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Rhode Island Library Association

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10-1984

## Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 56, no. 13

RILA

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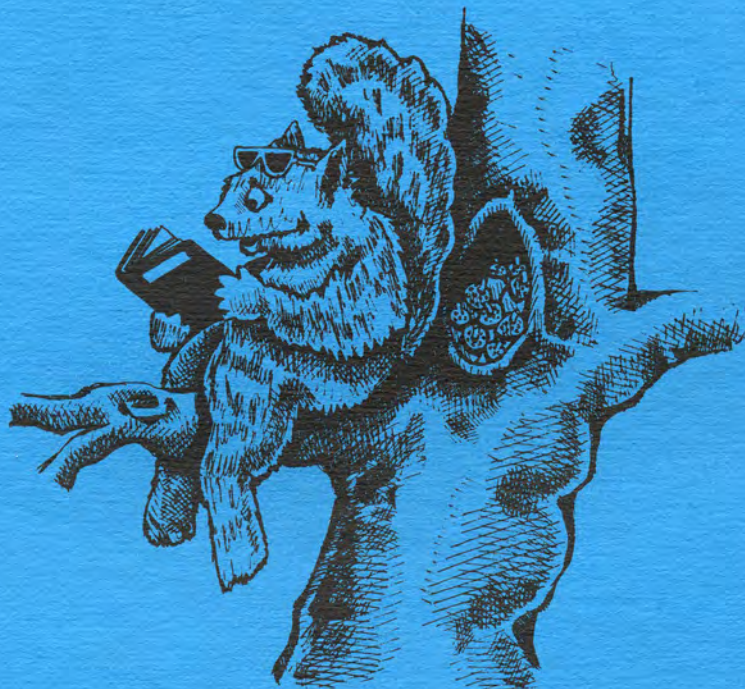
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# Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin



OCTOBER

1984

# RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

150 EMPIRE STREET

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Indexed in Current Awareness  
Library Literature

Z673R52

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## Editorial Notice:

The Bulletin is published ten times per year, with combined issues in May/June and July/August. News and articles should be submitted to the editor by the first day of each month for publication by the first of the following month.

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 and media matters will be considered for publication. All should be signed and should not exceed ten double spaced typed pages unless the editor is consulted. Cover art should be done in black and white and should measure 7½ inches wide by 6 inches high.

The Bulletin subscription rates are \$12.00 per year for agencies or individuals not holding membership in RILA (overseas postage is additional).

Advertising rates per issue are \$20 per 1/4 page; \$35 per 1/2 page; and \$50 per full page. Please call the advertising manager for additional information.

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RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
BULLETIN

VOLUME 56 NUMBER 13



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## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

If you have paid your RILA dues for this half year, July-December, 1984, you either have received recently, or will soon be receiving a ballot for this year's election of officers. Contained in this issue are the biographical sketches of the candidates. All are very capable individuals and choices may be hard for some to make. I would urge everyone to study the information provided and make an informed choice, taking into careful consideration the future direction you would like to see RILA take.

If you have not paid your dues for this half year, this is the last issue of the Bulletin you will receive. Hopefully, this won't happen to many. If it does, I do hope we'll see you back in the active membership come January, and then you will resume receiving the Bulletin each month.

Also contained in this issue is the preliminary program for the RILA Annual Conference to be held November 18-20, 1984, as well as registration forms for the Conference and for the hotel. A round of applause should go to the Conference Committee for their hard work - it looks like a promising program. Anyone able to attend only one day's activities may have a hard time deciding which day.

Karen Pirog brings interesting insight into the life of Melvil Dewey in her article titled "Dewey: An Uncommon Youth" in this issue.

I would like to remind people that there are still positions available on the Bulletin for those interested in volunteering to help bring the Bulletin to press each month. Still needed are a technical editor, someone to be responsible for the updating of the mailing cards and maintaining subscriptions, staff persons for the news and features editors, a good proofreader, and any other individuals who would like to get involved in this vital RILA activity. Let us hear from you!

Chris Chapman  
Editor





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## CANDIDATES FOR RILA OFFICES,

1984-85

### VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT



Robert A.E. Cairns

Present Position: Director of Library Services,  
East Providence Public Library

Immediate Past Position: Director, Barrington Public  
Library

Higher Education: B.A.-Stonehill College; M.L.S.-  
University of Rhode Island

RILA Activities: Chairman, Administrative Committee  
(1972-74); Chairman, Conference Committee (1973-75);  
Committee for Public Library Standards (1971-73 and  
1978-79); Executive Board (1972-75); Government Rela-  
tions Committee (1971-72 and 1982-83); Long Range  
Planning Committee (1973-75); Public Relations Com-  
mittee (1974-77); RILA Representative to 1979 Governor's  
Conference on Library and Information Services.

Other Professional Activities: ALA/PLA Membership Com-  
mittee; ALA/LAMA Comparative Library Organizations  
Committee; ALA/LAMA Staff Utilization & Economic Status Committee; Northern Inter-  
related Library System Advisory Council; DSLS Long Range Planning Committee, Chair.

Statement: The strength of RILA is with its members. RILA is in the enviable  
position of including in its membership the best of RI's public, academic, school,  
and special librarians. These people continue to contribute their time and effort  
to lead RILA in its "search for excellence." The diversity that exists within our  
library community has added to our strength and proximity to excellence. RILA has  
been effective in studying the needs of our libraries and taking action on many of  
them.

Our search for excellence must continue as we deal with emerging issues. A major  
thrust must be toward public awareness of all types of libraries in Rhode Island. If  
we are to enhance our image among legislators, local officials, and the citizens of  
RI, we must take an active role in educating them about what libraries are now and  
exactly who, as librarians, we are. The members of RILA are a force with considerable  
power and I welcome the challenge to move us further toward excellence in libraries.



VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT



Eileen D. Socha

Present Position: Director, George Hail Free Library, Warren

Immediate Past Position: Reference/Reader's Advisor, Providence Public Library

Higher Education: B.S.-St. Francis College, Biddeford, Maine; M.L.S.-University of Rhode Island

RILA Activities: Public Relations Committee

Other Professional Activities: ALA; AAUW; Citizens Advisory Committee on Cable Television; DSLS Five Year Long Range Planning Committee

Statement: Libraries have been and still are our greatest bargain. The library association advertises the good deals available at the various libraries throughout the State.

From the small town, to the larger cities; from elementary schools to institutions of higher learning; from state departments to private business the Rhode Island Library Association offers a common bond. The association affords a sharing of materials and a cooperative spirit allowing a sharing of ideas.

Libraries must continue to provide a great bargain and funding is a major issue facing the association. The previous success of legislative support needs to be maintained and strengthened in order for each library to reach its full potential.

The Rhode Island Library Association is a professional association that publicizes the wonderful world of libraries. This involves the education for each and every citizen to realize the benefits of the library.

Our society is becoming information oriented and libraries play a major role in providing the knowledge necessary to move forward. I see the Rhode Island Library Association as a major force in communicating and disseminating information to its membership and the public at large.





SECRETARY



Ellen P. Spilka

Present Position: Coordinator, Northern Interrelated Library System

Immediate Past Position: Director, Stevens Memorial Library, North Andover, Massachusetts

Higher Education: B.A.-Brown University; M.L.S.-University of Rhode Island

RILA Activities: RILA Personnel Committee, Pay Equity Subcommittee

Statement: Rhode Island librarians have a tremendous opportunity through RILA to become acquainted with one another and with one another's thinking on professional issues of concern to us all. Membership and participation in RILA is a two way street. Working with RILA educates us all and through RILA we have a chance to educate others about Rhode Island libraries.

RILA has grown in strength and effectiveness in recent years due to excellent leadership and energetic commitment to the ideal of the best possible library service for Rhode Island. I would be proud to contribute anything I can to an organization I respect, with people I respect.



Linda J. Walton

Present Position: Legislative Reference Librarian, Rhode Island State Library

Immediate Past Position: Reference Librarian, Indiana History, Indiana State Library

Higher Education: B.A.-Indiana University; M.L.S. - Indiana University

RILA Activities: Government Relations Committee; Editor - Legislative Newsletter

Other Professional Activities: American Library Association; Law Librarians of New England; National Conference of State Legislatures--Legislative Librarians Division; Special Libraries Association

Statement: A professional organization such as RILA allows its members an opportunity to express themselves in several ways. First of all, it offers

librarians a chance to exchange ideas at meetings, conferences, and social gatherings; support causes such as censorship; improve professionalism in terms of supporting pay equity, comparable worth, and standardization, and act on local, state, and national legislation.

Secondly, RILA gives librarians in the community an opportunity to get to know one another personally and to develop contacts within the state. RILA also encourages cooperative efforts among librarians. The Executive Board is designed to lend guidance and support in dealing with these issues as well as other concerns as they arise. As Secretary, I feel, it would be my responsibility to keep records, minutes, and correspondence so that the Board is organized and efficient. Moreover, as an officer of the Executive Board, I hope to be representative of the membership and to support the goals and objectives of RILA.

## TREASURER



Tish Brennen

Present Position: Reference Librarian-Assistant Professor, James P. Adams Library, Rhode Island College

Immediate Past Position: Music Reference Librarian, Research Division, Boston Public Library

Higher Education: A.B.-Brown University; M.L.S.-Columbia University

RILA Activities: Although I have lived in Rhode Island since 1971, I am new to the local library scene as of fall, 1983.

Other Professional Activities: ALA; ACRL; RASD; Music Library Association (MLA); MLA Administration Committee, 1984- ; MLA-New England Chapter; MLA Secretary/Treasurer.

Statement: The value of RILA is epitomized by the key words coordination and cooperation: among individual members for professional growth and development; among libraries

for mutual benefit and political advantage. RILA affords the opportunity for an individual's professional goals and ideals to become reality by the strength of coordinated collective action. Communication within the library community generates new ideas, creates fresh perspective on old issues, and motivates people to act in concert to achieve results. This is the essential value of any professional association.

Although the function of Treasurer, by definition, is primarily fiscal, it is my feeling that every member of the Executive Board should also assume ombudsman/advocate roles in fielding the questions and concerns of the membership and the larger library community.



Mary Ellen Hardiman

Present Position: Librarian, North Providence Union Free Library

Higher Education: M.L.S.-SUNY Genesco

RILA Activities: (recent) Budget and Finance Committee (1983-84); New Technologies Committee (1982-83); Executive Board Member at Large (1982-83).

Other Professional Activities: SACOL (1983-85); NELA; ALA; Northern Interrelated Library System Advisory Council, Secretary (1982-83)

Statement: The Rhode Island Library Association provides an opportunity for communication between area professionals. This organization offers librarians a valuable network for making contacts and sharing knowledge on both a formal and informal basis. RILA, at its best, serves as a forum where issues can be discussed, com-

promises achieved and coalitions forged, so that the Rhode Island library community can present a united front before legislative and administrative bodies.

In order to support its various activities and programs, the association requires a solid financial base. During the past two years, both the budget and the fiscal year have been restructured. Under the guidance of the Executive Board and a Finance Committee, a long range fiscal plan and improved budgetary process have been created. These changes have helped develop a more accurate and understandable operating budget and a fiscal year which now follows the correct time frame regarding income and expenditures. These innovations have also resulted in the implementation of some necessary fiscal constraints. As a former member of the Executive Board and a current member of the Finance Committee, I participated in many of the discussions and decisions which have shaped this present course. As Treasurer, I would like to continue this approach of fiscal responsibility and solid planning.

MEMBER AT LARGE



Joanne Costanza

Present Position: Cataloger/Bibliographer, University of Rhode Island Library

Higher Education: M.L.S.-University of Rhode Island

RILA Activities: Intellectual Freedom Committee; Personnel Committee

Other Professional Activities: ACRL-New England; Women Library Workers; NETSL; NELA; ALA

Statement: The purpose and value of a professional organization like RILA is to provide a forum for librarians to discuss issues, formulate policy, and educate each other and non-librarians. It is important for a representative group to take a stand and to take action in such areas as intellectual freedom and personnel administration (e.g. minimum salaries, due process, etc.) and sometimes to carry librarians'

concerns to the state through legislation. The purpose of a member at large is a general one that includes serving as an advocate for any RILA member or group of members without a specific affiliation and to represent the membership as a whole where possible. The role I would play would reflect my background and philosophy of feminism and social action.



Marguerite ("Maggie") Horn

Present Position: Head Serials Catalog Librarian, Brown University

Immediate Past Position: Serials Catalog Librarian, Brown University

Higher Education: B.A.-University of Massachusetts, Amherst; M.S in L.S.-University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

RILA Activities: Speaker, AACR2 mini-workshop, Annual Conference, 1979; Instructor, AACR2 workshops, Aug/Dec, 1981; Nominee, NELA Councilor, 1982; Softball Team, 1984; RI/JMRT: Charter member; Affiliate Council Rep. (1979-81), Secretary (1981-82), Newsletter editor (1981-), Membership chair (1983-).

Other Professional Activities: ALA (Inc. RTSD, ACRL, LITA); NELA, Educational Assistance Committee; National Librarians Association

Statement: I am somewhat reluctant to write a "statement of concern," since I question the value of such statements in selecting candidates. However, I do feel that RILA is the primary organization in the state for the exchange of ideas and concerns among disparate library communities -- public, academic, school and special. It is within RILA that we can discuss our differences and find our similarities. It is through RILA that we can bring our needs and concerns to the "non-library" communities -- legislators, patrons, faculty, students.

## NELA COUNCILOR



Judith Halliday Bell

Present Position: Technical Services Librarian, South Kingstown Public Library

Higher Education: B.A.-Southern Illinois University; M.L.S.-University of Rhode Island

RILA Activities: Government Relations Committee (1982-83)

Other Professional Activities: ALA; NELA

Statement: RILA, as a professional organization, seeks to expand the horizons, personal and professional, of its members. It helps us define and refine our goals for the benefit of ourselves and our libraries. RILA needs input to and from NELA to foster growth and development in libraries as we find our place in the new age of information that is upon us. NELA councilor is a special position. The person in it has the opportunity of interacting with other regional pro-

fessional organizations; to inform them of our activities and to bring back to Rhode Island the enthusiasm, vitality and innovations of our fellow toilers in the field of librarianship.



Kathleen H. Paroline

Present Position: Reader's Advisor/Reference Department, Providence Public Library

Immediate Past Position: Same as above

Higher Education: B.A.-University of Rhode Island; M.L.S.-University of Rhode Island

RILA Activities: Former Chair and member of Intellectual Freedom Committee and Conference Committee; past member of Government Relations Committee

Other Professional Activities: NELA; Junior Members Round Table (JMRT); Women in Libraries

Statement: The Rhode Island Library Association has no single mandate, nor does it represent a single group. Internally, it attempts to satisfy the often disparate professional and educational needs of a varied membership, often acting as mediator and interpreter.

Externally, it must present a unified voice to the greater world as it works to implement goals or defend standards of libraries in general. It is that ability to unite and harness the energy of the many groups within librarianship that gives it strength. The New England Library Association does this on a greater scale, and RILA's active participation is a necessary component in its successful functioning. As NELA councilor, I would strive to both present the larger aims of RILA and work towards a closer coordination of their divisions and state committees with our own.

## ALA COUNCILOR



Carol K. DiPrete

Present Position: Assistant Dean for Academic Services and Library, Roger Williams College

Immediate Past Position: Information Services Librarian, Cranston Public Library

Higher Education: B.A.-Oklahoma State University; M.S.-Oklahoma State University; M.L.S.-University of Maryland

RILA Activities: Interim ALA Chapter Councilor, 1984

Other Professional Activities: ALA; ACRL; NELA; ACRL-New England Chapter; CRIARL

Statement: RILA plays such an important role for the many varied constituents of the library community here in Rhode Island. Pursuing legislative support, promoting libraries through public relations, fostering professionalism, and establishing standards are a few of the important aspects I wish to see RILA continue and ex-

pand. ALA has the same concerns, but from a national perspective. We, here, need to express our support and concerns to ALA. As Chapter Councilor, I would try to represent the Rhode Island library community to the national organization. My goal would be to communicate in both directions - RILA concerns to ALA and vice versa. Since I got a taste of what ALA Council is all about at the Dallas conference, I feel I can now function better within the Council structure.



Lucille Sibulkin

Present Position: Assistant Professor, Cataloging, Rhode Island College Library

Higher Education: B.A.-Case-Western Reserve University; M.L.S.-University of Rhode Island

RILA Activities: Education Committee (1968-69); Committee to Rewrite the Constitution (1970-1971); Conference Committee (1978-1980)

Other Professional Activities: ALA, including ACRL and LRTS; NELA; NETSL; Chaired the NETSL Nominating Committee; Membership Committee, New England ACRL

Statement: I am a proud member of RILA because it is a viable organization marked by productive activity. I would work toward having participation of more of our members who do not have an MLS. I would encourage library workers who do not have academic degrees to join

and to become involved. Membership can be increased substantially if we reach out.

ALA is the oldest and largest library organization in the world. I would be privileged to represent RILA on the governing body of ALA, Council. If elected as a Councilor, I shall vote on Council amendments and proposals after reading them thoroughly, giving them careful consideration. Faithfully, I shall report ALA activities to the RILA Board, and to the membership through the RILA Bulletin.



RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM, November 18-20, 1984



Included in this issue is the registration form for this year's Conference, which will be held November 18-20, 1984, at the Sheraton-Islander, Newport.

Sunday, November 18, 1984 (2-4 p.m.) \$5.00 fee

Trustees' Program: Personnel Standards  
Speaker: Diane Disney, Disney Lightfoot Lee Ltd.

4 p.m. Opening of Exhibits, with a reception following at the Newport Public Library for Trustees and Exhibitors

Monday, November 19, 1984

8-9 a.m. Registration

9-11 a.m. and 1:30-4:30 p.m. Super Duper All-Day YA Program:  
Featuring New Films for Young Adults

9-11 a.m. Perspectives on Management  
Speaker: Susan DiMattia, Business Information Consultant

9-11 a.m. Serials Online

9-10:30 a.m. Movin' On Up: Finding and Selecting Your Next Job

10:30-11:15 a.m. Reception for New Members

11-12:30 p.m. Visit the Exhibits

12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30-3:30 p.m. Varieties of Conservatism: Do You Have a Balanced  
Collection?  
Speaker: Professor Francis S. Mancini, Legal-Political Studies Dept.,  
Roger Williams College

1:30-3:15 p.m. Have You Got Any Good Books? Readers' Advisory in the  
Public Library

1:30-3:00 p.m. Retrospective Conversion  
Speakers: A Panel of Vendor Representatives

3:30-4:30 p.m. Project 2000: Updating DSLS's 5 Year Long Range Plan

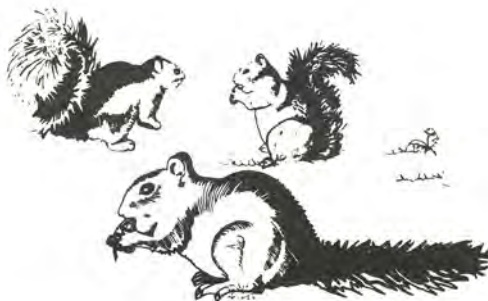
3:30-5:00 p.m. New Games: A Workshop Featuring Non-Competitive Games  
for Adults and Children

4:00-5:00 p.m. Stratis Haviaris  
Curator of Poetry, Harvard University

5:00-6:00 p.m. President's Program: Public Lending Right  
Speaker: Elizabeth Janeway, Author Activist

Tuesday, November 20, 1984

- 8:00 Registration
- 8:30-10:00 a.m. Business meeting
- 10:00-11:30 a.m. Ergonomics
- 10:00-11:30 a.m. Strategies for Getting What You're Worth
- 10:00-11:30 a.m. Influencing Public Policy  
Speakers: Mary Kilmarx, Public Utility Commissioner, former State Representative; Karen Davie, United Way VP for Government Relations
- 11:30-12:30 p.m. Low Cost/No Cost Talent Displays
- 11:30-12:30 p.m. Parallels: Library Development in Australia and the United States  
Speaker: John Mills, Visiting Librarian, Lecturer in Reference Work, Riverina College, Australia
- 12:30-2:00 p.m. Awards Lunch
- 2:00-3:30 p.m. Staff Communication: Lessons to be Learned from Private Corporations Recognized for Excellence
- 2:00-3:30 p.m. From Start to Finish: Putting Together a Bibliographic Instruction Presentation
- 2:00-4:00 p.m. Rhode Island Interrelated Library Network System: 20 Years Later  
Speakers: John A. Humphry, Executive Director of Forest Press; Jewel Drickamer, Director, DSLS (retired); Knight Edwards, Trustee, Providence Public Library; Kay K. Moore, Trustee, Greenville Public Library; Fay Zipkowitz, Director, DSLS
- 3:30-5:00 p.m. Franklin Printing House Tour
- 4:00-5:00 p.m. Science Fiction and Young Adults
- 3:30-5:00 p.m. The Rhode Island Disaster Recovery Plan: What it is and How It Works



RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 18, 19, & 20, 1984

Sheraton-Islander Inn, Newport, Rhode Island

Registration Form

(Pre-registration due by Monday, October 29, 1984)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ (for name tag)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Fees: Please circle appropriate days

Trustee Program      Sun.      \$5.00

RILA/RIEMA  
Members

Mon.      \$10.00      (Registration at the conference \$12/day)

Tues.      \$10.00

Non-Members

Mon.      \$25.00

Tues.      \$25.00

Luncheons

Mon.      \$6.00      Soup and Chef's Salad

Tues.      \$6.00      Soup and Stuffed Tomatoes      Vegetarian?      yes/no

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Limited Registration (30)

Franklin Printing House Tour

Tuesday 3:30 p.m. (2 tours)

Are you willing to provide car-pool transportation?      yes/no

Make checks payable to RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 18, 19, & 20, 1984

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(401) 849-2600

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve:

\_\_\_\_\_ Single Room - 1 person \$60.00 plus tax

\_\_\_\_\_ Double Room - 2 persons \$65.00 plus tax

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

No. of persons \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- Reservations must be received by October 29, 1984
- Room reservations not held after 6 p.m. unless secured with a one-night deposit
- Check-in time: 3 p.m.
- Check-out time: 12 Noon
- There is a 72 hour cancellation policy
- Make check payable to Sheraton-Islander Inn

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Newport, Rhode Island 02840



## DEWEY: An Uncommon Youth by Karen Pirog

*(Ed. note: As we plunge more and more rapidly into an automated future, it is sometimes important to take a look back "from whence we came." Karen Pirog helps us to better understand our "roots" with the following historical piece on Melvil Dewey. It might help us to understand better our fast approaching future. M.Vocino)*

Melvil Dewey had many idiosyncrasies which appeared first in his early childhood. Even at the tender age of twelve, one could see the makings of a strong personality, with ideas of his own and a drive to accomplish many of his goals. Although he worked constantly towards the standardization of things for efficiency, such as spelling reform, metric system adoption, decimal classification, and shop inventories, his unique personality refused to be standardized. To understand the man, one must become acquainted with his youth. This biography describes Dewey's childhood and leads up to his invention, the Decimal Classification.

Melvil Dewey was born December 10, 1861, in Adam's Center, New York. He was the youngest of five children born of Joel and Eliza Green. His ancestors were mainly undistinguished, honest, thrifty, hard-working farmers. Melvil's maternal grandmother, for example, walked two hundred miles into the wilderness of northern New York, carrying one child and leading another when she was only seventeen (2:3). Young Melvil must have taken after his grandmother, for when he was about twelve, he walked eleven miles to Watertown to buy a Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. He had longed to possess this book, and had worked hard for several years by running errands, shovelling coal and making shoes, to raise the money.

Dewey had a love for systems and classifications since childhood. He enjoyed inventorying his mother's pantry and unbeknown to her, rearranging it for efficiency (4:666). He also took it upon himself to take several inventories of his father's country store. After making a thorough analysis, he was able to prove that it was inefficient and unprofitable. Believing it deserved to be closed, he actively pursued that goal:

"From 13 to 16, I spent much tym in father's store...When there were customers, I waited on them, but most of the tym I had for reading, studi and digging into father's books to find out the real results of the bizness. I had studid bookkeeping in skool and tryd to improve store methods. I finalli made a complete inventori, to get rid of the ges work and my figures wer convincing that the store was a los rather than a gain, so I devoted my enerjji for months to persuading father that it ought to be sold. It had grown into his life so that it was veri hard for him to giv up, but by going back and foth between him and J. Titsworth, a man who had some muni and wanted some bizness I got almost a consent and on the

strength of that clozd the deal with Titsworth and at last got father clear of what had been a serious burden with no profit. Befor I sold the store, I took father's long lether rol in which he kept the promissori notes due him. There wer 155 of them and 133 wer outlawd and I dout if he ever collected the other 22 (2:25)."

Here at work is a self-assured young man, gifted in the art of persuasion. Even though his father built his way of life around the unprofitable small-time store, his son was nevertheless able to convince him of the truth of his criticism. The store was closed. The boy already was developing a style of persevering when adamantly sure of the validity of a position, which was to prove him good stead in his more adult years.

Melvil did not take it upon himself just to do unrequested inventories of others' belongings. He was totally consumed with the desire to order what he could in life, which included his own belongings and, extraordinarily enough, his own physical growth. This becomes clear in the following interesting entry of his diary on his fifteenth birthday:

"I have been weighing and measuring myself this afternoon and find that I weigh one hundred twenty-five pounds and am five feet and a fourth inches in height. In looking over my small stock of worldly goods, I find that I have fifty dollars worth of clothing, fifty dollars worth of books and twenty-five dollars worth of miscellaneous traps, so I am worth the delightfully small sum of one hundred twenty-five dollars (2:11-12)."

This proved to be so fruitful for him, that he continued in this vein for his next ten birthdays. Melvil literally was carrying out the commonly used phrase "taking inventory of oneself."

At sixteen, Dewey proceeded to apply a type of "monetary inventory" on the waste of tobacco, as he was a firm anti-smoking and prohibition advocate at the time:

"First, chewing:- Never having used the filthy poison myself... will take the case of a victim with whom I am acquainted..... This man uses from year to year, one 10¢ plug of filth, every two days. He now has used tobacco about fifty years. Suppose he placed the amount of his annual tobacco bill at 7% interest and continued to add his tobacco money, to this amount with its interest, at the expiration of fifty years...he has saved the modest sum of \$7,397.25 (2:33)."

Melvil did not become vocal against tobacco until he had done extensive research on the tobacco plant and its effect on the body. He apparently used the money angle in hopes of persuading those who weren't worried about the health end of it. Never is any mention made of Melvil in connection to loving money or being a miser. On the contrary, he would often pay for things he felt would be a contribution to a good cause, as when he purchased fifty spelling books for his Bernhard Bay students. His last point for not smoking was his belief that it led to another evil for the body, drinking:

"When I 1st began meddling with the store, I got father in a corner and made him repeat his strong position that Bill... across the street who sold whisky, altho he didn't drink it himself was a bad citizen...I said if likor and tobako are both wrong & ... is a sinner for selling likor, yu hav no ryt to sel tobako & cigars in yur store as yu hav for so many years & I am going to clean out the whole store. I went to the other store & told them if they wd take our stok off our hands at cost, we wd never sel tobaco agen & they cd hav the entyr bizness. They did so & father didn't veto my hy-handed proceeding, so that put us morally ryt (2:127)."

There was no stopping this lad when he clung to the righteousness of an idea. More than likely the tobacco sales at his father's store helped it remain financially afloat for years. It may be his move to drop the sale of tobacco that eventually led to the demise of the business.

Some might say that a person who would allow his own father's store to fail would have no room in his heart for people. Selections of his diary however, lay those doubts to rest. By the age of seventeen, Melvil had found enough time to become a third grade teacher. Once a teacher, he spent just as much energy seeking to instill an active pursuit of knowledge in his little charges as he had earlier in taking inventories. Apparently he gave his all to any cause he felt was good. His zeal was repaid to him twofold at the end of the school year at Bernhard Bay:

"After urging them all to be chieftains and giving them my reasons, we all kneeled and closed with a heartfelt prayer. I was unable to control my feelings & so I was a child with them and we devoted a half hour to a good cry. I havn't been so much affected at parting before in all my short life. One little girl, Emma Cook, kept near me when school was out, and I saw she wanted to kiss me goodbye so I stooped down and I kissed her. This was what the rest were waiting for & we had a time of kissing.

Some of my boys, 14 years of age came with tears rolling down their cheeks and kissed me and tho it seems almost foolish I returned their marks of affection from a full heart... I must muse no more over these past scenes. Life is too active and earnest (2:23)."

Melvil's repeated diary entries on the earnestness of life probably stems from his parents' constant reminders not to waste anything. Such advice seemed so important to him that he also applied their concept to time: "Mani can make muni, but no one can make tym (2:144)."

Melvil did manage to find time during his busy youth to write. The following is an excerpt of an article he wrote concerning New Year's Eve for the Hungerford Collegiate Institute. It reveals a sentimental, zealous and ideal young seventeen year old:

"There is no better time for meditation on the past, than the night before New Year's, ... How many and varied are the scenes that crowd upon the mind 'for there's many and many a picture that hangs on Memory's wall.' For every hour improved, there comes a pang, when we think that another year is passing into eternity with so little accomplished for good (2:37)."

Melvil really expected much from himself. He was a young man who earnestly tried to improve the ways of the world or anything for that matter he felt needed improvement. He wrote two compositions at the age of eighteen concerning improvement. The first such composition was entitled "Improvement." Part of it is as follows:

"There is a set of old fogies, who are continually croaking 'let well enough alone'... Today - our homes would be cabins of logs... (2:41)."

There seems to be a touch of the modern day's concept of the generation gap functioning here. The other topic in which Melvil at eighteen and for the remainder of his days would write about and actively advocate, was for the United States to switch to the metric system of weights and measures:

"You would better appreciate the advantages of the decimal notation, if you will recall some of the unit of the American scale, as -  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  ... These tables with the almost unending maze of fractions are a continual source of vexation and waste of time from the earliest school experience of childhood... To master all this in the metric system, you have to learn one number and eleven words, an exceedingly easy half hour's task (2:43)."

Not being able to convince enough people to work towards the adoption of the metric system in the United States was one of Melvil's very disappointing realizations later in life. He was really quite prophetic in stressing how the interdependence of the world called for, and eventually, by necessity, would cause America to switch to, the metric system. His belief finally came to fruition in 1974.

This same concept of efficiency underlies his desire for spelling reform. He was a non-conformist in spelling, for he felt that the letters of a word should indicate the sound, and the sound should indicate its spelling. He was so convinced of the efficiency of this concept, that he developed a new spelling system which he called "breeves." An "n" for example would replace an "ing." His interest in spelling reform began in his Alfred days, and grew at Amherst College, where he matriculated from 1870-1876.

Upon entering Amherst College, Melvil mentioned that he would choose the courses that would give him the greatest ability to do good. By 1872 he was selected assistant librarian, and quite happily at that:

"I propose to take extra pains to post my self on this subject as a very important branch of my main labors, as it seems to me I can exert a very great influence for good in this way. I shall certainly like this work. (2:48)."

As was the case when Melvil was younger, the more purpose he saw in any cause, the more of himself he would invest. This was most certainly the case in his dealings with libraries. He probably first began at the Amherst library due to lack of funds, since he was putting himself through college. Once there, he immediately started up a whirlwind of letters to leading libraries and educators, as well as personally visiting New England and New York libraries from 1872-1874.

He was shocked at the lack of efficiency and waste of time and money inherent in Amherst library's "fixed-location" system of cataloging. Here was the great inventory-taker faced with what he perceived to be a grossly inept and inefficient system of book classification. What an organizational challenge lay before him. This was exactly the type of task on which he thrived.

A system in which books were arranged by the floor, aisle, section, and shelf on which they were placed necessitated renumbering from scratch whenever a room became so overcrowded that books had to be moved to another room. Melvil must have cringed at the realization of the double waste of time involved here, first in renumbering and secondly in trying to locate the item for a patron.

It didn't take him long to decide on the merits of a system in which like books would be placed together and arranged by the classes to which they would always belong, and then to mark them in relation to each other. Deciding on the right notation to ensure easy storage and retrieval of materials was much more difficult:

"For months I dreamed night and day that there must be somewhere a satisfactory solution... The first essential of the solution must be the greatest possible simplicity. The proverb said 'simple as 1, 2, 3.' After months of study, one Sunday during a long sermon by Pres. Stearns, while I lookt stedfastly at him without hearing a word, my mind absorbed in the vital problem, the solution flasht over me so that I jumpt in my seat and came very near shouting 'Eureka!' It was to get absolut simplicity by using the simplest known symbols, the arabic numerals as decimals with the ordinary signficance of nought, to number a classification of all human knowledge in print (9:28)."

Thus, after much contemplation, the Dewey Decimal System was born.

Melvil Dewey as a young man was committed to causes and dedicated his energies to them to the nth degree. A serious, yet emotional young man, he was extremely hardworking, a resourceful yet opinionated person, who often artfully could persuade others to his way of thinking.

Some sources describe him as a sometimes cold, tactless person. Others stress his profile as that of a genius. Anna Elliott stated that Dewey has been described as a "rampaging prohibitionist, a segregationist, a revolutionary, and a Christian bigot...(4:666)." Although there is some truth to these statements, they seem to be quite strong, allowing little room for human error. Just as Dewey was a complex individual and often revealed contradictory elements in his personality, just so varied are the opinions of the many sources about his life and accomplishments. When selections of his diary are read, however, there is a greater tendency to see him in a more favorable light, for his sensivity to life shows through time and time again. Whatever people may want to believe about him, it certainly holds true that library science was greatly affected by this man even in his youth.

---

Karen Pirog is a GLS student at URI

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# ★ PEOPLE IN THE NEWS ★

--Judith B. Barnett, Technical Services Librarian at the Pell Marine Science Library, is author of an article entitled "Marine Science Libraries: A State of the Art Report" in the July, 1984, issue of Special Libraries.

--Katherine M. Gates has recently been appointed Children's Librarian at the Rochambeau Branch of the Providence Public Library. Ms. Gates received her M.L.S. from the State University of New York at Albany. She received a B.A. in government at St. Lawrence University. She has worked as a library assistant at the Johnstown Public Library in Johnstown, New York, and as an intern at Bethlehem Public Library, Delmar, New York.

--David M. Turkalo has been appointed Reference Librarian in the Business Industry and Science Department of the Providence Public Library. He holds an M.L.S. from the University of Rhode Island and a B.S. in business administration from South-eastern Massachusetts University. Recently he served as library assistant in circulation and reference at the Taunton Public Library.

The Cranston Library Board of Trustees recently awarded the title of Auburn Librarian Emerita to ISABEL S. WALLACE who recently retired as Auburn Branch librarian. The Board also appointed JOHN FOX CORY Volunteer Coordinator for the Cranston Public Library.

--Mary Ann Golda has resigned as Warwick Public Library's Assistant Director to accept a position as Legislative Reference Librarian at the Rhode Island State Library.

--Carol Ciallella has been appointed Director of the East Hampton (MA) Public Library. She leaves her position as evening reference librarian at the Fritzsche Library at Johnson & Wales Hospitality Center in Cranston.

Three new professional librarians joined the staff of the Phillips Memorial Library at Providence College this summer. The New Acquisitions Librarian is NORMAN DESMARAIS who comes to Providence from Baltimore where he was Technical Services Librarian at the Community College of Baltimore. Prior to that he was head of ordering and cataloging at Catholic University and Library Director at St. Mary's Seminary and University. New part-time reference librarians are KAREN GAGNON and MALINDA CARPENTER. Karen is also working at the Community College of Rhode Island. Malinda has extensive law library experience in universities in the Washington DC area.

--Patricia LaRose has accepted the position of Reference and Technical Services Librarian at Coventry Public Library.

--Marion Therrien has been promoted to Regional Technician for the Western System Office, replacing MARY RUSH who retired as of August 1.

--Diane Albaugh has joined the staff of Roger Williams College Library as Coordinator of Circulation.

--Catherine Hull has been appointed Director of the Clark Memorial Library in Carolina, RI. She has worked in the Langworthy Library in Hope Valley, at the Clark Memorial Library when it was in Shannock, and most recently in the URI Library while completing her M.L.S.

--Marilyn Gross, formerly Catalog Librarian at the Providence Public Library, and typist for the RILA Bulletin, has accepted the position as Information Specialist at Dynatrend Incorporated, in Cambridge, Mass.

--Carolyn Schneider, Development/PR Librarian at the Providence Public Library, is now working as Public Relations Director for the Greater Boston YMCA.

--Debbie Sears, formerly Reference Librarian in the Business, Industry and Science Department at PPL, has moved to Tallahassee, Florida with her husband, and has accepted a position in the State Library of Florida.

--Dick Desroches has accepted a position at the University of Lowell (MA). He was Data Processing Librarian at the Providence Public Library.

**LEAMOS**

ME ENCANTAN LOS FINALES FELICES.

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**Snoopy READ poster now available in Spanish**

"Me encantan los finales felices" (I love happy endings), beams Charles Schulz's Snoopy, on a Spanish READ poster now available from the American Library Association.

The poster may be ordered for \$3.00 plus \$1.00 postage and handling—the same price as the English version. Write: Public Information Office, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Orders under \$15.00 must be prepaid.

# BULLETIN BOARD

**LECTURE:** The 1984 James Russell Wiggins Lecture in the History of the Book in American Culture is entitled "American Printing: The Search for Self-Sufficiency." The lecture will be given at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester at 5 p.m. October 31.

**SEARS CATALOGS:** Providence Public Library recently received a complete set of Sears catalogs on microfilm from the Sears Roebuck Company. In accepting the gift from Providence Sears store manager Daniel P. Bierman, Director of PPL Annalee M. Bundy expressed the importance of the catalogs as a permanent record of changing American lifestyles. A watch catalog published in 1888 is the earliest in the collection. The microfilm set also includes every general catalog published from 1894 through 1984. To keep the microfilm sets up to date, Sears will have each new general catalog photographed as it is published and will furnish a copy to the library. PPL is one of several public and university libraries Sears selected throughout the nation to receive the microfilm sets of catalogs.

**GRANTS TO ATTEND CONFERENCES:** The 3M/JMRT Professional Development Grant is sponsored by 3M's Safety and Security Systems Division and helps finance attendance at the ALA Annual Conference. The Shirley Olafson Memorial Award is sponsored by the ALA Junior Members Round Table and offers annual awards of \$100. each for ALA member to attend their second ALA Annual Conference. Both have a November 15 application deadline. Contact Dominique Coulombe, Catalog Department, Rockefeller Library, Brown University, for application forms.

**COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANUAL:** The 1984 revision of the Brown University Collection Development Policy Manual has been completed. The manual states the goals and objectives of each academic department and serves as a guide for selection and acquisitions decisions. Individual policy statements describe the instructional and research support requirements for the forty-five academic disciplines and twenty-eight Programs and Centers on campus. They define the language, geographical and chronological specifications, and the collecting levels (minimum, basic, study, research, comprehensive) by which prospective acquisitions are evaluated. The collecting levels are those defined by the American Library Association. Copies of the printed document are available for sale at a cost of \$20.

**ELDERHOSTEL:** All public libraries should now be receiving Elderhostel catalogs and information packets three times per year. These materials are being distributed jointly by the American Library Association and the national Elderhostel office in Boston. If you have not received the packet, the materials are available from the regional office, 15 Garrison Avenue, Durham, NH 03824-3560. (603)862-2055.

**CENTENNIAL:** The Pontiac Free Library in Warwick celebrated its 100th anniversary on September 23.

**LIBRARY MOVE:** Ann Dickson, librarian at the New England Institute of Technology, has announced that the College will be moving its library from Providence to the Warwick campus this fall. The first floor of the former DeFelice Realty Office next to the campus on Post Road will house the library.

**DEDICATION:** The long-awaited addition to the North Scituate Public Library was recently dedicated.

**GRANT:** The Baker & Taylor Grassroots grant is awarded to a deserving library school student who is also a member of RI/JMRT to attend the Rhode Island Library Association Conference in November. Deadline for applications is October 3. For information contact Lisa Laine, Serials Department, Sciences Library, Brown University.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION:** Simmons College has announced its fall 1984 schedule of Library Institutes for Continuing Education. "Oral History/Folklife and Libraries" will be offered on Saturday mornings, October 27, November 3 and November 10. "Automated Records Management" is scheduled on Saturday, November 10. For more information, contact Dr. Ching-Chih Chen, at Simmons (617) 738-2224 or 2225.

**CALDECOTT CALENDAR:** The Caldecott Calendar Committee will be offering the 1985 Caldecott Calendar at the RILA Annual Conference to be held in Newport on November 18, 19, and 20. The calendar features twelve illustrations from Caldecott Medal and Honor books. At the end there is a complete listing of all the Caldecott Medal and Honor books since the award began in 1938. The calendar sells for \$6.95 and may be purchased with cash or with a check made payable to RILA. All proceeds will go to RILA.

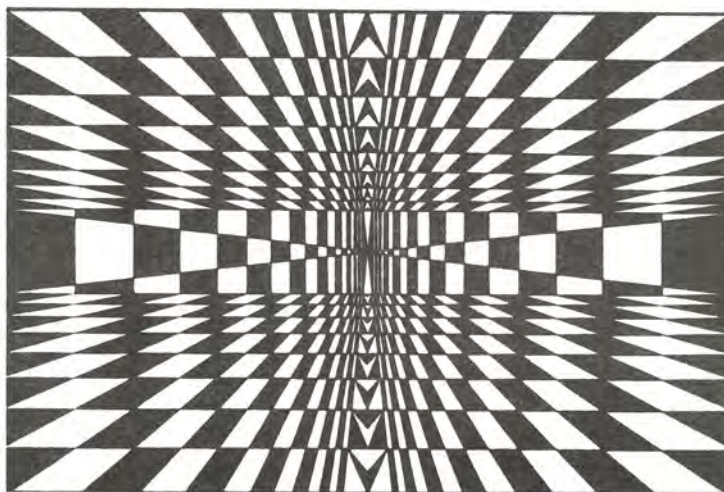


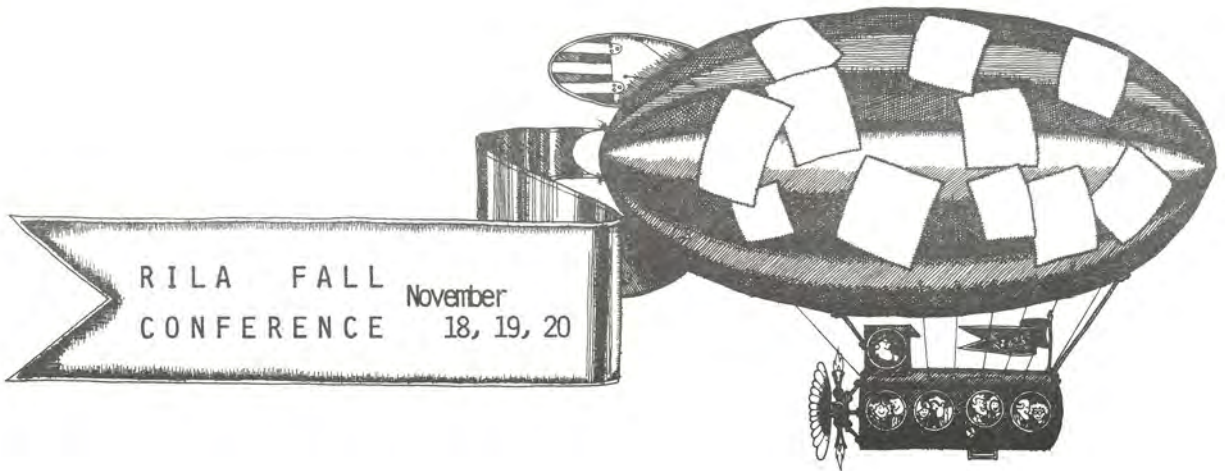
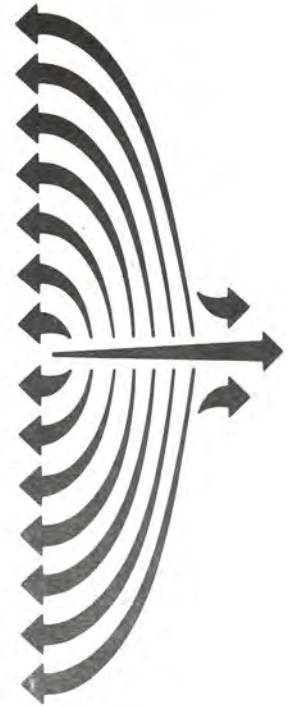
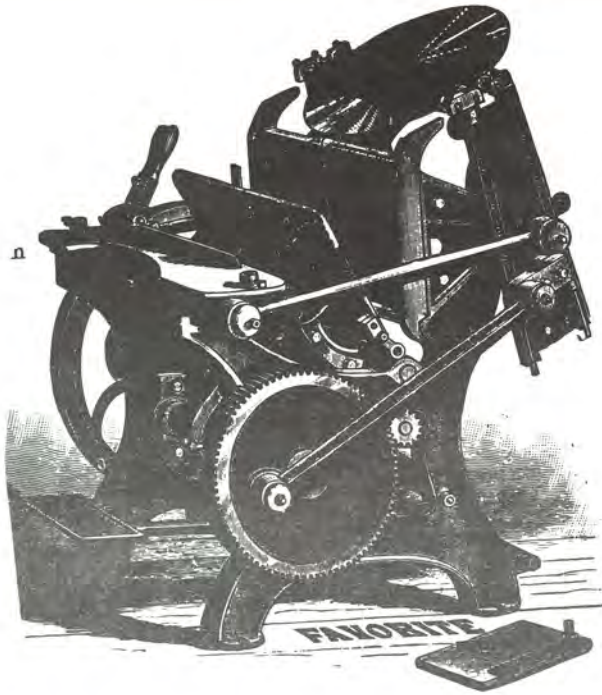
# J O B L I N E

**LIBRARIAN:** Children's Services, Narragansett Pier Free Library. Creative, energetic individual to manage children's department. Storytelling skills essential with a strong commitment to programming and public service. Requirements: MLS degree from ALA accredited library school. Appointment range: \$14,000 - \$14,500, based on experience. Application deadline: October 20, 1984. Letter and resume to: Barbara Mirabelli, Director, Narragansett Pier Free Library, Kingstown Road, Narragansett, RI 02882.

**SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST:** Woonsocket Public School System. Must be certified as Teacher of Library Science by the Rhode Island Department of Education. Salary: \$40.00 per day. Application available from: Louis R. Leveille, Coordinator of Media Services, 108 High Street, Woonsocket, Rhode Island, 02895 (401) 762-4440.

**HEAD OF LIBRARY SERVICES:** Librarian IV. Dynamic individual to work with division heads to achieve library goals. Will be responsible for new automated circulation system, adult publicity, programming and outreach. Will coordinate selection and weeding of materials. Oversee grant solicitation activities. Knowledge of new technology and good communication skills are important. Accredited MLS plus experience, preferably some in supervision. Salary range: \$18,816 - \$24,933. Send resume and references to G. Matthew Sperber, Director, Winchester Public Library, 80 Washington St., Winchester, MA 01890.







# Calendar

- |                     |                                       |   |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| October 1-2, 1984   | Event:<br>Place:                      | NELA Annual Conference<br>Sturbridge, Mass  |
| October 1, 1984     | Event:<br>Time:<br>Place:<br>Contact: | Cooperative Juvenile Book Review<br>9:30 a.m.<br>Providence Public Library<br>150 Empire St., Providence<br>Melody Brown      |
| October 10, 1984    | Event:                                | R.I. Library Film Cooperative<br>Preview Session  |
| October 12-13, 1984 | Event:<br>Place:<br>Contact:          | COLA Conference: "Libraries in the<br>Future of Education"<br>Gaige Hall<br>Rhode Island College<br>Richard Olsen<br>456-8052 |
| October 15, 1984    | Event:<br>Time:<br>Place:<br>Contact: | Cooperative Juvenile Book Review<br>9:00 a.m.<br>Kingston Free Library<br>Melody Brown  |
| October 22, 1984    | Event:<br>Time:<br>Place:<br>Contact: | Cooperative Juvenile Book Review<br>9:00 a.m.<br>Cranston Public Library<br>Melody Brown                                      |
| October 29, 1984    | Event:<br>Time:<br>Place:<br>Contact: | ILL System & Electronic Mail Evalua-<br>tion Meeting<br>9:30 a.m.<br>DSLS Meeting Room<br>Dorothy Frechette                   |
| October 29, 1984    | Event:<br>Time:<br>Place:<br>Contact: | Cooperative Juvenile Book Review<br>9:30 a.m.<br>Providence Public Library<br>Melody Brown                                    |
| October 30, 1984    | Event:<br>Time:                       | RILA Executive Board Meeting<br>2:00-5:00 p.m.  |
| October 31, 1984    | Event:<br>Time:<br>Place:<br>Contact: | Young Adult Round Table: Teen Suicide<br>2:45 p.m. coffee; 3:00 p.m. meeting<br>Moses Brown School<br>Peggy Shea, DSLS        |

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