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West Virginia Library Association

Spring 1972

# West Virginia Libraries 1972 Vol.25 No.1

Lois Murphy

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Murphy, Lois, "West Virginia Libraries 1972 Vol.25 No.1" (1972). West Virginia Libraries Newsletter. Paper 135. http://mds.marshall.edu/wvlib/135

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# WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES 3P1

**SPRIIIG** 1972

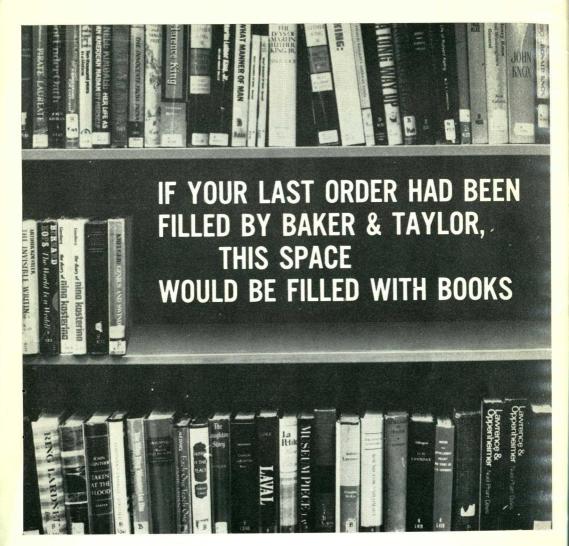
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Number 1



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# WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

Volume 25 Number 1 Spring

1972

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Mrs. Margaret Horacek, West Virginia University Medical Center

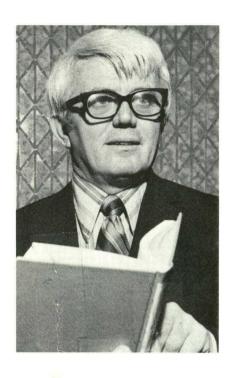
Library, Morgantown, W. Va. 26506

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES is the official quarterly organ of the West Virginia Library Association. Viewpoints expressed are not necessarily the official viewpoints of WVIA. Subscription is included with WVIA membership dues; the rate for non-members is \$3.00 per year or \$1.00 per issue. Change of address notices, subscription requests should be sent to James L. Smith, WVIA Tressurer, Post Office Box 884, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506. Microfilm copies are available for University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Advertising rates and information are avaiaable from the editor. All WVIA mail should be sent to Box 884, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506

#### BLUEFIELD STATE COLLEGE DEDICATES NEW LIBRARY ADDITION

On Friday, April 21, the new \$730,000.00 library addition at Bluefield State College was dedicated. The new two-story building has air-conditioning, carpeted floors, individual study carrels, microfilm viewing room, open book stacks and a moat.

Librarians throughout the state were invited to the ceremonies.



# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Elsewhere in this issue reference can be found to the three laws of Murphy. Although this writer cannot claim any credit to setting forth these laws, he nevertheless endorses them wholeheartedly. In this particular case Murphy's third law: "If anything can go wrong it will" is painfully apropos as far as convention planning is concerned.

Original plans called for the 1972 convention to be held during the period October 5 - 7, 1972. However, subsequent developments revealed a seemingly endless string of competing events scheduled for that same period. Included among these competing events are the State Library Association Annual Conventions of Pennsylvania (at Pittsburgh, only 65 miles from our convention site), Maryland, Kentucky and the District of Columbia. If we were to adhere to our original dates, attendance (i.e. regular attendees, speakers and exhibitors) could be jeopardized.

Therefore, the convention dates have been changed to September 21 (Thursday) through September 23 (Saturday). Tentative plans call for a Thursday morning registration and Saturday noon adjournment. The agenda for the convention, which will deal primarily with multi-media, is slowly developing into what appears to be a very attractive program of interest to all librarians.

## WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## EXECUTIVE BOARD 1971-1972

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Chairman: R. L. Murphy Josephine Fidler

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March 5 opening-presentation of flag by Senator Jennings Randolph-Governor Moore. Accepting: Mr. James Paull, Sr., Library Board President and Mr. William Young, Vice-President of the Board.

photographer Matz E. Malone
Steubenville (Ohio) Herald-Star

(Excerpts and additions from the <u>Intelligencer</u>, Wheeling)

Governor Arch A. Moore and United States Senator Jennings Randolph spoke at the dedication of the new Brooke County Public Library, 945 Main Street, Wellsburg, W. Va. The ceremonies were held at 2 p.m. on Sunday March 5, 1972.

U.S. Senator Randolph of Elkins recognized "a partnership of the people and government" in constructing the new library.

"We West Virginians have experienced a great personal tradedy," Moore said noting 93

persons have now been identified as recent flood victims in the southern part of the state in the Logan County area.

"This is our day to rebuild. You have done it in terms of a beautiful library building. In southern West Virginia we are beginning to reconstruct their hopes. We will overcome this tragedy which is beyond our ability to comprehend."

Senator Randolph presented library officials with a U.S. flag which has been flown atop the Capitol in Washington. An American Heritage volume on the Civil War was given the library by the senator who said the new county facility will receive from him shortly an old copy of the U.S. Constitution.

Total cost for the new library is approximately \$257,000 exclusive of landscaping, according to library officials. William L. Young, vice president of the library board, presided.

Mrs. Pearl Baker, librarian, announced the following hours for the library: 1-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. except Saturday when hours are 9 a.m. until noon and 1-5 p.m.

Other notable library officials attending the ceremonies were: Fred Glazer, Executive Secretary of the West Virginia Library Commission, Robert L. Murphy, Director of the West Virginia University Medical Library and President of the West Virginia Library Association, Larry J. Frye, Director of the Bethany Library, Mrs. Elizabeth Fair, Director of the Wheeling Public Library, Fred Natale, Director of the Weirton Library, Mrs. Regina Weaver, librarian at Edgewood Junior High School, Mr. William Myers, former Director of Weirton Public Library, and Lois T. Murphy, Editor of West Virginia Libraries.

STUDENTS ARE MAKING MORE USE OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES. (UC News, Dec. 7, 1971)

(UC News, Dec. 7, 1971)

The only issue to rally students at Yale this year was a demand for longer library hours. And Stanford has found that on weekday nights, the library's total seating capacity of 1,520 is sometimes excelled. While at UC Berkeley the number of students entering the now undergraduate Moffitt Library is 43% more than in 1970 for the same 10 months.

The circulation of all items in Moffitt increased almost 20%, although the library is open fewer hours a week.

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- Please don't turn back corners of pages. It hurts.
- 5. Please don't fill in all the o's.
- 6. Please learn to love a book. You'll know why, when you get to be a librarian!

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK COMMITTEE SELECTS JAMES F. COMSTOCK, HONOR-ARY CHAIRMAN

by James L. Smith, Executive Dir. of NLW for WVLA

National Library Week celebrated its fifteenth birthday this spring. This special week was observed April 16-22, 1972, in communities across the United States. Instead of waiting for one week of the year to promote reading and all types of libraries, why not start now to develop a year-round program for National Library Week?

This year West Virginia libraries named Mr. James F.
Comstock as the Honorary Chairman for National Library Week. Mr.
Comstock is the editor of The West Virginia Hillbilly. He has contributed to journalism and libraries in West Virginia.

James L. Smith, Coordinator of Library Services for the Monongalia County Schools, and Mrs. Janet Callahan, librarian at University High School in Morgantown, served as co-executive directors this year. Mr. Smith is also the chairman of National Library Committee for the American Association of School Librarians. They selected the theme for West Virginia this year as "Libraries-Where It's At."

Librarians and lay people in each county in the state served as county chairman for National Library Week. Under these people a county-wide committee was set up to organize activities in each local community. Throughout the state, posters, book marks, decals, and publicity were provided carrying the theme, "Libraries--Where It's At."

The National Book Committee established dual themes this year "Reading Makes the World Go Round" and "You've Got a Right to Read." Keeping these themes

in mind there are many library programs that can be developed. Various states combine the national theme and their own theme to develop programs. Last year the state of Virginia used the theme, "Get It At the Library" which brought out many ideas, slogans reactions, etc. New Jersey has used "Think Libraries" which proved to be interesting, and many ideas developed from this theme.

This year's themes reinforce NLW's efforts to strengthen the role of libraries and reading in meeting the urgent national priorities, the "Right-To-Read" effort, early childhood education and equal educational opportunities for the disadvantaged, as well as, the advantaged.

#### READING PROGRAMS

Many of these priorities were revealed by the National Library Week Committee of American Association of School Libraries, a division of American Library Association. This committee has completed a survey under the chairmanship of Mrs. Elizabeth T. Fast of Groton, Connecticut, to find what types of school library media services and programs are available to preschool children in the United States. More than 350 questionnaires were returned with 126 school districts reporting that they offer library media services to preschool children.

The programs serve over 65,000 children listed in the tabulations. Many cities reported a sizable number of children involved, such as Philadelphia serving over 7,000 children. San Francisco, Oklahoma City, and Chicago are other cities reporting large numbers.

The NLW Committee took on this project as one means to develop a year-round program in reading and the use of libraries. One of the main purposes of a year-round

program is to involve parents, teachers, media specialists, librarians and the general public. Quite a large number of the programs that were described in the survey were based around "Right-To-Read."

Services to parents and parent involvement in programs are important in many school districts. In some programs, parents are encouraged to use professional books for child guidance; other districts have monthly meetings or regular classes for parents of children enrolled in the preschool program. As least one district directly related these to children's learning and reading guidance. Another district gave demonstrations of storytelling and reading techniques to parents so they could read to their children at home. In other communities parents were taught how to read to their children at home. Parents were taught how to read aloud in some communities, and they in turn participated in the school program. A California district involves parents and aides in the production of materials at the district A-V center by means of workshops; these materials are used in the school classes. Distribution of magazines to parents is part of the district's program; the magazines are donated by others in the community. In one school district, parents are part of the advisory committee that selects books for purchase to be given to the children in the pre-school program to become part of their home libraries.

Numerous communities reported with pride a special program in reading services. A California school district has a preschool program for children who are wards of the court. There are programs for migrant children where it is reported that "we are thrilled to see what kind of progress migrant children can make if they are provided a special program from infancy on.

Many programs mention the benefits for Spanish-speaking children derived from programs. One program has made much use of media in the homes by parents. Nature walks for preschoolers are organized by a Michigan media specialist while the parents have conferences and talks by other school personnel. A Massachusetts district runs a preschool program as part of a work study program for high schoolers who are receiving training in child care.

In another district in Missouri high school students have "adopted" the preschool program and raise money to purchase items for the children. One town has involved the local toastmistresses group in the stroytelling program. A Florida district uses books prepared by the preschool classes featuring photographs taken on field trips; these produced booklets prepare the way for the use of library books. Some districts without formal preschool programs do have story hours for 3 and 4 year olds, organized by the elementary school media specialist.

#### INTERNATIONAL BOOK YEAR

In 1972 libraries and librarians have an extra aid in developing a year-round program, and that is the International Book Year program. The calend year 1972 has been proclaimed International Book Year by the The calendar General Conference of UNESCO at its sixteenth session in November, 1970. The theme for IBY will be "Books for All." Promotion materials and handbooks may be obtained from the U.S. Secretariat, International Book Year, 1972, One Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016. One highlight of the materials will be a poster with the slogan "Books Bring People Together," which will enhance the value of books and reading in achieving greater intercultural and intraethnic understanding.

#### WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Heart-O-Town Motor Inn Charleston, W. Va.

March 4. 1972

The meeting was called to order by the President, Robert Murphy, at 9:25 a.m.

Members of the Executive Board present were:

Robert Murphy Josephine Fidler Elliott Horton Judy Rule James Smith James Nelson Nancy Canterbury Frederick Glazer Nicholas Winowich Lois Murphy Elizabeth Fair Kathleen Larson Robert Stemple

President 1st Vice-President 2nd Vice-President Secretary Treasurer Immediate Past President State Dept. of Education Exec. Secretary of WVLC ALA Councilor Editor, West Virginia Libraries Public Libraries College & University Libraries Trustees

Other members of the West Virginia Library Association and Legislative Committee attending were as follows: Lucille McNary, Sarah Estes, Mrs. J. Holland Rannells, Dolly Rapking, Dorothy Muse, John E. Scott, Mary Louise Graham, Eve Pugh, Frances Haldane, Campbell Beall, Donald Riggs, Eloise Newlon, Frances Jones, and Luella Dye.

Germaine Krettek, Director of the ALA Washington office was present.

Mr. Glazer pointed out the need for organization on a local level in order for patrons to contact legislators at a moment's notice in support of or in opposition to certain legislation.

The idea of a state borrower's card provoked discussion of the possibility within the state. Miss Krettek noted that state borrower's cards were a reality in some states. Elizabeth Fair brought up the problem of individual library boards' approval. Mr. Glazer stated that a state user's card could be used as a political clout.

Other ideas were to give library cards to newly-weds and to new-born children.

Miss Krettek made the following suggestions for the legislative committee.

 Set up legislative goals and guidelines.
 Talk to people who are elected and take a summary of library position in print.

3) Always have a spare bill "in your pocket."

 Always have some legislation pending.
 Whenever a Congressman or other elected official speaks, have someone there to ask about support for libraries.

A. Merle Moore and Nancy Canterbury are co-chairmen of the legislative committee. Others appointed include: Elliott Horton, Fred Glazer, Elizabeth Fair, Mary Louise Graham, Victor Young, John Scott and Campbell Beall. Donald Riggs is also to work with the Committee. This Committee is to meet very soon and try to get a plank in the parties' state platforms.

Mr. Nelson moved the Legislative Committee be asked to write the gubernatorial candidates and inquire of them their position on library issues, wording the query so as to get as specific a response as possible. Elizabeth Fair seconded the motion. John Scott moved to amend the motion by adding the words "and other elected officials" after the word "Candidates." The amendment carried. The main motion as amended was voted and passed.

Elliott Horton suggested that the Washington office of ALA publish a collation of the voting record of Congressmen on library bills.

Nick Winowich moved that WVLA lend MARLF an additional \$90.00 making the total  $50\phi$  per member. Motion seconded.

Mr. Nelson moved to amend the motion to lend the money only after the West Virginia Library Association's treasury reaches \$1,000.00. Mr. Stemple seconded the motion. Amendment was voted and passed.

The motion as amended was carried. Elizabeth Fair noted she had abstained because the reason for WVLA belonging to MARLF was not clear to her.

Mr. Nelson suggested that our representatives to MARLF inquire about the feasibility of \$1.00 dues from each member. Mr. Murphy so ordered.

There will be a meeting in Clarksburg, W. Va., Tuesday, March 7, 1972, of the Conference Committee.

It was decided that Virginia Lacy Jones, a former resident of Clarksburg and the second Black to earn a Ph.D in Library Science be considered for speaker at the Fall Conference. She is also to be made an honorary member of the West Virginia Library Association.

John Scott suggested that WVLA consider making a contribution to the ALA Washington Office as soon as it is financially possible.

Meeting adjourned.



Glenville State College Library has reached the minimum American Library Association standards for a four-year undergraduate college. In order to meet A.L.A. standards, a library must have a basic collection of 50,000 volumes for a student population of 600 students, and 10,000 additional volumes for each additional 200 students. This means for Glenville State College, 90,000 volumes.

The 90,000 volume, The Letters of Sir John Hackett 1526-1534, edited by Elizabeth Frances Rogers and printed by McClain Printing Company, was presented to David M. Gillespie, head librarian, by Ken McClain, President, McClain Printing Company of Parsons, West Virginia.

In addition to the 90,000 volumes, the Robert F. Kidd Library has the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) collection which contains over 36,000 volumes in microfiche format.

vol. 25, no.1

LIBRARY NEWS ### PERSONNEL NOTES ### WEST VIRGINIA INFORMATION

DR. KENNETH T. SLACK has been appointed Director of Libraries at Marshall University to succeed Harold W. Apel who amounced his resignation last October after having served Marshall University for more than 16 years. Dr. Slack, who came to Marshall University on February 15, was Associate Director of the University of Utah Libraries before coming to West Virginia.

Prior to assuming his position at the University of Utah, Dr. Slack served as Assistant Librarian for Arizona State University, Librarian for the Church College of Hawaii, and Assistant Librarian for Eastern

Oregon College.

He received the B.S. degree from Utah State University, the M.A. from the University of Denver, and the Ed.D. from the

University of Utah.

Dr. Slack comes to West Virginia with extensive experience in librarianship. He has served as president of the Hawaii Library Association, editor of the Hawaii Library Association Journal, editor of Arizona Librarian and A.L.A. Council member.

MRS. MARGARET BOBBITT,
Reference Librarian at Marshall
University, was honored with a
party given by the library staff
on February 8. The party was
given to celebrate her 40th
anniversary as a librarian at
Marshall University. She is a
graduate of Whittenberg University and received her library
school degree at Drexell University.

Margaret is a past-president of the West Virginia Library Association and is currently serving as Chairman of the Recruiting Committee for WVLA.

KATHY MASPERO, Chairman of the College and University Section of WVLA, was married on December 18, 1971, to Dr. John W. Larson of the Marshall University Chemistry Department. Kathy is Assistant Reference Librarian at Marshall.

MRS. DORIS SMART has been appointed Assistant Collegiate Librarian at Marshall University. Doris received her A.B. from McKendree College and her M.L.S. from the University of Pittsburgh. She was reference librarian at Carnegie-Mellon University in 1970-71 and has held teaching positions in Illinois, Missouri, and Pennsylvania.

Retiring from the Clarksburg Public Library Board is CLINTON F. ISRAEL, who served for 21 years as treasurer. Members of the City Council were unanimous in praise of his services.

BRUCE ARROWOOD of North Carolina succeeds Mrs. Ruth Murphy at Parkersburg Community College.

Bluefield Public Library has selected MRS. LUELLA DYE to direct the proposed Jack Craft Memorial County Library. Mrs. Dye is still employed at Logan High School and will be serving the library on a consulting basis until next September, when she completes her work at the University of Kentucky.

FRED NATALE has been

appointed Assistant Director at Mary H. Weir Library in Weirton. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Mr. Natale comes to Weirton from the Baltimore County Library System.

HELEN LIND is the new children's librarian at St. Albans, a graduate of Peabody Library School and a former staff member at Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore. She succeeds MRS. NANCY VAN AUKEN, former West Virginia Libraries editor, who moved to Virginia.

New librarian at the Northern Hancock Area Library in Chester is MRS. DONALD MURRAY.

Working hard to make a new library a reality in Hamlin is HETTIE ROUSH.

We would like to welcome MRS. PAT CUMBERLEDGE to Pleasants County Library in St. Marys. She replaces LORRAINE BALMAIN who has resigned.

MRS. WILLIAM F. HOPKINS of Gassaway, has been elected to serve another year as chairman of the West Virginia Library Commission. Mrs. Hopkins first took over the chairmanship in 1969. Returning to membership on the Commission is CAMPBELL BEALL of Martinsburg. He replaces Guy Stone of Charleston. Other members of the Commission include: Harry Esbenshade of Parkersburg, Mrs. Holland Rannells of Romney, and Mrs. Richard Glaser of Chas.

MR. ELLIOTT HORTON, Director of the Morgantown Public Library, and Evelyn White of Morgantown were married in Bridgeport, W.Va, in late March. They honey-mooned in Mexico and are living at West Run Road in Morgantown.

#### FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

FEATURING

ARTS AND CRAFTS

IN WEST VIRGINIA

Year-round COLLEGE & HIGH SCHOOL ART EXHIBITS------Charleston

April 21-22-23 HERITAGE ARTS FESTIVAL----Salem

21-30 GREENBRIER VALLEY ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL--Lewisburg

May 21 RHODODENDRON STATE OUTDOOR ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL----Chas.

31 & June 1-4
W. VA. STRAWBERRY
FESTIVAL-----Buckhannon

June
7-4
ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL-Huntington

8-10 WOOD FESTIVAL-----Grantsville

9-10-11
MT. HERITAGE
ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL---Harpers
Ferry

15-18
W. VA. STATE
FOLK FESTIVAL-----Glenville

30% July 1-4 MOUNTAIN STATE ART & CRAFT FAIR-----Ripley

July 6-9
PIONEER DAYS-----Marlinton

8-9 ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL--Wheeling

August 8-12 CHERRY RIVER FESTIVAL---Richwood LITTLE WOMAN WITH FIERY SPEECH IS BOOK'S SUBJECT

(a reprint from the Register and Post-Herald, Beckley, W. Va.)

Mrs. Lois McLean of Beckley is doing research for a book on one of America's most colorful labor leaders, "Mother Jones."

Mrs. McLean became interested in Mother Jones after moving to Beckley from Indiana. She wanted to learn about West Virginia history, and the stories about Mrs. Jones intrigued her.

"Mother Jones" was born in Cork, Ireland, and emigrated with her family to the United States in about 1836.

Her father, Richard Harris, worked as a railroad construction laborer in Toronto, Canada, for awhile, and Mary (Mother Jones) attended high school and normal school there.

Mary took up teaching, starting out in a convent in Monroe, Michigan; then she moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she established a dress shop and later resumed teaching in Memphis, Tenn.

In Memphis, she was married in 1861 to a member of the Iron Molders Union, and it is reported that she had four children.

Her husband and children all died in the Memphis yellow-fever epidemic in 1867 and in 1871 she lost all her possessions in the Chicago fire.

After losing her family and possessions, Mary began attending meetings of the newly-organized Knights of Labor.

She became committed to the labor movement in the United States and for the remainder of her life she was found in hotbed after hotbed of labor struggles.

It seemed that wherever the struggle was - the most violent, most intense - there was a little old woman with a fiery speech, tough vocabulary, and a warm heart for the common man, appearing wherever she could be heard to encourage laborers to fight for a just wage with better and safer working conditions.

She appeared in Pittsburgh, Pa., during the labor riots of 1877; she was at the Haymarket tragedy of 1886 in Chicago and was in the American railway Union strike of 1894 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mrs. Jones was interested in child labor and helped to organize against it by working in the cotton mills of the south gathering material for her crusade.

During the coal mine strikes of 1900, Mother Jones was an organizer for the United Mine Workers and attracted national attention when she led a march of the wives of striking miners armed with mops and brooms.

She led another march of textile mill children from Kensington, Pa., to Oyster Bay, trying to demonstrate the evils of child labor to President Roosevelt.

The United Mine Workers sent Mother Jones to Colorado in 1903 where she led a strike in the Colorado coal fields. She quit the UMWA when the strike was called off by union president John Mitchell.

After Colorado, she went west and assisted the striking ma-chinists of the Southern Pacific Railroad. In 1906, she became involved with the Western Federation of Miners in a copper strike and at the same time she took up the cause of Mexican Revolutionists imprisoned in the United States.

Mother Jones started organizing again for the UMWA in 1911 when she was sent to West Virginia.

There are records of numerous appearances in the Fairmont and Cabin Creek areas, and she made occasional stops in Raleigh County.

One woman who remembers the little old lady is Mrs. Arthur Utt of Sophia, who grew up in a miners' family in what was once called Woodbay, above McAlpin.

Mrs. McLean interviewed Mrs. Utt for her book and came up with some interesting insights about Mother Jones and mining conditions in Raleigh County at the time.

Mrs. Utt said that Mother Jones was not allowed on company property, so she set up a soapbox on railroad tracks.

Her mode of travel, according to Mrs. Utt, was horseback. She says "Mother Jones traveled from hollow to hollow by horseback. She rode a beautiful black horse and carried a high powered rifle which she was an expert in handling."

Mrs. Utt said that miners at this time worked from sunrise to sundown, very rarely seeing their own children, except on Sundays.

She said miners were not allowed to leave the mines to see her, and she rarely appeared at night because of the possibilities of being shot.

But, the "kids loved her and went to see her," she said, and went home to their parents relating what she said.

Mrs. Utt said that the companies tried to make the parents forbid their children from seeing Mother Jones, but they "snuck out anyway."

Giving her personal impression of Mother Jones, Mrs. Utt said, "she was one of the sweetest people in the world; the miners held her in high esteem, es-

pecially the ones who wanted better living conditions."

Mrs. Utt said that Mother Jones used very strong language when referring to coal operators.

Mrs. Utt, talking about conditions at the mines at the time in Raleigh County, said that the operator would not let anyone on company property, even when death occurred.

She said during a funeral everyone was stopped and searched before entering the coal camp, "and even when a child's father died, he had to be out of the coal camp by sundown."

Yellow dog contracts were forced on the men according to Mrs. Utt - either they signed the contract saying they would not join the union, or they would be fired.

Mrs. Utt said that for 82 hours of work, you would make \$28 in pay.

She said that Mother Jones when talking would wave her handker-chief and bonnet around and would say, "I will apologize my language to you, but not to the operators."

Mrs. Utt said that hecklers in the ground would accuse Mother Jones of being a man dressed like a woman.

Mother Jones would reply by asking the heckler if he had ever seen a lamb or bear mauled by a mountain lion "for that is what they would look like if they tried anything with Mother Jones," Mrs. Utt said.

Mrs. Utt was present at the alday rally in Sophia in 1919, and John L. Lewis appeared with Mother Jones.

She said the woman noted of Lewis "that he has accomplished what I have tried to do all my life; he is a good man."

Lewis, at the time, was vice president of the union under President Frank Haze.

Abb Gillenwater of Slab Fork is another person Mrs. McLean interviewed, and he remembers her saying that she would not see the day when miners got \$20 a day working six days a week.

He saw Mother Jones speak on Glen White Hill between Lester and Glen White, and he said miners at the time received \$1 for every 10 hours of work.

Toward the end of 1913, Mother Jones appeared again in southern Colorado where another coal mine strike had broken out. During 1915-1916 she was active in the garment and street-car strikes in New York City and in 1919 she was involved in a steel strike.

At 93 years of age, in 1923, she was back in West Virginia working with the striking miners.

On her 100th birthday, May 1, 1930, she got letters of congratulations from people over the country, including John D. Rockefeller Jr.

She died six months later and was buried in the cemetery of the United Mine Workers at Mount Olive, Illinois.

Mrs. McLean is looking for anyone who might have some information on Mother Jones' activities in southern West Virginia, or anyone who has seen or talked with her personally. Information may be sent to Mrs. Lois McLean of 208 Phillips Street, in Beckley, West Virginia.

LIBRARY'S VOLUMES FILLING EMPTY DAYS FOR CABELL INMATES

(A reprint from the <u>Herald-</u>Dispatch, Huntington, W. Va.)

The people who check out books from Wilda Riggs of the Cabell County Public Library every Thursday morning are like many readers - they like best-sellers, a few of them are science fiction fans, and all of them enjoy reading.

However, they're different from the average library customers - they're prisoners in the Cabell County Jail.

The books, 100 to 150 of them each week, are provided by the library for the prisoners, who may check them out for two weeks or longer.

Some of the most-read volumes are law books, according to Miss Riggs. "They want to see if they got a fair deal." Copies of the West Virginia Code, duplicated at the library, are also popular.

The prisoners read for pleasure as well as business, however, and some of them are very well-read, according to Miss Riggs. They are "very good" about returning books, she says, and no books have been destroyed.

One of the prisoners is an artist who enjoys reading about his hobby and history is a much requested subject.

Books can help settle arguments, too, such as the difference between porpoises and dolphins. "The prisoners seem to like the program very well," says Miss Riggs, "and I enjoy visiting with them."

With sentences of up to a year maximum, or longer for

appeals, the prisoners are often faced with empty days and nothing to do. Only the women's cell block has a television set.

According to Miss Judy Rule, Assistant Director, Cabell County Public Library, prisons and many jails have library service.

To readers everywhere, books provide a wider world. Wilda Riggs and the Cabell County Public Library give new horizons to "customers" whose world is as narrow as a jail cell.

#### MURPHY'S LAWS

The modern reference to Murphy's law is based upon Finagle's constant which states, "Anything that can happen will." According to Professor Cady, there are, in actuality, three Murphy's laws, which were originated by Finn Cool O'Murphy warrior, sovereign, and poet who lived A.D. 517 to 583. O'Murphy's three "laws of life" are recorded in the runic Connemara scrolls:

- Nothing is as easy as it looks.
- 2. Everything takes longer than you think.
- 3. If anything can go wrong it will.

#### ADDED THOUGHTS

- A. Errors are inevitable.
- B. If it is possible to happen--it might--and the odds are it will.

# WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION TREASURER'S REPORT

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