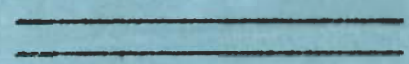


WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

MAY 4 1951

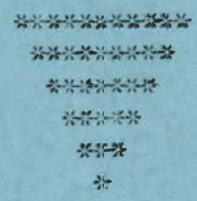
LIBRARY

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES



DECEMBER

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

THE HUNTINGTON MEETING IN REVIEW

General Sessions

The Thirty-Fourth Annual Conference of the West Virginia Library Association opened with the annual dinner, held in the Fireside Room at the Frederick Hotel, Huntington, on Friday evening, October 15. Approximately 60 persons attended.

The highlight of the dinner, not overlooking the food and the delightful asides by Pauline Osborne, was the address by Dr. Stewart H. Smith, President of Marshall College. His subject was "Making Libraries More Functional." His eight fundamental points were: Adequate housing and equipment; Adequate resources for study and research; A professionally trained staff with each member an "educator;" Imagination in making surroundings attractive; Integration of the library with educational policies and practices; Integration of the administration and faculty toward use and strengthening of library resources in stimulating research and learning; Adequate finances; A definite program of objectives for expansion and improvement.

Following President Smith's address, Dr. J. F. Marsh, toastmaster, introduced representatives from various civic organizations who discussed ways in which the public library could improve its service to the community. Participating were Mr. Frank Smith, international representative of the American Federation of Labor; Mrs. W. S. Hathaway, president of the Huntington chapter of the American Association of University Women; Miss

Mae Baker, representing the Huntington Altirusa Club; and, Mr. H. C. Ohlson, from the Huntington Kiwanis Club.

The Saturday morning meeting began with the reading of the minutes, followed by the treasurer's report. The latter showed a balance of \$102.89. Mr. E. M. Grieder (pinch-hitting for the chairman, Miss Eleanor Hamilton), gave a report of the Constitution Committee. The constitution in its revised form is to be published in later issues of W. Va. Libraries.

Following a report by Miss Dora Ruth Parks on the Legislative Institute preceding the A. L. A. at Atlantic City, there was the report of the nominating committee. Our officers for 1948-49 will be Mr. Charles Butler, president; Mr. Charles Knapp, vice-president; Miss Faith Kessel, secretary; Mrs. Vivian Boughtor, treasurer.

Mr. Grieder reported on W. Va. Libraries. He estimated one hundred and twenty dollars annually as the amount needed to continue its publication.

The meeting closed with an account of the A. L. A. Convention by Miss Virginia Ebeling.

The Saturday afternoon meeting featured a panel discussion on the National Library Plan. Mrs. Oliver Shurtleff, chairman, was ably assisted by Mrs. O. G. Wilson, Miss Dora Ruth Parks, Mr. Charles E. Butler, Miss Ethel Green, and Miss Katherine C. Dwyre.

(Continued on page 5)

THE RITZ COLLECTION AT K. C. P. L.
Mr. Charles Butler, Librarian

The Kanawha County Public Library recently purchased the collection of books made by the late Harold A. Ritz of Charleston, thereby bringing the library's book stock to slightly more than 100,000 volumes. The Ritz Collection, numbering approximately 8,000 volumes, was offered for sale to dealers, but when it became apparent that the bids received on it represented only a fraction of its worth, the board of directors authorized its purchase by the library.

The collection comprises regular trade editions of works on history, biography, and travel; sets of standard authors in various fields; and special and limited editions. Especially rich in American history, the collection includes approximately 150 titles on Lincoln, many of them out of print; the Jesuit Relations, the complete Rivers of America, and some very good material on Virginia and West Virginia, such as Burk's four-volume History of Virginia, and a first edition (1705) of Beverley's History and Present State of Virginia. Also included are an almost complete run of the publications of the Limited Editions Club, as well as examples of the publications of the Nonesuch Press.

While the rare and special items will enrich the library's collections considerably, the Ritz Collection was purchased chiefly because of the large number of standard works in it. Many out-of-print titles, long sought for as replacements, will be once more available in the library's collection, and numerous titles will be added as new.

With the addition of the Ritz Collection, Kanawha County Public Library's book holdings will now be inventoried at slightly over 100,000 volumes. That is still only about half a book per capita, but makes the K. C. P. L. the second largest li-

brary in the state, with barely forty years of history behind it.

AMONG OUR LIBRARIANS

Miss Helois Dye, Director
Elementary Libraries, Wood County

Recently there appeared in one of the Parkersburg newspapers an article concerning the pupil activities in the library of Parkersburg High School. It was interesting to all the pupils and parents of Wood County because Parkersburg High School students are library conscious.

This story would have been interesting to our readers as well, for the central figure was Miss Ida M. Peters, a leader in school library affairs in West Virginia for many years.

Miss Peters graduated from the Chautauqua Library School in New York. Following graduation, she came to the Carnegie Public Library in Parkersburg as the assistant to Miss Anna Taylor. While here, her work was largely in the Children's and High School departments.

When the new high school was built in 1917, Miss Peters was chosen as head of the library staff and she has remained ever since to make Parkersburg High School Library one of the outstanding libraries in this section of the country.

Miss Peters has given unselfishly of her time and energies to place school libraries on a firm footing in West Virginia. She served as chairman of the School Libraries Section of the S. E. A. for several years.

After doing some graduate work at Columbia Library School, she returned to add to her work by becoming Director of Libraries for Wood County. When those duties became multiplied, the elementary work was taken over by another person and Miss Peters is now Librarian of Parkersburg High School and Director of Secondary Libraries for Wood County.

