

RURAL LIBRARY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2 NO. 3

SEPT./OCT. 1982

Rural Libraries -- Hearings in D. C.

On July 21, 1982, Senator Mark Andrews (R-ND) and Representative George E. Brown, Jr. (D-CA) co-chaired a joint Congressional hearing entitled "The Changing Information Needs for Rural America--The Roles of Libraries and Information Technologies." This hearing was held in conjunction with the World Future Society's Fourth General Assembly at the Sheraton Washington Hotel in Washington, D. C. July 18-22.

Thirteen witnesses explored the topic of rural information needs in the board context of public policy, modern communications technologies, education, quality of life and other major concerns. The hearing also covered such relevant issues as the need to rapidly transfer the results of research to rural communities to promote innovation and increase productivity. Knowledgeable witnesses representing the nation's rural communities shared their ideas, analysis of problems, and proposed strategies with Members of Congress who are especially interested in rural America, small enterprises, communications technologies, libraries and the dissemination of information. Also emphasized was the need to upgrade and convert the rural library into an information center which would support the rural community's business, economic, governmental and education activities.

Because the hearing produced much useful information and attracted wide public attention--more than 350 people attended the hearing during the 3 1/2 hours of testimony--the hearing record is being kept open for further written testimony until Friday, October 29, 1982. Organ-

izations or individuals wanting to take advantage of this opportunity should bear in mind that their testimony will be used to guide the President, the Congress and NCLIS in developing policy, programs, and legislation designed to improve library & information service to rural areas.

Should you wish to have your written testimony included in the official hearing record, please address or at least emphasize one or more of the following five topics in relation to rural library services, communications technologies, and rural information needs:

Government and public policy,
Science and technology, especially telecommunications,
Communication, rural society and the quality of life,
Education and innovation, and
Marketing of information services.

Topics should be addressed at one of the following three levels:

Community and individual needs,
Potential answer to these needs,
and Strategies.

Testimonies should be typed double spaced and sent to:

Gerald J. Sophar, NCLIS,
1717 K. St. N. W. Suite 601
Washington, D. C. 20036

Abstracted from an August 20, 1982 letter of NCLIS Executive Director, Toni Carbo Bearman.

ALA HIGHLIGHTS

Over 110 persons attended the Rural Library Service Committee Program "Research and Reality--Library Service to Rural Populations" held Saturday July 10th at the American Library Associations Annual Conference in Philadelphia. The two hour program featured 3 researchers: John Head of Clarion State, Terry Weech of the University of Illinois, and Lisa deGruyter a recent graduate of doctoral program at the University of Chicago. They spoke respectively on "Reference Survey and Rural Library Service", "The Reference Context and Library Service" and "Patterns of Rural Adult Library Use."

The reality portion featured Danny Hales and Tom Hennen. Hales, Director of the Suwannee River Regional Library, Live Oak, Florida responded to the researcher findings and also spoke on mail-a-book programs in rural libraries. Hennen, head of the Watonwan County Library, Saint James, Minnesota in addition to commenting on the researchers remarks also discussed Library Services for the Farming Community and the role of interlibrary loan in the rural library.

DeGruyter found that "rural adult public library users are more active in social and cultural activities, read more, own more books, have more years of schooling and use more professional services of information and advice than nonusers. She also has discovered that rural library users do not differ significantly from library users in other areas, but there are fewer of them in proportion to the total population.

Weech commented that while little attention has been given rural libraries in the recent past that this situation is beginning to change with the Spring 1980 issue of Library Trends, the appearance of the journal Rural Libraries and the Rural Library Service Newsletter.

John Head summarized the findings of a national reference survey of rural libraries. The survey was conducted by the center for the Study of Rural Librarianship, at Clarion State College. The survey found rural libraries have predictable problems with budget and staff sizes but the study also highlighted concerns that create difficulties for a rural library as opposed to a comparable suburban library. These are isolations from other resources and the long distances some patrons must travel to use the library.

The conference program proceedings will be published at ALA later this year. The program will also be available on cassettes.

FUTURE ROLES

An exhibit and demonstration of the future rural community learning/information center was on view at the recent Fourth General Assembly of the World Future Society. Some 1500 of the 4000 in attendance viewed the display which incorporated the latest telecommunications technologies and data bases. In addition to demonstrating the latest in library technologies, the exhibit also demonstrated how the future rural learning/information centers will serve the entire spectrum of rural community information needs. In identifying and answering these needs, they will work closely with local governments, businesses, educational and health care institutions, rural libraries, families and existing agencies. The principal sponsor of the exhibit was the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. Funding, design, and management of the exhibit was provided by the Library Resources Corporation of America; Farm Foundation; Pikes Peak Regional District Library of Colorado Springs; Mountain Bell; the Computer Corporation of America; Texas Instruments; Informat/Teleton of Canada; the National Rural Primary Care Association, and the National Library of Medicine.

Keeping Up to Date in Walthill

We're sometimes asked how a group located in small town Nebraska is able to keep abreast of current events affecting small family farmers. In addition to a hefty telephone bill and ten years' experience in developing contacts on small farm issues, we read a lot. Following is a descriptive list of some of the more valuable periodicals that we read. We've not included many of the other-known national publications which are useful.

OPINION

FROM SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES--good mix of farmer/writers as well as professionals. Inter-Mennonite Task Force on Farm Issues, Box 347, Newton, KS 67114

CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE--a stalwart of the family farm written largely by guest writers usually on a particular theme or topic, monthly, comes as part of yearly \$15 membership fee, 4625 N.W. Beaver Drive, Des Moines, IA. 50322

THE CHRISTIAN FARMER--reflects the view of a politically active membership organization, \$10/yr, Box 698, Harriston, Ontario, Canada NOG 1Z0

PLOW-SHARE--practical analysis of issues for lay people, quarterly, \$5./yr, Christian Farmers Federation, 10766 - 97 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 1k6.

THE POLK PROGRESS--what Thomas Jefferson thought a newspaper should be, \$10/yr (Nebr), \$11 elsewhere, Polk, NE 68654

HOW-TO

SMALL FARMER'S JOURNAL--a very attractive publication (makes a nice gift) containing tried and true advice for animal husbandry & horticulture with a dash of politics, quarterly, \$10/yr, P.O. Box 2805, Eugene, OR 97402.

SMALL FARM TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER--practical labor-intensive farming tips based on a model farm system developed in Alabama, \$12/yr, Whatley Farms, Inc., P.O. Box 28277, Montgomery, AL 36105-0827

CURRENT EVENTS

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS--covers energy development and other resource issues in the Rocky Mountain states, bi-weekly, \$15/yr, 331 Main, Lander, WY 82520.

FOOD MONITOR--implications of U.S. food and foreign policy on the rest of the world, a perspective we all need, bi-monthly, \$4.94/yr, 350 Broadway, Suite 209, New York, NY 10013.

PEOPLE & TAXES--focuses primarily on federal policy, good background on issues as well as nitty gritty back room politics, monthly, \$10/yr, 215 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

KANSAS RURAL CENTER NEWSLETTER--designed for Kansans, good analysis of issues and politics and who's doing what, bi-monthly, \$10/yr, P. O. Box 133, Whiting, KS 66552.

LANDOWNER--everything you'd want to know about farmland investment, how to play the tax game, case studies, where the hot spots are, we find the steep price worth it, bi-weekly, \$46/yr, 219 Parkade, Cedar Falls, IA 50613.

THE LAND REPORT--activities of the Land Institute, research for a permanent, sustainable agriculture, 3 times/yr, \$5/yr, RR 3, Salina, KS 67401.

THE POWER LINE--clearinghouse for electric utility issues, power lines, power plants, electric rates, what local groups are doing, monthly, \$25/yr, 724 Dupont Circle Bldg., Washington, D. C. 20036.

THE NEW FARM--case studies and original research on resourceful farming, an outgrowth of Organic Gardening magazine, \$11/yr. bi-monthly, 33 East Minor St., Emmaus, PA 18049

WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER--legislative activities of the National Farmers Union, weekly, National Farmers Union, P.O. Box 39251, Denver, CO. 80239.

VIEW FROM THE HILL--legislative activities of the National Grange, monthly, The National Grange, 1616 H. Street., NW, Washington, D. C. 20006.

DAKOTA COUNSEL--energy development and other natural resource issues primarily in North Dakota, available with \$15/yr membership, Dakota Resource Council, P. O. Box 254, Dickinson, ND 58601.

The following two newsletters are irregular membership newsletters reporting on the fight to stop construction of the MANDAN power line which is to run from Canada to Nebraska.

SOUTH DAKOTA--contact: Safe Energy Alternative, %Joyce Hodges, Lake Preston, SD 57249

NEBRASKA--contact Safe Energy Alternatives, % Darlene Ausdemore, Crofton, NE 68730.

HOLD THAT LINE--reports on continuing battle with power lines in Minnesota, emphasis on health and safety and state regulation, General Assembly to Stop the Powerline (G.A.S.P.) Lowry, MN 56359.

ECONOMIC & MARKETING INFORMATION--Excellent in-depth analysis of agricultural issues, edited by Harold Breimyer, free, Dept. of Ag. economics, University of Missouri-Columbia, 200 Mumford Hall, Columbia, MO. 65211

FARM, FOOD, LAND--reports on the activities of the Agricultural Marketing Project's efforts in direct marketing, bi-monthly, \$5/yr, Agricultural marketing Project, 2606 Westwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204.

RURAL ADVANCE--Long-time supporters of small farmers, published at the Frank Porter Graham Center by the Rural Advancement Fund/National Sharecropper Fund, write Rural Advancement Fund, 2128 Commonwealth Ave., Charlotte, NC 28205.

Don Ralston, Editor - August 1982
Center for Rural Affairs
Newsletter

Editor's Note:

The above bibliography of alternative farm publications is a reprint from the Center for Rural Affairs Newsletter. Describing itself as "a newsletter surveying events affecting rural Nebraska," a free subscription can be obtained by writing to the Center for Rural Affairs, P. O. Box 405, Walthill, NE 68067.

The Center for Rural Affairs, a nonprofit charitable organization, is a Small Farm Advocacy which conducts studies of public policies affecting small farms, publishes reports and conducts educational programs. Founded in 1973 the Center receives support from grants from National Churches and Foundations, the sale of its publications, and private donations.

COUNTRY FOLKS

Editor's Note: This issue of Country Folks features the 13 Congressional witnesses at the hearing on "The Changing Information Needs of Rural America--The Roles of Libraries and Information Technology."

MRS. MARGARET S. WARDEN
208 Third Avenue, North
Great Falls, Montana 59401

Mrs. Warden is a former State Senator from Montana. She has been a life-long supporter of better library and information programs within her state and in rural America as a whole. She is currently a Member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and chairs its Legislative and Public Affairs Committee.

DR. GLENN WILDE
Assistant Dean Extension College of
Humanities, Arts and Social Services
Utah State University - HASS
Logan, Utah 84322

Dr. Wilde is the Assistant Dean for Extension in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Science at Utah State University. He started the Utah Rural Arts Consortium, which tours major productions to rural communities. He currently leads the Intermountain Rural Community Learning and Information Services Project (IRCLIS) in Colorado, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming, a project designed to market rural libraries as key institutions in local communities.

DR. BETSY PETERS (accompanying GLENN WILDE), Director of Special Projects
School of Extended Studies,
University of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming 82701

Dr. Betsy Peters, Coordinator of Special Projects at the University of Wyoming, plans and implements state-wide extension projects, primarily in the arts and

humanities. She has taught on and off campus and believes that the Intermountain Community Learning and Information System can be a means of using libraries as a base for expanding educational opportunities.

DR. BERNARD VAVREK
School of Library Science
Clarion State College
Clarion, Pennsylvania 16214

Dr. Vavrek is Professor, School of Library Science, Clarion State College, Pennsylvania and Coordinator of the Center for the Study of Rural Librarianship. The Center provides research data on problems facing rural libraries and serves as a consultative and training facility for rural librarians. During the past two years, the Center has been working on a national survey of public libraries in rural areas. Future national surveys (including a consumer-oriented study) are planned under a grant from the H.W. Wilson Foundation.

DR. DAVID DE TURK
Director of Research
National Rural Primary Care Association
Waterville, Maine 04901

The National Rural Primary Care Association is a five-year-old organization concerned with rural health information delivery systems in small communities nationwide. It assists professionals in the health care field with their continuing education needs and it fosters information networks which help overcome the problems of isolation in widely dispersed rural communities. Dr. de Turk's background is in communications and the health field.

MS. LAUREL KUBIN
Colorado State University
County Fairgrounds
P. O. Box 270
Meeker, Colorado 81641

Mrs. Laurel Kubin is an Extension Agent responsible for Family Living programs for the Colorado State University co-operative Extension Service in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. As such she assesses needs and provides information and education for family and community members to help them help themselves by developing skills and leadership potential and by learning to manage their resources wisely.

DR. WESLEY MAUGHAN (accompanying LAUREL KUBIN), Director of Community Development Programs, University Extension, Utah State University, Logan, Utah 84322

Dr. Wesley T. Maughan has been a member of the Utah State University faculty for 27 years. He is presently Supervisor of Community Development Programs. In this position, Dr. Maughan assists community and state elected officials in working out solutions to complex community problems.

JASON HARDMAN (Wayne and Linda Hardman - parents) Route 1, Box 166
Monroe, Utah 84754

Twelve-year-old Jason runs the library in his hometown of Elsinore, Utah (pop. 680). He is also the library's founder, having convinced the City Council to provide a location for a local library. Under Jason's care, the Elsinore Library has grown from a handful of donated books to a collection of between 4000 and 5000 volumes. Jason also was the media star of the hearing. He was featured on Johnny Carson on August 5, the Washington Post on August 1, and American Libraries in September.

MRS. LAURA CHODOS (with BARABARA NAMIE)
Box 320, R.D. #2
Rexford, New York 12148

Mrs. Chodos was a delegate to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS) and subsequently was chosen to represent the Northeast Region on the national steering committee of the WHCLIS Taskforce, the group charged with implementing the resolutions of this conference. She was also elected in a joint session of the State Legislature to serve as a New York Board of Regents member representing a region of 11 rural counties. She is active in rural affairs associations and international women's networks concerned with health, nutrition and education.

MS. BARBARA SHELDON NAMIE (with LAURA CHODOS), Coordinator, South Central Minnesota InterLibrary Exchange (SMILE) Box 3031
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Ms. Namie is the coordinator of a system which serves school specialists and academic libraries in a nine-county rural area in South Central Minnesota. Under a grant, SMILE sponsored a program to train library personnel on the various categories of information needs of farmers. The network is also involved with delivery systems and experimentation with telecommunications.

MS. JOANNE NEUZIL
Rural Route 1
Riverside, Iowa 52327

An Iowa Farmer, Mrs. Neuzil is also President of Agricultural Research and Information, Inc. (A private business which conducts research on agricultural topics), President of the Agri-library Association (which provides information referral and automated indexing of periodicals and newspapers), and President of her State's group of American Agricultural Women. Two of Mrs. Neuzil's additional projects are a special series of programs on the changing role of rural women and new agricultural library/rural arts museum.

projects are a special series of programs on the changing role of rural women and new agricultural library/rural arts museum.

DR. MYRON JOHNSRUD
State Director, Extension Service
North Dakota State University
Fargo, North Dakota 58105

Dr. Johnsrud is the State Director of the USDA Extension Service for North Dakota. He is Vice Chairman and Chairman-Elect of the Prairie Public Broadcasting Corporation, which also services contiguous areas

of Canada, Montana, Minnesota and South Dakota.

MS. PATRICIA E. KLINCK
State Librarian
Vermont Department of Libraries
c/o State Office Building Post Office
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Ms. Klinck is the Chairperson of COSLA, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies. She serves as State Librarian for the most rural state in the country with 66% of its population living in towns of under 1500 people. She has worked in libraries ranging from book-mobiles to computerized facilities.

ETC. . . .

RURAL AREAS OUT-DO CITIES IN JOBS
Rural areas have outstripped the cities and their suburban population and job growth for the first time in more than 150 years, according to a new study published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

The boom in the boondocks has been fueled by the construction of the interstate highway system, improvements in communications and computer technology and a decreased reliance on the goods and services traditionally available in big cities, according to Gerald Carlino, senior economist of the bank's urban and regional section.

Drawing on statistics from the 1980 census and other studies, Carlino found population in the metropolitan areas grew at a rate of less than 1 percent during the decade of the 1970's while population in rural sections grew at a rate of more than 1.5 percent.

The job categories showing growth in rural areas during the surveyed period included agriculture, forestry and fishery; construction; manufacturing; transportation, communications, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; fire-related employment; business services, personal services,

professional occupations and public administration.

Carlino said a purpose of his study was to challenge some of the theories that have been proposed to explain the shift--first noted during the mid-1970s--of population and jobs in rural areas.

He said mobility of retired people, who can live in rural areas detached from job centers, or growth in mining and recreation jobs do not account for the underlying changes in the nation's economy and demography.

More important factors, he said are improvements in the nation's road networks, changes in production technology and advances in communications.

Sioux City Journal, Wednesday 6/8/82

FUNDING SOURCE

The Sac City Public Library, Sac City, IA. (3,000 population) received a grant this spring of \$3,500 from the Aid Association for Lutherans of Appleton, Wisconsin. The grant was for repairs and equipment, and carried a stipulation that labor must be donated by members of the local Lutheran Church. The local Lutheran association must apply for the grant--many types and amounts are offered each year by the organization.

UPDATE, NWRL, Sioux City, July/Aug.'82

RURAL ENERGY SKILLS MANUAL ANNOUNCED

A limited number of copies of a manual designed for paraprofessionals working on energy projects in rural areas will be available Oct. 1st. Over a year in the making, the manual represents the culmination of the experiences of our Small Farm Energy Project in working with individuals and institutions under-taking alternative energy activities. Designed as a step-by-step learning tool for individual learning or classroom setting, the manual provides technical background information as well as our experience with the process of social change associated with appropriate technology. The manual is \$25.00; 13 separate sets of slides are available individually or \$60 for all. To reserve your copy write Small Farm Energy Project, P. O. Box 736. Hartington, NE. 68739

Center for Rural Affairs, Aug. '82
Newsletter.

NEH GRANT FOR VERMONT RURAL LIBRARIES

One of the most important events in Vermont in 1981 was Pat Bate's use of an NEH grant to provide humanities programs in rural libraries. Forty libraries held programs on one of the following subjects: Myths in Marriage, Living in Vermont as Seen Through the Eyes of Vermont Authors, and Women in Literature. A result of this effort is the continuation of adult programming by many of the libraries. Sixteen rural libraries are conducting humanities program under the auspices of the Vermont Council on the Humanities.

ALA Yearbook 1982, pg. 354.

AGRICOLA USERS GROUP FORMED

An organizational meeting for users of the AGRICOLA data base was held during the recent American Library Association conference in Philadelphia. Charles Gilreath, Texas A&M University Library, was appointed temporary chair of this newly formed national group. The

adoption of by-laws and election of officers will take place at the group's next meeting in October. The organization will gather during the upcoming symposium "Twentieth Century Agricultural Science" which will be held October 20-22 at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. For more information about the AGRICOLA USERS GROUP, please contact Ellie Mathews (157 Library, ISU, Ames, IA 50011).

Keywords, Summer, 1982

Editor's Note:

AGRICOLA (Agricultural Online Access) is a family of data bases that consist of indexes to worldwide journal and monographic literature and U. S. Government reports on general agriculture, food and nutrition, agricultural economics, and many related scientific and sociological subject fields.

Citations to monographs; serial titles, book chapters, and journal articles selected from 5,000 serial titles.

"LIBRARY SERVICES TO FARMERS"

The ALTA publication, "Library Service to Farmers" by Thomas Hennen is available from the ALA Order Department. The cost is \$1.00 per copy prepaid.

The ISBN is #8389-6485-0

AGRI-TAPES

Agri-Tapes are cassettes of educational information for farmers. A set of four tapes consists of: equipment financing, hedging, estate planning, and farm bank loans for the '80's. The set costs \$48 from Agri-Tapes, Division of Dill Enterprises, Box 29192, Lincoln, NE. 68529.

Wilson Library Bulletin, May, 1982.

Editor - John M. Houlihan

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