will attract enough timid, frustrated, authoritative librarians to perpetuate our image which makes us the butt of so many jokes. I remember the cartoon of a timid soul standing hat in hand before a librarian's desk, having asked his question. She is replying, "The mystery stories are in the basement" as she reaches out to press the button that will release the trap door on which he stands. Betty Smith, Faulkner and too many novelists, cartoonists and dramatists have had a field day with us and even more regrettable, the public never sees anything amiss in these characterizations. I was saddened to see the same old girl in the first installment of the new Mary Hartman soap opera series. True or not, the public has the general idea that librarians do not care a lot about people and have not been affected by the civilizing influence of the great books on their shelves. Our lack of rapport with the public has always been unfortunate but today it is tragic for these are tragic times.

The American economy today is out of control. We wonder if we will keep warm all winter. We have lost faith in government and are no longer surprised at any report of corruption. In Maryland, we have produced Spiro Agnew, an indicted governor and several politicians either in jail or on the way there. Even the Pallotine fathers appear to have mishandled funds solicited for starving children and missions. The nation seems to have lost its moral fiber and who is to deliver us?

If we are to survive, our young people may be our last best hope. But if young people save us in the end, they will have to have more to go on than just being young. The institutions that deal with youth will have to shuffle their priorities, solve problems instead of just discussing them, and then discipline and dedicate themselves and their staffs to serve youth better. The courts, the systems of corrections, the schools, churches and libraries need to center their attention on strengthening youth and giving them the understanding, the integrity and concern to solve our problems. The courts, the schools and the churches will have to get along without my help but I shall have the temerity to make suggestions for reform to the public library.

The administrator is the key to the change in the public library's role if it wishes to serve youth better. I well remember an argument I had with the head of a library school as I was retiring after several years as a visiting teacher there. I pointed out to him with my usual tact that his curriculum was overloaded with technical course to the neglect of the promotion of reading. The argument became heated and our voices rose. Finally, he said to me, "I have visited many public libraries in the vicinity of this city and almost invariably they are uninviting places presided over by administrators who want their staffs to attend to requests for information. They do not want them to stand around talking about books and what do you think would happen to my students if we trained them as readers' advisors when they went to work in these places? That is, if they were hired in the first place." He had me on the ropes and I lost by a KO. Of course, the poor administrator is in a bind. He wants statistics to present to City Hall so he can up his budget. If he can say that during the past year, hundreds of patrons were aided in research and thousands given answers to requests for information, the politicians who control the budget may understand but even if he has established a reader's advisory service, he will have no statistics on reading for enrichment. How can he report that hundreds of teenagers may have learned compassion and questioned their prejudices from reading BLACK LIKE ME, I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS, MANCHILD IN THE PROMISED LAND or TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD? How can he tell the city fathers that girls from loveless, brutal homes have learned the meaning of love from MRS. MIKE, MR AND MRS. BO JO JONES, PRAY LOVE, REMEMBER, TELL ME THAT YOU LOVE ME, JULIE MOON and LET THE HURRICANE ROAR?

Young people must have courage and they can be inspired with it by knowing in books such people as young John Gunther, Martin Luther King, Eleanor Roosevelt, Malamud's FIXER, and ANTIGONE. All teenagers are searching for identity. They can speak to few people about this but may find help in I NEVER PROMISED YOU A ROSE GARDEN, ACT ONE, A CHOICE OF WEAPONS, THE CATCHER IN THE RYE and A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN.

Too many of our young people are apathetic and need to know the fulfillment that comes from being dedicated and involved. They need to read Braithwaite's TO SIR WITH LOVE, Bel Kaufman's UP THE DOWN STAIRCASE, Moody's COMING OF AGE IN MISSISSIPPI, Sneider's THE TEAHOUSE OF THE AUGUST MOON, Stuart's THE THREAD THAT RUNS SO TRUE, Stone's CLARENCE DARROW FOR THE DEFENSE and Wasserman's THE MAN FROM LA MANCHA.

We could go on and on to historical novels that give one a sense of history, to novels and biographies that make the reader know in his heart that all men are brothers no matter where they live on this shrinking globe. To sum up, the young person needs experience which is limited for anyone who can live only one life but he can enlarge his

experience a thousandfold by sharing in books the lives of others. Yet incredible as it may seem with all this wealth of material on our shelves, very few librarians ever offer to share it with young people.

In *THE FAIR GARDEN AND THE SWARM OF BEASTS*, I tell of the day I was teaching a class in the library school at Rutgers University, explaining how the librarian interested teenagers in books when they came to the library. One of the students raised her hand with a puzzled look on her face. "Mrs. Edwards", she said, "You talk about floor work as if it were common practice. In all my life, after I left the childrens' department, I never had a librarian suggest a book for me to read". I was taken aback and turned to ask the class if any of them had had such an experience. Almost every hand went up. I still could not believe it and put the same question to classes where I have taught or held workshops in many parts of the country. Very seldom did as many as five hands go up in an audience of thirty. All over this nation, librarians are so busy making Dewey's system work that they never stop to suggest meaningful books to eager young people.

The pioneer of Young Adult work experimented with the idea of a special service for adolescents to help them transfer from juvenile to adult reading. As a rule a collection of readable adult books and junior novels was set up for them in the adult department. The books were selected for their appeal, for the ideas they conveyed and the potential they had for affording the adolescent vicarious experience that would help him understand himself, other people, his country and the world.

Realizing that because the collection of books might go unread unless they were introduced to young readers who had little idea of their content, the young adult librarian came into existence. This librarian had to be a special person who could establish rapport with teenagers and serve as host or hostess to introduce young people to meaningful books they would enjoy, and share with them more and more mature reading. This idea does not fit into the Dewey system and has had hard sledding. The card carrying librarian of the system cannot see why a trained librarian should waste time talking to kids about reading for pleasure when they might be doing reference work.

How does this young adult librarian function? In the first place, he reads constantly - hundreds of books on a wide range of subjects and on various reading levels. He does this because he truly loves books and young people and hopes to bring them together. When teenagers are in the room, he is on his feet ready to share the joy of reading with his friends. Always he is approachable and is so expert at matching the interests of the reader to the book he will enjoy, that the young person will often ask, "Will you get me two good books to read?" Such a request means the librarian has "made it" with the teenager who with the help of the librarian, will develop faster into a mature reader with wide interests. The teenager who has confidence in the librarian will often discuss the last books he has read and feel free to be critical of them if he wishes, thus offering the librarian a fine free course in book selection.

The young adult librarian designs effective displays, encourages teenage book reviewing, leads discussion groups based on books, conducts film programs, gives book talks in the schools that bring crowds of readers to the library.

As this kind of library work does not fit into the system and is, like childrens' work, extra-curricula, the young adult librarian who distinguishes himself and deserves a promotion is made a branch librarian or given some other executive position where salaries are higher than for those who influence untold numbers of teenagers to read.

The young adult librarian often refers young people to other departments of the library to which he hopes to transfer them eventually and while most of the staff treat them with civility, I believe there is at least one in every library who dislikes teenagers and gives them a hard time. Unhappy frustrated people seem to take pleasure in pinching the joy out of the young and defenseless. There are so many pleasant ways of cutting them down. The usual routine is to sit at one's desk thumbing through a drawer of cards. When the teenager approaches to ask a question, though the librarian knows he is there, it seems a good idea to keep thumbing through the cards and let him wait a while. Eventually, the librarian looks up, fixes the kid with a penetrating start and says, "Yes?" The teenager stammers out his request for help and the librarian replies in a tone of authority, "look it up in the catalog." The librarian knows the teenager doesn't even know his ABC's and he could easily have given the kid the book but this is more fun. Though his life is meager and love may have passed him by, the librarian still has the power to make the young person pull out a drawer, write down a number and stand wondering where in the world to find the book.

After I retired from the Pratt Library, famous for its service, I went there one afternoon to look up references for a project on which I was working for the League of Women Voters. In the double department I went to, the head sat at her desk when the telephone rang. As I needed assistance, I waited behind her desk while a high school boy stood in front of it, waiting to ask his question. She did not see me but she could not help knowing the boy was waiting. She talked a long time on the telephone, never once looking at the boy. Finally, she hung up the receiver and began writing. She wrote on and on. Finally, the boy cleared his throat and began to ask his question. She looked up annoyed and spoke emphatically. "Don't ask me", she said, "Go to the desk in the other room!" Then she saw me and exclaimed with great cordiality, "Why Mrs. Edwards, I did not realize that was you. I thought you were one of the kids" - all this within the boy's hearing.

School and public librarians love the catalog, the rock on which their faith is founded. Not only do they beat kids over the head with it but they have a passion to make everybody learn to use it. School librarians, I beg your pardon, Media Specialists, spend hours, days and years trying unsuccessfully to teach classes the use of the catalog when, instead, they might have influenced thousands of young people to read if they had used the same time to give book talks. A young person who wants to know how to use the catalog can be taught the essentials in a few minutes. If he does not want to know, he cannot be taught in four years.

Young adult and school librarian, I beg your pardon, Media Specialists, should clarify in their minds what they are trying to do. They should set goals and priorities. If they wish to open up for the adolescent his inner distance, to give him a wider and deeper experience than he would otherwise have; if they wish to increase his understanding of himself, his country and the world; they should use whatever means are most effective. In this connection, I question too much time spent teaching the use of the catalog. I question setting up chess and chequer boards in the YA lounge. I even question too much emphasis on films.

As I said in a paper read at the NCTA (National Council of Teachers of English) breakfast in San Diego recently, it seems to me possible that some teachers and librarians in their enthusiasm for films are allowing them to push books into the wings and take the center of the stage. Certainly films have a place in schools and libraries but the book is still the star of the show and we must not allow the film to upstage the book. Films are especially useful when we are dealing with information for they can make facts

eye-catching, and meaningful. They are excellent teaching devices and bases for discussion. Some of them are artistic and moving but at the present time, these inspiring films, "soul food," if you like, are in short supply while such fare is abundant in books by the hundreds. And do we not by an overemphasis on films reinforce the young person's idea that it is in films that entertainment lies so that with no thought of reading a book, he goes home to turn on KOJAK, POLICE STORY, PETROCELLI and RETURN TO PEYTON PLACE.

Could it be that some of us are too anxious to be "mod," "in the swing," "with it" and that we have become advocates of the film over the book to prove ourselves ahead of tomorrow? Could it be that the film is an easy out? It is less exhausting to darken a room, turn on the flicks and sit in the back of the room thinking beautiful thoughts than to prepare book talks or bring books to life so vividly that reading becomes for the youngsters a joy instead of a task. Let me say again that the film has many uses for all of us but it must not crowd out reading. Too many lives have been changed by books while there is not the same testimony for films.

If we wish to know the facts about the Mississippi, we can view a film showing us as we travel to the Gulf what the flora and fauna are like, the towns that border the river, the problems of floods along the Delta etc., etc. But if we want to know the truth about time and the river and man, we would do well to get aboard Huck Finn's raft.

I have been told by some librarians in the field that today's young people are not like those I once knew - that this is a new generation who are not readers. If this is so, it is a serious problem but I wonder if the problem is not with adults who sell the young people short. Let's begin with the teachers.

According to a recent survey, they have failed to teach 23% of the eleventh graders to read. They cannot read the directions for dosage on a medicine bottle or follow instructions on a box of Pillsbury's cake mix. Year after year those who did not pass tests were promoted when they were not promotable. In the large cities many students drop out while many more stay on the rolls but attend school only when they feel inclined or if they decide to drop by and give the teacher a good beating. As long as educators fail to remedy this situation, they will continue to sell the kids short.

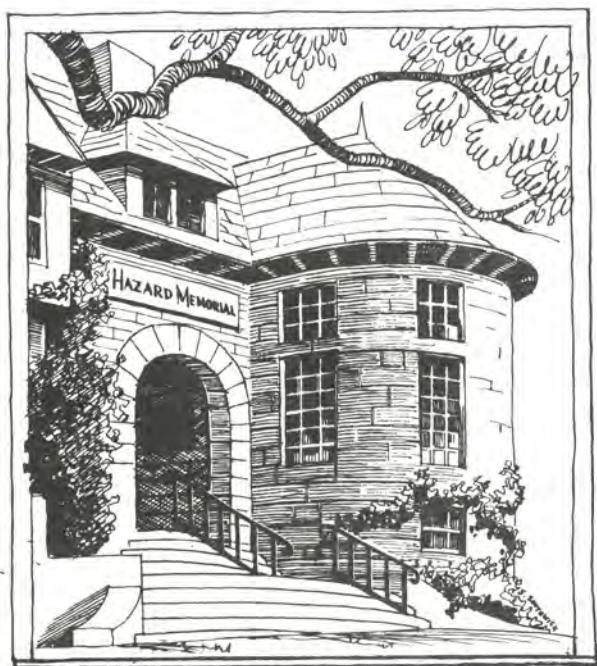
Let's take librarians. They have sold young people short for years by doing no more for them than shelving books in order, putting cards for them in the catalog and sitting down to do busy work at their desks. Many librarians do very little reading and what they do is for their own consumption. We should read as professionals in order to find books to interest and enrich all kinds of readers - the slow, the accelerated, the car-minded, the insecure. We should make friends of these young readers and share with them the joy of reading. We need to get out of our cloistered institutions and give book talks in the schools and contact people on the streets and in the parks in the summertime. Many of us are as buffaloed by teenagers as are the teachers and we either ignore them, give them a hard time or over-act in an effort to prove to them that we are swingers. We call ourselves media specialists, play loud music, set up game tables, and organize them to make movies. Of course, we should have colorful, modern reading lounges for young adults and make use of music and films but the essentials are books and the young adult librarian who loves kids and reads books and knows how to share the books he reads with the young people he loves. We really can't be swingers but we can win the admiration and respect of this critical generation if we make ourselves into superb librarians.

Editors Note: Margaret Edwards, formerly young adult librarian at Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Library, one of the foremost spokespeople on YA services, and author of The Fair Garden and the Swarm of Beasts: The Library and the Young Adult, delivered the above paper at the Department of State Library Services, April 17, 1976. Thanks to the efforts of Dorothy Brown, DSLS's Young Readers' Services Supervisor, and Louise Dolan, Children's Librarian at the East Providence Public Library, this paper has been secured for the Bulletin. Mrs. Edwards may be reached by writing ED-ACHE, R. F. D. #3, 3613 Clayton Rd., Joppa, Md, 21085.

A History of the Narragansett Library Association

(now called Peace Dale Public Library)

- Louise M. Hoxie,
5 Spring St., Peacedale, R. I.



Libraries have been started in different ways, but the Narragansett Library Association may be unique in tracing its beginning to the Sons of Temperance. It is a little ironic that some time later a meeting of the Directors was called to take action concerning the intemperate habits of the librarian. He was put on probation.

At a meeting of the Sons of Temperance in Rocky Brook February 11, 1853, it was voted that "Whenever the inhabitants of this village and vicinity shall raise the sum of \$1000 for the purpose of building a lecture room or hall, and establishing a public library for the use of said inhabitants, this division will, and does hereby appropriate all funds which it has now, or may have invested, up to the time of building said room or hall and establishing said library, to be applied conjointly with said sum raised by the inhabitants, for the purposes aforesaid. Resolved that the building or hall, and said library, shall be within one half-mile of the Peace Dale Post

Office." Isaac P. Rodman, Benjamin Curtis and John C. Peckham were appointed trustees to take charge of and apply the funds under the above resolutions. The organization subsequently disbanded, but the money was later given for the library.

In 1855, fourteen prominent citizens asked people interested in a library to meet in the vestry of the Baptist Church. A committee was appointed to collect money. In October, a meeting of the stockholders was called and a constitution adopted. \$750 had been raised, and the number of stockholders was 45, including many Hazards, Robinsons, and Rodmans, and also Silas G. Wright, whose grandson J. Attmore Wright later became president

of the Narragansett Library Association. The name Narragansett Library Association was chosen. At this October 25th meeting, Rowland Hazard was elected president, in which office he served until 1890, when he resigned and asked that Rowland G. Hazard be put in his place. Five directors were elected with power to fill any vacancy. Shares of stock were \$5 each. Stockholders could take two books at a time and keep them for four weeks, but others were required to pay three cents per week per volume for security reasons. A library room was secured in the Bank of the South County which was in the old stone building in Wakefield. On February 8, 1856, the Narragansett Library Association was incorporated.

At the October 6, 1856 annual meeting, the number of volumes was reported as 919. In eight months since founding, 1520 volumes were taken out by 104 different persons, about half of them non-stockholders. Rowland Hazard, Chairman of the Board, congratulated the stockholders "on the establishment of this library and on the bright prospects of doing good it now enjoys. Each may know in his heart that happiness which only he who has done a pure and benevolent action may feel."

In 1857 the library moved to two rooms in the Peace Dale Manufacturing Company Hall, now the Peace Dale Office building. The October meeting of 1858 records that the librarian left the library in May and carried off the account book and the cash. "The Directors were instructed to take such action in regard to the supposed defalcation ... as they may deem proper for the interest of the Association." No further mention of the matter appears in the minutes.

From 1859 through the war years, and until about 1890, the minutes of the stockholders' meetings often say "No Quorum" and the annual meetings were not held. The library was open two days a week from 4-8 p. m., with a succession of librarians, whose yearly salary in 1856 was \$75, going down to \$60 in 1857, \$50 in 1859 and \$40 in 1861. By 1883 it had risen to \$125 and in 1902 to \$1000.

In the director's minutes each year, mention is made of efforts to get the money promised by the Sons of Temperance, but it is not until the Association voted that the library be free to all that on October 6, 1875, the Association received \$597.46, which was made up to \$600 and deposited in the Wakefield Institution for Savings. The income was used to support the library. In November 1875 the first money was received from the State, \$100 to be used to purchase new books. Income in 1875 was \$300. Trust Funds have been added—that of Isaac Peace Hazard for \$3000 in 1879, \$3000 from Rowland G. Hazard in 1890, \$5000 from Anna Hazard in 1892 and other later funds.

The most significant event in the history of the library was the dedication of its new building on October 9, 1891. Hazard Memorial Hall was the gift of Rowland Hazard and John Newbold Hazard in memory of their father, Rowland Gibson Hazard, who was one of the founders and benefactors of the library. The building is across the street from the Mill on land deeded by the Peace Dale Manufacturing Company to three trustees. "The first and most important use of the building is to furnish a well-appointed home for the Narragansett Library. This is the principal use of the front building. Room is provided for 20,000 volumes, also a reading room where books may be consulted."

The large hall at the rear was to be used for lectures, plays and the Choral Society. The memorial address was given by Edward Everett Hale, the brilliant Unitarian preacher and writer, author of "The Man Without a Country," who had a summer home at Matunuck. He spoke with eloquence of Mr. Hazard's activities in the cause of anti-slavery, and his friendship with Abraham Lincoln, and placed him in the great tradition

of other Rhode Island freethinkers: Roger Williams, Bishop Berkeley, Stephen Hopkins and William Ellery Channing. Later, in the library room, the fireplace was lighted by a torch handed by Rowland Hazard to his son, Rowland Gibson Hazard, and by him to his son, Rowland Hazard II.

Herbert W. Fison was the librarian at the time the library moved. There were 4600 books to be transported with 585 persons borrowing books to assist. A collection of Rhode Island history books and Rhode Island authors was begun which today has grown to a separate collection housed in the local history room.

In the circular of 1902 we find the following: "It used to be the fashion for fathers to make their children members of the Association when they reached the age of seven years. The suggestion is made that this is a good fashion, and ought to be revived. The engraved certificate of membership is usually valued by the children to whom it is presented, far beyond its intrinsic value, and may result in cultivating a taste for reading at an earlier age than would otherwise be possible." The fee was \$1. Service to children was expanded when story hours were started by Miss Rose Sherman, with 10-50 children coming twice a week for games and stories.

Miss Gertrude Whittemore was librarian from 1908-1917. In a library inventory of 1909, it was found that in four years only twenty-one volumes had been lost, a much better record than most libraries have today. Constable Rodman received a fee of \$3 to collect lost books. Recataloguing was finished in 1912 when 13,000 volumes and a circulation of 26,752 was reported.

Miss Whittemore resigned in 1917 and was succeeded by Miss Alice Potter who had been her assistant since 1911. During the war years the American Library Association had a book drive for books for the armed forces overseas. The library collected and shipped 1000 volumes. In 1919 Miss Potter became Mrs. Roland Albro.

In 1921 many summer residents were registered, and the addition of "The Weaver" to the grounds of the library brought many visitors. The beautiful monument by Daniel Chester French was given by Miss Caroline Hazard in memory of her father Rowland, and her brothers, Frederick R. and Rowland Gibson Hazard.

With the war and other public concerns, circulation in 1943 had dipped to 15,679 volumes. But Mrs. Albro continues her long and faithful service in librarianship for 34 years, until her death in 1951.

Mrs. Enid P. Thompson, a Columbia Library School graduate, came from the Westerly Library to be librarian in 1951. In her first report in 1952 she stated, "My most cherished objective is to supply the best books available to the children, to study their needs and personalities, and to make each one feel at home and important in the library." To this end, 760 books were added. She says, "A big demand for horse books has resulted in a stable on a bottom shelf where addicts go down on their knees willingly for these pets." The stable has expanded to a whole bookcase now. The number of borrowers rose to 895 and circulation to 16,125. Mrs. Thompson made many community contacts, giving talks to PTA groups and book reviews to other societies. Story hours were held for playground children, and book week contests. There were poster contests, a summer reading program and a party in the Fall.

The Library celebrated its 100th birthday with a formal party on October 21, 1955. Thomas P. Hazard, president, spoke on "The Past and Present of the Peace Dale Public Library." This was followed by a Chopin Etude played by Rowland Hazard Sturges, great-grandson of the first president of the library. An address, "Library Service in South County; Hindsight and Foresight," was given by Clarence E. Sherman, librarian of

the Providence Public Library. Beautiful flowers were furnished by Mrs. Wallace Campbell, and refreshments were served by Mrs. Thomas P. Hazard. The library was in a very flourishing condition on its 100th birthday, full of vitality and looking forward to another hundred years of service to the community. Gifts to the Centennial Fund totalled \$2808.

Miss Caroline Field, an artist from Kenyon, R.I. contributed a very fitting bookplate, representing the scene of the village green and Indian Run Brook from the library window. Mrs. Shirley Southwick has also designed a memorial bookplate, picturing the outside entrance to the library. Circulation grew to 31,683 in 1958. Perhaps it was helped by Mr. Paul Dixon, 89, who always took out 12 books at a time.

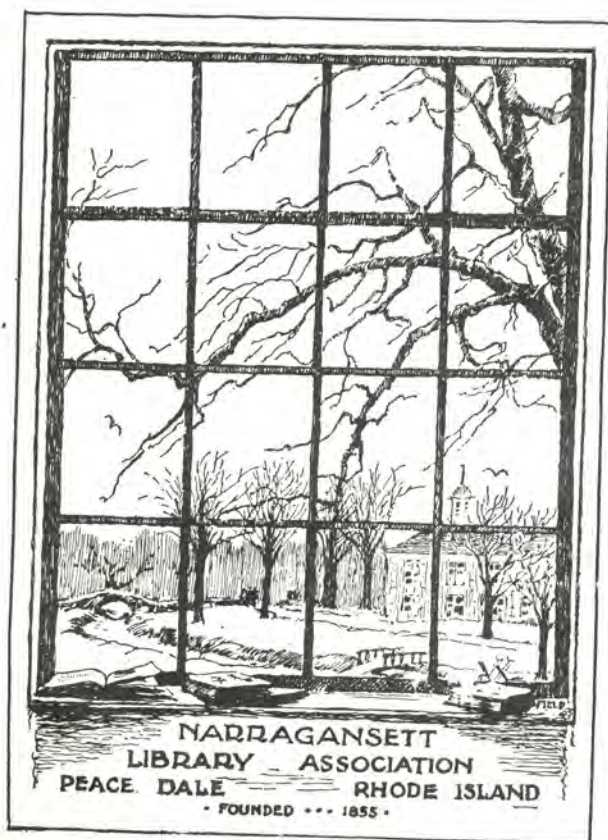
When Mrs. Thompson retired to Florida in 1958, after a very productive seven years, Mrs. Dwan P. Nye (now Mrs. Tyler), who had been assistant librarian, became librarian. She developed the interest of local civic groups in the library. The Junior Women's Club gave Naturebooks, as did the Girl Scouts. The League of Women Voters presented the Great Books Series. And a library service for shut-ins was sponsored by the Senior Women's Club and Visiting Nurses.

In 1961 Thomas P. Hazard resigned after a 35 year term as President of the Narragansett Library Association. He had given a great deal of valuable time and thought to the library, and was especially interested in new library legislation and in the establishment of regional libraries.

J. Attmore Wright was elected president in 1961. Under his able direction, the physical appearance of the library was steadily improved and cooperation achieved with the State Library Service. Mrs. Dawn Nye's work as librarian was lauded in the minutes of 1960 with a vote that she be congratulated by the Association for the years' splendid success. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Hazard gave \$500 to use for furnishings for the new staff room and office. They also had paved a parking lot.

The Federal Rural Library Services Act, passed in 1958, which allocated funds for libraries to the state on a matching basis, was a boon to libraries. In 1960 the Town had doubled its financial support. And the State Library Service by the mid 1960's, with the passage of more legislation fostered much more co-operation among all libraries through state meetings, regional grouping, and inter-library loans.

The people of the community have always appreciated their library. Three who were avid readers of its books as children went on to become professional librarians. Other young people found it an ideal place for courtship before the days of the automobile. College students taking a local history course with



Dr. William D. Metz at URI, have used it to write their papers, such as "Rowland Hazard and his Times" by Mrs. John F. Quinn, and "The Peace Dale Manufacturing Company" by Peter Stewart. Dr. Robert Joy wrote a prize-winning paper on local doctors, entitled "The Bonesetter Sweets."

The library has been of great value to authors. Stephen Vincent Benet, a friend of Leonard Bacon, spent several summers here in the 1930's and his name appears on many of the library book cards. Here he and his wife, Rosemary, wrote "A Book of America," a book of poems for children about historic characters, and it was also here that he began his long poem "Western Star," which received the Pulitzer Prize. In appreciation of the library he sent it a box of books when he returned to New York in the winter in 1932.

Martha Bacon, the author of a book of verse, two novels and two children's books, expressed her thanks to this library in the preface of her delightful book, "Puritan Promenade." Elizabeth Emmett used Dr. MacSparran's Diary and other books on South County to furnish background for her two popular juveniles, "Land He Loved;" a story of old Narragansett, and "Secret in a Snuffbox," the scene of which is laid in Newport. There is a plaque in the library which says "In Memory of Esther Bernon Carpenter, author of "The Huguenots of R. I., John Saffin, His Book, South County Neighbors, etc." For many years a constant reader in this library." A URI Master's thesis on the life and writings of Esther B. Carpenter has recently been presented to the Library by its author, Mr. Don Hoyt. And Faith McNulty and Elizabeth Keiffer in their book, "Wholly Cats" found some of their cat lore here.

Two other local authors gave much to the library. Leonard Bacon, the poet who won the Pulitzer prize in 1941 for his poem, "Sunderland Capture," is represented by twelve of his books. Seventeen volumes of Caroline Hazard's works are listed, including poetry, local history and genealogy, and essays on the education of women taken from talks she gave as president of Wellesley College. She gave many books from her personal library, as did other members of the Hazard family, and other library patrons.

There are less serious moments in the life of a library. It is said that at one time a pug dog named Towser had a home under the library desk. There was once a Swiss yodeling janitor. And there was one day when part of the sprinkler system froze and some pipes burst. As the librarian was frantically running around to find out how to stop the flood, a little boy followed her everywhere repeating, "I want a picture of a fish." Another little boy came to the library desk one day asking for a borrowers card for his friend. When told that his friend must come in and sign his name, he said he could not have him do that because he had been asked to the friend's birthday party and wanted to give him something which wouldn't cost much - and a library card was free!

The following statistics show the growth of the library in the last ten years.

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1975</u>
Budget	\$13,017	\$45,000
No. of volumes	22,496	25,192
Circulation	41,659	58,080

In 1975 the borrowers numbered 2500 adults and 1400 juveniles. The average number of new borrowers is now 70 per month. Staff has increased from one full-time and three part-time librarians to three full-time and three part-time librarians. Mrs. Dawn P. Tyler, librarian, has just announced her retirement, and will be succeeded shortly by Mrs. Judith Einhorn.

Story hours have been held for some time for pre-school and school children. Other activities have included a puppet workshop, hobby shows, handicrafts, and a series of music hours. There is now a children's room on the first floor, and on the second floor is the office of the New Director of South Kingstown libraries, Mr. W. D. Goyette, appointed March 1, 1976. Currently, Mrs. Robert Wilkie is president of the trustees of the Narragansett Library Association.

Through the years the work of fifteen librarians and many assistants and trustees has borne good fruit. The strength of this library lies in its excellent book collection and the fine service its librarians have given to the community.

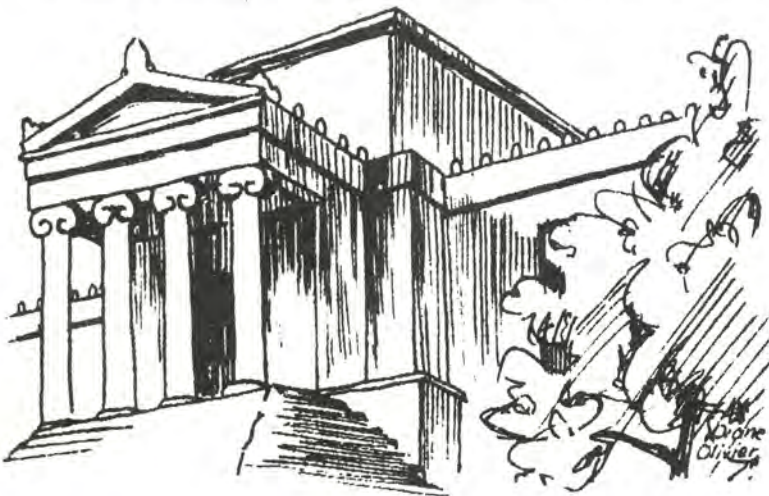
A Day in the Life of a Library Director

- J. Curt Bohling, recent Director
Pawtucket Public Library,
reprinted from June 1976 Northern Libraries

6-21-76: Yesterday I left the house to come to the air-conditioned quiet behind my rather formidable office door to sit and contemplate and judiciously write an article for Northern Libraries. The issue topic is me and I am to write a "give 'em hell" article with my pen finely sharpened. Quite an assignment. If I ever had any talent as a writer, being given such a self-conscious task will surely make anything I do awkward and stilted.

It was a beautiful morning and the warm breeze was wafting across the clam flats to me, reminding me that the good strong salt air would soon not come through the dormer window and the skylight to caress me at night nor would it greet me in the morning. I would soon change the sea breeze, the scream of gulls and the raucous quacking of resident ducks for misty, humid, stagnant air laden with pollen of goldenrod and ragweed and the incessant squabbling of sparrows and grackles. I wandered through the yard, staring out over the fence atop the seawall toward Bristol across the bay. The sand bar that protects our little cove was in the middle distance. On the other side of that barrier we gather quahogs and steamers. I admired the grape arbor, the peach trees, apple trees, and lone cherry

tree, the mulberries, raspberries, blackberries, asparagus, and the garden. The crocuses, daffodils, violets, tulips, irises, rhododendrons and all the pretty little things I don't know the names of were gone already, but the roses, tiger lilies, and the snow ball bush were all in riotous full bloom. The pheasants had been in the yard a little earlier, but had left. The squirrel was up the catalpa tree waiting impatiently for me to get the hell off of his turf so he could go back to stashing the hickory nuts I had thrown out for him.



So, into the faithful (knock on wood) old VW and off to Pawtucket to write. The car is old and tired and I hoped it would last the month. It had not been driven since Friday, but, after about as much cranking as the battery would tolerate, it did fire up, one cylinder at a time. When all four mighty cylinders had caught on and the exhaust was roaring lustily through the place where the muffler used to be, I cautiously began to turn the wheels full lock to the right so I could turn around and head out forward through the gate posts. Well, it came to full lock and then sprang like a wind-up toy that had gone too far--the steering wheel kept spinning, effortlessly. Perplexed, I gave a yank on the wheel and pulled it free from its moorings with such vigor that it struck me a smarting blow on the bridge of the nose. Sigh. The car had died nine days before I had estimated. Fortunately, Lynn's machine was still able to go, despite some potential valve job noises from number six cylinder. On to Pawtucket to write that gut-level parting shot article that was destined in the eyes of the editor to stand as a monument to my memory.

When we got to the library the new evening custodian was standing anxiously at the back door, waiting. The other custodian, the experienced one, had gone on vacation. "Curt, we have a problem, I've been scooping water out of the boiler room since a quarter to seven, and it's still wet." The Ancient Mariner should have had so much water, which appeared to be coming from the air conditioner, which I had him shut off. We both worked on scooping, brooming, and mopping. Between us, we got it down to where the floor was just wet, not with standing water. Satisfied, I went off to read the mail and see if there were any notes on my desk about last night's clientele. Mail was light and there were no scribbled notes about working conditions, exhibitionists, concerned taxpayers, or Mr. X who hadn't taken a bath despite veiled suggestions.

So I went downstairs again, and there was my man "scooping water" for it was still welling up from somewhere despite the fact that the suspected culprit was shut down. At this point I was able to bring all the sagacity that 17½ years of formal schooling and 14 years as a director of libraries had brought to me. I decided that we had a Problem. We called Public Works. The head of maintenance showed up with several helpers. They were very helpful. They decided that we had a Problem. Having achieved this startling degree of unanimity, we scoured the area to figure out what the Problem might be.

Earlier, while making coffee, I had heard what sounded like a lot of water running through a pipe somewhere in the building. One of the public works men, staring down an exterior grate, saw quantities of water flowing past a drain opening. Since it hadn't rained for two days, and we were on top of a hill, I figured it had to be our own city water flooding us out. I pried open the lid over the water meter, and lo, the little red dial was spinning as rapidly as I have ever seen a meter needle go. A few tugs on a big orange wheel on one of the three lines leading off the meter had better results than I had experienced with the VW. The needle quit spinning. I had shut off the two public bathrooms, one bubbler, my bathroom, the staff women's room and the leak. We started scooping water again and got down to where the floor was actually only damp. Then we turned the valve open again and the ten or dozen of us hard working public servants, crammed into a space meant for a furnace and an occasional custodian, waited. When the valve was opened a hissing, snarling, and sputtering was heard and the place returned to its resemblance of the Okefenokee Swamp. We had located a break in the 72 year old 2 inch lead watermain--underneath a stack of 4,200 pounds of Civil Defense crackers designed to sustain life in the citizens

of Pawtucket who would gratefully gather in our basement in an attempt to eke through the nuclear holocaust that the war-mongering International Communist movement was about to unleash on us in the 60's. So now we had 100 forty-two pound boxes of crackers (89 to a pound, minimum), guaranteed fresh, July, 1964, solidly and soggly stationed on top of a baby gusher. At least at this point all the "workers" who had assembled had something to do. We formed a sort of bucket brigade human chain and piled up in the hallway the 4,200 pounds of government crackers, one radiation detection kit, and several "SK IV Sanitation Kits," each with supplies for 50 persons. These interesting drums each contain survival supplies as follows:

- one each - can opener, commode liner, polyethylene, gloves polyethylene, syphon spout; tie wire; commode seat; instruction sheet; commode chemical
- 10 each - toilet tissue
- 60 each - sanitary napkins
- 70 each - cups and lids
(none - prophylactics).

Interestingly enough, the water drums on the other side of the boiler room are empty. I guess the head of Civil Defense was supposed to run over and fill them with uncontaminated water between the warning and the first atomic blast.

So, by the middle of the afternoon the hall is filled with grimy soggy aging crackers, dripping poster boards, assorted other swollen cartons one of which is labeled "RILA" and half a dozen public works people who are "waiting for the plumber." That pretty well did in the day. It wasn't a normal sort of Monday, but it wasn't unlike a lot of other days. And the crowning glory of my career, the last blast article, hasn't been begun.

6-22-76 Today is yesterday's tomorrow and the plumber has arrived with his crew and one compressor, one length of compressor hose, and one awful looking spike called a jack-hammer. Of course, the boiler room is far enough from the door that three lengths of hose are necessary and that requires a special trip to get some more. But they do get fired up. It would make a good rock group if they had a few more instruments. They have rhythm, proper volume level, and one hell of a drummer.

With that by way of prologue, I will make a stab at summing up my three years in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, along with a few gratuitous evaluative remarks, and, if time permits, my assessment of the major problems libraries of the state and nation must face.

RHODE ISLAND - LEGACY AND PERSONAL FULFILLMENT

Rhode Island has been kind to me. I want you all to know how much I have enjoyed these three years as a fellow librarian. I hope to enjoy the next 30 or 40 years in a support role, selling you out-of-print books you should have, helping you evaluate your collections and define parameters in your out-of-print collection building, and buying surplus, duplicate, and unwanted materials.

I came here with my self-image on the mend, after having turned my life around from a point where I was crawling around a case of beer a day, weighed 230, and had almost single-handedly destroyed my marriage of 13 years. My weight was down, my personal life was great. I needed to reach an audience of professional colleagues who would

respect my ability. To be blunt, my ego was very hungry. It needed a lot of gratification to make up for some lean years. It seemed to me that I could do a fair job, given the opportunity.

To my surprise, I was accepted in Rhode Island, by the staff in Pawtucket and by other librarians. It was very pleasant.

I have always remembered the story of the founding of Rhode Island from fourth or fifth grade. It was the only piece of American history I heard in grade school that I could understand, believe, and admire. For years it had seemed to me that I would like the place Roger Williams went to get the guilt and shame merchants off his back. I was right.

Thank you all for accepting me, having confidence in me, giving me positions of responsibility, listening to me. You have helped me immeasurably to function as a librarian.

There are two new battles for me now--one personal, one larger. I want to support myself by my wits as a bookseller, not on a payroll. And I want to think and write about this nation, its recent past, ominous current events, and probable future. I want to help get the message through that freedom must be fought for forever--that the Revolution is forever--or all is lost--forever.

RHODE ISLAND - LIBRARIES, LIBRARIANS,
LEADERSHIP, KNOWLEDGE, EDUCATION

The June, 1975, issue of Northern Libraries contained two articles I wrote, one entitled "Where I'm At" and the other, "Intellectual What?" In that same week I wrote a 29-page letter to Gerald Rudolph Ford. The letter to our national "leader" was begun in my mind on the afternoon of June 20, and written June 21, 22, 23. Part of the letter to the Prez concerned the demonstrable fraud of the Rockefeller Commission Report. In slightly modified form, this appeared in the November 1975 issue of Northern Libraries. The other part concerned the assassination of Sam Momo Giancana by the CIA and has not been published yet.

This article might be regarded as "Where I'm At" plus a year and a week. The progress since that time has been a mixed bag. On a balance, we may have had some regression rather than progress.

The image of civilization as a drunken begger on horseback taking two steps forward and one step back seems to apply to Rhode Island libraries recently. The moot question is how many steps have been taken in which direction of late. On the side of regression, we note that four of the most energetic and dedicated librarians in the state are leaving their positions, local budgets are stagnant, and the Graduate Library School at URI seems to be in a new era of austerity that may lead to its terminal syndrome. On the positive side, we (mainly Bob Persson of Providence Public Library) did finally get another nickel of local aid from the legislature. The Department of State Library Services is becoming, under Ms. Drickamer's direction, more responsive to needs expressed by systems personnel, the mood of librarians in general seems to be less supine of late, and good new people are entering the ranks of the profession in the state who are not accustomed to waiting for decades to come for reforms that should have been made decades ago.

At this moment the most critical situation in the state is at URI. The visitation by the COA team in April did not leave those of us who attended the open meeting with them with the impression that the future of URI/GLS is coming up roses. The initial accredita-

tion document in 1971 stated quite plainly that some of the standards were met at minimal levels and concrete recommendations for improvement were made at that time. At the end of this year's visitation, except for a flurry of eleventh hour activity, it was difficult to see that any progress had been made on the 1971 recommendations. Whether or not the school is reaccredited at the COA meeting at ALA next month. (July - the school has lost accreditation since this article was written), the URI administration is clearly in a fish or cut bait position. Given the budget situation at URI, if reaccreditation is gained, it is probable that genuinely adequate funding will not be forthcoming. May 5, 1976, members of the ad hoc committee of concerned librarians met with Frank Newman, President of URI, about the GLS. He described his tripartate plan for GLS, the library, and AV. When we got down to nitty gritty he said, "COA was very frank with us." I asked him what would be done if accreditation were lost. He replied, "If we lose accreditation, we start all over." That is the best alternative plan I have heard yet.

In the last few months DSLS has been quite responsive to suggestions that an expanded group of librarians, including public, academic, school, and special interest be brought together to contemplate cooperative arrangements state wide, particularly automation. In fact, the group that met at DSLS June 16 for an overview look at automotion suggested that DSLS spearhead a move to bring all interests together for cooperative decision making on automation and the suggestion was accepted. There is no question that this is a giant step forward.

Ultimately, I would like to see the librarians of the state get together to study themselves and their role, start at the real bottom line, define what libraries do and why. Then figure out who they serve and what the needs are. Then figure out how to measure that service. I had the honor of attending at Syracuse University a USOE Institute entitled "Developing Dynamic Public Library Services Responsive to Community Needs" that helped me sharpen up my thinking on the matter. So did Ruth Corkill. So did Chuck Moore, who has just taken on the directorship at Woonsocket. Ruth and Chuck both have a lot of knowledge to which all librarians should be exposed. Hire the people who ran our institute, with help from Ruth and Chuck, and run one of your own for Rhode Island librarians. Create an environment in which each librarian is a leader and decisions are made by the well-informed state wide inter-library group.

TOILETS AND TRAUMAS

A Library Interview with Joseph T. Popecki,
Director, St. Michael's College, Winooski, Vermont
- Lee Flanagan, Bulletin Editor

It never ceases to amaze us how the great minds of the western world have so immediately and directly addressed themselves to the most basic problems of the human condition. For example, Chaucer, Luther, Swift, Freud, and Popecki, have shown no reluctance to examine, may we say, the most fundamental challenges and symbolism of the excretory need. While the first four men need no introduction, Popecki is perhaps less familiar than he should be to many.

Joseph T. Popecki, librarian of St. Michael's College and sometime Vermont library watcher, is undoubtedly the most distinguished and perspicacious critic of library restrooms in the United States today. In a recent interview with Mr. Popecki we were more



than slightly taken aback to hear him formulate a daring new axiom. According to Popecki, provision of sufficient library restroom facilities is a public service, and the quality of library restrooms varies directly as a function of community support. And Popecki speculates, further research may show grounds for an even broader law, that there is a direct connection between the quality of service given to a citizen and his or her willingness to support that service.

Soon after coming to Vermont in 1967, Popecki realized that many public libraries get only modest support from their communities, and are consequently often hard pressed to offer the usual amenities found in large and more sophisticated libraries. Amongst these amenities one of the more visible indices of the local political reality is the existence and condition of the library rest room.

Public libraries in Vermont, and we suspect throughout New England, can be divided into classes based simply on the quality of their restrooms, and more especially on the basis of patron access to them.

Although American Library Association standards committees seem to have overlooked this area of measurement, Popecki feels it is crucial in evaluating modern library service. As he notes, rest room facilities range in quality from no facility at all (even at the nearby gas station) to the most modern and comfortable facilities for both males and females. In between these two extremes of rest room facilities, observes Popecki, there is a wide variety of comfort, and discomfort, offered to the library patron, and this level seems to correlate directly with a given library's position on the poverty-to-prosperity scale. This variety includes:

1. A rest room for staff use only, though close friends and those with low license numbers are sometimes allowed the privilege of use - but only in a stealthy manner.
2. A single public restroom, with the key kept at the librarians desk. However, that key is invariably attached to a large, fluorescent disc, which helps to prevent its loss and which tends to turn the library patron's face about the same color.
3. A single facility, usually left unlocked. It suffices, Popecki finds, if there is no local epidemic of cholera or intestinal flu. However, most of these facilities do not have locks on the inside either, and their use requires a dexterity of limb that may not fall within the ability of all patrons.

Unfortunately most libraries are not so advanced as to have restrooms facilities that will accommodate a wheel chair. Virtually none have the bars and grips necessary for the transfer of a disabled body from one seat to the other. But then, the assumption seems to be that the discomfort of an inadequate facility must pale before the discomfort of a disabling disease.

Quality of facility is thus one area of concern, and seems largely to involve inadequate resources. Access, on the other hand, is another problem altogether, involving misuse of available resources. Regardless of a library's level of rest room facilities, there is a special breed of library attendant who does not approve of the common man using them. This library staffer will usually tell any scruffy-looking patron that the rest room is out of order. Such patrons tend to find themselves disappointed with this type of library service. And when they go to the polls, they refuse to support library bond issues. Worse, when they inherit unexpected fortunes, they decide to leave them to pet cemeteries.

Popecki concluded that somewhere in pondering these facts we should be able to discover a moral. Or two?

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Extension of Traditional Library School Education

The URI Graduate Library School View

- Evelyn H. Daniel,
Recent professor, GLS, URI

The topic of non-traditional library education is very much in fashion. It calls for extending or going beyond traditional library education, in a sense rejecting traditionalism. A recurring theme of the presidential primary race seems to be rejection of the Washington establishment and of traditional ways of government. In the public schools a similar phenomenon can be observed. What is non-traditional and anti-establishment sparks the interest of the community and the students. In library school education there is some evidence of that same attitude.

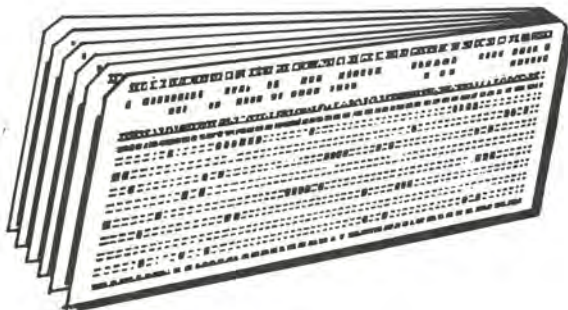
Library schools are disavowing traditional librarianship. We are now concerned with information services and the creation and manipulation of large machine readable data bases. We are concerned with the process of communication, the sociology of knowledge and its diffusion, and with the study of the organizational and cultural environment of the communities in which libraries work. We are concerned with the organization and use of all sorts of nonbook materials, such as microfilm, slides, filmstrips, records and tapes. We see ourselves as part of the video revolution. We see all librarians as managers who require strong administrative skills to manage their greatly increased responsibilities.

Library schools, along with government and public education, are more concerned with the client than ever before. There has been a marked shift in almost every library school in the past five or six years to an emphasis on the client as the primary object of concern rather than the book. With this new emphasis has come a revival of the argument about the value of the practical versus the theoretical in library school education. A user orientation seems to argue strongly for some experiential background to provide a better basis for the intellectual conceptualization of the new role of the library professional.

Perhaps the biggest change of all is the general realization that learning is a life-long activity necessary to enable us to adapt to the rapidly flowing pace of change, and necessary for self-growth and actualization.

I would like to mention briefly four areas where the URI Graduate Library School is moving to meet the challenges of change in library education. The first concerns some of our current ongoing activities; the second describes some future plans; the third is a developing activity in which we are much interested; and the fourth involves our plans for GLS involvement in continuing education activities.

In the area of current activities, perhaps one of the most dramatic is the development of our own on-line computer search and retrieval program. Lea Bohnert is developing the information science component of our curriculum and has worked with the computer center here and with several classes of students to create the data base.



Another developing area is audiovisual education. The Graduate Library School now owns a few pieces of equipment with good support from the Audiovisual Center and can encourage students to make transparencies and slide tapes, to listen and view as well as to read and study intelligently, and to select, acquire, organize and develop programs of use involving nonbook material as well as books. The addition of a videotape portapack is next on our agenda and will probably be acquired next year.

Jon Tryon directs the regional program in which we teach core courses plus electives at the University of New Hampshire, the University of Massachusetts, and the University of Connecticut in another ongoing activity which takes the school to the people instead of vice versa.

Methods of teaching are also changing. Both Francis Chin and Jon Tryon use a great deal of media in their class presentations -- overhead transparencies, filmstrips, slides and 16mm film. Dan Bergen received a Teaching Effectiveness grant last year to develop a seminar method for graduate classes with large enrollments. This method was tested in the introductory course and the outcome, despite some complaints about the volume of work from the students, was highly successful. There is, in addition, a Teaching Improvement Center on the campus to help faculty become better teachers. One of our groups worked extensively with them over the past year using a variety of techniques to improve teaching including microteaching which involves videotaping the faculty person during an actual class for playback and study in order "to see ourselves as others see us."

Future activities are less definite. However, one of our number, Lucy Salvatore, has been much concerned with the need for an education program for school library supervisors and has determined to do something about it. She has engaged in numerous conversations with practicing librarians, with professional association people and with the state Department of Education here in Rhode Island. The beginning of the grand plan came this summer when through the extension office a seminar course entitled Special Problems in Management and Utilization of Print and Nonprint was offered. Plans are also underway for a second course for "critic librarians," those school librarians who supervise student interns. Other courses are also planned leading to a Certificate of Advanced Studies.

Another very tentative future area of exploration is the use of Channel 36, the educational television station which may be based here at URI in the near future. This has implications for the regional program as well as for continuing education. Still another is the development of increased opportunities for interdisciplinary study.

The third topic centers on a developing activity in which a number of the faculty as well as many of the librarians in the state are keenly interested. This is the internship program which has been under discussion and experimentation for two years. I mentioned earlier the need for a close marriage between the practical and the theoretical. We at GLS see the internship as one way of formally supporting this merger. During the spring semester, we have had interns at the Brown University Rockefeller Library, at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts library, at Westerly Public Library, at Providence Public Library, and at Pell oceanographic library, as well as in numerous school libraries in the state. The response from these experimental internships has been very positive on the part of the students. The supervising librarians have given freely and enthusiastically of their time. The faculty see great educational opportunity in well-structured and individually tailored internships. The URI Library reference staff under Mimi Keefe's direction and sponsorship have given some of our students the opportunity to observe at the reference desk in a less structured but very valuable experience. Other practical possibilities we are studying

involve work-study opportunities and volunteer work in many of the libraries around the state, perhaps an activity of mutual advantage.

The last topic I want to touch on is that of the Graduate Library School's plans for continuing education activities. I have been a member of the Panel for Continuing Education reporting to the New England Library Board and working with Mary McKenzie's excellent assistance this past year. Both Lea Bohnert and I have participated on the Continuing Education Committee for the Rhode Island Library Association. The report of the committee was published in the May RILA Bulletin. The faculty have discussed its recommendations several times already and will continue this discussion. One recommendation was that GLS should offer two institutes per year on topics of current and timely interest to the profession. Stewart Schneider this past January coordinated one such institute -- the Workshop on Public Relations. This was our first annual workshop and we plan to offer a second workshop the following January, probably in the area of management and perhaps goal-setting for librarians, one suggestion of the RILA Committee. A second workshop for school library supervisors will probably also be offered in this time period.

We are continuing our Colloquia series as the report recommends. Lea Bohnert schedules these lectures by library leaders at various times -- some evening, some weekend, some during the day. Announcements are sent out widely.

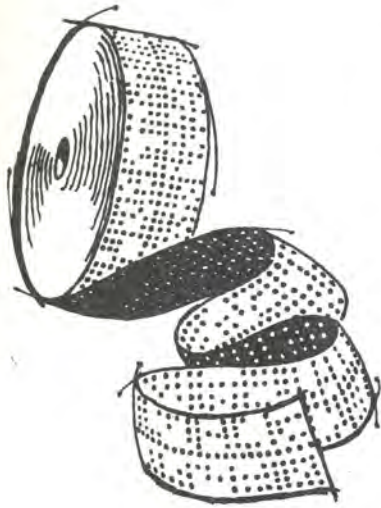
The Committee also recommended that the faculty serve as resource persons in their areas of expertise. I certainly speak for the faculty when I say that we are willing to act in this capacity and will make ourselves available for this activity as we have done to some extent in the past.

Two other suggestions of the Committee -- offering two courses each semester geared to practicing librarians and the development of a faculty position specializing in continuing education -- may have to await the fulfillment of the two vacant faculty positions and the reporting on board of our new dean or director. We are examining our policies of admission to classes. Current policy gives preference to master's degree students. We are considering revising this to give priority to graduates of our program and others who already have the master's degree and who want to come back for a course or two to update their skills and to be stimulated intellectually.

Ed. note: This paper was presented at the RILA Spring Conference, 5-20-76 and rewritten when Professor Daniel was still at the GLS. This summer she accepted an appointment at Syracuse University.



R I L A Dues for 1976-77 membership were due July 1, 1976



BIBNET MEETING

- John Fox Cory, Cranston Public Library

Recently a workshop on the BIBNET System was presented at DSLS by representatives of the Information Dynamics Corporation of Reading, Massachusetts. The BIBNET System is an on-line interactive dial-up computer information system. That is, users can question and receive answers to questions directly, via a standard telephone hook-up with IDC's computer.

The system is designed to support the cataloging, acquisition, interlibrary loan and reference functions of a library.

Access to the data base, which contains Library of Congress Machine Readable Cataloging (LC-MARC) and some non-MARC material, can be accomplished using multiple elements. A search can be initiated using an author, title, subject, ISBN, LC card number, main entry, key word, or by algorithm (a combination of six characters derived from the main entry and title). The main uses currently of a search, are to obtain LC cataloging information, to obtain locations of certain titles, and to compile lists of material on a specific subject. The BIBNET System data base was begun in 1970, and presently offers CIP data as well as complete LC cataloging. In addition, IDC will send cards at an initial cost of 45¢ plus 15¢ for the first and 5¢ for each additional card. Unlike the OCLC system the cards are not received in alphabetical order.

Another comparison to the OCLC System is that BIBNET is an intermittent system; i. e., a user is charged for only the time he is on-line, whereas OCLC charges a flat yearly rate plus a "hit" charge of about a dollar for every time the data base is contacted. As with most systems, such as OCLC and BALLOTS, BIBNET is expensive, particularly for the small library. The current rates include an annual lease fee for a terminal of \$1890, plus a \$120 per hour charge for using the system, plus a \$10 per hour charge for the telephone connection. However, there is a special two month introductory trial subscription package for \$995 which includes "all the necessary equipment, training and a prepaid block of initial use-time charges."

As Jewel Drickamer pointed out, there is a need in the library world for continued innovations such as BIBNET, OCLC, BALLOTS, etc. and that libraries should support such endeavors. But, as she also pointed out, libraries have financial considerations and local priorities to consider at the same time.

Perhaps the two most disconcerting aspects of the BIBNET System were noticed quickly. There is no present capacity for circulation control recordkeeping, nor is there a cooperative cataloging input. This seems to indicate that BIBNET would not be of much value in obtaining non-MARC or non-LC cataloged material any faster than if a library did its own, nor will it help in the area of inventory control. However, this may change in the future.



NELA Fall Conference

- from Nan Berg,
New England Library Association
P. O. Box 273, Holden, Mass. 01520
1-617 829 6545

This year the New England Library Association's annual Conference at Wentworth-by-the-Sea, New Hampshire will have three themes - a different one each day:

The opening session on Sunday, September 26, addressing itself to "Strategy for Survival in Libraries" will be highlighted by futurist Dr. Michael Marien speaking on The Library in an Ignorant Society. Also on the opening day's agenda will be an explanation and evaluation of the first exchanges in SWITCH AND ENRICH, pilot program jointly sponsored by ASLA and NELA for exchange of library personnel.

The topic for Monday sessions will look back to "200 Years of the Book in America," and will be addressed by Yankee Magazine editor Judson Hale speaking on Almanacking - Yankee Approach, and Peter Jennison, Publisher of Countryman Press Company comparing issues in publishing in the 18th and 19th centuries with those of today. Also on Monday morning childrens' librarians will be treated to talks by authors, John Steptoe, Tomi DePoala, Patty Wilcox, and David McPhail, and British author-producer Aiden Chambers - followed by presentation at luncheon of the Annual Boston Globe/Hornbooks Awards for Children's Literature.

Tuesday's session on "What's New in the Library Staff and Management Trends and Techniques" will wind up the conference with three simultaneous meetings - one led by management consultant DeAnne Rosenberg on Assertiveness Training; a game of "Chances Are" refereed by game planner Barry Lawson; and Russell Haley's plan for marketing for non-profit organizations.

Other conference high spots will be a luncheon talk by Robert B. Parker, creator of Spenser, the private eye in Parker's series, the latest of which is Mortal Stakes a pre-conference Bookmobile Roundup on Sunday and an auction to benefit NELA's scholarship fund.

- 25 -



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R I's Library School Loses Accreditation

-Excerpts from the Providence Journal
July 27 and August 1, 1976

The American Library Association has told the University of Rhode Island that it is withdrawing accreditation from the university's Graduate Library School, the largest such school in New England.

Nancy Potter, new acting dean of the 418 student graduate school, said she was informed of the accrediting association's decision by telephone on July 24. She said URI expected to receive formal notification, along with a list of reasons for the action, within 10 days.

"I was surprised at the decision, really," Mrs. Potter said, "I do sincerely believe that the school has some fine resources." She added, that URI is the only state university in New England offering a master of library science and provides librarians for much of the Northeast.

Elinor Yungmeyer, accreditation officer for the ALA, said the association's decision on URI was based on an accreditation team's visit to the Kingston campus in April. She said the report on the visit was forwarded to the university this month, but that the decision to withdraw accreditation was not made by the ALA until last week. The report, released by the university yesterday, criticized staffing, curriculum and housing at the school.

It said, for example, that the eight full-time professors in the school were being "stretched" among too many students and that the professors, consequently, were doing too little research and professional work. Part-time instructors, meanwhile, were also carrying heavy teaching loads, the report said. The report also charged the university with a "lack of rigor in recruitment of part-time faculty," this offering education that was sometimes "spotty."

"In reality, the total student body is too large for the limited faculty available," the report charged.

Mrs. Potter said Simmons College in Boston is the only other institution in New England that offers a graduate degree in library science. She said the URI graduate program services other state universities by operating classes on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, the University of New Hampshire in Durham and the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

The lack of central classroom facilities in the graduate school, which meets in various rooms in five URI buildings, were also criticized. Space problems were blamed for lack of innovation in teaching methods.

Another major criticism was that the school is "unduly lax in formulating goals and objectives" and in providing direction for its students and its basic programs.

Mrs. Yungmeyer said loss of accreditation was immediate, unless the university chose to appeal the decision to the ALA's executive committee.

URI President Frank Newman said yesterday that he will have to await the ALA's official report on its action before deciding the question of appeal. "I just don't know what we'll do until I've seen the written statement," Newman said. "We'd rather not have seen it happen, but since it has, we'll take a real hard look at their (final) recommendations and see what has to be done." Acting Vice President of Academic Affairs John A. Knauss added: "The Program will either have to be reaccredited, which may take from one to two years, or we will have to give the program up."

Newman and Mrs. Potter said they do not feel the defects outlined in the team's report warrant the organization's withdrawal of accreditation.

Ed. note: in a telephone interview with the Bulletin Dean Potter stated that the faculty was terribly concerned and that the school bore a heavy responsibility to those who have graduated. Although the school has lost its accreditation, degree candidates will earn an accredited degree if they complete their studies within 18 months. Degrees so earned plus earlier accredited degrees granted will remain accredited degrees, even though the school has lost accreditation. But as professor Daniel Bergen observes, the School's failure casts a shadow on all previous graduates.

Calendar of Coming Events

Aug. 1976	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

Sep. 1976	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30		

- September 8 Young Adult Round Table Meeting, Cumberland Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
- September 13 Cooperative Juvenile Book Review Meeting, Providence Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
- September 20-24 Media Production Week, Department of State Library Services, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact Peter Salesses, 277-2726 for information.
- September 26-28 New England Library Association Annual Conference, Wentworth-by-the-Sea, Portsmouth, N. H. - see this issue of the Bulletin for program.



SRRT Job Hotline



The Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) has for some time intermittently published a job hotline. In an effort to disseminate information more regularly the SRRT Job Hotline now appears monthly in the RILA Bulletin. We are anxious to make the "Hotline" as meaningful as possible and you can help. If you have knowledge of any library position (Professional or Non-professional) in the Southeastern New England area, please contact the "Job Hotline" coordinators: Candice Civiak, Providence Public Library 401-521-7722 ext. 253 or Nancy D'Amico, Roger Williams College Library, 401-255-2361.

LIBRARY: Marian Mohr Memorial
Public Library

Title: Library director

Requirements: MLS from ALA
accredited school and experience

Duties: Manage staff of 11 and col-
lection of 30000 vols. serving town
of 25000 people.

Salary: \$9700, 4 weeks vacation

Contact: send resume to Mrs. Carlo
Jacavone, Chairwoman Board of
Trustees, Mohr Library, Memorial
Avenue, Johnston, R. I. 02919

LIBRARY: Plymouth Public Library

Title: Director

Requirements: MLS from ALA accredited
school and 5 yrs experience

Duties: administer library of 65000 vols.
and plan expansion and building program

Salary: \$14049 - 15650

Contact: send resume to President,
Library Corporation, 11 North St.,
Plymouth, Mass. 02360

LIBRARY: Nahant Public Library

Title: Head librarian

Requirements: Mass. certification desirable

Duties: administer collection of 66000 vols.
and budget of \$38000

Salary: \$8889 minimum

Contact: send application and resume to
Mrs. A. Burnham Whitehouse, Chairwoman,
Board of Library Trustees, Nahant Public
Library, 340 Nahant Rd., Nahant, Mass.
01908

LIBRARY: R. I. Dept. of State Library
Services

Title: Division of Planning and Development

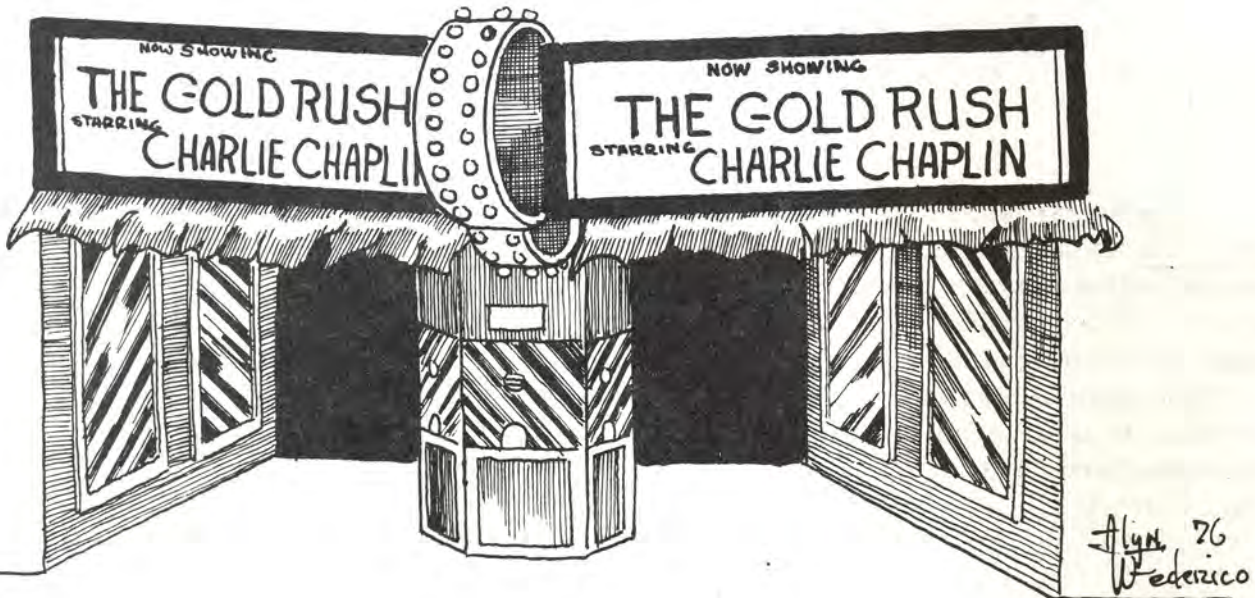
Requirements: experience in library planning
and development and accredited MLS

Duties: plan library development, pilot pro-
grams, surveys

Salary: \$14387 minimum

Contact: Jewel Drickamer, Director, DSLS,
95 Davis Street., Providence, R. I. 02908.
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**** R I L A Dues for 1976-77 membership were due July 1, 1976



The R.I. Library Film Cooperative in cooperation with the R.I. Library Association offers an eight (8) session course on Film As Art on Wednesdays beginning September 8 and ending October 27 at the Arlington Branch of the Cranston Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The course will cover film history, theory and aesthetics, criticism and film's relation to other media and artforms. The course is limited to 15 people and is open on a first come basis. The course is limited to library personnel and trustees. Please fill in the following form and return to David Green, R.I. Library Film Cooperative, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick, R.I. 02886. For more information call David at 739-2278.

Name _____

Library and Address _____

Work Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Are you an RILA member? _____

Have you ever taken a film course before? _____

New History of Pawtucket

After a year and a half of research, Susan Boucher's The History of Pawtucket 1635 - 1976 is now available to the public. This comprehensive, 217-page publication contains twelve chapters, preface, introduction, conclusion, bibliography, index, and over 70 photographs. The printing is letterpress on acid-free stock with a buckram binding (hard cover cloth).

Since this is the first comprehensive history of Pawtucket in over 40 years, it will be a valuable asset to any library's local history collection. This limited edition publication is now available for \$8.95, prepaid on a "first come" basis from the Pawtucket Public Library.

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY FILM COOPERATIVE



New Officers Elected

A new slate of officers was elected at the May 11 meeting of the Executive Board.

They are: Chairperson - Anne Parent
Vice-Chairperson - Charles Crosby
Secretary - Richard LeDuc
Treasurer - Jane Goodwin

The officers will hold office through October.

Two Committees to be Appointed by Executive Board

Members of the Executive Board are currently contacting librarians to serve on the Collection Development and Preview Session Committee. This committee shall work with the Co-op Director to establish priorities for the film collection. It will also work toward a more viable system for preview sessions.

A second committee to study the assessment and rate structure of the Cooperative membership is also being formed. This committee will be looking into alternative methods of assessing member libraries.

New Member

The R. I. Bicentennial Commission/Foundation has joined the Film Cooperative. R. I. '76 will use films for State sponsored Bicentennial events.

Bicentennial Film Award

The Film Co-op has been awarded six Bicentennial films from the National Park Service. These films are available at no charge to the membership.

Feature Films Available Soon

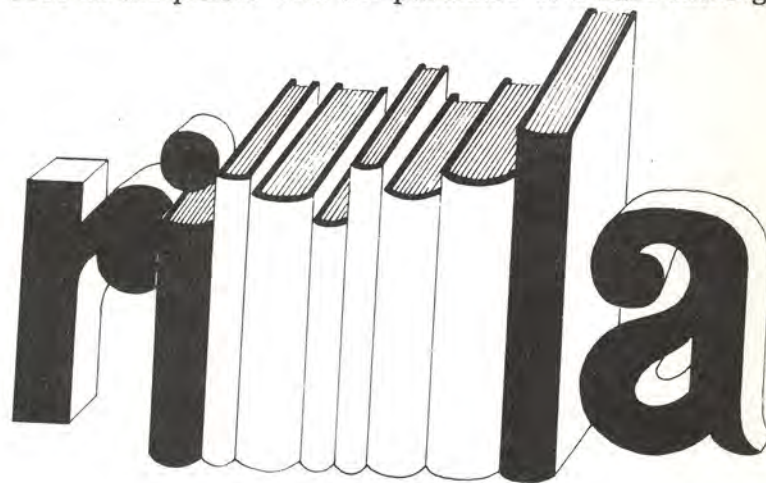
The first 14 feature films purchased with our R. I. Foundation Grant will be available for circulation in August. At time of publication only those denoted with an asterisk (*) are ready to go out but please feel free to call or write for the others as they will be ready soon. The films are:

*I. F. Stone's Weekly
*Lovejoy's Nuclear War
The Blue Angel
Open City
The Gold Rush
The General
The 39 Steps

The Man Who Knew Too Much
*The Unquiet Death of Ethel and Julius
Rosenburg
King Kong
A Hard Day's Night
The Grand Illusion
Rookie of the Year
Antonia

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The supplement to our catalog will be sent out to your library within the next two weeks. We will send five to each library. Once you receive them let us know how many more you need. They will be free to the public with the purchase of a film catalog.



"New RILA LOGO"

GALLIMAUFRY

Dr. Nancy Potter has been appointed acting director of the University of Rhode Island Graduate Library School. The announcement was made by Dr. John A. Knauss, acting vice president for academic affairs.

She succeeds Dr. Edward J. Humeston, Jr., who recently retired from the University.

A professor of English, Dr. Potter joined the URI faculty in 1947. She has served as chairperson of the English department, director of graduate studies, and acting dean of the Graduate School. A short story writer and literary critic, she holds degrees from Jackson College, Tufts and Boston University. A collection of her short stories, "We Have Seen the Best of Our Times," was published in 1969.

* * * * *

THE BULLETIN EDITORIAL STAFF CONTINUES TO BE IN NEED OF COPIES OF BULLETINS PUBLISHED IN THE PAST YEAR, ESPECIALLY TO SATISFY PAST ADVERTISERS WHO WANT ADDITIONAL PROOF COPIES. THE APRIL ISSUE (WITH THE FROG ON THE COVER) AND THE JUNE ISSUE ARE MOST NEEDED. PLEASE SEND OLD COPIES TO THE BULLETIN EDITOR AT THE PAWTUCKET PUBLIC LIBRARY. AND MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY DONE SO, MRS. PHILIP BENSON, LOUISE HOXIE, THE DSLS STAFF, EARLEEN McCARTHY, MARY MAGUIRE, VIRGINIA CONNOR, AND JIM NORMAN TO NAME ONLY A FEW.

* * * * *

In June the residents of Cumberland celebrated the dedication of their new library at the former Cistercian Monastery. That building thoroughly and beautifully renovated for modern library service, has been named after town administrator Edward J. Hayden. Librarian Martha ("Pat") Bullard is pleased as punch and ready to welcome fellow librarians to her new library.

* * * * *

Doris Chapdelaine worked her last day on June 11, after 33½ years as the director of the Woonsocket Harris Public Library. After many years of operating with inadequate facilities, Miss Chapdelaine was able to work with the Board of Trustees and the city to build a new million dollar facility.

She was recently presented with the vocational service award by the Woonsocket Rotary Club. Mr. Louis R. Leveille, the Woonsocket School Library Coordinator, also has presented Miss Chapdelaine with a pendent "in appreciation of her many years of close cooperation with the city's school libraries." The motivation behind her three decades of library work is perhaps best summed up in a quotation attributed to her: "Reading provides the stimulus for a healthy social life, and with a book you can always stand your own company."

THE ASLA REPORT ON INTERLIBRARY COOPERATION. Compiled and edited by the ASLA Interlibrary Cooperation Subcommittee. Chicago: The Association of State Library Agencies, 1976. 279 pages. Prepublication price: \$10.00 until July 1, 1976; thereafter, \$12.50.

The appearance of this valuable reference publication marks the first attempt at a comprehensive survey to identify and document interlibrary cooperation activities in each of the fifty states and U. S. territories. The ASLA Report . . ., compiled and edited by the Interlibrary Cooperation Subcommittee of the Association of State Library Agencies, is arranged by state and territory and contains information on state level organizations responsible for interlibrary cooperation activities as well as single- and multi-type library systems, networks, and consortia.

* * * * *

The library article of the month, if not the season, appears to be Patrick Williams and Joan Pearce's "Censorship Redefined" (LJ, July 1976). In response to "the prejudice and confusion wrought by indoctrination into an ideological puzzle known as 'intellectual freedom'," Williams and Pearce clarify the issues about censorship in a way that has long been necessary. All in all their thought is as lucid, restrained, and concise as their prose style.

* * * * *

Sydney Wright, Coordinator of the Western Interrelated System reminds us in her own fine regional newsletter of several others that exist in her region. One hears about the excellent staff in the Cranston Public Libraries and their concerns in Anne Parent's regular staff newsletter Branching Out. Another publication produced on time each month is Jean Nash's readable newsletter to patrons from the West Warwick Public Library System. We also hear that Kathleen Gunning edits a solid staff newsletter for the Brown Libraries. And at the Pawtucket Library Dorothy Buckbee publishes the brisk patron-oriented Column. Should you plan a newsletter for staff or patrons, these publications offer some excellent models not to be overlooked.

* * * * *

Keep in contact with your local town or city officials and the Dept. of State Library Services if you intend to build, renovate or expand a library in the near future. The amended Federal Public Works Act which passed in Congress at the end of July will bring considerable money to R. I. for public works projects, including libraries.

* * * * *

The Newport and Pawtucket Public Libraries have been selected to take part in Films Plus, an experimental project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Each library will show 2 to 3 outstanding film series including such titles as The Six Wives of Henry VIII and the Spoils of Poynton.

* * * * *

DSLS has commitments from representatives of all types of libraries now to serve on a core planning committee for the Governor's Conference on Libraries to be held in R. I. next year. Ardis Holliday of the Westerly Public Library, the public library representative, has specifically asked for input from RILA members as to what the Conference should present.

* * * * *

Speaking of requests for help, RILA Conference Subcommittee Chairpeople Jan Sieburth (URI Library) and Peth Perry (RIC Library) would like to have suggestions from RILA members for the fall RILA Conference.

* * * * *

At it's last meeting the RILA Executive Board integrated a number of the subcommittees of the Special Long Range Planning Committee into regular RILA Subcommittees. The Long Range Continuing Education Subcommittee becomes the regular RILA Education Subcommittee, as the Long Range Publicist Subcommittee will henceforth be designated as the RILA Public Relations Subcommittee chaired by Jim Norman and Roberta Cairns. Each committee regardless of its title will continue to pursue the Long Range Goals. One has apparently been reached and it is expected that the R. I. Department of Education will shortly appoint a school library coordinator. Only one goal could not easily be assigned to an existing RILA committee, and that was the goal of a Statewide library card. Work on that project will continue with a special ad hoc subcommittee chaired by Sydney Wright.

* * * * *

On July 14, 1976 the bookmobile operated by the R. I. Dept. of State Library Services caught fire while on Route 146 South near the Smithfield exchange. The Lincoln State Police and the North Smithfield fire department were quick to respond. None of the three occupants of the vehicle, Mr. Kenneth Marold, Mrs. Lillian Migneault, or Mrs. Lynne M. Lewis were injured. Damage to the front of the vehicle was extensive and the fire, smoke, and water caused total damage to the approximately 2500 books on board.

* * * * *

Northern Libraries, the newsletter of the Northern Interrelated Library System, carried some fine items in its June and July issues: Stephanie Kirkes' bibliography of Martin Luther King, Bob Burford's bibliography of recent Rhode Island publication, and Curt Bohling's "America: The Land of the Serf." Photocopies are available from the Northern Libraries editor, Myron Kirkes, 723-5350.

* * * * *

Finally, the most recent issue of the DSLS Newsletter carries an excellent summary of recent state legislation affecting libraries. Two obscenity bills were introduced in the last session of the General Assembly. Both are dead at present but RILA's Intellectual Freedom Subcommittee will be keeping a close eye on both bills should they be reintroduced in the next session.

* * * * *

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Quotable Quotes

"In any case, we have begun to realize that it is not Armageddon which confronts us (as imagined by the 'beats' or the Marxists or the ban-the-bombers), only a long slow decadence in which the arts will continue to thrive, to the confusion of everyone."

- Leslie Fiedler, Waiting for the End

Books are mysteries: Mysterious in how they come to be written; mysterious in the influence they can exert."

- From the preface of Winter 1976
Daedalus "In Praise of Books"

To achieve greater support at all levels of government, greater visibility and an image of active involvement must be created for libraries. Librarians need to become knowledgeable about how the political-governmental system works. A commitment of dollars will be required

- James Healey & Elsie Jenkins,
"Invitation to a Smoke Filled Room,"
WLB, 5-75

The truth is sometimes unpleasant and often unpopular.

- Ernest Mayr, Introduction to
Gavin de Beer's Charles Darwin



Rhode Island College

Providence, Rhode Island 02908
Established 1854

James P. Adams Library

An Open Letter to the Rhode Island Library Community:

Dear Colleagues:

All of you must now be aware of the fact that the URI Graduate Library School has lost its accreditation from the American Library Association. The reasons why this has happened are not relevant for the purposes of this letter - it is enough that it has happened. If the library community does not want to see the complete demise of the Graduate Library School, it must act now! It must be a unified action led by the efforts of the Rhode Island Library Association to insist that the Graduate Library School be rebuilt to realize the potential that exists for a strong, innovative program at the University of Rhode Island.

One way to demonstrate our interest in a graduate library program at the state university is to write letters, not to Frank Newman, President of URI, but to Albert Carlotti, Chairman of the Board of Regents, and Mary P. Lyons, Chairman of the Post-Secondary Sub-Committee. Letters, especially to these two people and to the other members of the Board of Regents, will demonstrate in a tangible way that the Rhode Island library community is vitally concerned with the future of the Graduate Library School and is not prepared to sit back and let events occur in a vacuum. I urge all of you to sit down now and write the Board of Regents expressing your concern regarding the future of the Graduate Library School. Attached is a list of the names and addresses of the members of the Board of Regents. Those names preceded by an asterisk are members of the Post-Secondary Sub-Committee which has jurisdiction over the University of Rhode Island. The time for action is now!

Sincerely yours,

Louise S. Sherby
Assistant Librarian in Reference

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