

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

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W.V.L.A. PLANS 37TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

The 1951 meeting of the W.V.L.A. will be held at West Virginia State College, at Institute, on October 19 and 20. The Executive Committee has accepted the invitation of President, John W. Davis, to hold the Convention on the same week-end as the dedication of the new college library. The dedication will take place Friday evening, October 19. The speaker has not yet been announced.

Dr. Davis has appointed Miss Mary E. Wattles, W.V.L.A. President; Mr. Charles E. Butler, Librarian, West Virginia University; Mrs. Roy Bird Cook, Librarian, West Virginia Department of Archives and History; and Mr. J. Arthur Jackson, State Law Librarian, to serve as associate members of the College Committee for the dedication ceremonies. This committee will formulate and help execute plans for the dedication.

The Association received invitations from several libraries. All were carefully considered. Although it meant holding the Convention in the same locality for two consecutive years, nevertheless, the Executive Committee chose West Virginia State College because it afforded an opportunity to participate in the dedication of a new library, and it is centrally located in the state, easily reached by several methods of transportation.

A planning committee for the W.V.L.A. Convention has been appointed by Miss Wattles. Mrs. Leonead P. Drain, Librarian, West Virginia State College and Mrs. Robert North, Jr. are co-chairmen. Serving with them on the local committee are Mrs. Judith Gordon, West Virginia State College, Miss Elizabeth Quarrier, Morris Harvey College, Miss Hazel Fisher, Thomas Jefferson Junior High, Mrs. Jamie Graham, Garnet Branch Library and

Miss Jane Brugger, Mrs. William Dawson, Miss Lorena Ammar and Miss Dorothy Twhig, all of Kanawha County Public Library.

For the many librarians, who are doomed to inhabit old, cast-off public buildings, it will be a pleasure simply to visit a brand new library. For those who are planning a new building, in the not too distant future, it will be an opportunity to study the plan of the now completed West Virginia State College Library. Built in modern Tudor design, to harmonize with the rest of the campus buildings, the brick and stone building will house 170,000 books, with provision for further expansion by the addition of upper stories. Mrs. Drain, Librarian, hopes to have the 34,000 books comfortably housed there by the end of the summer. She will be able to quadruple the collection without even thinking of where she will put the books—a situation devoutly to be wished and seldom realized.

Full plans for the meeting will appear in the September issue of West Virginia Libraries. We might say in passing that another new library may be open for inspection during the Convention. The new Morris Harvey College building will have been completed by then. At present, circle the dates on your calendar and rest assured that there are busses every twenty minutes from Charleston to Institute.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT CONVENTION

The Executive Board at the January meeting announced that "College students interested in the library profession will be permitted to attend the W.V.L.A. meetings without payment of registration fees and in numbers to be determined by the local chairman on the basis of capacity." This is an excellent way to interest

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WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
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WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY COMMISSIONPROGRAM 1951-53

Layman and librarians have continued to ask, "How well did the Commission come through legislature this year."

The budget for 1951-52 is \$89,910, and for 1952-53, \$79,910. Again, extra equipment is allowed in the first year of the biennium rather than the second. Legislators know us more thoroughly each year and their interest in libraries continues to grow. Local expression of appreciation of their interest is important for its continuation.

Since the beginning of the demonstration program in 1947 service has been started in 5 counties. Monroe served as a guinea pig. While its unit of population is too small for effective service, it continues as a sounding board for Commission planning. The multi-county demonstration in Ritchie, Calhoun, Jackson and Roane counties has been underway for nearly a year. This unit of counties is really challenging Commission staff in its application of extension theories. Bookmobile schedules are under way and a county seat library is open one to two days per week in each county. Response from citizens is extremely heartening.

The demonstration program is now double in its application. Stabilization and effectiveness of service already initiated must be considered as well as expansion into new territory.

Now that the Public Library Inquiry has been completed, all librarians and board members have a definite obligation to examine at least the one volume, "The General Report of the Public Library Inquiry" by Dr. Robert Devore Leigh. Its authenticity in outlining minimum standards of effective service can serve as a guide for the next ten years. Certainly state-wide planning will involve many of its principles.

Dora Ruth Parks,
Executive Secretary.

CHARLES E. BUTLER PUBLISHES NOVEL

On March 1 "Follow Me Ever" by Mr. Charles E. Butler, Librarian, West Virginia University and past president of W.V.L.A., was published by Pantheon's Books, New York. In the words of Pantheon's press release, "Ellis, a minor clerk at an air base in England, discovered one evening that his hands showed strange wounds, stigmata... The train of events that follow haunt the writer, who tries to unriddle the significance of Ellis' fate... The writer actually makes the reader participate in the process of memory, in its "technique", as he endeavors to rescue from oblivion Ellis, the passive hero of the story, and with him a part of his own life already receding into the shadow of forgetfulness." The tale is told with all the poetic insight and finesse which was shown in Mr. Butler's book of poetry, "Cut is the Branch." Very favorable reviews have appeared in the New York Times Book Review, April 1 and the New York Herald Tribune Book Review, March 18. The book is to be published in England later this year. All who have read the poems and "Follow Me Ever" will be happy to know Mr. Butler has started a second novel, as yet untitled, about 16th century England and Ireland. Our heartiest congratulations on a book well done and a sincere wish for many more.

SCHOOL LIBRARY NEWS

Last October the state organization of school librarians, which meets annually during the West Virginia Educational Association Convention, held a luncheon meeting in Charleston. Mrs. Nora Beust, U. S. Office of Education was guest speaker.

The state chairman for 1950-51 is Mrs. Helen Weber, St. Marys High School.

County organizations are active throughout the state. Kanawha County's school library group has inaugurated an annual book exhibit. On April 21 Kanawha County school librarians held a luncheon meeting in Charleston.

COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWS

FAIRMONT STATE COLLEGE: The new library building at Fairmont State should be completed before the fall term. Remington Rand and Sjoström have received the bids for furniture and shelving. Visitors are welcome.

Harold Jones, Librarian, has announced that the college library is developing an extensive file of occupational information pamphlets for the use of students who want factual information about vocations. The available material at present covers approximately 50 occupations from accountant to zoologist. Such varied fields as that of air conditioner, buyer, fashion designer, musician, psychologist, traffic manager and teacher are included. Students who want data about how to prepare for, enter into, and progress in occupations suited to their abilities, interests and education will find material about the qualifications and training of diesel engineers, journalists, lawyers, exporters and foundry workers.

MARSHALL COLLEGE: Courses in Library Science will be given at Marshall College at both Summer Sessions, 1951. The courses will be under the direction of a visiting instructor holding a master's degree in Library Science. The courses to be given are: First semester--Children's Literature, Administration of School Libraries, and Reference and Bibliography; Second semester--History of Books and Libraries, and Cataloging and Classification.

"Your Key to the James E. Morrow Library" was prepared by the staff in August 1950 to give information to new students on how to use the library. A section for graduate student services was also included.

A Recordak was purchased for the Library and has been in use for about a year. Microfilms for the New York Times since 1939, the Christian Science Monitor beginning in 1934, and the Parthenon, local student paper, are available.

POTOMAC STATE SCHOOL: The Folic Book Club of Potomac State School meets in the college library on the first and third Friday of each month. Under the sponsorship of the Librarian, faculty members, townspeople, and students present book reviews, followed by group discussion. The outstanding program of the year was given by 4 of Mrs. Norman Rodger's English students on the works of William Faulkner. This was a scholarly presentation given shortly after Faulkner won the Nobel prize.

PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

CLARKSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY: The General Federation of Women's Clubs held its 54th annual State Convention in Clarksburg on April 18, 19 and 20. The library exhibited the press books, friendship scrap books, hobbies and prize winning dental posters. Miss Ethel Green, Librarian, was one of the judges of the friendship scrap books. The exhibits were housed in 3 mahogany plate glass museum cases donated by the Clarksburg Fifty Year Club.

The library recently added a copy of Melville Davisson Post's "Twilight in West Virginia" to its complete collection of the author's fiction. This work has been set to music by Eugene Jose Singer and was given its premier in Clarksburg on April 2.

Miss May Potter, Junior Dept., features a Saturday morning story hour for children. In early spring this was replaced by a music appreciation course for young people. It was greeted with as great an enthusiastic response as the adult programs given in the evenings.

HUNTINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY: The library has seen many improvements this past winter-- a new roof and new front doors, the latter being less Brobdingnagian than the old ones; shortly the Bookmobile headquarters will be moved from the assembly room to its new home on the ground floor, where it will share with the Cataloging Dept. a large room recently remodeled to fit the needs of both. This room is made attractive by gaily colored

