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West Virginia Library Association

3-1967

West Virginia Libraries 1967 Vol.20 No.1

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<http://mds.marshall.edu/wvlib/26>

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MAR. 1967



WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES
WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

VOLUME 20
NUMBER 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MARCH
1967

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WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES is the official organ of the West Virginia Library Association. It is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Contributions and other communications should be addressed to the editor and should be received no later than the first day of the month in which an issue is to appear. Subscription is included with membership dues. Annual subscription to non-members is one dollar.

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THE OTHER APPALACHIA

by

Maurice Brooks

(This is an address delivered by Professor Brooks at the annual meeting of the West Virginia Library Association on 8 October 1966, at Fairmont, West Virginia. Professor Brooks was introduced by Miss Ruth Figgett, First Vice-President of the Association. Her remark that "a speaker interested in his subject makes an interesting speech" leads into Professor Brooks' initial remark.)

The introduction struck a very happy note in this respect: I think we here in Appalachia need peculiarly to have people who like and appreciate the region in which we live. I do not believe that it is possible to write a book about an area unless you are deeply moved emotionally by that area. My book, The Appalachians, is sort of a love letter of mine to the region where I was born and raised and I hope this comes through to some extent.

In Porgy and Bess that rather questionable character named Sportin' Life sings a song which is a bit of casuistry-- "It ain't necessarily so," and that has been a great source of comfort to me and I am sure to a great number of people. Whenever I hear someone who is too dogmatic in his statements, someone who is positively certain he has the solution to all things and all wisdom wrapped up in what he has to say, I am always inclined to think, "It ain't necessarily so." That particularly applies to this region of ours, this Appalachian Region. If there has ever been an area that has been investigated, written about, studied, and had all sorts of dogmatic

solutions proposed for our problems, this is it right here. We've been inflicted by just a boundless flood of surveys and investigations, conferences, poverty reports, recommendations for legislative action, federal participation, bureaucratic decisions. I am not sure these are the hope of Appalachia, so whenever I read these reports I am inclined to think with Sportin' Life, "It ain't necessarily so." Because there is, as I hope I may show you, another side to this region.

Tragically enough this region of ours has had a very poor press. I do not know any person, or any thing that has been written about with a more unfortunate press than we have had. And the sad part of this is that a great many of the persons who have written about us or have prepared reports about us have been a good distance away. Now distance may lend enchantment to the view or may give more of a basis for comparison and more perspective, and I'll admit that there is a certain value in that. But I also have been struck by the fact that the persons who are most positive in their statements about what is wrong with us and who are most certain that they have all the answers are those who have had the least chance to know us and who have come from the greatest distances. It seems that there is an inverse ratio here in our sureness of what these problems are. And I suppose like most of the rest of the people who were born and raised in this part of the world I have been a little amused by the types of people who come to study us. I am sure you are all acquainted with the surveys and the panels of experts brought

in, and as I have read some of the investigations and reports that have brought forth, I have been struck with this. They have been written by several types of people, but a surprising number of them are by men of very great wealth. Now maybe that qualifies them to be authorities on poverty, I don't know. But in any event they have been men of extreme wealth or they have been urban sociologists, men and women whose training has been entirely in urban areas and who have shown by every word they write and by every deed that they know almost nothing about living in the country and what country life actually is. Or they have been highly paid administrators who come in with a plan. Everybody has a plan. Everybody knows exactly what he is going to do and if you took the sum of all the plans, I don't know where we would come out. But we have them all and you as librarians know that very well because you have to deal with them. You have to catalog them, and as a consequence you probably know a good deal more about them and about how many of them there are than I do, and maybe you have formed some of the same opinions that I have. In any event, we have these reports and surveys and it has been amazing to me that the people who have come to this state have been able to find exactly what they want to find. No matter where they come from they arrive with a set of preconceived ideas about the area. These ideas have become stereotypes and so they see exactly what they want. Now I have an idea that if I were younger and wanted to go to Chicago or New York and live a life of sin I could find what I was looking for. It is

conceivable to me that that could happen. I could find exactly what I was looking for any place I went. And when newspaper reporters come to this area they dip into one West Virginia coal camp or they go up some creek or hollow and they find what they want and we read about it in Life, or Look, or the Saturday Evening Post a few weeks later. It is amazing that we people here in the Appalachians are as patient as we are. We have let the public build stereotypes around us. If it were just stereotypes it would not be so bad, but it goes beyond that. The stereotypes in too many cases have become caricatures. Now all of us know a caricature is a very valuable sort of thing because it exaggerates some one particular feature that usually is the worse one we have. Too often our own people have been willing to accept this. They have not recognized themselves, but they have felt that, after all, this is a harmless sort of thing and maybe it would be a good idea for us, since people regard us as Hillbillies, to act as Hillbillies, to look like Hillbillies, to talk like Hillbillies, and so we have an amazing amount of acceptance of this idea by our own people. I wish that weren't true. But it is true and one of the things I believe we have to get rid of is the Hillbilly concept of ourselves. People accepted it and they have been helped along too often by the writers who are residents in this area.

It is a rather ungrateful thing to criticize other writers and yet I have to point out certain things about a great deal of the literature that has been coming out of the

Appalachian region written by the people who live here. These writers are not to be blamed, because they must sell what the public is willing to buy. If the editor says, "No, I can't publish that, nobody would believe it if I did," then the writer is likely to change his material to make it conform to frozen ideas, ideas which are stereotypes, if not caricatures. But we should remember that professional writers have to write material that will sell and we should not be too harsh on them. But I think of the people who come to us and of some of the preconceived notions they have, and I would like to illustrate that with three short stories.

I learned about stereotypes the hard way a good many years ago when I took a group of 4-H Club members on a trip to New York City. We were at the Commodore Hotel and we were there in connection with the Business and Professional Women's Club group that had selected two things to exhibit at its national meeting. One was the coal industry in West Virginia, and the other was the 4-H Club movement, hence my being there with the 4-H members. We had in our party one very pretty girl who was the mother of Ella Kessel, the Miss West Virginia in the finals of the Miss America pageant two or three years ago. It did not take a reporter from the New York Tribune very long to spot Katy, and he asked if he could call a photographer to get a picture of her up on the roof of the Commodore, which was properly done. Then we gave the newspaper reporter all the detail, which obviously made no connection whatsoever between 4-H Club work and the coal industry. The next day Katy's

picture came out in the Tribune identified as Miss Kathryn Hartman from West Virginia who was at the Commodore with the Business and Professional Women's Club group. It went on to say that she was a representative of the recently established 4-H Club group which was a movement for coal miners' children in West Virginia and that Miss Hartman's father was an indigent coal miner who lived in a tent colony for part of the year. Now you run into a thing of that kind and you lose your illusions about the grandeur of journalism pretty fast.

The second illustration is suggested by an article that the New Republic carried some years ago on some labor problems in Weirton. The writer, completely impartial and perfectly fair and unbiased in every way, referred to Weirton as being in the heart of the wilds of West Virginia. I am sure Mr. Myers will appreciate that.

The third story has to do with our basketball hero on the Los Angeles Lakers, Jerry West. When Jerry was a student at the University I had him in class and I was able to get pretty well acquainted with him. A Pittsburgh sports writer wanted to write an article on him for one of the nation's sports magazines. When he submitted the story he made Jerry a nice, quiet, modest kind of boy with a pretty girl that he was going to marry. But the editor threw up his hands in holy horror and said no one would ever read it. So the writer had to give Jerry a dialect, the like of which no one had ever heard before, and write about his girl as though she were a deprived person. Some of you who know this family realize, of

course, how funny that was, but it was only after these changes had had been made that the story was published. You see, it is the stereotypes that have completely frozen people's minds, and that is a very unfortunate thing.

Some of our own writers are responsible for this. I will not call any names but most of you can figure them out if you want to. We have an eastern Kentucky writer who writes beautifully. He has a pleasing way of writing about people, but he has found what the public will buy and he has mined that vein consistently and successfully. He has built up a sort of never-never land of dialog that no person who lives in the Big Sandy Country ever heard or ever will hear. It is just as foreign as the Scottish words used by Bobby Burns. A Scotchman always has to look in the dictionary to see what is meant when he tries to read Bobby Burns, and nobody has the slightest idea of any person really talking, or behaving, like this. It would be possible to find illiterate people in any community, but these are caricatures and quite unfortunate ones. Then we have a West Virginia author, one raised in the northern part of the state, who is writing and using the area as his source of material, and he takes a different tack. He is a mood writer and he writes quite powerfully at times. He pictures law enforcement people and they are always as sadistic and as cruel as people can be. If he writes about children the people who care for them are criminals, or child torturers, and the atmosphere of such pictures is just about as grim as it can be. It is powerfully written and well

written, but it presents a picture which would make that particular area seem quite savage, fitting right in with the current plays of New York's Broadway. Now it so happens that my wife is a native of that county. I know the people up there and I know that all of them are not that way at all.

And then we have another author for whom I have a tremendous liking and respect, whose particular field is the soft coal area of eastern Kentucky. This time I will name him. Most of you know I am talking about Harry Caudill. Harry Caudill wrote his book for the same identical purpose that the late Rachel Carson wrote Silent Spring. It is a propaganda document. It is written to prove one particular viewpoint and it does a magnificent job of it. Everything that Harry Caudill says is true, just as everything Rachel Carson said was true. I happen to have had my book published by the same company that published Rachel's and I know that a chemical association said that if the book appeared the publisher would be sued for six million dollars. The editor replied that if one word in Rachel Carson's book could be disproved, he would settle for the six million immediately. And no person has ever been able to disprove any of it. But it presented one side of the picture and the same thing is true of Harry Caudill's book. It presents Appalachia in a completely hopeless way with all the bad and none of the good and there are some good things.

Then the most recent one, and I think in some ways quite an unfortunate one really, is an honest, sincere, well meaning

book, written with genuine love and sympathy, which refers to Yesterday's People. To me this is a most unfortunate thing. I don't believe friends can be won among these mountain people by calling them Yesterday's People. To be associated entirely with yesterday is a pretty hopeless situation. I don't believe people can be changed very much by trying to shame or scare them. Some of us here are school teachers, and I don't believe we get along very well in the school room by saying to a group of girls or boys, you are all delinquents, you are all bad, and no good can come of you. I don't believe in reform on that basis. I happen to think these mountain people are very proud. Sometimes, I admit, they have elements that do not make them appear to be proud, but some of us who have had a little experience with Spanish speaking people know that the peasants in Mexico, for example, are intensely proud men whether they have any worldly good or not. They have a proper pride in themselves. I think people cannot be won over by calling them quaint or different. Some of you had the same experience I did, hearing the author of this book on the NBC TV program, Today, when the smug editors of the show asked why they are different from us. I don't believe that is an approach that is going to improve our image or our people. I think they do have their pride and I would be very unhappy if they did not.

My thesis is that there is another side of Appalachia which is not in the Appalachian Bill, which is not in any of the Rockefeller reports or any of the other numerous volumes

which have been written about this area. This other side of Appalachia is a very wonderful country, a very beautiful land with a lot of very wonderful people. It is a somewhat different land from most other parts, and in that regard I am happy to say that we are a bit different. We have certain things, and certain advantages that other parts of the world do not have and cannot share, and we need to bring out these things as the other side. Let me repeat that I have no quarrel with the truth of what Harry Caudill writes, nor have I any quarrel whatsoever with the truth of the material in Yesterday's People. But it is only partly true and I think it is time that librarians and other people see the other side of Appalachia.

We have, then, these things that set us apart. We have certain advantages and I want to speak briefly on four of them. Perhaps the first advantage is not so obvious to us here in the Appalachians as it should be. We are still a comparatively uncrowded area. Compared with the megalopolises that are growing up in the Middle West and along the Atlantic Seaboard, this region is still uncrowded. Henry VanDyke once referred to America as "The blessed land of room enough," and here we still have that. Now what is it that uncrowdedness confers on the area? It is like driving on a super highway or one of California freeways. Once you are in a wrong lane it is very hard to change directions. In an uncrowded country the pattern is not frozen. We are not restricted, and we can still change our pattern when it is desirable. It gives us a flexibility

that the crowded sections of the world do not have. If we have taken the wrong turn, if we have made mistakes, there is still room for us to rectify them, because we aren't standing shoulder to shoulder with others all the time. There is still room to wander off the pathway and see if we can find a better way to do things. Our freedom to take new directions is one of the greatest blessings we have. I know some people who are pouring out bitter tears because West Virginia is losing population. I wonder if it would not be more sensible for us to try to improve the life of the people who are here and to recognize that our sparse population may have a certain advantage which sets us apart. It is impossible to find other areas in the eastern part of the U. S. that are as free of crowds as West Virginia, or this section of the Appalachians.

There is another thing we have which we are not inclined to evaluate and appreciate as much as we can. I ask you to think of your own situation for just a minute. When you go on a vacation what sort of experience do you choose? Most of us, if we are in the flat country, we like to get to the mountains. The essential of a vacation for our ease of mind is to get in an area that is different in environment. Now I wonder if we appreciate here in the Appalachians how easily we can change our environment; how comparatively simple it is. If it is hot where we are, we climb a mountain and go where the nights are cool; if we are in an agricultural area, we can quickly get in a forest area; if we are in an area that is devoid of game and fish we may quickly get in an area where game and fish are

found. All of these things are possible because of these hills here. We can climb a hill and be in Canada, or we can go in a valley and be in Carolina with the same plant and animal life to be found there. And because of the differences in elevation and because of the difference in latitude between the northern panhandle and our southern point, we do have an almost endless opportunity to shift our environment. In the course I teach on wild life management, we have studied a great deal about wild life and we find that wild life always wants to live where it can change environment quickly. If you are going out looking for ruffed grouse you will look along the sides of a road. Here are the woods for shelter but here are the legumes and grit along the sides of the road that a grouse can find to eat. Deer are much more likely to be along the highway or in an opening than they are out in the depths of a heavy forest. So we can still change our environment quickly.

Now we have a third asset which I sincerely wish I could make every West Virginian believe in. If I say West Virginian it is because I am talking to a West Virginia audience largely. It is just as true of the rest of Appalachia as it is of West Virginia. We have in our Appalachian deciduous forests one of the most magnificent and most nearly unique stands of timber in the world. We cut it about 50 or 60 years ago in a manner similar to the way we operate much of our economy--by a colonial system of cut and get out. And we made fortunes in Pittsburgh, in New York City, and other places for people who were not West Virginians, who did not live here, who had no interest

in the state except to cut our timber and get out. As a consequence we had a whole series of ghost towns, with a depression which follows that sort of thing. Now a new generation of trees has grown over these hills and so beneficent is our climate here and so fine is our soil that we are now almost ready for a new cut of timber the like of which the world has scarcely ever seen before. The trees aren't quite as big as they were before but they are much thicker on the ground and the potential for timber is simply tremendous. We are going to start cutting in about five more years. Here is one question--are we going to manufacture this timber at home and make it into fine furniture or are we going to cut the logs and ship them by rail or truck to Grand Rapids, Michigan, Highpoint, North Carolina, and have them manufactured there? That is the point that West Virginians are going to have to decide in the next few years. We have job opportunities here in a well paying industry for 50,000 jobs in West Virginia if we are willing because we have the finest cabinet woods in the world--hard maple and black cherry and black walnut and other good woods--in tremendous quantities. Those of you who drive up around Davis to Red House, Maryland can see these forests and you can see what a fantastic amount of good wood there is. This is a curtain of opportunity which is just about to roll up for West Virginia which many and many another state could envy. We know that some of our resources have reached the limits of their usability in the state, and they are not likely to be developed further. But here is a new economic resource which

is just beginning, and it is in our hands to decide what we are going to do with it. We can make new jobs and improve the economy and make money enough for schools and roads and libraries in West Virginia if we keep this resource at home.

The last one of these which is just dimly seen, just beginning to be realized, is the resource of recreation. It is trite, I know, to say that we are living in a time of increasing leisure and more money, but it still happens to be true. And we have what the public is willing to pay for in the recreation resources we have. Mrs. Brooks and I had lunch day before yesterday with the Deputy Director of the U. S. National Park Service. We came back from that tremendously excited because he told us that the number one project of the National Park Service of the United States at the present time is the construction of a new Allegheny Parkway. This Parkway will start in the neighborhood of Hagerstown, Maryland and will come into West Virginia in our Eastern Panhandle area. Two hundred and seventy miles of that 500 mile road, to be managed by the U. S. National Park Service to Park standards, will be in the State of West Virginia. It will be a road such as the famous Blue Ridge Parkway is. It will leave the state down in southwestern Virginia and go on to Cumberland Gap and end there. Mr. Stratton said that the Park Service believes it will be even more spectacular than the Blue Ridge Parkway is. Now what does a resource of that kind mean? Let me cite the figures. The Blue Ridge Parkway that some of you have traveled and loved every inch of, bringing a new dimension to road travel and a

new appreciation of the outdoors--no buses, no trucks, all pleasant travel--was used last year, and I can bear witness, not overcrowded, by 8 1/2 million people! Every person who traveled it went down off the mountain side and spent money for motels, gasoline, food, and services. The impact of a thing of this kind is like a discovery of a new series of gold mines, except that the gold mines might ruin a resource and this will improve it.

So we are facing the future with a great deal of hope and a great deal of promise. We have these things and the promise is rich. The future can be wonderful and I do not believe any group in the world is better fitted to tell our people about this, to bring it to their attention, than are the librarians of the state. Because through your guidance, through your wise counseling you can direct people to think what you want them to think and to believe pretty much what you want them to believe, and you can help them and this region. Open the gates to a very fine future.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGIONAL LIBRARY CONFERENCE

Harold L. Roth
Public Relations Chairman
East Orange Public Library

The Middle Atlantic Regional Library Conference will be held at the Hotel Traymore in Atlantic City October 26, 27 and 28. The program has been planned so that outstanding speakers will be presented at the general sessions, and one whole day of the Conference will be devoted to workshops in depth. In this way, broad professional concepts and special operational interests will be considered as they apply to the theme "Serving a Society in Revolution." In addition to a highly stimulating and provocative program, the Conference Committee guarantees lively exhibits and a warmth of hospitality. Above all, the members of associations from Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia will have an opportunity to meet their colleagues for the discussion of mutual problems and activities. Bigger than a state association, smaller than the American Library Association, the regional conference offers high-level discussions in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

In a world of conferences, one more may raise a question. However, it is obvious from the size of the United States, and the diversity of problems, that there are frequent needs to discuss and debate them on a regional basis. This is the problem of the Middle Atlantic Regional Library Conference as the conference committee sees it. Every effort will

be made to meet the specific needs of the Mid-Atlantic states. The speakers and meetings directly relate to library problems of the region.

The Middle Atlantic Regional Library Conference is an informal conference usually held when the American Library Association meets on the West Coast. Although the records are somewhat unclear, it is believed that the first of these conferences was held in Hershey in the 1940's, and the second in Baltimore in 1947. Subsequent meetings have been held in Atlantic City in 1953, 1958 and 1963. Although the participating associations have a great deal in common, as well as many differences, there is no structured organization on a regional basis. A conference Committee is appointed informally by the presidents of the associations and is given full authority to plan as it sees fit. In view of the increased size of the participating associations and the more sophisticated approached to librarianship in the regional area, it has been proposed that perhaps an informal organization might be established so that policies and procedures and conference site selection may be planned more effectively. The executive boards of the various state associations in the Middle Atlantic area may wish to discuss this important matter with their memberships. Above all, they should feel they have a great stake in the 1967 Conference and will want to encourage wide attendance from their memberships.

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

51ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 6-8, 1966

Minutes of the Meeting

The 51st Annual West Virginia Library Association Conference was opened at 10:25 a.m., October 6, 1966 by Mr. William C. Myers, President. The invocation was given by Dr. William O. Armstrong, Trustee of the Marion Public Library, Fairmont, West Virginia.

The address of welcome was given by the Honorable Forrest L. Springer, Mayor of Fairmont, Mr. Myers read a telegram from Mary V. Gaver, President of the American Library Association.

Mr. Myers then made the appointment of Harold Apel of Huntington, West Virginia, as the parliamentarian for the Conference. Miss June R. Martin, Secretary read the minutes of the 50th Conference held last year at White Sulphur Springs. The minutes were accepted after corrections were made. The Treasurer's report prepared by Mr. Clifford Hamrick was not read at this time as copies of his report were included in the conference packet.

Mr. Myers asked the Secretary to read from the June, 1966 issue of West Virginia Libraries the following proposed amendment making changes in Article IV, Governing Body, Section 1,

"The executive board shall consist of the officers of the Association, the immediate past president, the ALA Councilor and the chairman of the sections provided for in the By-Laws. The Executive Secretary of the West Virginia Library Commission, the State Supervisor of School Library Services of the West Virginia State Department of Education, and the Editor of the Association's periodical publication West Virginia Libraries, shall serve as ex-officio (non-voting) members of the Executive board."

Mr. Winowich moved that the proposed amendment be brought to the floor, and it was seconded by Miss Traubert. Mr. Apel spoke against the motion saying that he believed since the Executive Board is the policy making arm of the West Virginia Library Association that the Board should at all times be free to debate and to act independently. At present we are fortunate in the two holders of these offices but Mr. Apel could see a time when we might wish to consider library matters without any conflict of interest. At present the Librarian of Congress is not an "ex-officio" member of the ALA board. Mr. Apel moved that the motion should have further study and that the Board continue to

invite these persons to the meetings for the present. Miss Parks said that the motion was under study at her request and that she has always refused offices in the Association and asked that persons employed by the Library Commission also refuse them. Mr. Carlson asked how long Miss Parks had been a voting member and was told that she had been such a member since about 1955. After discussion, Mr. Myers asked the Secretary to re-read the motion again and a vote was taken by a show of hands. The motion carried

Legislative Report: Mr. Apel, chairman said that his committee continued to oppose unfair legislation and worked to create favorable legislation. During the short session held in January, 1966 the Association opposed House bill 216 and Senate Bill 16 to dissolve the Department of Archives and History and place the position of Archivist in the office of the Secretary of State. The bill was also opposed by the West Virginia Historical Society and never reached the floor. The legislative committee will continue to hold dialogues with the various committees to consider needed legislation and to speak against unwise legislation.

Mr. Myers asked that as a guide to the new officers, those in attendance indicate their wishes in regard to holding the 1967 conference of the West Virginia Library Association either in the Spring of 1967 or in the Fall of 1967. The MARLC meeting will be held in Atlantic City October 25-29, 1967 at the Traymore and Claridge Hotels. Past records show that from 28 to 30 persons attended MARLC in 1958 and from 42 to 43 persons in 1963. Mr. Clopine said that the difficulty with a Spring meeting was the short time available for planning. Mr. Myers said he was not going to take a vote at this time as the matter was up to the Executive Board but that Miss Smookler had wanted to know the feeling of the conference as a guide for the new board.

ALA COUNCILOR: Mr. John Scott distributed his report to the members.

Nominating Committee: Jane Brugger submitted the following slate of officers:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| First Vice-President | - Miss Ruth E. Figgatt, Kanawha County Public Library, Charleston, West Virginia |
| Second Vice-President | - Miss Betty Jane Wade, High School Library, Shinnston, West Virginia |
| Secretary | - Miss Martha Myers, City-County Public Library, Moundsville, West Virginia |
| Treasurer | - Mr. Clifford Hamrick, Engineering-Agriculture Librarian, West Virginia University Library, Morgantown, West Virginia |

Nicholas Winowich seconded and nominations were asked for from the floor. No additional nominations being made, Mary Louise Graham moved that the Secretary cast an unanimous ballot for the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee. Passed.

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY COMMISSION: Miss Dora Ruth Parks, Executive Secretary, gave the Commission report. The Blasingame report was printed and distributed early in 1966. On February 22, 1966, Mr. Myers, President of the West Virginia Library Association, appointed a new committee to assist in the implementation of the report throughout the state. The Commission thanked all who served on the AD Hoc Committee to aid Mr. Blasingame with his study. The report recommended three levels of service; currently useful collections near the library user, collections that were much richer in subject matter, and reference or research materials needed only occasionally. The West Virginia Governor's Conference has been delayed again, but hopefully will be held sometime in 1967.

MEMBERSHIP

Miss Smookler, First Vice President gave the Membership report. At present the Membership is divided as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 126 school libraries | Active (school) | 120 |
| 87 public libraries | Active | 171 |
| 66 college libraries | Institutional | 30 |
| 36 trustees section | Institutional (S) | 2 |
| 16 special libraries | Active (s) | 6 |
| 28 unaff. | Honorary | 3 |
| <u>358 total</u> | Associated | <u>26</u> |
| | | <u>358</u> |

In the opinion of the Membership committee the membership fee of the school librarians should be raised from the present \$1.50 a year to \$3.00.

EXHIBITS:

Mr. Winowich reported 25 Exhibitors registered for the Conference. He Asked that members visit the exhibitors early and often. Two morning coffee hours will be held in the Exhibition area.

At 11:00 a.m. Miss Carol A. Vogel, Library Career Consultant from Pennsylvania spoke. Her topic was on recruitment for the library profession. She travels around the state visiting college students, faculty members and placement officials. She told about the success of the Library Cadet Program which was held this summer for the first time. A film showing "The Challenge of Change" produced by the Pennsylvania Library Association in cooperation with ALA was shown. Following a few an-

nouncements the morning session was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

At the Luncheon following the first general session, Miss Idair Smookler, First Vice-President, presided. Dr. William O. Armstrong gave the invocation and persons seated at the speakers table were introduced. Mr. E.E. Rich, Chairman of the West Virginia Library Commission spoke on "Widening Horizons for West Virginia Libraries." He described library service in America from Colonial times as well as the first beginnings in West Virginia of the public library movement.

SECOND GENERAL SESSION: 2:15 p.m. Mr. John Clopine, Chairman, College Libraries Section presiding. The program was a panel discussion on the topic, "Standards and Planning for West Virginia Libraries." Mrs. Elizabeth Hughey, Library Planning Specialist, U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare served as Moderator.

The following served as panelists:

- Dr. Robert Munn - The role of West Virginia University in research resource development.
- Mrs. Richard R. Taylor - The role of "Friends of the Library" in the interpretation and promotion of library service.
- Mr. C.E. Campbell-Beall - State library agency responsibility for library service and the trustee's role in relation to the State agency.
- Mr. Earl M. Vickers - State Government needs in library service. Mr. Vickers is the Director of the West Virginia State Legislative Service.

After intermission a reactor panel consisting of the following:

- Mr. John Scott, Institute, West Virginia
- Miss Helen Stockert, Buckhannon, West Virginia
- Mrs. Florence Taylor, Morgantown, West Virginia
- Miss Edith Isner, Wellsburg, West Virginia

gave comments on the panel topic and a question and answer period was held. New standards adopted by the West Virginia Library Commission were distributed, and the second general session adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

A Social Hour at which the exhibitors were hosts was held preceding the banquet Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. Mr. William C. Myers, presided. The invocation was given by Nicholas Winowich and Mrs. Robert Rosier, Chairman of local arrangements was introduced.

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Mr. Winowich, Chairman made the report. Awards were presented to two long time trustees and friends of libraries - Mrs. Nellie Rider of the Morgantown Public Library and Mrs. Myrtle Bambrick of the Mary H. Weir Public Library, Weirton, West Virginia.

The Weirton Woman's Club Chorus under the direction of Mrs. James O'Roark, Director, presented a program of choral music. Mr. John A. Jones, Director of Public Relations of the Weirton Steel Company, Weirton, West Virginia, spoke on the topic: "You Don't Have to be a Genius." The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

The second day of the Conference opened with a Past Presidents' breakfast. A coffee hour was held in the exhibit area. At 9:30 a.m. Sectional meetings were held, for the purpose of electing new officers for 1967.

Third General Session: 10:30 a.m. Mr. Myers, President called the Business session to order.

Mr. Myers told the Conference that Miss Virginia Ebeling, Librarian of the Ohio County Public Library at Wheeling was not able to attend this year's Conference. Miss Ebeling has missed very few meetings during her years of library service. At present she is very ill in the Peterson Rest Home in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Mr. Myers, introduced Mr. Charles Patterson, former Editor of West Virginia Libraries and expressed the appreciation of the Association for his years of service as Editor. Mr. Patterson is now a member of the Staff of the University of Pittsburgh Library School. Mr. John Clopine made the motion that Mr. S.B. Gribble of West Virginia University Library be accepted as the new editor of West Virginia Libraries. Mr. John Scott seconded and the motion passed. Mr. Gribble spoke briefly to the group asking for cooperation and suggestions on features for the periodical.

Mr. Myers read reports of the Sectional meetings held earlier.

College and University Libraries Section:

Mr. Don Strong, Chairman. West Liberty State College,
West Liberty, West Virginia.
Miss Jean Elliott, Secretary. Shepherd College,
Shepherdstown, West Virginia

School Libraries Section:

Mrs. Harold Apel, Chairman. Huntington High School,
Huntington, West Virginia.
Katherine Traubert, Vice-Chairman. Follansbee High
School, Follansbee, West Virginia.
Janet Callahan, University High School, Morgantown,
West Virginia.

Public Libraries Section:

Mrs. Florence Taylor, Chairman. Morgantown Public
Library, Morgantown, West Virginia.
Mrs. Ruth Early, Secretary. Marion County Public
Library, Fairmont, West Virginia.

Special Libraries Section:

Mrs. Laura Smith, Chairman. Beckley Veterans Administration Hospital, Beckley, West Virginia.
Mrs. C.A. Lawson, Secretary, Union Carbide Corporation, South Charleston, West Virginia.

Trustees Section:

Mrs. Mark Russell, Chairman. Williamson Public Library, Williamson, West Virginia.
Mr. Perry O'Brien, Vice Chairman, Ripley, West Virginia.
Dr. William O. Armstrong, Secretary, Marion County Public Library, Fairmont, West Virginia.

An invitation to meet during the spring recess in either 1967 or 1968 was extended by Potomac State College of West Virginia University, Keyser, West Virginia. Mr. Myers said that the suggestion would be given to next year's executive board.

Mr. Myers said that October 18, 1966 is ALA Annual membership day for 1966. Membership material was displayed on a table at the rear of the room and he invited everyone to take material back to their libraries with them.

Miss June R. Martin, who is serving as Secretary-Treasurer for Junior Members Roundtable, ALA asked that those who are eligible join for 1967.

The possibility of returning to the Greenbrier in 1969 was discussed.

Mr. Charles Patterson said that the office of recruitment Chairman, West Virginia for ALA was now vacant since he has left the state. Mr. Patterson has served for the past two years. Mr. Myers referred the matter to Miss Smookler and the new executive board.

The Tri-State Library meeting will be held October 22, 1966.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: Miss June R. Martin, Chairman read the following resolutions for consideration:

No. 1 WHEREAS, An objective of the West Virginia Library Association is to encourage the association of libraries and librarians with citizens interested in improving library service in the state for mutual learning and benefit: and,

WHEREAS, At present the West Virginia Library Association does have as one of its sections, the Trustees Section, with a representative serving on the Executive Board of the West Virginia Library Association: and,

WHEREAS, The West Virginia Library Association endorses program time during the annual conference for the Trustees Section to meet and transact its business; and,

WHEREAS, The American Library Trustees Association (ALTA) recently offered to assist in organizing a separate trustee association in West Virginia among trustees of West Virginia public libraries;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the West Virginia Library Association at its annual conference, at Fairmont, West Virginia, in convention assembled, on this eighth day of October, 1966, by unanimous acclaim, does hereby declare that for the present the West Virginia Library Association believes that West Virginia Libraries can best be served if the trustees continue their organization as a section of the West Virginia Library Association, and,

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the American Library Trustees Association and the West Virginia Library Commission.

Mr. Winowich moved that the resolution be adopted and Mr. Scott seconded. Resolution carried.

No. 2 WHEREAS, Florence Katherine Reese, former chairman of the Department of Library Science at West Virginia University, deceased on August 12, 1966, as a result of an automobile accident; and,

WHEREAS, Since coming to West Virginia University in 1935 as assistant cataloger, and instructor in library science, serving down through the years as teacher to many student generations of library science students, rising to associate professorship in 1949 and to full professorship in 1961. From 1948 until 1962 she was chairman of the Department of Library Science, retiring in August, 1964, and,

WHEREAS, During her long and fruitful years of service in education for librarianship Miss Reese inspired hundreds of students with an enthusiasm for books and a desire to serve:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the West Virginia Library Association at its annual conference, at Fairmont, West Virginia, in convention assembled, on this eighth day of October, 1966, by unanimous acclaim, does hereby extend remembrance to the memory of

Florence Katherine Reese which will long be of benefit to the State and to the profession; and;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Department of Library Science, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Miss Dollie Greiner moved that the resolution be adopted and Mrs. Taylor seconded it. Resolution carried.

No. 3 WHEREAS, One of the objectives of the West Virginia Library Association is to promote library service and librarianship in West Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, The West Virginia Library Association has taken great pride and distinct pleasure in recognizing high accomplishment and achievement in libraries and librarianship; and,

WHEREAS, The West Virginia Library Association notes that the Hardy Countys Public Library, Moorefield, West Virginia, was one of the six nationwide winners of the Book-of-the-Month Club awards, presented annually in memory of Dorothy Canfield Fisher to a public library in a populated area of less than 25,000 people, a reward for having made exceptional efforts to improve service to their public; and,

WHEREAS, The prize of \$2,500 will be used to provide more books for library users. The formal presentation was made on the opening day of National Library Week, 1966, on April 17, 1966;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the West Virginia Library Association at its annual conference, at Fairmont West Virginia, in convention assembled, on this eighth day of October, 1966, by unanimous acclaim does hereby congratulate and commend the Hardy County Public Library, the Trustees, and especially Mrs. J.W. Fisher, chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Margaret Allen, Publicity Chairman, and Mrs. Helen Collins, Librarian; and,

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Board of Trustees of the Hardy County Public Library.

Mrs. Mary Louise Graham moved that the resolution be adopted and Miss Roselie Baker Seconded. Resolution carried.

The second business session was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

After a brief intermission the third general session came back into session. Mr. Myers presented Mrs. Elizabeth Hughey, Library Specialist, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Hughey's topic was "Federal Legislation enacted in the current session of Congress and its effect in West Virginia Libraries." Mrs. Hughey reminded her audience that good library service cannot be a solo performance and that good teamwork is needed on the state and local level as well as the national level. However, money alone cannot do the job. All of us need to explore to the fullest our opportunities. We need long range planning to be effective and we need to hire specialists from other disciplines as well as professional librarians for our staffs. In West Virginia the opportunities ahead are great and the zeal is great to bring modern library service to the citizens of the state. Mrs. Hughey examined the Library Services Act in detail and a question and answer period followed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

The Saturday, October 8, 1966 luncheon was the final general meeting of the Conference. Miss Ruth Figgatt, Chairman, Public Libraries Section presided. The speaker was Professor Maurice Brooks of West Virginia University whose topic was "The Other Appalachia." Dr. Brooks made us appreciate anew the region in which we live because it is one of the most varied and beautiful sections on the earth. He said that at times West Virginia has suffered from a poor press and that some of her native writers have not always pictured the state fairly. But the state remains one of great promise for recreation needs of the future and great physical beauty. Dr. Brooks talk was truly a "Love Letter to a Region", and he made us proud of our state and our heritage.

Mr. Myers thanked the local committee for a remarkably smooth running Conference this year. He introduced the new officers who will guide our organization next year;

Miss Idair Smookler, President
Miss Ruth E. Figgatt, First Vice-President and President Elect
Miss Betty Jane Wade, Second Vice-President
Miss Martha Myers, Secretary
Mr. Clifford Hamrick, Treasurer

New section chairmen were also introduced:

Mr. Don Strong, College and University Libraries Section
Mrs. Florence Taylor, Public Libraries Section
Mrs. Mark Russell, Trustees Section
Mrs. Harold Apel, School Libraries Section
Mrs. Laura Smith, Special Libraries Section

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.