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Robert Munn

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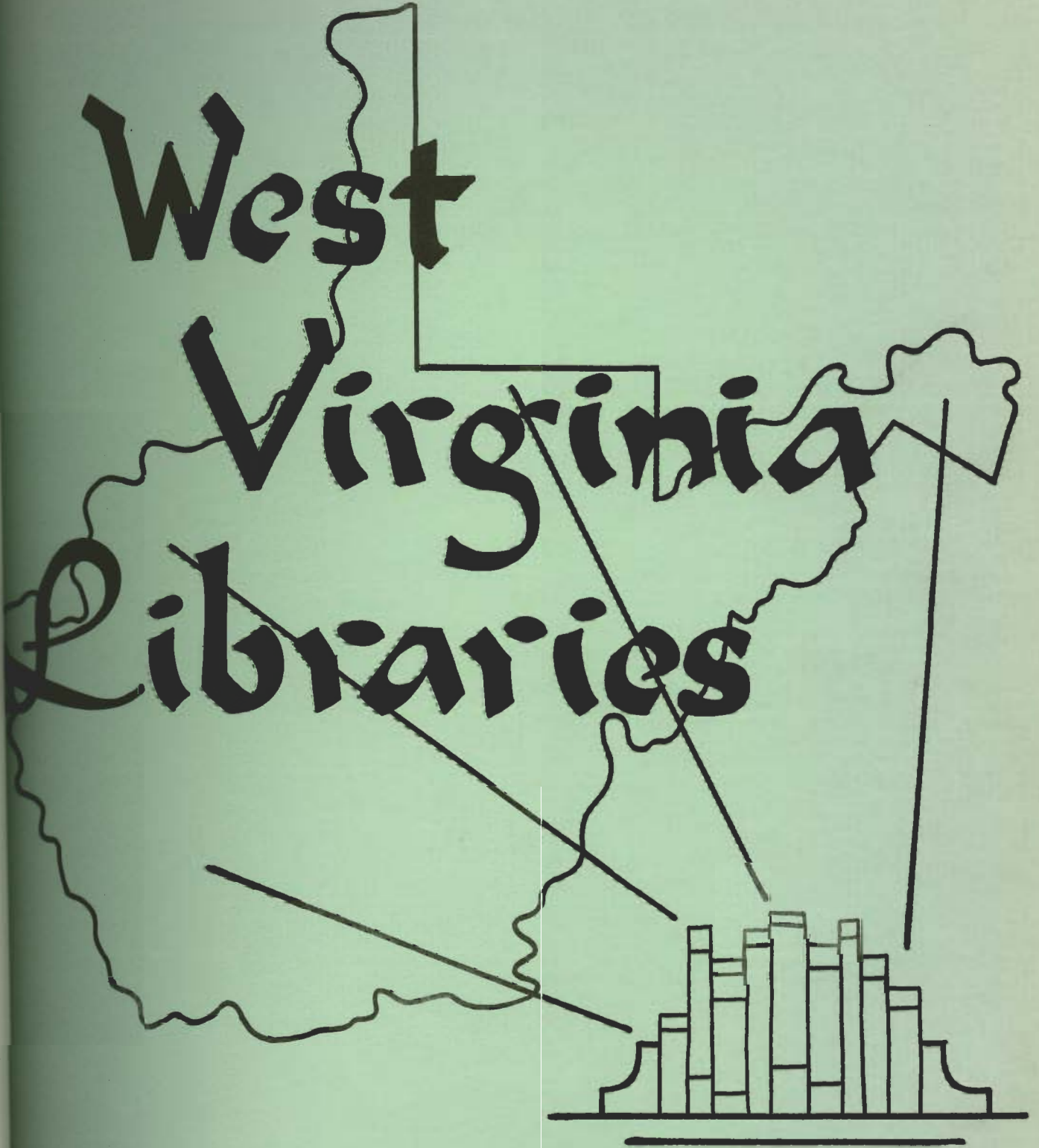
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WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

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WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES is the official organ of the West Virginia Library Association. It is published quarterly. Contributions and other Communications should be addressed to the Editor or to the appropriate Editorial Assistant. Subscription is included with the membership dues. Annual subscription is one dollar to non-members.

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THE SCHOOL LIBRARY STANDARDS IN WEST VIRGINIA

by

Rosalie R. Baker

Implementation of the new Standards for School Library Programs in all secondary schools in West Virginia has become the major objective of West Virginia School librarians.

Following the meeting of the School Library Section, West Virginia Library Association, at the Association's annual convention at Huntington, October, 1959, a request and plan for a Pilot Program was submitted to the American Association of School Librarians. This Pilot Program was approved at the Montreal Convention of the American Library Association, June, 1960. Meanwhile a status study of school library service in all secondary school libraries in West Virginia was made by the West Virginia Library Association in cooperation with the School Library Section of the West Virginia Education Association and the West Virginia Library Commission.

An important part of the Pilot Program was the appearance of a school library resource person to talk on implementing school library standards at the annual meeting of the School Library Section of the West Virginia Education Association at the annual meeting, October 14, 1960 at Charleston, West Virginia. Miss Carolyn Whitenack, Associate Professor of Education, Purdue University--a dynamic speaker--was our resource person.

In her speech, Miss Whitenack outlined ways in which school librarians could improve their services. "No longer should the library be in just one place in the school; the library is in

many places with many services." She also pointed to the diversity of modern library services with its use of audio-visual aids, teaching machines, and other educational tools. In closing, Miss Whitenack urged all librarians to be "informed non-conformists."

Attending this meeting were eighty-seven school, college and public librarians; the Assistant State Superintendent of Secondary Schools; several county superintendents and secondary principals; the President of the West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers; and a representative from the press.

An unexpected dividend was received. Max Lerner, featured speaker for the opening general session of the West Virginia Education Association Convention with 8,300 teachers in attendance, failed to arrive and Miss Whitenack was substituted.

We have seen several immediate results to our Pilot Program and of Miss Whitenack's speech to the teachers. The most important one has been the request for a workshop for school librarians to discuss ways of implementing the standards in West Virginia.

The resulting conference was held at Cedar Lakes, near Ripley, West Virginia, on April 7-8, 1961. More than fifty school librarians met under the able leadership of Miss Olive Lewis, Chairman, School Library Section, West Virginia Education Association and Second Vice-President, West Virginia Library Association, and with Miss Helen Robinson, Assistant Professor of Library Science, Ball State Teachers College, Muncie, Indiana, as the resource person.

Second, plans were initiated to hold several meetings of school librarians in various sections of the state prior to the

four West Virginia Education Association Regional Meetings in October, 1961. Speakers for these sectional meetings will be chosen from the membership of the Joint West Virginia Library Association-West Virginia Education Association School Library Standards Committee. Programs on standards also were developed for the school library group meetings at the four West Virginia Education Association Regional Meetings.

Third, the Chairman of the School Library Standards Committee has been asked for an article relative to the school library program for publication in the September issue of the West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers Magazine, which goes out to more than 3,000 families in our State. The Standards Committee, tentatively, has been invited to be represented at the Program Planning Session of the West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers in July.

Fourth, a workshop for school librarians, principals, administrators and members of the State Department of Education, as well as interested lay persons, is being planned by the Library School of West Virginia University on July 21-22, 1961. The subject chosen for this workshop is "How Can We Implement These Standards In This Area?"

We feel that the most important initial need in implementing school library standards in West Virginia is the establishment of the position of State School Library Supervisor in the State Department of Education. As a beginning, the West Virginia Library Association and the School Library Section of the West Virginia Education Association have joined together and have planned a program which has as its goal the creation of this position

by the 1963 State Legislature. A request for assistance in the program is being made to the School Library Development Project.

With the expected help from the West Virginia Education Association and the West Virginia Library Association and the possible grant from the School Library Development Project, the State Implementation Chairman and the School Library Standards Committee are planning a workshop in February, 1962 to which the representatives from each of the major state wide educational, professional, civic and honorary organizations, as well as state governmental agencies, will be invited. For this workshop we hope to have Miss Mae Graham, Supervisor of School and Childrens Libraries, Maryland State Department of Education.

This workshop will, we hope, result in securing pledges of support and assistance from the appropriate state-wide organizations in establishing the position of State School Library Supervisor. We also hope that the workshop will arouse much interest throughout the State, significantly increase the knowledge of the school library program and bring about an immediate improvement in local school library conditions.

Last, we hope for a wider distribution of the results of the survey of the secondary school libraries of West Virginia, completed in June, 1960. One article, relative to the survey, has been published in the West Virginia School Journal for April, 1961, with others to follow and an article or articles will appear in West Virginia Libraries, the official publication of the West Virginia Library Association. However, a major goal is the publication of the survey for a much wider distribution.

With this record and with the detailed plans for the im-

mediate future, West Virginia Librarians are continuing to work for the:

- (1) continued improvement of the school library programs in all secondary schools
- (2) improvement of in-service training
- (3) establishment of an accredited library school
- (4) continuation of efforts to secure a State Library Supervisor for West Virginia School Libraries.

* * * * *

MISS DYE RETIRES

Miss Helois Dye, employed for the past 40 years by the Wood County Board of Education, retired at the end of the 1961 school year. During the last 20 years, Miss Dye had served as elementary school library supervisor.

Wood County's school library program has been outstanding in West Virginia, featuring the State's only elementary school library supervisor, and also the State's only secondary school library supervisor.

Miss Dye is a graduate of Marshall, and of the Columbia University School of Library Service, with additional college credits from Duke and the University of California.

Although officially retired, Miss Dye will continue to be active in Parkersburg projects for children. This summer she has been employed by the Junior League to supervise a reading club at the Carnegie Library. In the fall she will teach afternoon sessions at the Fort Neal kindergarten.

Mrs. Carolyn Bender, who has had experience as a teacher-librarian in the Wood County elementary schools, has been designated to become elementary school library supervisor this fall. Mrs. Bender is at Ohio University this summer, and is setting up the University's first laboratory school elementary library.

W.V.E.A. School Librarians Association
W.V.L.A. School Library Section
NEWSLETTER No. III

June, 1961

Dear School Librarians and Friends of School Librarians:

We're including this newsletter in WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES (and might continue to do so) since we want everyone to read Rosalie Baker's report as ALA State Implementation of Standards representative; this report covers all the activity and work done towards implementation of the new ALA School Library Standards in West Virginia during the past year. Don't you think we've accomplished quite a lot?

SCHOOL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE--Rosalie Baker and I were most happy to represent West Virginia at the School Library Development Conference held April 28-30 in Chicago. Here are a few ideas I'd like to pass on to you:

"Blow Your Own Horn" - Leadership in our area of librarianship has been taken by other groups rather than by ourselves. A school librarian is a special teacher, but we have become so much a part of daily activity that we forget we are; talk about your role with your co-workers; report any particularly successful or new activity you try to library or educational periodicals and to other librarians.

"Know what a school library is and what it is to do!" The library is a teaching instrument. The new standards certainly outline a good school library program.

"Librarian must be an expert in the field of human relations." When all else fails, keep your sense of humor.

If we are to push standards, we must do everything we can to improve our present facilities and services. We must show we are interested in up-grading ourselves, our facilities and our services if we want cooperation from others.

ASSISTANCE FROM PTA--A representative of the Implementation Committee will appear before the delegates to the Leadership Training School of the West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers on July 30 at Jackson's Mill. So contact the PTA in your community and offer your assistance in helping them plan a library project.

SUPPORT OF WVFWC EXPECTED--Women's Clubs of the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs have done much in the support of libraries. I have contacted Mrs. Samuel Pancake, Libraries

Division Chairman, seeking the cooperation of clubs in West Virginia in educating their members about the present status of school libraries and the new standards. (The GFWC was one of the cooperating organizations in preparing the standards.) Offer your services to your local club--don't wait for them to call you.

SOME HINTS--When you talk about the standards, refer to them as goals. Emphasize the quality of the school library program that will result from achieving the quantitative standards. Talk every time you get an opportunity and don't be afraid to create some of these "opportunities" yourself.

ATTEND THE WVU WORKSHOP--The Department of Library Science, West Virginia University is conducting a workshop for school librarians on July 21-22; a part of the program will be devoted to the standards. If you did not receive information concerning it, write to Miss Florence Reese for additional information.

* * * * *

My summer address is 61 West High Street, Salem; Rosalie Baker's is 1 Key Street, Elkins; Olive Lewis' is 1703 Latrobe Street, Parkersburg. Need us?

Sincerely,

(Miss) Betty Jane Wade
Chairman, WVEA-WVLA School
Library Standards Committee

PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

BUCKHANNON

The special excess levy for the support of the Charles W. Gibson Library was passed for the fifth time on June 6, 1961. The three-year levy of one mill was passed in 1946, and has been favorably revoted every three years since that time.

CLARKSBURG

The Clarksburg Public Library has recently received several books in the field of education, presented in memory of county teachers and principals who have died within the past ten years. The donors are the Classroom Teachers' Association and the Harrison County Education Association. Materials on consumer credit have also been presented to the Library by the Credit Granters Association of Clarksburg.

FAIRMONT

The Junior League of Fairmont will present a series of Wednesday morning story hours at the Marion County Library throughout the summer months. The story-teller will be Miss Helen Patricia Deveny, who has studied story telling and radio and has been an instructor in creative drama at Fairmont State College.

MARTINSBURG

Mrs. Anna Shewbridge, librarian for the Harpers Ferry High School, will be an assistant in the Martinsburg Public Library this Summer. The Martinsburg Public Library Commission is now searching for a

library school graduate who can serve as a full or part time librarian in the Fall. Mrs. Elsa Williams had held such a position in Martinsburg, but has resigned to accompany her husband to England, and then to a new position in Indiana.

MORGANTOWN

The old-book sale conducted by the Friends of the Library netted \$318, which will be added to the fund for a projected new library building.

MOUNDSVILLE

Construction of the new \$165,000 City-County Library building has been stopped for several weeks by strikes within the construction unions in the Ohio Valley. It is now felt that the building cannot be completed and occupied before Christmas 1961.

SPENCER

The Roane County Library, and the headquarters for the Alpha Regional Library, have recently been moved into new quarters in Spencer. The building is much larger and has been redecorated through generous contributions of local library friends. Open house was held May 4, 1961.

WEIRTON

The 1961 summer reading program at the Mary H. Weir Public Library "will stress quality of reading, and the enjoyment the youngsters can get out of good books." An apple tree theme will be used. Children participating in the program are to give oral summaries of books read, be-

tween 11 a.m. and noon on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays at the Library.

WELCH

In the special election on June 6th, 604 voted for the continuance of a special levy, and only 9 voted against it. The special levy will provide \$3,600 per year for three years for the McDowell County Public Library. The levy will also provide summer playground services, and continued street improvement, as the total annual in-

come from the levy will be about \$23,000. The Library receives additional appropriations from the County and from the Board of Education.

WHEELING

The Ohio County Public Library has formally opened its new Elm Grove Branch Library. Twelve businessmen of the Elm Grove area each donated a month's rent for the new and enlarged ground floor library on National Road. The Library is air conditioned.

OBSERVATIONS ON RECRUITING

By

Charles D. Patterson, Librarian
Glennville State College

The need for librarians is acute at all levels, and the dearth of professionally trained librarians in West Virginia is typical of many states. School, public, college, and special libraries all suffer from lack of adequate help. Charles M. Armstrong, author and statistician, writes that New York State alone now has a deficit of 374 librarians annually. This means that a state which has three of the accredited library schools in the United States produces only about half as many librarians as it needs each year.

With increased emphasis upon research and publication, and as old theories fall before the new, the stream of library materials has become unimaginable and nearly incalculable. For example, the number of pages appearing in Chemical Abstracts for 1951 is only a fraction of what now appears, and it is highly unlikely that it will decrease. Technical and scientific journals now number in the thousands. Even with the aid of such unbelievably efficient innovations as the electronic literature searcher located at Western Reserve University Center for Documentation and Communication Research, the processing and control of material is becoming extremely difficult.

It has long been known that as readers and library users, Americans fall behind other countries of the world. William L. Shirer has said that as a nation we are on the verge of a slide

into illiteracy but, he continues, "the nation's libraries are doing a splendid job of combatting this slide." However strong his statement appears to be, this question is ever present: who will man these libraries if we fail to insure an adequate flow of qualified young people into library service? Certainly we cannot rely entirely upon electronic mechanization.

Librarianship can offer rewarding positions in many areas--reference work, cataloging, children's libraries, readers' advisory and book mobile service and executive positions, plus a host of additional positions that require special knowledge in the area of science and the humanities. Seasoned librarians who enjoy their work might wonder why recruiting is necessary at all.

There has been an abundance of writing on recruitment, as examination of Library Literature reveals, because the need for more librarians is critical. The June 15, 1945, issue of the Library Journal carries an article entitled "Eighteen Thousand Librarians Wanted." A more recent figure is ten thousand. Although this lower figure indicates that some progress in recruitment has been made, the need for continuing effort is imperative.

Let us consider for a moment just why it is that we must recruit. Why are young people not attracted to librarianship? Why is it that from time to time we hear the librarian apologize for his profession--"I am just a librarian." Why is it that we hear the exuberant child exclaim, "Mother, I'm going to be a nurse," or "Dad, I want to be a lawyer," but rarely do we find the youngster who wants to be a librarian and sets about the business of becoming one. We librarians and teachers are responsible for promoting librarianship as a career. Somehow the image of the function of

the librarian has gotten out of focus. Each day we must live the profession we practice; we are professionals not only during those hours we are in the library. We must demonstrate the rewards of librarianship in a favorable way so that the child will associate a pleasant experience with the library visit, so that by our service the spark of interest will perhaps kindle his desire to become a librarian. To many persons the work of the librarian consists of little more than dispensing books across the counter and maintaining circulation statistics. It is true that each library has its routine clerical functions which must continue for efficient operation; however, this clerical conception of librarianship will not attract people to the profession. As librarians we can do much more to remove the unfavorable opinion that many people have of our work. (It should be pointed out that all fault does not lie with the librarian. Many of the inadequate facilities in high schools which necessitate a combination library-study hall offer little incentive to the librarian, to say nothing of to the children it serves.) Improvement of standards for both college and school libraries will do much to enhance the quality of library service throughout the State and at the same time elevate the position of the library as a socio-educational agency. New friends are made each day as the West Virginia Library Commission plan for rural library development moves forward, and more and more persons are discovering the need for books in their lives. Such activities promote the library "idea."

In addition to passively selling librarianship through example, we can more actively advertise by taking every opportunity to encourage promising individuals to consider librarianship as a

career. These might include the student in the high school, the student assistant in the school library, the "non-professional" in the public library, and the undecided college sophomore.

Each year several cities in West Virginia, with support of business and professional organizations, stage a "Career Day" for the benefit of junior and senior high-school students. Librarianship should be represented here along with the vast number of other occupations that entice the young boy and girl in this jet-propelled age. We librarians, fortified with practical information, should be prepared to take an active part in the "Career Day" program.

We turn naturally to the student population for help in this dilemma. However, if we are to get even a small percentage of the available potential, we are going to have to make librarianship more attractive, more appealing. We must do a better job of selling in order to encourage the better student to consider becoming a librarian. The competition for the quality student is keen. The student with a flair for science should not be discouraged from following his chosen field, but he should be made aware of the possibility of a dual career. Various subject fields are mutually attracted: the lawyer-librarian, the musician-librarian, the historian-librarian, and others.

Just as in any other profession, formal education must be paid for. Tuition is high. Recognizing this problem, many library schools have initiated work-study programs whereby the recipient of an assistantship is allowed to work in various departments of the university library in exchange for his stipend. For several years the University of Florida has offered assistantships to li-

brary-school graduates who are interested in pursuing work toward an advanced degree in a field other than librarianship. California, Louisiana, and North Carolina each have scholarship programs that pay tuition fees, for the qualified applicant, at any accredited library school of his choice in the country. The recipient accepts a scholarship with the understanding that he will return and work in his benefactor state for a specified period of time. Perhaps if we do enough talking we can convince some civic groups of the shortage of librarians so that an organization will establish a scholarship fund especially for the young person who wants to be a librarian. (Much of this has been done for the young scientist, and this fact should not be deplored. However, the scientist will be using a research library one day, and the chemist who has also had library training will be of great assistance to him).

Not long ago a questionnaire was sent to those West Virginia colleges and universities offering a program in library science. It is discouraging to note that June, 1961, saw only twenty-two young people completing a field in library science. Of these twenty-two who have been trained to be school librarians, one cannot be sure just how many will actually work in school libraries. Perhaps an accredited library school in West Virginia would help to alleviate our shortage of librarians and also to serve as incentive for some librarians to do graduate work. However, even were such a school to be organized, an attractive salary schedule would have to be adopted by governing boards. As is true in every teaching area and at every level of education in West Virginia, low salaries might force graduates of an accredited library school to seek positions in other states. Once they leave the Mountain

State, they are usually irrevocably lost.

Recruiting is the business of each one of us for we are the only ones who can solve the librarian-shortage problem. Let us look about for the prospective librarian and see what we can do about bringing him into the fold.