

Mountain-Plains Library Quarterly

PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN - PLAINS
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MOUNTAIN-PLAINS FIRST YEAR OF PROGRESS
UNDER THE LIBRARY SERVICES ACT

THE MORE HEADS THE BETTER

INITIATIVE IN NORTH DAKOTA

COOPERATION IN NEBRASKA

SOUTH DAKOTA — BETWEEN LOADS

THE COLORADO PLAN

UTAH MOVES AHEAD

WYOMING DECLINES FEDERAL LIBRARY AID



Summer 1957

MOUNTAIN-PLAINS LIBRARY QUARTERLY

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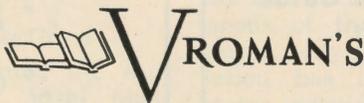
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In This Issue

A year ago, the Summer 1956 issue of the Quarterly featured the then new Library Services Act, with some forecast of its future for our region.

But a forecast is not enough. Continuing support for adequate implementation of the Act is the responsibility of every one of us. To be effective, this support must be based on understanding of current developments gained from discerning reporting of them.

To secure this kind of reporting, the Editor invited the person in each of our seven states responsible for the operation of the Act to send a message from the "firing line" as to progress and problems. The generosity with which they responded despite the load of their unprecedented new duties is indicative of the generous measure of their accomplishments during the past year.

From what seemed like dreams a year ago, often harried by nightmares of legal complications and red tape, are emerging the solid realities of today. They are em-

bodied in the forms of practical action and concrete organization described in this issue. When you see them you will realize that Mountain-Plains has reason to be proud of the record.

Undergirding all this is the firm success of the appropriation for the Act in this year's session of the Congress. While it is still short of total victory, it gives support for the present and strong hope for the future.

While a considerable part of this issue is devoted to the FSA, there are features and other news you can't afford to miss. One of these is "Letter to the Editor," a new feature on Page 17.

The MPLA-PNLA Conference Program on Page 13 lists a wide variety of enlightenment and entertainment provided by our hosts, the members and committees of PNLA. MPLA will have two separate business sessions, one on Thursday, September 5, at 11 a.m., and a second on Saturday, September 7, at 2 p.m.

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THE MORE HEADS THE BETTER

By ZELIA J. FRENCH,
Traveling Libraries Commission,
Topeka, Kansas

The Kansas committee to plan a state-wide extension of library service graduates from planning to an advisory role in seven easy meetings.

Is there a formula for planning?

Doubtless none of the states now participating in the greatly accelerated state library programs made possible by the money from the Federal Library Services Act will have arrived at their individual plans with any degree of similarity. Some of the plans are ones of long standing, others have been developed recently in order to qualify for the benefits of the federal program.

A successful formula for a plan and its operation may well lie in the leadership, direction and sustained interest of a thoughtful state-wide planning committee. And that is the type of activity which is basic to the plan which has been submitted and approved for the Traveling Libraries Commission in Kansas. It was a lucky thirteen, who in May of 1955 met for the first time to form a Kansas Library Association sponsored committee to develop a plan for extending library services to more people in Kansas. There were five librarians including the state librarian and the extension librarian from the Traveling Libraries Commission, five representatives of other educational organizations and state agencies, two library trustees and one rural citizen.

How the Committee Grew

The first meeting pointed the way toward a well-rounded, ideal plan, tailored to Kansas library needs, which could later be modified in accord with financial considerations. A plan for equalizing and improving library service was considered long over due and considered necessary in the committee's thinking regardless of the outcome of congressional action on the Federal Library Services Act.

During the two years since the first meeting, the permanent committee has grown to thirty members, of whom

about one-third are librarians. Besides representation from state organizations, there are trustee representatives of the several types of libraries, one person from a rural area without library service, and some geographic representation acquired through two members who come from the far southwest and north-west corners of the state.

Starting With Fact-Finding

So much for the committee itself. Now what has been accomplished through the seven meetings which have been held? First of all the committee asked what other states were doing, what new concepts of library development were in effect, and then what is the situation of libraries in Kansas at the present time. Two meetings were devoted to a review of the types of library extension used in New York state in its regional centers, the demonstration type of development typified by the Door-Kewaunee project in Wisconsin, the federation of libraries used in some eastern states and the use of in-service training workshops in Wisconsin, North Carolina and Indiana.

The bare statistics as to Kansas library needs were graphically presented on charts, and described the library needs of the state in the following terms: only 57.4% of the state's population has local library service, 39 states provide more of their people with library service, fifty-six cents is the per capita annual expenditure for libraries in Kansas, and 30 states have a higher per capita expenditure than Kansas. Basic to these rather discouraging figures was a consideration as to why such conditions exist, the predominance of small self sustained libraries in third class cities unable to economically provide good library service, the lack of substantially good county libraries with adequate support

and the need of state leadership from the Traveling Libraries Commission toward promoting larger units of service.

Other exploratory phases of the meetings included fragmentary spot surveys of three distinctly different situations in the state.

The three surveys were considered and intended as inconclusive, and were used as a trial run on the variety of ways it may be necessary to solve the problems which will arise in the state due to the strength or weakness of existing libraries, the desire for local autonomy, the sociological and economic factors which may help or hinder library development.

Another interesting meeting was devoted to a report from the director of a sociological study being made of the Kay Valley Basin in which population trends, municipal strength and weakness across the state were discussed in relation to the location of regional library centers and resources for economically increasing library support.

Broad Recommendations Made

A climax to the committee's existence might well have been reached at the meeting at which broad recommendations for the state plan were formulated. These three broad requirements for the plan were made:

That the facilities, staff and program functions of the Traveling Libraries Commission be increased.

That there be an evaluation of existing library needs, area by area, throughout the state to determine where there is local interest for demonstrations to establish county or regional libraries or where it will be necessary to strengthen the local libraries through the services from regional service centers only.

That there be a continued educational program in cooperation with other educational agencies in the state to inform citizens, librarians, and library board members of library needs, developments, national standards and ways of generally improving the support of libraries in the state.

And the committee was asked, "Does this complete your work? Do you wish

to disband?" The answer was a loud, resounding NO, and the committee earned the title of "that committee which refused to commit suicide."

During the 1957 legislative session the committee became an action group assisting in getting the library legislation passed which changed one section of the statutes to insure money for county libraries, and which through a second bill gave specific extension responsibilities to the Traveling Libraries Commission to more accurately comply with the requirements for use of the federal funds.

The Committee As Advisory Group

Moving as it has from planning to action, the committee now settles into its third role, that of an advisory committee to the Traveling Libraries Commission in carrying out the services which are part of the state plan. The committee's willingness to continue in an advisory capacity is considered invaluable to the state agency's future development. The membership represents enough varied interests in the state to be helpful in carrying news of libraries to all parts of the state and to all types of organizations, to hear reports of studies and evaluate the findings, and to assist in presenting the needs for the budgetary expansion of the Traveling Libraries Commission. Here is also a representative sounding board for new services and concepts that may be worked out as the Traveling Libraries Commission develops its state-wide program.

Certainly with no formula at the beginning, a review of the steps in the committee's work does reflect a pattern. This might be defined by three definite phases: that of fact finding in relation to a known and recognized problem; that of exploration to determine unknown factors which might influence the solution of the problem; and that of determining some broad recommendations for solving the problem.

And not being willing "to commit suicide" the committee has developed an enviable *esprit de corps* with the betterment of Kansas libraries not so far distant as it was two years ago.

COOPERATION—KEYNOTE IN NEBRASKA

By LOUISE NIXON, Secretary,
Nebraska State Library Commission,
Lincoln, Nebraska

Nebraska's plan was developed by the Nebraska Library Association and the State Public Library Commission, and was sparked by cooperation of the Home Extension Service sponsorship of Rural Reading conferences.

Great was the excitement on the Seventh Floor of the Nebraska State Capitol on Saturday morning, April 20th, when the State Treasurer's office called to report that there was a check "down there" for \$40,000 for the Nebraska Public Library Commission from the Federal government.

The money arrived just before the staff started for the seven District Library meetings and the news of its arrival was welcomed in each district of the state.

Due to the fact that the money needed to be spent or encumbered by June 30, 1957, it has been spent mainly for books and equipment which will be used in the two projects listed in the outline of the Nebraska Plan, attached to this article.

The Nebraska Plan for Further Extension of Library Service to Rural Areas was developed by the Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Public Library Commission and was based on a survey made by the Nebraska Library Association of all library service in Nebraska. Some of the salient points of the survey were:

Nine counties with no public library service.

Six counties with a total of less than 5,000 volumes in the public library collections in the counties.

Twelve counties with a total less than 10,000 volumes in the public library collections in each county.

Twenty-four counties with no single library of 10,000 volumes.

Thirteen cities with public library collections over 20,000 volumes.

Twenty-five cities with public library collections of from 5,000 to 10,000 volumes.

The concentration of population in the eastern third of the state leaving vast spaces with sparse populations, the fact that all railroads and highways followed the rivers which flow from west to east, the lack of sufficient highways north and south, and the bearing of these factors on good library planning were also pointed up by the Survey.

Because of the very rural character of the populations where most of the demonstrations of library service will be held, an extensive Home Extension Club Reading Program was developed during 1956, following a Rural Reading Conference held in May. The Nebraska Public Library Commission, the Home Extension Service of the College of Agriculture of the University of Nebraska with the assistance of the Nebraska Library Association sponsored the Rural Reading Conference. The results have been gratifying and Nebraska has great hopes for the library development that may come during the next four years.

(The Outline of the Nebraska Plan is given below).

I. General Aims and Policies

- a. To further extend and improve library service in rural areas, approaching as nearly as possible standards set up in **Public Library Service**.
- b. Preserve the identity of rural libraries and to strengthen them by incorporating them into library systems.
- c. To strengthen the Public Library Commission.
- d. For the purpose of the plan rural areas "without library service" are those areas where there are

no tax supported libraries (nine counties.)

- e. "Inadequate library service" is that service given by libraries that are open only a few hours a week, book collections and tax support so limited that it is impossible to perform successfully the functions of a public library (242 libraries located in communities of less than 10,000 population.)
- f. Rural areas to be served will be those areas where there is the greatest citizen and official interest and most favorable possibilities for continued support.

II. Methods of Administration

- a. Establish short-term demonstrations where a number of small, inadequate libraries can join with stronger ones and form a federated system.
- b. Establish branches of the Commission which will be permanent and state operated and increase book collection and audio-visual service of the Commission.
- c. Serve from the Commission or branch of Commission those areas without service where population too sparse and assessed valuation too low.

III. Program for January 14, 1957, to June 30, 1957

- a. Project A, a federated system of libraries to be established in Phelps, Harlan and/or Furnas counties with possibility of adding 2 additional counties second year of project. Phelps county (population 9,408) to serve as nucleus of system. The county library board and citizens of county are anxious to extend service and the adjoining counties are interested in the cooperative arrangement. Books and equipment will be purchased and opening expected early in year. Additional staff will be employed by the Commission including a library consultant and assistants for the cataloging department. (The Commission will purchase and process books.)
- b. Project B, a project for strength-

ening agency by purchasing books and starting new audio-visual collection for service to very small public libraries not involved in projects under the Library Services Act.

- c. Project C, a project in Rock and Keya Paha counties that will extend the newly established Rock County Library into adjoining Keya Paha county. By second half of demonstration it is hoped to add Boyd and Brown counties. During the first period books will be purchased and the services of a library consultant will be given to this project.

FILMSTRIP ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES

A new filmstrip—YOUR LIBRARY, ISLAND OR PENINSULA—has just been released by the American Library Association as part of the series promoting the new Public Library Standards. The filmstrip is in full color and includes a recorded commentary and a mimeographed script, both designed to facilitate discussion and understanding of the standards.

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"THE COLORADO PLAN FOR BETTER LIBRARIES"

By GORDON L. BENNETT,
Deputy State Librarian,
Denver, Colorado

The Colorado plan is flexible and far-reaching, says Mr. Bennett in this account in the "Capitol Hill Library Crier," new State Library newsletter.

In order to improve field service from the State library, the state was divided into five large Areas, each of which will have a field consultant to work with library and lay-people in the Area. To be sure that field workers know the needs of these Areas, local committees of librarians and lay-people will be appointed by the State Board of Education to assist in the development of better rural services. Field personnel will work under the direction of the State Library, but will be headquartered in the Areas which they serve, near grass-root needs.

Another phase of the program will be regional demonstrations of sound library service, based on larger units of service and meeting as closely as possible the 1957 minimum standards of the American Library Association. In order to accomplish this, the state was again divided, this time into twelve natural regions, based on geography, populations, economic and social affinities, trading patterns, and existing library programs. From among these twelve regions several will be selected for purposes of demonstrating integrated library service programs which will include federations of libraries, cooperative practices, mobile services, and similar activities. Probably, one region in each large Area will have such a demonstration during the Library Services Act program. In order to qualify for such demonstration, regions are required to produce plans which will:

- 1) Show a need for improved service.
- 2) Give evidence of willingness to cooperate with the State Library, and at the local level.
- 3) Give assurance that demonstrations, if successful, will de-

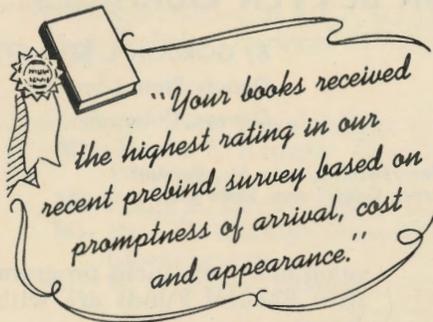
velop into permanent programs after Federal Funds are withdrawn.

With these two main projects the State Library feels that the primary interests of the people of the state will be fulfilled, insofar as is possible with funds available to Colorado.

The Colorado Plan was based on the assumption that all of the money recommended by the Library Services Act would be made available by Congress. Your State Library, and the extension agencies of the other states, were disappointed last year when less than one-third of the amount authorized by the Act was appropriated. However, we adjusted our thinking and are now planning in terms of a four-and-one-half year program instead of the original five.

Of the total figure of \$2,050,000 appropriated last year, Colorado's share amounted to \$40,000. The check for this amount was received in April, accompanied by a recommendation from the Library Services Branch of the Office of Education, that funds for the first year of the program be used to purchase books, equipment and supplies in order to have the foundation laid for the state-wide program in 1957-1958. We were glad to learn that most of the other states were following this course and immediately began to acquire a basic LSA book collection, additional mobile units and other equipment. A little more than two months was a short time in which to spend \$40,000, but we made the deadline and are now in the process of applying for our second grant.

Our search for qualified professional assistants to man the Area posts is proceeding at a slow pace. We would appreciate any assistance you can give us



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in securing good applicants for these challenging jobs. The picture is somewhat complicated by the fact that the jobs are to be under civil service, and unless we can persuade the State Civil Service Commission to waive residence requirements, only Colorado electors will be eligible. On top of this problem, solidly rests the unpleasant fact that to date the jobs have not been classified and we do not know what salaries we can offer. We are shooting at \$6,000 per year to begin with.

The Program Gathers Momentum

During the current fiscal year we can count on approximately \$66,000 in Federal money. Congress was more generous this year than last, and appropriated \$5,000,000 for 1957-58, or \$2,000,000 more than the figure recommended by the Bureau of the Budget (a very great victory!) for the forty-eight states, and territories. We are in a fine position to match this out of State Library funds. The program may have to be curtailed somewhat because the entire \$88,000 (Colorado's share of the \$7,500,000 authorized by the Act) is not available, but a new kind of service for rural Colorado will soon be "busting out all over!"

NOTICE OF A MAIL VOTE ON MOVING ALA TO WASHINGTON

In accordance with ALA constitutional provisions, a petition has been submitted calling for a mail vote of the membership of ALA to set aside the action of Council which voted at Kansas City to move the Headquarters of ALA from Chicago to Washington.

The ballot for the mail vote will be included in the September *ALA Bulletin*. This is the only place in which it will appear. Full background and details will be given in that issue.

It is necessary that one-fourth of the membership (approximately 5,000, including personal and institutional) vote in order to sustain or defeat the petition. All ALA members are urged to exercise their membership right and Vote Yes or No on this important issue.

NORTH DAKOTA STRESSES INITIATIVE

By MRS. HAZEL WEBSTER BYRNES, *Director,
North Dakota State Library Commission,
Bismarck, North Dakota*

Initiative for creating county and multi-county libraries must come from the people themselves; a petition signed by 51% of the voters in the last general election is needed to indicate real interest in the program.

This new Public Library Program began with the Federal Library Services Act, Public Law 597, which was passed by the 84th Congress "to promote the further extension by the several states of public library services to rural areas without such services or with inadequate services." The State Legislature in House Bill 638 permits the putting into operation of this Act in North Dakota, thus opening a new era in public library expansion in this state.

Every state in the union has been offered the possibility of securing some federal funds to help promote public library service for rural areas. Matching funds authorized by the State Legislature will bring the minimum amount to which North Dakota is entitled, or \$40,000 per year for the next biennium. The first funds are already deposited with the State Treasurer.

To carry out this program local county or multi-county libraries will be organized, standardized and set up as functioning library systems. Community libraries already established would be maintained as basic operating libraries, or branch or station libraries, and strengthened by being able to draw on the resources of the county system.

The operation library center will automatically be the library best equipped for this purpose. Other libraries in the area will be used as branches or stations. Cities and villages of under 10,000 population will be included as part of the area program. Cities over 10,000 may be contracted with to serve the surrounding rural areas. The initiative for creating county and multi-county libraries must come from the people themselves. A

petition signed by 51% of the voters in the last general election will be needed to indicate the real interest in the program.

The State Library Commission will supervise this program, as will the State Library agency in each state. It will work in a demonstration area from six months to one and a half years, helping the system in the specific area to become a going concern. Some Federal-State funds will supplement local funds. At the close of the demonstration, the area must agree to carry on with local funds. House Bill 638 states that a tax levy not to exceed 2 mills over and above the county tax limitation may be used for this purpose.

Williams was the first county to secure the 51% of signers to the needed petition. The County Commissioners also voted the mill levy; and the Williams County Library Board has been appointed.

The State Library Commission has splendid evidence that the people in the rural areas are interested. The many calls coming cause us to heartily wish that the Legislature had voted more than the minimum matching for federal funds.

By another session we predict that "the voice of the people" may better help the library interests, for the next biennium is going to show some splendid results which will not only extend library service, but will offer help in giving balance to the development which is showing for this state, in building not only for industrial and economic pursuits, but in building the people themselves.

SOUTH DAKOTA—"BETWEEN LOADS"

By MERCEDES B. MacKAY,
South Dakota State Library Commission,
Secretary and Director,
Pierre, South Dakota

Since the convening of the 35th Session of the legislature to the present time, the Director has literally been running between loads. Special meetings of the State Library Commission were held to determine policy and to appear at special legislative committee hearings relative to the new State Library Building and appropriation for the State Library. Legislation pertaining to public libraries permitting the placing of unexpended funds from the current library budget into a special library building fund was introduced and became law. The appropriation for State Library was increased, but the appropriation for funds for new library building failed in the Joint Appropriation Committee.

The legislation to increase the membership on the State Library Commission from 5 to 7 members passed both Houses of the Legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

Expansion to Other Quarters

Since no legislation was enacted for a new library building, the Commission decided in March to rent quarters for State Library. As a result, a vacant warehouse, which with minor remodeling and new fluorescent lighting, was found to be satisfactory for the housing of State Library.

Since June 1st the Director and staff have been taking books off the shelves, packing them, taking down and reassembling shelving in the new quarters and placing books in position. Then the daily trek to the new quarters to supervise installations and return between loads.

Central Classification Unit

The first project to be organized will be the Central Unit for Classification and Cataloging of books. By means of this project libraries may secure technical assistance as well as the catalog cards for their books, enabling them to

maintain high technical standards and permitting librarians to devote their time to better serving the adults and children with books.

The second project is the organization of a Regional Library Service Center with Bookmobile service.

UTAH MOVES AHEAD

By RALPH THOMSON, Chairman,
State Library Commission;
Associate Librarian,
University of Utah

(For a full account of Utah's establishment of a state library agency, see "Success Story in Utah," Mountain-Plains Library Quarterly, Spring, 1957, pp. 15-16. The information below adds recent developments.)

The members of the State Library Commission, appointed by the governor, are as follows:

A. R. Mortensen, Director, Utah Historical Society; Guy N. Cardon, representing Utah Legislative Council; Wilburn N. Ball, representing Utah Office of Education; Ralph D. Thomson, representing State Law Library. The above members are nominated by the agencies and appointed by the Governor.

Five other members appointed at large by the governor are as follows:

Lucy Phillips, English professor, Snow College, Ephraim; Mrs. Dan Jones, Librarian, College of Southern Utah, Cedar City; Mr. Golden Black, businessman, Delta; Wendell E. Gile, banker, Salt Lake City; Dr. S. Perry Smith, dentist, Logan.

At the first meeting of the commission, Ralph Thomson was elected chairman for a two-year period. The chairman appointed an executive committee to help prepare the forms requested for Utah's share of funds available through the Library Services Act.

WYOMING TURNS DOWN FEDERAL LIBRARY AID

By MRS. FRANK MOCKLER,
State Library Board,
Dubois, Wyoming

A member of the Wyoming State Library Board describes the thinking among laymen and some librarians responsible for defeating, by one vote, legislation that would have enabled Wyoming to accept Federal funds under the Library Services Act.

In the last session of the Wyoming Legislature the enabling act permitting the State to participate in the use of federal funds for rural libraries under the Library Services Act was turned down. Had someone told the originators of this plan that Wyoming would not want it they probably would not have been believed. No state is more rural than Wyoming. But being rural does not mean being ignorant.

A number of reasons were put forth to defeat the bill. One was that Wyoming has an outstanding WORKING County-Branch-Station system. Long ago in Feb. 18, 1901, a law was passed whereby county libraries could be established and be supported by tax funds. Later, on Feb. 8, 1921, a branch-station law was added permitting the counties to finance libraries in the tiniest communities and schools. Consequently the newest books, and the services of the Bibliographical Center for Research, reaches down to everyone. If a farmer or rancher does not read books, it needn't be because books are not available, or that he is uneducated, but probably because he is too weary to do so.

Another reason given was that Wyoming has enough taxable wealth to provide itself with an adequate public library service. Nearly a half million more can be raised for library purposes without reaching the tax limit. If Wyoming wanted to spend \$54,468.00 more for library service all we would need to do would be to raise the average levy from 47 cents per \$1000.00 to 54 cents per \$1000.00 valuation. Seven cents per \$1000.00 would provide local aid and insure local control of our libraries.

The Legislature had memorialized Congress to oppose federal aid for edu-

cation, so opponents asked, how could they then unblushingly and simultaneously ask for federal aid for libraries.

Numerous advances in improved library services have been accomplished already, mainly through a letter sent out by the State Library Association asking the county libraries to list their needs in order of importance. Some of the reported changes are: The only county without a library established a county library and branch in May. Additional branches have been created. Larger book budgets have been secured. Library hours have increased. Trained librarians are being actively sought in several counties.

Through a continued active leadership and guidance from the State librarian and the State Library Association, their influence can be exerted in the development of better library services over the state.

Wyoming has an excellent library system, it has the wealth to support it, and it has the talent to establish and maintain the highest of public library service without federal aid. As a layman I believe this and it might be interesting to watch Wyoming do it.

VOTE BY MAIL—NOW

Official ballots have now been distributed to all paid-up MPLA members by Mrs. Kathryn Gesterfield, secretary. The list of nominees was also published in the Spring, 1957, Quarterly.

By action of the membership (see Page 15, Fall 1956 Quarterly) no ballots will be distributed at the time of the annual conference registration this year. So in order to have your vote counted, VOTE by MAIL—NOW.

NEBRASKA RECEIVES A.L.A. GRANT

The Nebraska Public Library Commission has been awarded a two-year grant of \$12,000 by the Library-Community Project of the American Library Association. The grant states, Nebraska and Wisconsin, were chosen by the Special Projects Committee of the ALA Adult Education Division on the basis of the merit of their applications.

The grant is to be used by the Nebraska Public Library Commission to plan and develop a long-range library adult education program in cooperation with librarians, citizens' groups, organizations, agencies and institutions in Nebraska. The grant period is from September 1, 1957, to August 31, 1959.

Miss Ruth Warncke, Director of the ALA Library-Community Project, said, "The entire Project is tailored to the needs within the state, and is designed to strengthen the continuing development of library adult education activities and services. What happens as the

result of the Project in each of the grant states will be of special significance to librarians throughout the country."

The Library-Community Project has two phases. The first is the planning and development of a long-range adult education program in a pilot library. The library, in cooperation with citizens of the community, will make a community study to determine the nature and extent of the educational resources for adults, and the educational needs and interests which are not being met. The library will have the assistance of the state library agency staff, and of the consultant staff of the American Library Association.

The pilot library in Nebraska will be the public library in Hastings. Miss Jeanette Hillers is the librarian.

In addition to its pilot library activity, the Nebraska Public Library Commission will develop a broader program on a statewide basis.

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PROGRAM MPLA—PNLA CONFERENCE

THEME: "BOOKS, LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS AROUND THE WORLD"

Bozeman, Montana, September 5, 6, 7, 1957

Registration	Wednesday, September 4	8:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.
	Thursday, September 5	8:30 A.M.- 5:00 P.M.
		7:00 P.M.- 9:00 P.M.
	Friday, September 6	8:30 A.M.-12:00 Noon
	Saturday, September 7	8:30 A.M.- 4:00 P.M.

PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS

Wednesday, September 4

Library Education Conference — 1:00 P.M. Sponsored by the Library Development Project	Dr. Irving Lieberman, Dir. School of Librarianship University of Washington
Board of Directors Meeting — 1:00 P.M.	
Mixer — 8:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M.	

FIRST GENERAL SESSION

Thursday, September 5, 9:00 A.M.

Welcome to Bozeman	The Hon. Arnold Swanson Mayor of Bozeman
Response	Miss Lora Crouch, President-elect Mountain Plains Library Assn. Sioux Falls Public Library Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Greetings	Morris Johnson, Manager Bozeman Chamber of Commerce
Introduction of Conference Committee	
Announcement of Exhibits	Marjorie Vivian, Exhibits Chairman, Montana State College Bozeman, Montana
Coffee break and time to look at exhibits	
Business Meeting — PLNA and MPLA in separate sessions — 11:00 A. M.	

LUNCHEON

Thursday, September 5, 12:00 Noon

Greetings from the American Library Association . . .	Miss Lucile Morsch, Pres. American Library Association
"Progress Report on the Library Development Project" . . .	Dr. Morton Kroll, Dir. PLNA Library Development Project

DIVISION MEETINGS

Thursday, September 5, 2:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M.

CIRCULATION DIVISION

"The Public Library Prepares for the Young Adult"	Miss Eleanor Kidder Young Peoples Librarian Seattle Public Library
"The Popular Library — Its Place and Function in a Departmentalized Library"	Speaker to be announced

CATALOG DIVISION

"The Reorganization of A.L.A. and the New Resources
and Technical Services Division" Mrs. Orcena Mahoney, Exec. Sec.
Resources and Technical Services Div.
American Library Association

Symposium: "New Development in Catalog Administration"

Miss Hanna E. Krueger, Chief, Humanities Library, State College of
Washington

Mr. Frank A. Lundy, Director of University Libraries, Univ. of Nebraska

Mr. Paul W. Winkler, Asst. Prof., University of Denver School of
Librarianship

Mr. W. H. Perry, Librarian, College of Puget Sound Library, Tacoma

REFERENCE DIVISION

Panel Discussion on Photocopy Equipment Mr. Chris G. Stevenson, Head
Technical Information
General Electric Company
Richland, Washington

LIBRARY TRUSTEES ROUND TABLE

"How Much is Enough — Public Library Budgets in an
Inflationary Era" Frederick Wezeman, Assoc. Prof.
Library School
University of Minnesota

STATE AGENCIES ROUND TABLE

Mrs. Ruth O. Longworth, Secretary
Montana State Library Extension
Commission, Missoula

SECOND GENERAL SESSION

Thursday, September 5, 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.

"Books, Libraries and Librarians Around the World" . Dr. Carl Hintz, Moderator
President-elect, PNLA

Panel: Univ. of Oregon Library, Eugene
Mr. N. Orwin Rush, Professor, Library Science, University of Wyoming,
Laramie

Miss Lucile Morsch, President, ALA, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Robert L. Gitler, Secretary, Committee on Accreditation and Executive
Secretary, Library Education Division, ALA, Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Willard Ireland, provincial Librarian and Archivist, Provincial Library
Victoria, British Columbia

THIRD GENERAL SESSION

Friday, September 6, 9:00 A.M.

Adult Education Committee Session with ALA Adult

Education Representative Miss Virginia Walton, Presiding
State Historical Society
Helena, Montana

Panel:

Mr. Arthur DeVolder, Public Librarian, Twin Falls, Idaho

Mr. Milton C. Abrams, Librarian, Utah State Agricultural College, Logan

Miss L. Dorothy Bevis, Associate Professor, School of Librarianship,
University of Washington, Seattle

Miss Lora Crouch, Librarian, Free Public Library, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Miss Eilene Morrison, Assistant Professor, Department of Library Science,
Montana State College Library, Bozeman

Mr. Eli Oboler, Librarian, Idaho State College, Pocatello

LUNCHEONS

Friday, September 6, 12:00 Noon

“The Competition Among Nations”.....Dr. Robert G. Dunbar
Professor of History
Montana State College, Bozeman

SPECIALIZED SERVICES DIVISION LUNCHEON

“Tribute From a Research Engineer”.....Dr. L. F. Roehmann
Research Electrical Engineer
Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp.
Department of Metallurgical
Research, Spokane

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MEETING

Friday, September 6, 1:30 P.M.

Executive Committee — Library Development Project

Saturday, September 7, 9:00 A.M.

“Books and Libraries in Our Region”.....Mr. Stuart Baillie, Presiding
Director, School of Librarianship
University of Denver

Panel:

Miss Kathleen Campbell, Librarian, University of Montana Library, Missoula
Mr. L. H. Kirkpatrick, President, MPLA, University of Utah Library,
Salt Lake City
Dr. Irving Lieberman, Director, School of Librarianship, University of
Washington

LUNCHEON

Saturday, September 7, 12:00 Noon

“Books and Libraries in Technical Assistance and
Foreign Development Program”.....Dr. R. R. Renne, President
Montana State College
Bozeman

FOURTH GENERAL SESSION

Saturday, September 7, 2:00 P.M.

Business Meetings — PNLA and MPLA in separate sessions

FIFTH GENERAL SESSION

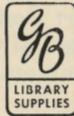
Saturday, September 7, 7:00 P.M.

BANQUET

PresidingMrs. Alma S. Jacobs
Great Falls Public Library
Great Falls, Montana
ToastmasterL. H. Kirkpatrick
University of Utah Library
Salt Lake City
Resolutions
“The Inward Look for the Upward Climb”....Frederick Wezeman, Assoc. Prof.
Library School
University of Minnesota

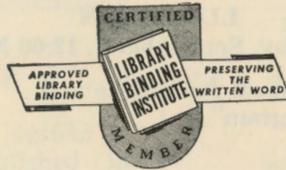
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

For years members of MPLA have tried to find time adequate to work on regional enterprises. The suggestion below is a specific proposal on how to do this, an idea on which we solicit your ideas and comments.

MUST CONVENTIONS BE CONVENTIONAL?

By FRANK D. HANKINS, Assistant Librarian, Wichita Public Library, Wichita, Kansas

Much as we might grouse good naturedly about them, most library meetings probably do rather well the job they are intended to do.

I would like to enter a demurrer in the case of the typical regional library association convention, however, on the grounds that too often the same "tried and true" formula also used by other library groups does not adequately meet the association's needs. As I see it, the regional library association (MPLA, PNLA, SWLA, etc.) is primarily a **working** group rather than a **meeting** body, and its convention might well reflect this difference.

This is not to say that other library organizations do not work, nor that regional library association should not hold meetings. The difference is one of degree, rather.

A typical library convention (excluding ALA Midwinter) has general sessions with speakers, panels, etc., and section meetings with speakers, panels, etc. Committees which meet during the course of a convention either gather after conventions hours or skip part of the program to meet. (The latter is not generally encouraged.)

Now in all this, the format is unavoidably that of a few speaking from the platform to the many in the audience, with some occasional relief afforded by buzz sessions, post-mortem discussion groups, and the like. Outside speakers are standard attractions at intra-state as well as inter-state conclaves. Representatives from ALA are most generous with their time, participating in many meetings around the country, and frequently key-noting the convention.

I question not the validity of this type of meeting, but, for the following reasons, the assumption that it is the best type for our regional library associations:

1. Regional associations are the best means of bringing together librarians in one area to consult about, plan, and then administer regional enterprises. **There should be adequate time at the meeting for this to occur.** For example, suppose some one feels that his regional association could well provide a clearing-house of positions available in the area: How do others see it, what can be done, would it be feasible, how can it be done, and so forth. When librarians are together in the regional meeting would seem to be the best time for consideration of such proposals. If you want to stifle or kill such proposals, just let them hang on from meeting to meeting. This will not only

do **them** in—it will render future ideas dead on arrival, if not still-born.

But how encourage the expression of ideas, projects, plans, if time is taken up with "inspirational" talks (even is they are good), and rigidly organized sessions? Organization is essential, true, but more flexibility is desirable. Some time is now provided for smaller group meetings, true, but not enough. Perhaps working committees, meeting on convention time and reporting back to a general session, is one way of facilitating the flow of ideas and arriving at concrete proposals—before everybody goes home.

2. Consider the people that attend regional meetings, and the libraries represented. Chances are very good that the same people, or if not, at least the same libraries, were represented at the district (intra-state) and state meetings and one if not both of the annual national meetings. The regional association, between the state and national bodies, should offer more than a recapitulation of current library matters that occurred at these two levels. (By that I don't mean one should assume that everyone attending knows of such matters. By all means pass on all pertinent bits of information, but don't make a federal case of it.) For example: At the 1956 Mountain-Plains meeting, representatives from each of the seven-member states described his state's program to implement the Federal Library Services Act. This was a good exchange of information and ideas. Simply to have developed a general session around the Act, without its application to the region, however, would have been worse than a waste of time, for practically everyone there had by that time a working knowledge of the legislation itself. Again, because the people attending are in general well up on library matters, they can contribute much to each other, with the right framework of operations.

3. Does the regional meeting offer something the other library conventions do not? Does it accomplish anything not better undertaken by other library associations? Consider the distance traveled, time, money and energy devoted to planning, programming, and attending the meeting. Is it worth it? For example: A good program around the sociology and physical characteristics of the region as it affects library service may be of more lasting benefit than a program based on the theme of adult education. This is not because

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adult education is less important, but that it may (and note I say may, not necessarily) have less application in this particular region.

Now, in another region, adult education activities in the several states might make a much more relevant program. The thing is — stay away from general topics not directly applicable to the region, topics best discussed at other library meetings. People frequently travel long distances to regional meetings. It is unfair at the end of a long journey to meet them at the door with warmed-over hash.

I believe that regional library association will function best if the emphasis is on a working group, rather than a meeting body. To work well, we must meet; when we meet, we should also work.

This then is a suggestion to amend rather than replace our present type of regional library association meeting. Keep the general session(s), but keep to a minimum. Eliminate outside talks that do not directly contribute to the work at hand. Give more convention time to scheduled working committees, and time for them to report to the membership. Encourage and enable members to participate in suggesting what the regional association can and should be doing. Finally, stick to regional affairs.

Perhaps what I am trying to say is that a regional library association, which can meet at most once a year, might well pattern its convention less after the ALA summer meeting and more after ALA Mid-Winter.

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CENTER NEWS

COOPERATING WITH NATIONAL UNION CATALOG

George A. Schwegmann, Jr., Chief, Union Catalog Division, Library of Congress, visited the Center July 22 to discuss reporting holdings for the National Union Catalog. In order to reduce the number of holdings being sent through the Center the following libraries will be asked to report on a selective basis direct to the Library of Congress:

University of Arizona
University of Denver
University of Colorado
University of Kansas
University of Utah
University of Wyoming
Kansas City Public Library
Texas Technological College

Each of these libraries will also send their holdings to the Denver Bib Center.

RABBITS OUT OF THE HAT

Rabbits, a Subject Bibliography, by Laura I. Makepeace, (no. 3) in the Special Bibliographies series of the Bibliographical Center is becoming famous all over the world. Copies have been sent to Canada, Russia, Australia, Sweden, Norway, England, Pakistan and many other foreign countries. So many copies are being sold they may provide funds for a new cabinet for the Union Catalog.

REPORT OF THE ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE

The Acquisitions Committee held a meeting May 28, 1957, at the Denver Public Library. They made the following recommendations to the Executive Board of the Bibliographical Center:

1. That, money budgeted for equipment be held in reserve until the end of the fiscal year at which time purchase of catalog case or cases be considered and investigation made as to the suitability of

the use of Art Metal Equipment.

2. That, at the end of the fiscal year, money left up to four hundred dollars and not to exceed five hundred dollars be applied to the funds of the Denver Public Library toward the purchase of the "British Museum, General Catalogue of Printed Books, New Edition." It is recommended also that this be a continuing cooperative purchase for the six year estimated period of publication.
3. That, the "Microcard Edition of National Bibliographies," be considered a justified and normal purchase by the Center.
4. That, a list of holdings of the Bibliographical Center either lithographed or on cards be prepared for the member organizations. Limited numbers can be prepared and sold to other interested individuals or institutions.
5. That, a survey is needed indicating the subject areas which are being emphasized by the individual member libraries.
6. That, there is a need for a new evaluation of the cost of the services of the Bibliographical Center to the member organizations.

Those present were: Eulalia Chapman, Jane Gould, Gladys Drotleff, Miriam McNally, John Eastlick, Forrest Carhart, Henry Waltemade, Walter Babbitt, Margaret Reid, chairman.

NEW MEMBERS

Two new members of the Bibliographical Center have just been announced by Mrs. Eulalia Chapman, director.

They are: Library and Archives, Library Extension Division, Phoenix, Arizona, Mrs. Catherine S. Chadwick, extension librarian; and Osawatomie State Hospital, Osawatomie, Kansas, Mrs. D. Morton, librarian.



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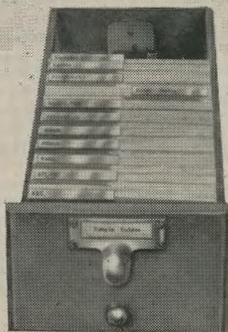
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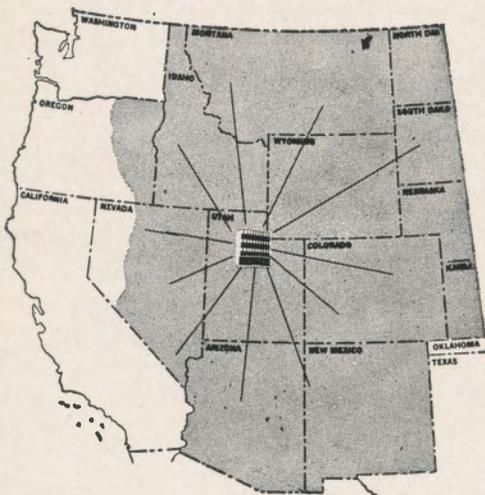
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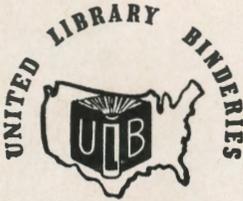
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