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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 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.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

"Bibliography Issue"



This month's issue, devoted to bibliography, was almost termed our "first practical Bulletin." But the work of Ruth Corkill and the RILA Membership Committee in doing last month's eminently practical "Membership Directory" issue of the Bulletin makes this June Bulletin our second practical issue. Two in a row may stagger the organization. But have no fear. In July we'll be returning to a nebulous, emotional, imprecise subject, "Responsibility in Librarianship." Future Bulletin themes will include television and libraries in September, and a 50th anniversary history of RILA in October. By the way, if you have any anecdotes, legends, or scandals about RILA in the last 50 years that you'd like to contribute to this history, please drop your editor a note.

Comments are welcome on our new format. We're still experimenting with typefaces in the interest of legibility. Please bear with us a few more issues. Finally, many thanks for this month's (and many previous months') cover illustration go to Judy Finberg. And many more thanks go to our Bulletin secretary-typist of the past two years, Mary Champagne, who will resign this month. Can anyone suggest a successor?

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor:

The Bulletin is still my number 1 library magazine after UNABASHED.

It's fun!

Rob Maier, Director
Bedford Public Library

Dear Editor:

I have just finished reading the April issue of the Bulletin from cover to cover. My compliments! I just want you to know that I think you have done an excellent job, and that you are apparently getting better and better.

It is also good to read that you have agreed to remain as editor through June, 1978. It looks as if the level of quality to which you and your staff have raised the publication will last at least another year or so.

Again, congratulations on one of if not the finest issues of the Bulletin which I have seen.

Jim Norman, Director
East Providence Public Library



RHODE ISLAND IN FICTION: A SECOND LOOK

- Robert S. Burford, Marian Mohr
Memorial Library

An important contribution to the state's library literature was the publication of Ellen Spilka's subjective critique, "The Setting Is Rhode Island."¹ Mrs. Spilka's brisk description and criticism of a select group of novels has kindled an increased appreciation for fictional Rhode Islandiana. Many delighted librarians have read and reread her words, and responded enthusiastically with displays and booklists for their patrons. Her effort is a milestone for Reader's Advisers to keep for years to come. Fiction in which Rhode Island history, geography, and people contribute majorly to the story deserves continuing interest by librarians and educators, and Mrs. Spilka's article must be a substantial focal point for this interest.

I was most pleased upon first reading Mrs. Spilka's critique,--and remain so after many readings--, but I have found my pleasure tempered by some disappointment. As I have read Rhode Island fiction, I have become increasingly aware of limitations in her overview. She has told us much about some books she likes, but not mentioned many others. She tells us plainly that she does not like and will not recommend books that are awkward, shoddy, or third-rate (insisting that even the best are second-rate). She would have us understand that she has discussed only the best, and these are the only titles worth saving for posterity. But, having read numerous good Rhode Island fiction titles which Mrs. Spilka has overlooked or disregarded, I begin to question the scope of her study.

Mrs. Spilka's article is meant to be selective though, and I appreciate it as such. I enjoyed and applaud her refreshing opinion. Though I might not agree, I would not quibble over the inclusion of any particular titles. In fact, I would likewise recommend most of Mrs. Spilka's titles.

What I do find distressing is her extremely limited bibliography, which I believe considerably undermines the authority of her article. It is one thing not to like a book, but something else not to know of its existence. I cannot condone her disregard for researching a respectable bibliography to support her article. On the basis of neglected research, I find it necessary to reassess Mrs. Spilka's commentary, to set it in fresh perspective and broaden some aspects not adequately discussed. An analysis of the titles cited in Mrs. Spilka's article suggests both purposeful selectivity and unintentional bias not immediately evident. The scope of her discussion is not fully established in the article and she covers some aspects of Rhode Island fiction while ignoring others.

It should be noted first that Mrs. Spilka discusses as Rhode Island fiction only novels. This ground rule is apparently established in her article as early as the first sentence. I find this arbitrary but an otherwise reasonable criterion. But I would prefer to also consider other forms, particularly since having read the fine short story collections of Alice Brown, Hezekiah Butterworth, Alice Morse Earle, and the Rhode Island Tales. Neither can I ignore several narrative poems or Walter Hackett's radio script. And despite Mrs. Spilka's own restriction to novels, the short story collection of Nancy Potter (URI Graduate Library School acting dean) appears in her bibliography.

¹ RILA Bulletin, vol. 48 #2 (August 1975), 3-13.

Secondly, not only is there a decided preference for novels, but the emphasis is on the modern and highly literary form of novel. Pre-1940 titles are nearly absent from both article and check list.

And thirdly, as subject matter, immigrant and ethnic problems seem to take up a disproportionately large amount of Mrs. Spilka's discussion. This leaves little or no coverage of topics like the sea, King Philip's War, and fictional biographies. Completely unmentioned are solid Rhode Island based sea stories like George Marsh's Ask No Quarter (a Newport privateer during King Philip's War), Alexander Laing's Matthew Early (a Newport sailor around the world on commercial ships, ca. 1800), Oliver LaFarge's Long Pennant (South County privateer during War of 1812), and Robert MacDonald's Write Me At Lavaca (which, though a biographical novel of Saunderstown sea captain, has the most lifeless characters ever; yet it is important for its good description of an old form of New England commercial shipping, the "coaster trade").

Among historical fiction titles about King Philip's War, William Schofield's Ashes In the Wilderness must be read. It is a most enjoyable and apparently accurate novel, being based on the diary of Captain Benjamin Church, a leader of the colonial Indian fighters of the time. Redbook magazine carried a condensed serial version during 1942 under the title of "Narragansett Night." For young people, two good action novels about the same period and drawn from the same important source document are Clifford Alderman's Vengeance of Abel Wright (youngsters from Northfield, Massachusetts, are caught in the harsh reality of the war and swept south into Rhode Island with the fighting), and Nancy Faulkner's Tomahawk Shadow (a young teenager grows to manhood during the fighting around Providence). Thompson's The Doomed Chief, though difficult reading, is a near contemporary of Cooper's Wept of Wish-Ton-Wish and needs also to be mentioned.

Speaking of James Fenimore Cooper, I enjoyed reading his The Wept of Wish-Ton-Wish. This novel is a long story of a family settling the northeastern Connecticut valley of Wish-Ton-Wish (Indian for Whippoorwill) between 1665 and the destructive King Philip's War. As with numerous other books listed in this bibliography, the locale is only partially Rhode Island. A substantial portion of Cooper's novel draws on Rhode Island Indians and events though. Yes, his Indians are "noble savages" and the plot moves slowly (as is common with literature of this era, produced serially as magazine installments). But I venture that more Rhode Island school students would struggle through Wish-Ton-Wish because of its local history than presently bother to spend time with Last of the Mohicans.

For biographical fiction, mention should at least be made of Shirley Seifert's portrayal of Caty Greene, Rupert Hughes' story of Betsy Bowen Jumel (with its title interestingly similar to Basil Beyea's lesser rendition of the same notorious woman), and genealogist John Austin's fictional diary of William Jefferay, an early Newport settler. Gilbert Rees' mediocre fictional autobiography of Roger Williams was cited by Mrs. Spilka and I have hesitantly included LeGrand Cannon's Come Home at Even for its minimal sketch of the Plymouth period of William's life. (Most other fictional biographies I cite are unknown quantities.)

Among "Newport" novels, an area emphasized by Mrs. Spilka, several important titles went without notice. George Lathrop's depiction of the Casino's high society in Newport gets a bit preachy and thin-of-plot near the end, but characters and setting make this interesting reading. And Harriet Beecher Stowe's The Minister's Wooing, thought by some literary historians to be the best of her numerous efforts, is a combination of Newport local color and anti-Calvinist theology. If you skip several chapters in which the main character meditates on her religion, ignore some unlikely plot, and persevere through some slow development, you are left with a surprisingly good picture of a Puritan seaport at the end of the 18th Century. Apparently someone else has thought the same, for you will find The Minister's Wooing in older editions of the Fiction Catalog.

There are fictional works with settings in virtually all geographic areas of the state but I will not try to describe them here. But there is one interesting South Kingstown title I cannot forego mentioning though. Henry Safford's *Contraband* is a light and humorous mystery, about bootlegging ca. 1934, with a romance between the primary characters, the young doctor on vacation and a local nurse. The suspense is minimal but the story moves easily along as the romantic pair turn detectives when several bodies wash up on the beach. Safford produces some simple but good South County local color with picturesque dialog, like this memorable line by Aunt Susan, the boarding house keeper: "Me, I'm fed up on clams,-- et s'many this summer my guts ruz an' fell with th' tide."

I do not pretend that the following bibliography is the final word on the subject of Rhode Island fiction. It is principally an attempt to balance Mrs. Spilka's overview and to bring to it some depth. As Mrs. Spilka has been selective, I have been inclusive. Indeed, I hope this is not the end of this study but only a beginning.

I have not read (nor even seen copies) of all the titles listed. Many citations appear as taken from catalog cards and bibliographies (including historical fiction guides by Baker and Packman, Coan and Lillard, Dickinson, Irwin, Logasa, and McGarry and White; Bartlett's Bibliography of Rhode Island, Brigham's... Books Upon Rhode Island History, Wright's American Fiction (3 vols.); and locally produced lists, the most important being R.I. Development Council, and by Angela Sciotti, Salve Regina College student (1975).

There will undoubtedly be questions concerning the qualifications of particular titles; a few early entries which I have read have been disqualified and deleted (see last page of bibliography). Some may question the presence of books of reminiscent folk-lore which border on non-fiction. I have found it unreasonable at this stage to draw a distinct line between fiction and non-fiction, especially when 1) it is difficult to document historical authenticity, 2) the author assumes the role of story-teller, and/or 3) the author introduces patently fictitious dialog. I would further justify my inclusive attitude by calling attention to the fact that most such titles would not likely be included in non-fiction bibliographies either and would thereby be lost to bibliographic record without inclusion here.

Unlike Mrs. Spilka, I believe that examples of all Rhode Island fiction should be saved, even if they are third-rate. I hope that librarians will check this list against their collections and so will not unknowingly discard worn but irreplaceable copies. Rhode Island librarians have recently been appraising the possibilities of "last copy storage"; fictional Rhode Islandiana would appear a reasonable place to start. Many titles listed are already scarce, and if these books are not saved in Rhode Island, they certainly will not be in Idaho. Because of its preliminary nature, I do not suggest this bibliography as a buying guide, but larger and specialized libraries will hopefully take this list seriously and would probably be appreciative of receiving discarded copies when their usefulness has become questionable in the smaller collections. The more important and readable titles often appear in catalogs of used book dealers, like Main Street Booksellers (Brooklyn, NY) and Editions Booksellers (Boiceville, NY) for a few dollars.

Mrs. Spilka put it well: "The novel--any novel, allows for an expression of feeling and experience beyond histories." Ruth Coombs undoubtedly would have agreed. Coombs, a bigger-than-life librarian (I am told), was for many years the Reader's Adviser at the Providence Public Library and kept a carefully annotated, little-known card file called the "Rhode Island Fiction Index." This file is both the primary origin of the present bibliography and the inspiration which has kept it alive. To the memory of Ruth Coombs I dedicate this on-going effort.

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James Otis. Boston: Dana Estes & Co., 1901. 98p. illus. j
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Rhode Island Tales; depicting social life during its colonial, revolutionary
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Headland. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1952. 268p.
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- Wassermann, Moses 1811-1892
Judah Touro; a biographical romance. trans. by Harriet W. Mayer. NY: Bloch Publishing, 1923. 275p. from the German; Judah Touro: ein gentleman semitischer abstammung, (1871).
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- [White, (Mrs.) Elizabeth (Nicholson), 1877-1961]
Molasses; a trickle of facts in fiction, written by Alice's granddaughter, Prov.?: 1946. 18p.
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Williams, (Mrs.) Catharine Read (Arnold), 1787?-1872

Annals of the Aristocracy...Prov.: B.T. Albro, printer, 1843 and 1845. 2 vols. (only 2 numbers issued) 80p. & 80p. 8 vol. tales, 4 reprinted in H. Palmer. Rhode Island Tales.

Aristocracy; or, the Holbey family, a national tale. Prov.: printed by J. Knowles, 1932. 312p. errata

Fall River: An authentic narrative. (anon.) Boston: Lilly, Wait & Co., 1833 198p. illus. 12mo. Prov.: Marshall, Brown & Co., 1833. 198p. 18mo.

Neutral French; or, the exiles of Nova Scotia. Prov.: the author, c. 1841. 2 vols. in one. illus. 12mo. \$1?

Religion at Home; a story, founded on facts. Prov.: Marshall and Hammond, printers, 1829. 322p. 12mo. 2nd edition. Prov.: printed by B. Cranston, 1837. 312p.

Wilson, Arthur (Edward)

The Tree Planted by the River. Prov.: Oxford Press, 1941. unpagged (16p.) on cover: A Christmas Story of the New England Hurricane.

The following titles have been disqualified as Rhode Island fiction, despite having appeared as such in bibliographies and library catalogs: 1. McSorley, Edward J., Kitty, I Hardly Knew You. (1959)- New York setting; 2. O'Connor, Frank, The Last Hurrah. (1956)-Boston, not Providence; 3. Paine, Susanna, Roses and Thorns; or, Recollections of an Artist. (1854)-though listed in Wright, not fiction but autobiography; 4. Potter, Gail, Stories Behind the Stones. (1969)-New England but not fiction; 5. Thomas, Harriet E., Three Stories of the Old Stone Mill. (1928)-not fiction; 6. Ward, Christopher, A Yankee Rover, being the story of the adventures of Jonathan Drew. (1932)-not Rhode Island; 7. Wharton, Edith, The Buccaneers. (1938)-Saratoga Springs and New York City, not Newport; 8. Wight, Frederic, Chronicles of Aaron Kane. (1936)-Cape Cod, not Rhode Island.



RECENT RHODE ISLANDIANA (REVISED)

- Robert S. Burford,
Marian Mohr Memorial Library

Boucher, Susan Marie. The History of Pawtucket 1635-1976.

Pawtucket, R.I.: Pawtucket Public Library, (1976). xv and 215p. (and 3 pages sponsors). illus., photos., ports., maps, index, 660 hardbound, acid free copies. \$8.95 (o.p.)

Bramwell, Barbara. Decision; Historical Novel of the American Revolution. Salina, Kansas: Survey Publications, 1976. 144p., illus., photos. hardbound with d/j. \$7.50 (& 50¢ mailing) from publisher, p.o. box 572, Salina, 67401. (fictional history of French navy occupation of Newport).

Brayton, Gladys W. Other Ways and Other Days. E. Providence, R.I.: Globe Printing (by the author?), (1975). 176p., illus., photos. hardbound with d/j; \$7.95 (history of Cranston, R.I.)

(Conforti, Joseph)

Our Heritage: A History of East Providence (R.I.) White Plains, N.Y.: Monarch Publishing, (1976). viii, 196p., maps, many photos (few in color); bibliog. p.190-195. hardbound with d/j; \$6.95 from E.Prov. Public Library, 41 Grove St., and local banks.

- Conley Patrick T. North Kingstown An Historical Sketch. (Providence, R.I. Bicentennial Commission, 1976). printed by Cogens, Providence. 13p. booklet, illus., photos., sepia on cream.
- Gracia, Frances Sylvia. Early Portuguese Settlers In Little Compton, R.I. by the author (Portsmouth, R.I.: Bob's Press, c. 1974). iii, 14p. booklet, 5 photos. \$1.00 from author, West Main Rd., Little Compton 02837.
- (Hill, F.M.)
Biography of the Honorable Frank Hill and History of the Ashaway National Bank. n.p., n.p., n.d. (1976). 39p. booklet, 22 photos and ports., map.
- History of the Town of Hopkinton R.I., 1757-1976. Hopkinton Bicentennial Commission, 1976. 181p. hardbound, by Utter Printing, Westerly. 74 illus. and photos. inside covers is map, circa 1795. 500 copies. \$8.50 (O.P.?)
- Jefferys, C.P.B. Newport, 1639-1976. An Historical Sketch. Newport, R.I.: Newport Historical Society, 1976. 64p.
- McBurney, Christian M. Kingston: A Forgotten History. Kingston, R.I.: Pettaquamscutt Historical Society, 1975. 106p. illus., map. hardbound with d/j; \$7.00 at Kingston Free Library or historical society.
- Nebiker, Walter A. The History of North Smithfield. North Smithfield (R.I.) Bicentennial Commission, 1976. 243p. hardbound. index, illus., photos., ports., maps, bibliog.: p. 221-229. illus, endpapers. pocket inside rear cover contains 2 folding 16" by 20" black/white map reprints: Beers (1870) and Everts and Richards (1895). Printed by New England History Press, Somerworth, N.H.
- Olson, Sandra; Marcia M. Bowden, Margery I. Matthews, and Elizabeth Olausen. Foster and the Patriots' Dream: A Bicentennial Reflection. photos by David Richter. Foster (R.I.) Preservation Society, 1976. (by Cardinal Press, No. Scituate). 22p. booklet, photos., map. Historical fiction circa 1775-1840, with addendum and bibliog. \$2.75 from Foster Preservation Society, Box 51, Foster and at Foster and Tyler libraries.
- Pettaquamscutt Historical Society. Historical Buildings of South County. n.p., n.p., n.d. (1973). 64p. paperbound, illus., \$4.00 O.P.? (co-sponsored by the R.I. Bicentennial Commission...to commemorate the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of South Kingstown...)
- Simpson, Robert V. North Cumberland, a history. (by the author), n.p. (c.1975). 63p. booklet, 27cm., photos., maps.
- Snap, Sue Ellen. Mighty Liberty Men. Rehoboth, Mass.: Rehoboth Revolutionary War Bicentennial Commission, 1976. vi, 192p. illus., photos, maps, index. 23.5 cm. hardbound history of Rehoboth's Revolutionary War period. \$9.00 from Rehoboth town clerk.

Stage Coach. (history of Swansea, Mass. from Swansea Historical Society.)

Steinberg, Sheila; and Cathleen McGuigan. Rhode Island, An Historical Guide. drawings by Barry Moser. Providence: R.I. Bicentennial Foundation, 1976. 284p. paperbound, illus., maps, index. \$1.95 from Industrial National Bank, whose grant made publication possible.

(Vaughan, Roger, editor?) Rhode Island, A Scenic Discovery. photography by Steve Dunwell. (Providence): Foremost Publishers, (1976). 120p. 25 by 29.5 cm. (88 captioned color plates spaced with a few poems by Emerson, Frost, etc. d/j. Order from Pat Pothier, at Pawtucket Public Library, \$20.00. Being used as promo by Old Stone Bank.

Kaull, James T. Tall Ships In Newport, 1976. Providence Journal Company, printed by Foremost. \$11.95 (plus 75¢ mailing), \$6.95 (plus 50¢ mailing) paperbound, from Journal, P. O. Box 847, P. O. Annex, Providence 02901.

Powers, William F. In The Service Of The State; The Rhode Island State Police, 1925-1975. Providence: R.I. Bicentennial Foundation, 1975. x, 196p. photos., ports., bibliog.: p. 195. hardbound. printed by Oxford Press, Providence; order from R.I. Bicentennial Commn. 150 Benefit St., Providence 02903. \$7.95

Hopkins, Stephen (1707-1785). The Rights of Colonies Examined. Introduced and edited by Paul Campbell. Providence: R.I. Bicentennial Foundation, 1974. vii, 53p. 24 cm. illus., bibliog.: p. 52-53.

Millar, John. Rhode Island; Forgotten Leader of the Revolutionary Era. Providence: Journal Bulletin, 1976. order from J.B. Promotion Dept., 75 Fountain St., Providence 02903. \$7.95 hardbound, \$3.95 paper.

Conley, Patrick T. The Dorr Rebellion, Rhode Island's Crisis in Constitutional Government. Providence: R.I. Bicentennial Foundation, 1976. printed by Cogens, Providence. 13p. booklet, sepia on cream, old photo port. on cover.

Kenny, Robert W. Town and Gown In Wartime. Providence, R.I.: Brown Univ., 1976. 40p. booklet. illus., ports., map. "A brief account of...Brown University...during the American Revolution." free at Brown U. bookstore.

Mohr, Ralph S. Rhode Island Footprints on the Sands of Time; a Bicentennial Remembrance. Johnston, R.I.: the author, 1975. 142p. illus., photos., ports., hardbound; printed by Oxford Press, Providence. From Mohr Memorial Library, Memorial Ave., Johnston 02919; \$6.00 plus 50¢ mailing.

R. I. Department of Health. Office of Data Evaluation. Selected Health Indices, 1976. 8th ed. (Providence?: R.I. Dept. of Health, February 1976). vi, 113p. 8½" by 11" spiral bound and tabbed.

- (R.I. Health Science Education Council). Health Careers 1977-1978: Opportunities in Rhode Island. (Providence?: Nov. 1976). 45p. illus. booklet available free in limited quantities from RIHSEC, 56 Pine St., Providence, R.I. 02903 (tel. 272-1950).
- Facts and Fancies Concerning North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Pettaquamscutt Chapter, DAR, 1975. REPRINT of 1941 edition, by Globe Printing, E.Providence. 139p. illus., hardbound with d/j.
- Brennan, Joseph. Social Conditions in Industrial Rhode Island, 1820-1860. Washington, D.C.: 1940. ix, 181p. bibliog. REPRINT 1976. in Perspectives in American History series, #41, from Porcupine Press, 1317 Filbert St., Phila. 19107. for \$13.50.
- Chapin, Charles Value. Report On State Public Health Work, Based on a Survey of State Boards of Health. Chicago, 1915. REPRINT, Jan. 1977, Arno Press. (Chapin was Providence health officer and national leader in the field). \$15.00
- Gardner, Mary Sewall
Public Health Nursing. New York, 1918. REPRINT, Jan. 1977, Arno Press, \$18.00. (Gardner was Providence nurse and national leader in public health.)
- Seifert, Shirley (1889-) Let My Name Stand Fair. NY: Lippincott, 1956. REPRINT, 1976, from Aeonian Press, Leyden, Mass. 01337, on acid free paper, \$8.95. (Fictional biography of Catherine Littlefield Green, 1755-1814, wife of Gen. Nathanael...)
- McSorley, Edward J. (1902-1966) Our Own Kind. NY: Harper, 1946. REPRINT, Nov. 1976, Arno Press, \$18.00. (One of the best of novels about Rhode Island, of an Irish laboring class family in South Providence, circa 1912.)
- Herreshoff, L. Francis. Captain Nat Herreshoff, the Wizard of Bristol. not in BIP. New York: Sheridan House, (?). \$12.50
- Simmons, William Scranton. Cautantowit's House: an Indian Burial Ground on the Island of Conanicut in Narragansett Bay. Brown Univ. Press, 1970. \$10.00.
- Boeri, David and James Gibson. Tell It Goodbye, Kiddo; The Decline of the New England Offshore Fishing Industry. International Marine, 1976. \$9.95.
- Stegeman, John and Janet Stegeman. Caty: A Biography of Catherine Littlefield Greene. R.I. Historical Foundation, 1976? 250p. illus., index \$11.95
- Landers, Judith. Timothy and the King's Ship Liberty. Illus. by Ruth Ann Petree. R.I. Historical Foundation. 30p. j \$1.95 p.b.
- The Papers of General Nathanael Greene: vol. 1 (December 1766 - December 1776) edited by Richard K. Showman. 413p. illus. \$17.95 R.I. Historical Foundation by the Univ. of N. Carolina press.

Thomas, Alton P. Woonsocket; Highlights of History Woonsocket Opera House Society (by mail, \$7.50, at 563 So. Main St., Woonsocket 02895) or at the Woonsocket Call office for \$6.50).

Stewart, Rowena. A Heritage Discovered; Blacks in Rhode Island. Illus. & Design by Lawrence Sykes, made possible by grant from Raytheon. Providence: R.I. Black Heritage Society, n.d. (1976), 39p., many illus. & photos, 10" x 7 3/4". from R.I. Black Heritage Society, 110 Benevolent St., Providence 02906.

Gunthrie, Richard C. & John A. Stolgitis. Fisheries Investigations and Management in Rhode Island Lakes and Ponds. R.I. Dept. of Natural Resources (Fisheries Report #3) Feb. 1977. 256p. single copies free by mailing post card to DNR office, 83 Park St., Prov., 02903. New edition of book produced previously Nov. 1957.

Rhode Island: Heads of Families...at the first census of the United States taken in the year 1790. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing 1977 (rpt 1908). 71p. index, 4to. \$12.00

MacGunnigle, Bruce C. Rhode Island Freeman, 1747-1755; a census of Registered Voters. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1977. 49p. p.b. \$4.00.



CHOICES FOR THE FUTURE;

A BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Karen M. Light & Patricia Hval,
Reference Librarians, Westerly Public Library

In October 1976, the reference department of the Westerly Public Library was asked by the Westerly Chapter of the AAUW to prepare a bibliography and give a book talk on the following topics:

1. World pluralism: the human encounter
2. Economic facts of life: living with less
3. The 21st century: deciding now
4. Society and the individual: conformity vs. creativity

We interpreted and limited the topics as follows:

1. Population explosion, international cooperation in the areas of food production and pollution control, universal human values
2. Alternative energy sources, consumer action, reduction of conspicuous consumption by industrialized nations
3. Euthanasia, genetic engineering, philosophical and ethical aspects of biotechnology

4. Alternative lifestyles, including communal living, organic food production and alternative education.

The books on the list are limited to titles in the WPL collection published after 1970. The bibliography also includes magazines and a list of organizations dealing with contemporary social problems.

Behnke, John A. The Dilemmas of Euthanasia. Anchor Books, 1975.

A sensitive and often controversial subject is clearly treated in a series of essays by doctors, philosophers and lawyers. Topics include euthanasia in modern medical history, the legal aspects of voluntary euthanasia and current legislation on the subject.

Borgese, Elisabeth Mann. The Tides of Change: Peace, Pollution and Potential of the Oceans. Mason/Charter, 1975.

The oceans are no longer the limitless resource they once seemed to be. Tides of Change, papers prepared for the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea asks the questions: how should the oceans' resources be divided among rich and poor nations? Who is responsible for their protection from pollution? A re-appraisal of international cooperation is necessary.

Carr, Donald E. Energy and the Earth Machine. Norton, 1976.

Past, present and future of the energy dilemma. Problems of gas, coal, nuclear power and energy storage are discussed. Carr reveals how the oil industry has squandered a vast resource. One solution - the sun as the key to an economical and efficient power supply.

Commoner, Barry. The Closing Circle: Nature, Man and Technology. Knopf, 1971.

One of the basic texts of the ecology movement written by a highly regarded biologist and educator. Outlines what has gone wrong with the world ecologically, why it happened and how we can set it right again.

Deakin, Michael. The Children on the Hill. Bobbs-Merrill, 1972.

The story of one family's experiment in upbringing and education for their children, resulting in genius - both mental and personal.

Dorfman, John. A Consumer's Arsenal: A Guide to Fighting Back in the Market Place: Step by Step, State by State, Problem by Problem. Praeger, 1976.

Dorfman, a former editor of Consumer Reports offers a practical three way attack on consumer problems, including a state by state list of consumer agencies and an encyclopedia of common consumer complaints.

Ehrlich, Paul R. How to be a Survivor. Ballantine Books, 1971.

An operational plan for the survival of people on earth, written by the author of The Population Bomb. Discusses increased food production, population control and the limits to industrial growth.

Etzioni, Amitai. Genetic Fix. Macmillan, 1973.

An inquiry into the complex social issues being raised by the new genetic engineering. Who will be responsible for breeding superpersons, experimenting on humans or for multiple organ transplants? We must be ready to make informed choices during this genetic revolution.

Mayer, Martin. Today and Tomorrow in America. Harper, 1976.

Mayer believes that four forces have shaped our society - vast increase in national product and wealth, rapid growth and sophistication of technology, the failing authority of institutions vs. individual worth, and the population explosion. He offers some realistic suggestions for the future.

Moraes, Dom, ed. Voices for Life: Reflections on the Human Condition. Praeger, 1975.

Poet and journalist Dom Moraes posed the question "What do you see as the quality of life and what do you think it will become in the future?" The varied answers are provided by renowned men and women from all over the world. Commissioned by the U.N. Fund for Population Activities for publication during World Population Year.

Munson, Richard. Countdown to a Nuclear Moratorium. Environmental Action Foundation, 1976.

This collection of essays surveys various aspects of nuclear power and its dangers. Viable alternatives are offered.

Nearing, Helen and Scott. Living the Good Life: How to Live Sanely and Simply in a Troubled World. Schocken Books, 1970 (c 1954).

In 1932 the Nearings left New York City to begin a 20th century pioneering venture in the backwoods of Vermont. This book reports on their experiences - subsistence homesteading, a small maple sugar business, a simple communal life style.

Regenstein, Lewis. The Politics of Extinction: the Shocking Story of the World's Endangered Wildlife. Macmillan, 1975.

Will the world's wildlife be allowed to survive? If the current rate of extinction continues in about thirty years all the remaining 4062 species of mammals will be gone. Author Regenstein, executive vice-president of the Fund for Animals, gives names and facts as he examines insensitive government agencies and the powerful hunting lobby in Washington.

Restak, Richard M. Pre-Meditated Man: Bioethics and the Control of Future Human Life. Viking Pr., 1975.

An informal, lively look at the new medical technologies that are capable of changing humanity as we know it. We must make the final decision on how biotechnology will ultimately be used. A chapter is devoted to the controversial issue of psychosurgery.

Rodale, Robert. Sane Living in a Mad World: A Guide to the Organic Way of Life. New American Library, 1972

The casual Rodale style illustrates simple ways to garden and eat organically. The author discusses organic living in relation to food production and cost, homesteading and the aging process.

Schumacher, Ernst. Small is Beautiful. Harper, 1973

The surprising best seller that says economics should be concerned with people not with goods. We should aim to obtain the maximum of well-being with the minimum of consumption. Economist Schumacher demonstrates that technology and work can be designed on a human scale.

Slater, Philip. Earthwalk. Doubleday, 1974

An analysis of western culture that examines how the ideas of progress and the supremacy of scientific rationalism have cut us off from our environment.

Toffler, Alvin. Future Shock. Random, 1970

The classic work on too rapid change and its effects on individuals and groups.

Ward, Barbara, et alia. Who Speaks for Earth? Norton, 1973

The distinguished lecture series of the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment, delivered in 1972 by such outstanding thinkers as Rene' Dubois, Gunnar Myrdal and Thor Heyerdahl.

Magazines

Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

Discusses contemporary issues in the social sciences.

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists
Concerned scientists and nuclear power

Environment Action Bulletin
Ecology and pollution

Green Revolution
Publication of the School of Living, one of the oldest communes in the U.S.

Mother Earth News
Alternative lifestyles

Organic Gardening
Rodale and associates

Sierra Club Bulletin
Wildlife conservation

Organizations

Club of Rome
c/o Aurelio Peccei
Via Giorgione 163
1-00147 Rome, Italy

Nonpolitical, multi-national group of scientists, humanists and educators concerned with the problems of industrialized societies. Seeks to act as a catalyst for affecting social change.

Environment Action
1346 Connecticut Avenue N.W. Suite 731
Washington, D.C. 20036

National political lobby organization with its prime focus on energy, air and water pollution, nuclear power, and transportation. Coordinates over 3,500 local, state and campus groups. Publishes books, pamphlets and a biweekly magazine.

Hudson Institute
Quaker Ridge Road
Croton-on-Hudson, New York 10520

A research center or "think tank" which studies public policy issues, especially those related to long range planning of an international scope. Such studies are funded through contract or grant from government agencies, private business foundations and individuals. Publishes a newsletter and research reports.

National Planning Association
1606 New Hampshire Avenue N.W.
Washington D.C. 20009

Independent, nonpolitical, nonprofit organization that encourages joint economic planning and cooperation by leaders from agriculture, business, labor and the professions. Publishes planning pamphlets, special reports and policy statements.

Resources for the Future
1755 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.
Washington D.C. 20036

Nonprofit corporation for research and education in the development, conservation and use of natural resources and the improvement of the quality of the environment.

Sierra Club
1050 Mills Tower
San Francisco, California 94104

"To protect and conserve the natural resources of the Sierra Nevada, the U.S. and the world..." Works on urgent campaigns to save threatened areas, wildlife and resources. Publishes the Sierra Club Bulletin, other journals, books, produces films, posters and exhibits.

Worldwatch Institute
1776 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Independent nonprofit research organization created to identify and focus attention on global problems. Funded by private foundations and U.N. and governmental agencies. Papers are written for a worldwide audience of decision makers, scholars and the general public.



INFODOCS - APRIL 1977

- *The Nelinet Govt. Task Force Group*

The NELINET Government Documents Task Group is a group of public, special, and academic librarians meeting regularly under the sponsorship of the New England Library Information Network. As part of its program, the Task Group has formed a review committee to consider ways of publicizing important and interesting government publications which are seldom mentioned in the standard library media. The enclosed reviews represent the first efforts of the Review Committee (and are reprinted here on a one time basis to alert librarians that they may request Infodocs for their libraries in the future, Ed.)

It is the hope of the Task Group that Infodocs, to be distributed quarterly on a trial basis to selected New England public libraries and library organizations, will be timely and relevant to the special needs of the region. Bear in mind, also, that many of the documents reviewed may be available at your local depository libraries (Providence, Brown, URI, Warwick, RIC).

Claire Loran
Westerley College Library
235-0320 x 752

William Olbrich
Tufts University Library
628-5000 x 388

Virginia Massey
Brandeis University Library
647-2536

Jan Swanbeck
Boston College Library
969-0100

CHILD CARE AND THE WORKING WOMAN; report and recommendations of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on the Rights and Responsibilities of Women. 1975. 54p.
Request from: U. S. Gov't printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 \$1.20
SuDocs. No. HE 1.2: W 84/5/975.

While some members of our society are still earnestly trying to decide whether women should work outside the home, others are dealing with the realities. 44.1% of the labor force is made up of women, 13 million working women have children under 18 and the woman worker is paid on the average \$75.00 a week. The subcommittee's goal is to set up a national child care policy (the U.S. is one of the few industrialized nations that doesn't have one).

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT; a selected bibliography. Comp. by Kay Rogers. U.S. Library of Congress. 1976. 16p. Request from: Science and Technology Division, Library of Congress, 10 First Street, SE, Washington, D.C. 20540 SuDocs No. LC 1.12/2: F 67.

Intended for the general reader, this bibliography provides selective coverage of UFO literature which has appeared since the publication of Lynn Catoe's comprehensive UFO's and Related Subjects: An Annotated Bibliography. Only English language works are included. The most recent entries are for 1975, of which there are several. This is a handy selection tool for public libraries dealing with a subject of great popular interest.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE FOREIGN HERITAGE ON THE AMERICAN CITY; U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. 1976. 31p., illustrated. Request from: U.S. Gov't Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 \$0.85 SuDocs No. HH 1.2: In 3/5. Stock no. 023-000-00366-0.

The American immigrant experience is most visible in the cities we inhabit. This heavily illustrated booklet provides historical vignettes of architecture and urban planning in American cities focusing upon the important individuals involved and the concepts they employed. The booklet should act as a springboard for students and a handy compendium for the general reader.

CLOSING OPEN DUMPS; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 1976. 19p. Request from: Solid Waste Management Office, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 26 West Saint Clair Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268 SuDocs No. EP 1.17: 16ts.

Solid wastes such as trash and junk often end up in community dumps which are unsightly, unhealthy, and un-economical. This booklet explains the proper sanitation procedures to follow to cover over open dumps to end their threats to the community. Problems such as vermin and fire control, water pollution, and land reclamation receive special attention.

FROM SCHOOL TO WORK; IMPROVING THE TRANSITION; U.S. National Commission for Manpower Policy. 1976. 309p. Request from: U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 \$3.00 SuDocs No. Y3.M3.: s Sch 6 Stock No. 040-000-03649.

Focusing on the youth unemployment problem, these papers by noted authorities explore a variety of special topics (apprenticeship, minority hiring patterns, social costs of unemployed youth, rural/urban differences) and suggests options for change involving school and community.

CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; Senate Committee on the Judiciary. 1976. 39p. Available only at Government Depository Libraries. SuDocs No. Y4.J89/2: R44/976.

Aptly titled, this pamphlet analyzes in layman's terms pertinent articles of the Constitution and amendments as to their intent and impact. Significant court decisions are noted. An introductory essay traces constitutional growth while the appendix sets forth the entire Constitution, Bill of Rights, and later amendments (including the proposed Equal Rights Amendment). Very useful to students as well as to the interested citizen.

QUIETING: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO NOISE CONTROL by Raymond D. Berendt. U.S. National Bureau of Standards. 1976. 154p. (National Bureau of Standards Handbook 119). Request from: U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 \$5.10 SuDocs No. C 13.11: 119. Stock No. 003-003-01646-2.

One of the most personally irritating forms of pollution in our modern society is noise. Sonic boom, siren and rock band sounds can be painful and dangerous; even everyday noise can be maddeningly irritating. Most noise problems that seem insurmountable can be easily avoided as this book shows. This sturdy book provides a wealth of information on noise pollution without resorting to scientific jargon.

NATIONAL BASIC INTELLIGENCE FACTBOOK; U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. 1976. 230p., maps. Request from: U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 \$4.45 SuDocs No. Pr Ex 3.10: N 21/976.

Up-to-date social, economic, political and natural resources indicators for each of the world's nations are displayed in a clear format. Data on each country is accompanied by a small map locating the country in question in relation to its neighbors. This semi-annual volume is a special bargain for those whose budgets preclude the purchase of the more expensive international statistical sets.

EXPLORING WRITING CAREERS; A STUDENT GUIDEBOOK by Mary Lewis Hansen. U.S. Office of Education. 1976. 74p. Request from: U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 No price. SuDocs No. HE 19.108: Ex 7/2. Stock No. 017-080-01642-7.

This breezy yet factual exploration of career options for writers emphasizes attributes of various jobs/professions, training or experience necessary, job-linked character traits, sources of information, and so forth. Suited to the 7th to 10th grade audience.

PUERTO RICANS IN THE UNITED STATES; AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE; U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. 1976. 157p., illustrated. Request from: Publications Management Division, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1121 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20425 Free. SuDocs No. CR 1.2: P 964/2

The major drawback in appreciating the living conditions of the 1.7 million Puerto Ricans residing in the mainland United States has always been the lack of concrete information on their social and economic characteristics. Census reports usually lump them with other Hispanics which only hampers understanding their circumstances. This report, providing detailed analyses of the mainland Puerto Rican community in an attempt to portray them accurately, concludes that the language barrier preventing Puerto Rican assimilation into mainstream American life is at the root of their economic and social plight.

APPALACHIAN WAYS; A GUIDE TO THE HISTORIC MOUNTAIN HEART OF THE EAST; U.S. Appalachian Regional Commission. 1976. 220p., illustrated. Request from: Appalachian Regional Commission, 1666 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20235. SuDocs No. Y 3. Ap 4/2: 8Ap4.

The Appalachian Regional Commission's contribution to America's Bicentennial is both a tribute and a guide to Appalachia. By far the most interesting section of this delightful book is that which presents brief one to three page sketches of the people and places of Appalachia. Appalachian Ways also includes map guides to craft fairs, music and theater events, National Historic Sites and National Parks and Forests as well as guides to the individual states of Appalachia.

SOLAR ENERGY AND YOUR HOME; U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. 1976. 19p. Request from: U.S. Dept. of HUD, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Washington D.C. 20410. SuDocs No. HH 1.2: So 4/4.

The most frequently asked questions about how solar energy can be put to work in the home are answered in terms anyone can comprehend. This booklet provides a good starting point for anyone who is considering building a house using solar energy or installing a solar energy system in their present home.

THE EARNINGS GAP BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN; U.S. Women's Bureau. 1976. 12p. Request from: U.S. Women's Bureau, Employment Standards Administration, Washington, D.C. 20210. SuDocs No. L 36.102: Ea 7/2.

The earning gap does indeed exist and has been rising steadily. In 1955 men's earnings exceeded women's earnings by 56.4% and this figure rose to 74.8% in 1974! Another startling statistic tells us that 82% of women working fulltime earned less than \$10,000 in 1974 while only 38% of their male counterparts fell into this income level. The statistics are collected from a variety of sources (all cited) and the majority of them show 1974 earnings.

SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIAL ETHICS AND THE AGING SOCIETY, edited by Bernice L. Neugarten (and) Robert J. Havighurst. U.S. National Science Foundation. 1976. 121 p. Request from: U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. \$1.95. SuDocs No. NS 1.2: So 1/2. Stock No. 038-000-00299-6.

This conference explodes the myth that the aged are a basically ill, dependent and destitute group. It portrays the 55 population as relatively healthy, better educated than their predecessors, politically active (they have the highest voting record of any age group), and cared for by their children when they become dependent. Must reading for anyone concerned about senior citizens.

SCHOOL DESEGREGATION: THE COURTS AND SUBURBAN MIGRATION; U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. 1976. 208p. Request from: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1121 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20405 SuDocs No. CR 1.2: Sch 6/20.

These proceedings rather methodically and carefully refute the controversial "white flight" studies done by the nationally famous Dr. Coleman. This highly readable consultation contains fascinating material on the history and growth of American suburbs. It shows, for example, that significant black growth in cities took place in the 1960's only after great suburban growth in the 1940's and 1950's and that most employment in a metropolitan area is in the suburbs. The Boston area is frequently mentioned throughout. There is a good history of civil rights legislation. Highly recommended for inclusion in all area libraries with a demand for busing material.

BUYING SOLAR; U.S. Federal Energy Administration. 1976. 71p. Request from:
U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 SuDocs No. FE 1.2:
So 4/3 Stock No. 041-018-00120-4. \$1.85.

An excellent everything-you-need-to-know guide if you are considering solar heating for your home, and who hasn't this winter? Although slightly technical in spots, necessary for a fully informed consideration. It even considers the resale value of your home and such specifics as cost and amounts of solar radiation in different parts of the country (dispelling myths that we in New England could never use it). This is an excellent example of government service at its best.

THE PROVINCES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: A POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BIBLIOGRAPHY; U.S. Department of Commerce. 1976. 734p. (International Population Statistics Report Series P-90, no. 25). Request from: U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 \$7.70 SuDocs No. C 59.13/2: 90/25 Stock No. 003-010-00054-5.

A comprehensive listing of major sources on political and economic developments in the provinces of the People's Republic of China that can be found in Chinese newspapers, periodicals, Party reports, Chinese government documents and other Chinese publications available in the United States. While the compilers limited their attention chiefly to the holdings of the Library of Congress, the Hoover Institution (Palo Alto, California), and the Center for Research Libraries (Chicago), most of the material is also available from Harvard's Yenching Library. For the money, this is a "must" acquisition for all China watchers.

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AN INCOMPLETE LISTING OF THE
LIBRARY ALTERNATIVE PRESS
by-Sanford Berman, Hennepin County Library,

Reprinted from December, 1976 Northern Libraries.

- THE ACORN GROWETH: Resource Materials On Sexism In Library Materials For Children And Young Adults, 48 Sunset, Venice, CA 90291. \$1/yr. 3x. Former newsletter of ALA-CSD group on sexism, now an independent information exchange on activities and resources in and out of ALA.
- BOOKLEGGER. 555 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131. \$8/yr, 6x.
- CATALOGING BULLETIN. Technical Services Division, Hennepin County Library, 7001 York Ave., S. Edina, MN 55435. \$4/yr. indiv; \$7/instit., 6x.
- DOCUMENTS TO THE PEOPLE. ALA 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Published by the Government Documents Round Table.
- EMERGENCY LIBRARIAN. Subs: Barbara Clubb, 697 Wellington Cres., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 0A7; corres: Sherrill Cheda, 46 Gormley Av., Toronto, Ontario M4V 1Z1. \$2.50/yr. students; \$5/yr. indiv. Canadian; \$7/indiv. American; \$8/instit.; \$9/international, 6x.
- INSIDE/OUTSIDE: A Newsletter On Library Services To Youth & Adults In Prisons, Jails, And Detention Centers. P.O. Box 9083, Berkeley, CA 94709. \$2.50/yr. prepaid; \$3 if billed, 4x.
- LIBERTY CAP: A Bimonthly Journal Of Non-Stereotyped, Recent Children's Books and Resources. 1050 Newell Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303. \$8/yr, 6x.
- SHARE (Sisters Have Resources Everywhere): A Directory Of Feminist Library Workers. WLW/SHARE, 555 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131. \$1 to participants; \$2/others, annual.
- SIPAPU. Box 216, Winters, CA 95694. Free to students and prisoners; \$2/yr, 2x. Views and reviews of the alternative press.
- SRRT NEWSLETTER. Subs: 60 Remsen St., #10E, Brooklyn, NY 11201; corres: Linda Katz, Wolfsohn Library, 180 Town Center Rd., King of Prussia, PA 19406. \$3/yr non-ALA member; \$5/ALA member; \$20/instit, 6x.
- TOP SECRET: Collectors' Newsletter. Special Collections, Univ. of Nevada Library, Reno, NV 89501. The extremists' bad and beautiful lit.
- UNABASHED LIBRARIAN. G.P.O. Box 2631, New York, NY 10001. \$10/yr, 4x Reader service nonpareil.
- WOMEN IN LIBRARIES: Newsletter Of The ALA/SRRT Task Force On Women. Kay Cassell, Bethlehem Terrace, H-181, Slingerlands, NY 12159. \$2/yr. indiv; \$5/instit., 6x.
- WOMEN LIBRARY WORKERS Newsletter. Helen Josephine, 555 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131. \$3/yr. indiv; \$5/instit., 6x.
- YOUNG ADULT ALTERNATIVE NEWSLETTER. 37167 Mission Blvd., Fremont, CA 94536. \$3/yr, 5x.



CALENDAR

- July 12 "Special Film Preview Session for Children and Librarians,"
R. I. Library Film Cooperative, Warwick Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
- July 13 "Sports," Young Adult Round Table, Mt. Pleasant Branch, Providence
Public Library, 315 Academy Ave., 9:30 a.m.
- August 5-13 Tritrack Media Instruction Institute, R.I. College, Registration
\$125. Contact AV Dept., Roger Frye, R.I. College, Providence, for
further information.
- August 8 "Life in the Slammer: Incarcerated Youth," Young Adult Round Table,
Warwick Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
- Sept. 29 "Have You Read IV: Current Titles," Young Adult Round Table,
Champlain Memorial Library, West Warwick, 9:30 a.m.
- Spt. 25-27 NELA Annual Conference, Sheraton-Sturbridge Inn, Sturbridge, Mass.
- November 14-15 RILA Annual Conference, Sheraton Islander, Newport, R.I.,
Starring Daniel Gore and Celeste West.



NEWS FROM RILA

In May RILA's Intellectual Freedom Committee with a good number of allies successfully stopped two badly written obscenity bills before the R.I. General Assembly, but not before one had passed the State Senate.

* * * * *

The RILA Executive Board has approved members of the RILA Nominating Committee under chairman John Bucci to select candidates for RILA offices in the coming autumn. Also the Executive Board has approved formation of a fourth RILA ad hoc committee, the R.I. Task Force for Public Library Service to children, under chairpersons Leslie Peltier and Sue Collins. See the January, 1977 Bulletin for their position paper. The other three ad hoc committees are focused on a state wide library borrower's card, coordination of RILA with other R.I. library groups, and improvement of the RILA legislative process. Judy Einhorn is the new chairwoman of RILA's Outreach Committee, succeeding Stephanie Kirkes.

* * * * *

By a vote of 7-2 the RILA Executive Board has turned down an RILA IFC resolution in support of Larry Flynt, publisher of Hustler magazine. Flynt had been convicted of obscenity charges in Hamilton, Ct., Oh. The majority of Board members felt a "laissez-faire" approach to intellectual freedom had allied librarianship to all sorts of dubious groups and publications, that while Flynt might not deserve jail for obscenity he did not specifically require RILA support either, and that support of Flynt was actually in conflict with the Library Bill of Rights exhortation to librarians to choose and promote materials for their values of interest and enlightenment to the community. That four members of the Intellectual Freedom Committee had never seen Hustler also caused the Board to hesitate. All voting Board members had seen it. The debate on the resolution was another interesting case of the tempering of the old purist "anything goes" intellectual freedom stance with a sense of social responsibility. See Zoia Horn's very interesting article on the subject in LJ 6/1/77.

* * * * *

RILA Conference Committee has just issued a well-thought "Worksheet" to be filled out by any committee planning to sponsor RILA Conference programs. The Executive Board largely through the work of Louise Sherby has approved guidelines for the conduct of Executive Board meetings. And after a study by David Green, Kathleen Gunning and Louise Sherby, the Executive Board has decided to ask the membership to abolish RILA's super-committees, the Administrative, Professional, and Public Affairs Committees, and to have all sub-committees designated as committees reporting directly to the RILA President. This proposal will be brought to the membership at the Fall Conference.

* * * * *

On July 15 RILA President Dan Bergen will resign his office to commence the study of law. His presidency has been distinguished by good temper, thorough organization, and a full awareness of thinking in the field nation-wide. He will be succeeded by the very able Ardis Holliday, Director of the Westerly Public Library. But we will miss his thorough gentle reasoned ways.

* * * * *

In the past spring RILA has sponsored three very interesting workshops, on commercial processing, on the rights of librarians, and on a state-wide borrowers' card. Before this issue becomes a book, let us promise you reports on those workshops in the July Bulletin. As always, there will be no August Bulletin.

* * * * *

IN MEMORIAM

- by Elizabeth Gallup Myer,
former Director, Department of State
Library Services

The death of Lucille Wickersham March 24th saddened her many friends, in and out of the library profession. She stood for standards, exemplified dedication in service, and, with true aplomb, met and solved many professional difficulties of our times, while facing health setbacks up to a final operation.

Although she came from the Midwest, she evoked a special appreciation from New England. The record shows many civic roles and contributions characterizing her years in Massachusetts, while Assistant Director of the Springfield City Library and then as Director of the Bay Path Junior College Library.

Rhode Island claims, however, a special relationship to Lucille, whose fruits are now being enjoyed by a new generation. She accompanied John Humphry into the State, in search of scattered data on the library situation, and assisted him in publication of LIBRARY COOPERATION; THE BROWN UNIVERSITY STUDY OF UNIVERSITY-SCHOOL-COMMUNITY LIBRARY COORDINATION IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND. (Brown University Press, 1963). This milestone of information provided the basis for the subsequent REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES of 1964, that resulted in immediate State Legislation; acknowledged to be the first modern library law in R.I., except for the rural library program, since WWI.

A personal note must here be inserted. The 1964 State legislation assigned to the supervisor of the rural library program responsibility for activating the new Department of State Library Services, which necessitated a State Plan, approved by the State Attorney General, and reaching Washington in June. Lucille came to the rescue, and Rhode Island became a participant in the dramatic, nationwide, library development that followed.

The R.I. Department of State Library Services fortunately had an opportunity to honor Lucille Wickersham, as well as former Governor Frank Licht, in observing its Tenth Anniversary Celebration June 30, 1974. She had served Rhode Island well and generously, in careful research and planning recommendations, and in initiating courses for the U.R.I. Graduate Library School, in adjoining States.

Quietly without fanfare, she gave so very much towards growth and improvement in library service.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1977

"SEX, VIOLENCE AND TV" - Leo N. Flanagan

Most librarians went to Detroit this year to talk about sex, how to provide sex education to young adults, how to avoid sexism in selection of library materials, why librarians should defend gay rights, why librarians should not defend the use of minors in porno films, and how women librarians can beat sex discrimination. Perhaps with all the talk some did more than talk. But that remains a matter of speculation depending on one's image of the contemporary librarian.

While talking about sex most librarians in Detroit appeared to fear violence. Early flyers on the Conference promised armies of security police, and they were there, on the street and in the buildings. Yet Detroit's horrible public relations image continued to overshadow the Conference, and many conferees lived in fear of riot, robbery, rape, mugging and fire bombing, though there were no actual reports of such.

Before departure from the Conference, most librarians heard that television technology, allied with telephone computers, data banks, microfiche, photocopiers, and networking, was the wave of the future. If they couldn't ride the wave, they could count on drowning.

I myself arose at 5:15 a.m. on June 18 to pack for Detroit, wondering over my instant Quaker oatmeal who I was, why I was going, and how it all would make the world safe for democracy, intellectual freedom, equal access, bilingual education, and contemporary capitalism. Without answers, but with high hopes, I groggily boarded Allegheny airlines, only to discover that Allegheny had replaced 3 more real items of air travel with plastic, powdered and packaged imitations of the real thing.

Arriving in Detroit, the Paris of Southern Michigan for the first time, I found it dirty, shabby, powerful and wealthy, no San Francisco to be sure, but then, not the 1945 bombed out Berlin I had expected. Hotels are impressive symbols of architectural and technological ingenuity. And the restaurants are many and excellent. An unusual amount of simple courtesy and friendliness, at least relative to New England, was a welcome blessing.

After registering at a hotel out in Dearborn (where ALA had placed me, because of insufficient space), I found the Gale Shuttle to the Conference at Cobo Hall in Detroit did not run between 10:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and public transportation took 2½ hours into Detroit. With important morning and evening meetings I ended taking the shuttle at 8:00 a.m. and not returning to the hotel till 11:00 p.m. These long days were the worst Conference feature.

At Cobo Hall Saturday I grabbed a conference program, and dashed off to hear Dr. Sol Gordon, author of A Sexual Guide for Youth and Parenting - a Guide for Young People. Gordon felt that librarians could use a sense of humor, and should fake it if they didn't have one, and if they couldn't fake it they should go into administration.

Speaking of administration, Saturday evening brought a fine workshop in communications skills which wouldn't have hurt some administrators.

Sunday morning I spent several hours visiting exhibits. And I found the Placement Service well organized, in good form, but with little content, that is few jobs.

Sunday afternoon Charles Arden of Visiondisc Corp. informed us that the U. S. literacy rate was rapidly dropping, and that librarians seemed unaware that the dominant medium had become television. Many children now spend more time at the tube than anything else except sleep. True, commercial TV is a failed dream after 30 years, and its contribution to culture and instruction has been as minimal as anyone might have imagined. Still it's the dominant reality for the American public, and libraries have an opportunity to use it in forms not yet spoiled like video tape and video disc. And if they will, they can decide to influence the content of the tape and disc.

Then in a Social Responsibilities Round Table Ethnic Materials Information Exchange, Geraldo Rivera, author of A Special Kind of Courage, warned against the ethnic egocentricity, sweeping ethnic movements, the belief that no one outside an ethnic group can understand its problems or be sympathetic to it. In the evening the Young Adult Services Division drafted a resolution against the use of children in pornography, whatever it might mean to intellectual freedom. At the same time SRRT proposed a resolution censuring the Intellectual Freedom Committee \$96000 film, "The Speaker" as hypothetical and peripheral to librarianship, and requesting removal of ALA's name from the film. A showing of the film and the SRRT resolution tore the conference in two. The film itself is at best stupid, simplistic, and insensitive. And it probably heralded the death of the purist stance of the IFC on intellectual freedom. Henceforth, librarians will be less likely to defend their neutrality as the best defense of intellectual freedom and will be more likely to responsibly promote active campaigns against social abuses like racism and sexism as the best defense of intellectual freedom of most people. Curiously, by the way, more and more lawyers are conferring on the writing of resolutions, since resolutions may conflict with civil rights, obscenity, copyright or a host of other laws.

In order to make a meaningful evaluation of public library service, new standards which are user-centered rather than institution-centered are needed. That was the message given to participants in PLA's annual membership meeting at Cobo Hall. The current standards for public libraries, written in 1966, are in need of revision and application has been made for funding the necessary research. If funded, it is expected that the standards will be finalized by 1985. Interim guidelines have been prepared to serve as a mission statement for public libraries in the future.

Monday Charles Rembar, author of The End of Obscenity, explained why the First Amendment is not absolute (some thinking as LJ article October 15, 1975, by LNF) but warned that "There is much more censorship outside of government than inside in all our communications media." Communications media presently push only the info

that sells what they're trying to sell or protects their sales markets. The implied responsibility of librarians here to promote alternative forms of information tied into a Reference and Adult Services Division meeting in which Zoia Horn opposed charging fees for information. The temptation is to sell only the information that will sell, and even that can not be bought by those who can't afford it. YASD drafted a resolution promoting Gay rights, and Council approved a resolution to keep ALA Conferences out of states that had not approved the ERA Amendment.

Monday evening Norman Issacs of the Columbia School of Journalism delivered the keynote address in ALA's "Issues and Answers" program, a day and a half look at the future of librarianship. Issacs said librarians are the worst communicators about what libraries have to offer, that they must offer more directed at societal problems, and if they don't the public will grow as disenchanted with them as it is with government. Tuesday, "Issues and Answers" continued with five papers on the future impact on libraries of technology (by OCLC's Fred Kilgour), of social change (by N.Y. Senator Major Owens, of economic change (by N. Y. Foundation Center's Thomas Buckram), of professionalism (by SUNY's Gerald Shields) and of public need for information (by UCLA's Fay Blake). All were well thought and very well delivered but a bit depressing, with Buckram for example predicting soaring costs for labor (personnel) intensive organizations, for institutions like libraries and rapidly falling costs for new communications technologies which will have to replace people. Shields found these technologies were already falling into the hands of "information owners" who are building their own kingdoms exclusive of libraries. Fay Blake concluded on an upbeat note, however, recommending better direct information provision for library patrons, and saying that "What most people don't need is a bibliography." All of these talks plus other significant ALA programs in this 96th Annual Conference will be on cassettes for purchase by next winter.

Each "Issues and Answers" talk was accompanied by a fine review summary of current literature on the subject. These literature review papers can be had by writing to ALA. I was personally pleased to see one of my articles in the general bibliography of the program. It was disheartening, however, to see three librarians (of six) at my discussion table fall asleep 10 minutes into the first "Issues and Answers" talk. If libraries have one insurmountable problem in the next 100 years, it will be sleeping librarians.

GALLIMAUFRY

Rob Maier, formerly of the Cranston Library and the RILA IFC, now director of the Bedford (Mass.) Library, married Barbara E. Burgess June 16. She is a member of the faculty of Endicott College.

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A bumper sticker reading "Some Librarians Are Novel Lovers" is available for 10¢ from Heffernan Supply Co., P. O. Box 5309, San Antonio, Texas 78201.

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Corrections on the approximate new R.I. legislative funding figures reported in the May Bulletin have been released by the Department of State Library Services. The allocations changes are as follows:

	<u>FY 78 allocation</u>	<u>Increase over 77 allocation</u>
Principal Public Library	\$ 273,366	\$ 50,000
Regional Library Centers		
Island	\$ 60,653	\$ 21,472
Northern	90,243	22,000
Western	65,773	22,000
South County	47,114	9,114
	<u>\$ 263,783</u>	<u>\$ 74,586</u>
Film Cooperative	\$ 30,000	\$ 5,000
College Libraries (P.C. and Bryant Additions)	\$ 40,000	\$ 15,000

* * * * *

Some questions for librarians: 1) why have radio stations assumed the function of maintaining community events calendars, and why are libraries not serving as advertised clearing houses for this information? 2) why don't libraries purchase prime time radio advertising to broadcast their regular services and special programs? Ten to twelve 30 second announcements per week, professionally composed, can run under \$1500 per ¼ year. And they're far more effective than handing out flyers or using the free 6:00 a.m. Sunday public service radio announcements.

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Kay Hearn, Regional Coordinator at the Westerly Public Library, has been appointed to the R.I. Committee for the Humanities. Librarians applying for grants will have an understanding person there.

* * * * *

The ALA's Committee on Accreditation has decided not to visit the Graduate Library School at URI before Fall 1978. Also at URI Professor Bernie Schlessinger of the University of North Carolina has been appointed new Dean of the Graduate Library School. Schlessinger, who carries a Ph.D. in chemistry and an M.L.S. from U.R.I., will be putting full effort into securing ALA reaccreditation for the School. Also at the URI GLS Current Studies in Librarianship has been published

under the editorship of D. C. Peck and L. B. Woods. Intended for semi-annual appearance, this journal contains the best of student scholarship in the past year. A very readable issue one, available free at the GLS, features articles on photocopying and copyright, on censorship, cable TV, library administration, NCLIS, intellectual freedom and social responsibility, and public relations.

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Recent DSLS workshops in the method of reference service, held in libraries around the state by Bee Lufkin and Frank Iacono, proved to be extremely enlightening.

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Cecilia Dulik has joined the URI Library Faculty as Cataloger/Bibliographer in Literature, Philosophy, and Religion. Her last position was as the Head of Bibliographic Searching at SUNY Binghamton.

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Judy Pontarelli is the new Staff Assistant in the Government Publications Department at Rhode Island College. Judy is working on her M.L.S. at Simmons College.

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Connie Cameron, Bryant College, and Kevin Carty, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, are co-editing the newsletter of the R.I. Chapter of S.L.A.

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A reception was held on May 12th to honor Kitty Schlenker, who is retiring as URI's Interlibrary Loan Librarian. The reception was well attended by many friends, colleagues, URI Faculty, and Rhode Island Librarians who came to express their appreciation for her nine years of service to R.I. and to wish her a happy retirement.

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URI Library recently honored Nadine Baer for 30 years of service as Serials Librarian and Andrew Turyn, Business and Economics Bibliographer, for 15 years of service.

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Myron and Stephanie Kirkes, northern regional coordinator and Cranston branch librarian respectively, have departed for greener pastures in North Carolina. Myron has been appointed director of the Haywood County Library in Waynesville, N.C. Stephanie has plans to work as a school librarian and is currently attending a one week institute on women in library management in Buffalo. Their kindness and concern is much missed in R.I.

* * * * *

The new president of the R.I. Educational Media Association is Richard Botelho of Barrington Junior High School. Officially he takes over July 1 but in fact is now acting president, succeeding Gene Paquin. Dick is reorganizing committees according to priorities in publication, certification and standards, public relations, legislation, continuing education, budget, programs, and conferences. James Wilson of E. Providence Senior High School is the new editor of RIEMA's Media News.

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R. I. Representative Fernand St. Germain is sponsoring a bill to fund conversion of former public school buildings to other public uses such as libraries. Interested librarians should contact Representative St. Germain or DSLS.

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F. Charles Taylor, director of the Providence Public Library since 1968, announced that he will resign effective July 1, 1978 in the face of the Library's grave financial problems. His resignation was accepted with regret by his trustees. It is reported that the Library is running a deficit of \$150000 in the current fiscal year. For several years the Library has been dipping into its \$6 million investment portfolio to meet such deficits. Radical reorganization appears a likelihood in the Library's future.

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Gerald McKenna, author of the most thorough survey of a library's public in R. I. history, has resigned at Pawtucket to become branch head at the Cumberland County Public Library in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

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Acting Dean of URI's Graduate Library School Nancy Potter deserves the highest praise for her service to the School in the past year. Taking over after the School's loss of accreditation, she most ably and graciously worked to restore faculty and student and alumni morale, evaluate the School's failures, and in many instances implement impressive solutions.

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The story of closings has spread around the country, though American library usage went up 8 percent last year during an increase in book circulation of 40 percent since 1968. The figures are from the American Library Association, but the challenge is to everybody. Most of the action has to remain on the local level, where rising library costs force tough decisions on budget-makers. And here the commitment to libraries will be a continuing test of community atmosphere, aspirations, and leadership.

Christian Science Monitor, April 1, 1977

Courtesy of Capt. Gene Henry, Newport Public Library

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The White House Conference on Libraries is almost certain for scheduling in four days of September 1979, with all state Governors' Conferences on Libraries to be completed by March 1979. If you wish to be involved with the R. I. Governor's Conference watch for upcoming DSLS directives. RILA's president Dan Bergen has said it will be important for its our first general R.I. library meeting in years to plan our future.

* * * * *

The new officers for the R.I. Chapter of the Special Library Association in 1977-78 are: President - Ann Hinnov, Allendale Insurance Co.; Pres.-elect - John H. Stanley, John Hay Library, Brown Univ.; Secretary - Louise S. Sherby, R.I.C.; and Treasurer - Carl Twombly, Keyes Associates Inc.

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On May 21 Mrs. Marie Andrea Mulligan, former librarian at Brown University, died after a 20 year battle against the crippling effects of polio.

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Bob Burford of the Johnston Public Library informs us that the two-story steel girder frame for the Narragansett Pier Free Library is being encased in its wooden frame.

Narragansett Pier Free Library chairman of trustees, William Kasius, is recovering from serious surgery at South County Hospital. Mr. Kasius was previously a long-term librarian at Kingston Village library.

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Searches for a regional coordinator at the Pawtucket Public Library and for a director at the Seekonk Public Library continue.

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And at the Providence Athenaeum Library work on the existing building is at long last in progress. A new roof has been installed thus eliminating the heavy leaks to which the Athenaeum has been subjected in recent years. The exterior granite and stucco has been cleaned with a chemical method approved by the Historic Preservation Commission. Repairs of cornices and exterior wood-work as well as painting are under way. Shortly the library will receive bids for the remaining part of the work on the existing building and for the new three-level construction which will be started this summer.



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Anne Shaw, Government Publications Librarian at URI, has just sent us word of a new way to find out what's for sale at the U. S. Government Printing Office. The GPO has recently made available to Depository Libraries their Publication Reference File (PRF) in fiche format. To date, this has been an internal tool for the staff at the GPO. The Publications Reference File is the listing of the 24,000 sales items available from the GPO. The arrangement is really good - one can locate the record via three methods:

1. "Alphabetical Sequence" - dictionary arrangement of all titles, series, key words and phrases, subjects and personal authors. For small libraries, it is a super tool for acquisition.
2. "SuDoc Classification Number Sequence" - excellent for agency searching.
3. "Stock Number Sequence" - identification number assigned when the publication is first printed. Best way to order government documents.

The fiche is in 48:1 reduction ratio format. It is readable using a 24x lens, but only for a short period of time.

To date, the PRF is only available to depository libraries, but a number of letters have been sent to the Superintendent of Documents to make this a sales item for libraries. I had occasion to meet Carl LaBarre, Superintendent of Documents, in Boulder recently, and he does have some extra copies of the fiche which he is willing to send out to libraries that request it (free). Since it is an invaluable tool, may I suggest that the librarians of Rhode Island who are not representing depository libraries, write to Carl LaBarre (GPO, Washington, D.C. 20401), requesting that they be placed on the mailing list for the Publications Reference File. It is a "super" way to access government documents.

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Energy-saving tip: read a book. All it expends is mental energy, the kind that increases through use. Yet access to libraries in the United States is being reduced at the very time their books and growing community services are more and more in demand. It comes home to us when not too far down the street the grand old Boston Public Library (with its grand new addition) has had to close its doors on Sundays. Outrageous.

On April 18 at the Pawtucket Public Library, the Library Board of Trustees, with no prior warning to the assistant director Lee Flanagan, voted on a recommendation from its new director Lawrence Eaton, to eliminate the position of assistant director as of July 1. The reasons given were the necessity of saving budget money (although the Library's budget is expected to increase about 10% in the coming fiscal year) and the necessity of eliminating an unnecessary position (although the assistant directorship had required a minimum of 55 hours work per week in prior Library administrations--with overtime uncompensated). This decision was made two weeks after the director's commendation of the assistant director for "monumental" efforts on behalf of the Library, and contrary to earlier assurances by the director that such would not happen. Then, the assistant director was assured by the director of subsequent appointment as Library coordinator of Community Services. Yet on June 23 the Board of Trustees voted to relieve Flanagan of this appointment as of August 1 on the grounds that it was only an acting coordinator's position and they wished to make a permanent appointment for the Library's upcoming 125th anniversary celebration. No other reasons have been presented by the Board. While there may have been violations of due process and the ALA's "Security of Employment" policy for librarians, with no union, no RILA Special Committee for Arbitration - Mediation - and Inquiry, and a very slow ALA SCAMI, no recourse remains except in law - if the assistant director wishes to establish a reputation as a "trouble maker" while searching for a new job. So it goes in the library world - quietly.

The board in its explanations, the director in his plans, the staff in its doubt, go quietly. Librarianship is, after all, a nice quiet profession, so long as one can be quiet enough to stay in it.

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QUOTABLE QUOTES

On unions, professionalism and librarians: it's difficult to be professional when you're unemployed.

- Joseph Peckham, former Brown Univ.
labor organizer, June 1977

It is no great thing making a sweatshop out of a library or any other institution. Keeping it that way indefinitely turns out to be impossible. Through some miscalculation the director pushes the staff to the panic level, and the revolt is on. "There is nothing more terrible than a revolt of sheep," Balzac said, and some library shepherds came to the realization of that vital truth only as they climb aboard the next plane for any where.

- Daniel Gore "Things Your Boss
Never Told You About Library Management,"

LJ, April 1, 1977 - must reading!

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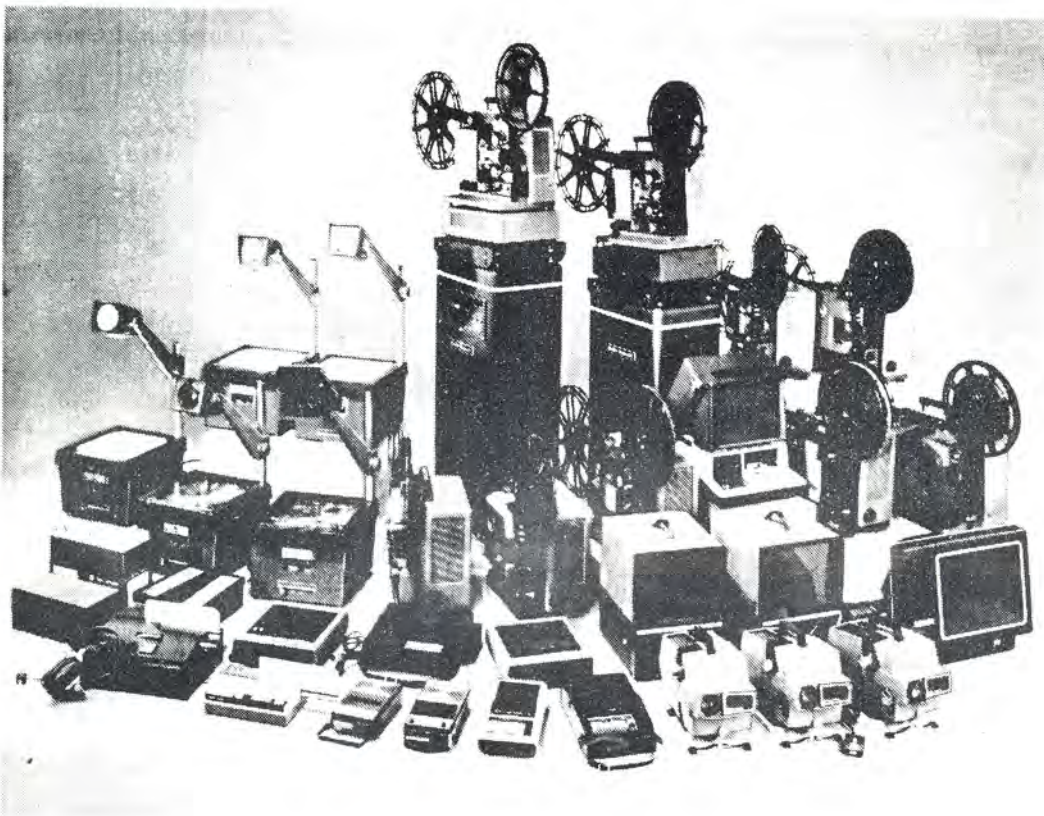
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