

RURAL LIBRARY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

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TOMORROW'S RURAL LIBRARY

From July 18 - 22, on exhibit at the World Future Society's Fourth General Assembly will be a model of a future rural library. This display sponsored by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) will be located at the Sheraton Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C. The model rural library will bring together, "...the equipment and appropriate data bases to illustrate what rural information centers of the future might be like."

In announcing the Conference, the Futurist, December 1981 stated "while it is quite clear that computer and telecommunication technologies make it feasible to share local resources and bring already developed national information and educational resources to rural areas, it is imperative to know what kinds of information are wanted or needed."

To help identify these wants and needs NCLIS in addition to and in conjunction with the exhibit will coordinate joint congressional hearings on the Information Needs of Rural America - Roles of Library and Information Technology. The hearings will be held in the morning of July 21st. Witnesses before Congress will address from a rural perspective

the community and individual needs; the potential answer to these needs, and strategies to meet the identified needs.

The exhibit and the congressional hearing are the results of a letter written last summer by Dr. Toni Carbo Bearman, Executive Director of NCLIS. In her letter to the Program Coordinator of the World Future Society, she wrote that the Commission was interested in "sponsoring and coordinating a session at your Fourth General Assembly on the general topic of rural public libraries as community information and learning centers". She also emphasized the significance of the computer and telecommunications to the future of rural communications.

When Bearman's proposal was accepted, Gerald J. Sophar, NCLIS'S Administrator for Federal/Local Community Information Program was appointed chair of the Planning Committee. Thus for more information about the exhibit and the Congressional hearing contact:

Gerald J. Sophar, National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
1717 K. Street N. W., Suite 601
Washington, D. C. 20036
(202) 653-6252

COUNTRY FOLKS

"JANICE ALLEN"

The L. Marion Mosher ASA Wynkoop Award for Distinguished Librarianship is awarded annually by the Public Libraries Section of the New York Library Association. This award is given to honor a community librarian who has given distinguished service for a minimum of five years in a community of 7500 or less. A professional degree is not necessary to qualify. Nominees will be judged on such merits as personal and professional growth, quality of library services provided, and initiation and extension of services to the unserved. The award carries a certificate of merit and an honorarium of \$250 to facilitate attendance at the New York Library Association Conference where the award will be pre-

sented.

The 1981 recipient was Janice Allen, who has served since 1971 as the librarian at Paine Memorial Free Library in Willsboro. Mrs. Allen serves in the unique capacity as the librarian both for the public library and for the public school next door. She increased the scope of the library to both the year around residents and the inflated summer population. Support for the library comes from revenue-sharing funds, some reimbursement from the school, a special grant, and a part-time CETA employee who assists in all the special library programs. From a New York Lib. ssoc. Press Release.

"TOM HENNEN"

The May, 1982 American libraries column "Library Life" features Tom Hennen's appearance on the television show "Country Day". The television program is aired on 43 stations from Missouri to Wyoming. Hennen, Director of the Watonwan County Library in St. James, Minn. has established himself as one of the leading practitioners of library service to

the farming community. In addition to his local programming and collection development of farming materials, Hennen has given numerous talks and programs at the State and National levels on serving the farmer. He has published a bibliography the Seeds of Power and currently writes a quarterly column on farm materials for Booklist.

"JUDITH J. SENKEVITCH"

Mrs. Senkevitch, Project Coordinator, Finger Lakes Library System, 314 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca, New York, 14850 is asking American Libraries readers (May 1982) for information on very small rural libraries that have or are using A Planning Process for Public

Libraries. Finger Lakes System is beginning a project to assist their member libraries to implement the project. American Libraries is asking that responses be sent to Action Exchange, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60611.

"BERNARD VAVREK"

Vavrek, a professor in the School of Library Science at Clarion State College and coordinator of the Center for the Study of Rural Librarianship is fast becoming one of rural libraries' most visible spokespersons. In April 1982 American Libraries ran his article, "Profession Needs New Entry Level" in

the magazine's "On My Mind Column" His thoughts on the "Future of Rural Libraries" are in the Oct/Nov 1981 issue of Show-Me-Libraries, a publication of the Missouri State Library. He also was cited in the April 12 LJ/SLJ Hotline and the May 15 Library Journal in regard to Clarion State's study on reference services in communities under 25,000 pop.

RURAL CONCERNS OF WHCOA

Delegates at the White House Conference on Aging which convened in Washington, D. C. November 30 - December 3, 1981 devoted a good deal of deliberation to strengthening the lives of rural elders. Rural concerns (including those for rural libraries) were components of many of the final six hundred and sixty-four recommendations accepted by the Conference from the constituent committees.

Although all recommendations have not been thoroughly analyzed for rural life content these specifically set forth the trend of the delegates deliberations.

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES:....urge the National Institute of Education to begin focusing attention on older people. (393)to implement requires only a personal decision to not relegate one's self to the sidelines, or "rocking chair." Extensive reading helps to keep minds alert, movement among varied community agencies keeps the body active, maintaining broad human contacts keeps the spirit humane and understanding as it relates to others. (395).....because the importance of coordinated comprehensive information and referral for each community is essential to all accessibility efforts for older Americans, the 1981 WHCOA goes on record in support of an effective, coordinated national leadership effort to devise techniques for....comprehensive I & R services. (400)a title equivalent to the Library Services Act Title IV for services to older Americans (authorized under LSCA following the 1971 WHCOA but never funded) should be included in whatever national library legislation replaces LSCA after 1981. (424)

.....in the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act a title be included for encouragement and facilitation of networking resources and services through diverse outlets....(424)

.....In the reauthorization of the Adult Education Act a special title be added to provide services and programs to the elderly, and all titles now authorized for their use should be funded.....(424)

High on the list should be job training and retraining programs, vocational rehabilitation programs, work related pre-retirement training programs, skills and knowledge training...Attention should be given to both formal and informal learning opportunities and conducted by both paid and volunteer teachers....(424)

The final recommendation, immediately above, came through as the strongest concern of the Education and Training group of the Conference. Having served in the same section in the 1971 WHCOA, I (Henry Drennan) noted the insistence with interest. It marked, in 1981 a departure from previous educational statements.

Adapted from Henry Drennan's - "Rural Concerns of WHCOA" March, 1982 UNPUBL.

Editor's Note:

Prior to the White House Conference on Aging, a series of Mini Conferences on Rural Aging were held under the guidance of Green Thumb. A 26 page report entitled, Rural America : Coming of Age, describes the mini conferences and their recommendations. For a copy of the report contact: Green Thumb, Inc., 1012 14th Street N. W., Washington, D. C. 20005

RLS COMMITTEE UPDATE

"1982 ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The program, Research and Reality--Library Service to Rural Populations, is scheduled for Saturday, July 10, 1982, 2-4 PM.

Speakers Include:

Lisa de Gruyter, Director of Blue Grass Regional Library Center, Columbia, TN, on "Patterns of Rural Library Use."

John W. Head, Assoc., Professor, School of Library Media and Info. Science, Clarion State College, Clarion, PA, on "Reference Survey of Rural Libraries."

Terry L. Weech, Associate Professor, Grad School of Library and Info Science, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, on "The Research Context and Rural Library Service."

Don M. Amburgey, Director, Kentucky River Regional Library, Harzard, KY, on "Teaching Literacy Skills Using Volunteers."

Thomas J. Hennen, Jr., Director, Watonwan County Library, Saint James, MN, on "Rural Library Services for Farming Communities."

John D. Hales, Jr., Director, Suwannee River Regional Library, Live Oak, FL, on "Mail-a-Book Programs in Rural Libraries. "

"OTHER CONFERENCES ON RLS"

Clarence Coffindaffer, State Librarian, South Dakota, is chairing the committee programs for PLA National (Baltimore, 1983) and ALA National (Los Angeles, 1983). In a letter to RLS committee chair John Head, Coffindaffer writes, "The focus of the program is on non-traditional delivery systems for rural library service. Non-traditional is be-

ing generally defined as other than a fixed facility or bookmobile service with a decided leaning toward the use of electronic delivery systems, such as those that might be available with microwave, satellite transmission and cable delivery. Those items to be delivered generally were discussed (at the Denver conference) as training for rural libraries as well as information delivery for rural library patrons."

"RLS CHARGE"

The RLS's Draft a Charge Committee has produced a statement which will be discussed at the Philadelphia business meeting. The PLA/SMLA's Rural Library Service business meeting will be held on Monday, July 12th, 9:00 - 11:00 AM. Consult ALA Conference program for the location.

The proposed charge reads:

To promote the interest of rural libraries and library users by: 1) identifying needs for and encouraging research and the collection of statistics relating to rural libraries, from a basis of the needs of users and potential users and their perception of the library; 2) to identify and make available to those responsible for rural library services at all levels, including nondegreed personnel and trustees, information useful to rural library administration, and to evaluate the results of providing that information; and 3) to monitor the actions of other groups (including legislative bodies, government agencies, other organizations, and other groups within ALA) to determine their effect on rural library services and to voice our concerns to those groups.

ETC...

Van Buren County, (IA) Project

The March 8, 1982 LJ/SLJ Hotline describes Mississippi and Oklahoma efforts and plans for more trained personnel in rural libraries. Quoting Beverly Jones of the Oklahoma State Library, the Hotline writes, "a plan under consideration would follow a practice already pioneered in Oklahoma by City Managers: several small libraries would share a director, at first with matching grant support from the state agency, but eventually taking over the expense completely."

A similar concept was followed in Southeast Iowa. A professional Librarian was hired to serve as a county coordinator for 7 independent libraries in Van Buren County. The largest of the seven communities, Keosauqua, has a population of only 1018. The librarian assisted the individual libraries in cataloging, selection, collection evaluation, and policies and procedures. In addition the librarian worked on county wide projects such as services to the county home, nursing homes, joint PR projects and shared film and children's programming.

Funding for the project came from - 1st year - LSCA; 2nd year 2/3 LSCA, 1/3 local foundation and 3rd year 2/3 local foundation 1/3 Regional Library Support. The support for the fourth year (fy83) was to come from the local county government. When county officials declined to continue the successful project, the program was discontinued in the middle of its 3rd year of operation. To learn more about the Van Buren County Project contact Marie Lindquist, Southeast Regional Library, 321 Main St., Davenport, IA 52801.

ADDRESS CHANGES FOR FREE MATERIALS

The Southwest Regional Information Office in Dallas, Texas was abolished March 31st. Libraries requesting free agricultural information from the Dallas Office should send requests

either to: Connie Crundle, Director, Southeast Regional Information Office, 1718 Peachtree St. N.W. Room 220, Atlanta, GA 30309. Serving: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas.

Herb Jackson, Director, Midwest Regional Information Office, 536 South Clark St., Chicago, Illinois 60605, Phone: 321-353-3621. Serving: Kansas

EXTENSION CONSULTANT: Ohio Valley Area Libraries (OVAL), Wellston, Ohio. Successful candidate will administer a 10-person department providing bookmobile service to five counties in Appalachian Ohio. Target populations include rural people, homebound, and handicapped area residents. Minimum qualification include a graduate degree in library science or its equivalent from an ALA accredited program; five years' professional library working experience; appropriate professional experience in extension services or a related area of library work; two year's successful supervisory experience; driver's license and access to a car; willingness to travel within the region. Good communication skills essential, with emphasis on grantsmanship, report writing, and interpersonal communication. Consulting skills necessary, also skills in gathering, synthesizing, and interpreting community and user data. Ability to lead in group planning.

Salary \$18,507 - \$21,459; benefits include Blue Cross/Blue Shield, 22 working days of vacation per year. Apply by resume with names of three references to: Linda L. Harfst, Director, OVAL, State Route 93 W., Wellston, Ohio 45692. Application deadline: Friday June 11, 1982.

Editor - John M. Houlahan

Northwest Regional Library
6th and Jackson Streets
Sioux City, Iowa 51105