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Apr/June, 2001

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Vol. 54 • No. 2 and 3

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April/June 2001

Accomplished native W.Va. author visits area libraries

By Gordon Simmons

Patrons at several libraries in West Virginia were treated in early May to readings and discussions by internationally-acclaimed author Keith Maillard. Maillard has won numerous awards and honors for both his fiction and poetry, particularly in Canada, where he currently teaches creative fiction as an associate professor at the University of British Columbia. Having been born and raised in Wheeling and educated at WVU, the writer has used West Virginia as the setting for all but two of his eight novels.



Keith Maillard

His most recent, *Gloria*, was the occasion for his tour of five cities in the state. After an initial appearance at the Hubbard House of the West Virginia Humanities Council on May 2, all of Maillard's events were conducted in public libraries, an indication of the vital role libraries play in promoting regional literature.

Gloria, a majestic period novel of over 600 pages, utilizes Maillard's familiar setting of Raysburg, an Ohio River city of steel mills that bears a noticeable similarity to the author's hometown. A story rich in detail, this book centers on the coming of age of a steel executive's daughter as she moves between private school and college, with frequent stops at the country club. Gloria Cotter must not only negotiate the expectations and pressures of her gender and class in postwar America, but also rise to the demands she makes upon herself in the way of intellectual and literary ambitions that defy the conventional role assigned to a beautiful and affluent young woman. Her tenacity in the face of conflicting and numerous constraints provides the basis for an emerging poetic imagination that makes

Gloria's story both heroic and liberating.

In discussing his choice of protagonist, Maillard noted that many novels written by men in the fifties tended to treat wealthy young women as worthy of only tragedy or derision. Since his own experience contradicted these stereotypes, he was drawn to give an account both realistic and sympathetic. Much of the discussion and questions directed at the author during his appearances expressed amazement at his ability to so accurately convey even the most everyday aspects of life at that time. Repeatedly asked by his female listeners how he could have known so well what it would have been like for someone like Gloria, Maillard response was: "This is why God gave us research." On more than one occasion he spoke of the quantity and scope of books and magazines consulted, and interviews and phone conversations undertaken in his effort to make his main character a realistic person.

Maillard's readings and discussions differed markedly at each of his appearances, exhibiting the range of his work, and local audiences got a glimpse of the warm and humorous style that has made him a popular and respected teacher. Aside from library events and press interviews, which included traipsing the length of north Wheeling Island with a television crew, Maillard spent much of his time in West Virginia gathering material for his planned novel on Polish steelworkers of the Northern Panhandle. In his exchanges with patrons and librarians, he continually confirmed the humane and generous sensibility that infuses his written work.

Apart from two early novels, *Two Strand River* (1976) and *Motet* (1981), all of Maillard's fiction has used at least in part the fictional setting of Raysburg. *Alex Driving South* (1980) takes place in the 1970s as the novel's protagonist returns home (a familiar Maillard theme), encounters an old friend, and reenacts with him a ritual road trip from his younger days, coming face to

face with the unresolved past in the process. *The Knife in My Hands* (1981) and *Cutting Through* (1982) are sequential treatments of a young man making his way through the cultural and political upheaval of the late '60s and early '70s. Maillard regards this pair of novels as somewhat flawed, containing some of his best writing and some of his worst. Critics have been kinder in their assessments, seeing them as important literary testaments of a key moment in our cultural history.

In his later writing, the fictional chronicle of Raysburg, West Virginia, has taken on proportions equaled only by Mary Lee Settle's *Beulah Quintet*. *Light in the Company of Women* (1993) takes place during the first decade of the twentieth century, and its hero must decide between remaining home or seeking his fortune elsewhere. In order to get the period accurately, Maillard read novels written during that time and employed their peculiar stylistic conventions himself. *Hazard Zones* (1995) is a contemporary revisiting of the return to home from exile, with the unfinished business of the past rushing at the novel's protagonist.

Like *Gloria*, these last two novels are evidence of Maillard's mature style and clearly establish him as one of West Virginia's most important literary figures. If we add to that his highly acclaimed first book of poetry, *Dementia Americana* (1994), then H. John Roger's verdict that "Keith Maillard has joined the first rank" is more than justified.

In a passage in *Hazard Zones* that prefigures the character we will later come to know as Gloria Cotter, the novel's protagonist, Larry Cameron, speaks of being depressed at discovering that Rayburg has produced a great poet who is unappreciated and unread in her hometown. Thanks in large part to West Virginian librarians, with special mention here to Margot Durbin of Cabell County for initiating the tour, Keith Maillard will not share that particular fate. We can only anticipate his next book and next visit.

A Message from the President

In keeping with WVLA's desire to tighten its belt financially, the printing dates for WV Libraries have been spaced wider apart this year. This is only the second issue this year. However this issue contains lots of good news!

Thanks to Yvonne Farley, Head of the Public Library Division, and Georgina Doss, who was in charge of the children's programming day, for the unequalled success of Spring Fling. Attendance this year was the highest it's ever been and the event definitely was a rousing success. Brenda Riffle who handled the exhibits and exhibitors, Ann Farr and her registration committee, Steve Christo, Sharon Saye, the program presenters, and all the others who worked hard to make this conference an enjoyable and educational experience.

Yvonne Farley is truly the new star of WVLA! Congratulations to her and to the Intellectual Freedom Committee on its recent award from the American Library Association for its successful efforts in blocking filtering of West Virginia libraries' computers for Internet access. This award, funded by SIRS Mandarin Inc., con-

sists of a citation and \$1,000. ALA remarked that WVLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee's efforts "should be a model for other states in the ongoing fight."

Yvonne Farley also heads the Nominating Committee for WVLA and now is the time to submit names and volunteer to run for a WVLA office next year. Please contact her as soon as possible at the Kanawha County Public Library if you are interested in running for office or have suggestions for possible nominees.

Membership in WVLA is now at 734. This is a record high and is indicative of the interest in libraries in our state. If you are not currently a member of WVLA please join! The association needs as many members as possible to make its voice heard and to promote the well-being of libraries in West Virginia.

The American Library Association held its National Legislative Day on May 1 this year. WVLA was well represented with approximately ten members attending. The group visited all of our state's Congressman and Senators, and was quite pleased with the interest shown in the welfare of

libraries by our representatives.

Planning for this year's Annual Fall Conference at Canaan Valley State Park on October 29 through 31 is underway. During the remainder of June and throughout July, I plan to solidify the conference's programs. Please contact me as soon as possible at the Ohio County Public Library if you have any ideas for programs. Suggestions for programs have already been coming in and if you've made a proposal, I plan to contact you in the near future.

Finally, the planning for WVLA's Planning Process based on the Himmel & Wilson Study, "Directions 2000" is continuing. Following are a list of the Subcommittees for that Planning Process with the appointments for each Subcommittee's membership. Please review the following list carefully and contact me if you'd like to serve and are not currently listed. More information on the Planning Process will be given to WVLA members after the next Executive Board meeting on June 22.

Thanks to all the WVLA members for their willingness to work to make WVLA an effective organization!

Attention book discussion groups!

Any book discussion groups interested in attending a session with Robert Morgan, author of Gap Creek, please contact Jennifer Soule at the WV Library Commission. For more information she can be reached at 304-558-3978, ext. 2012, or souleja@wvlc.lib.wv.us

West Virginia Book Festival scheduled for October 12 and 13

Charleston, W.Va.

The West Virginia Book Festival will debut October 12 and 13 at the Charleston Civic Center. In its planning stages, the event is being presented by the Library Foundation of Kanawha County, the West Virginia Humanities Council and Charleston Newspapers, according to Cindy Miller, chair of the steering committee.

The festival will offer something for all age groups, with authors, a publishers fair featuring regional publishers, the Kanawha County Public Library system's annual book sale, and a variety of workshops and panel

discussions focusing on the world of books.

"This event will celebrate reading and literature as an essential aspect of life," said Miller. Committee members hope the Book Festival, the first such event of its kind in West Virginia, will attract people from all over the region.

For more information about this event, contact Miller, marketing and development manager, Kanawha County Public Library system, at 343-4646 or visit the West Virginia Humanities Council's website at www.wvhumanities.org.

WVLA planning process

The Planning Process will be organized in the following manner. An Oversight Committee composed of WVLA's President, First Vice-President/President-Elect, and the Past President will have general oversight of the Planning Process. This committee will work with the Steering Committee, composed of the subcommittee chairmen, and together the two groups will have final responsibility for compiling the results and recommendations from the six Subcommittees and composing a proposed Action Plan. This Action Plan must be voted on and approved by the members of the West Virginia Library Association. Once an Action Plan is approved by the membership, its implementation will become the goal of WVLA's efforts. The plan will then be presented to the West Virginia Library Commissioners at one of their regularly scheduled meetings.

Following are the lists of the six subcommittees. In accordance with Article III, Section 1 of the West Virginia Library Association Bylaws, I have appointed individuals to the various subcommittees. If your name appears as a proposed member of one of these six subcommittees, and you are unable or unwilling to serve, please contact me as soon as possible. If I do not hear from you, I will assume you are willing to serve on your assigned subcommittee. I will also be appointing a chairman of each subcommittee in the near future. I will contact these individuals personally and will communicate a charge to them for their subcommittees.

Finally, the goal during WVLA's Planning Process is to include every voice, every interested member. If you do not see your name as a member on one of the Subcommittee's, and you'd like to serve, please contact me as soon as possible, and you will be added to the list. Thank you all for your interest and willingness to help WVLA plan for the future of librarianship and library service in West Virginia!

Subcommittee on Funding:

Peggy Bias	Beth Nicholson
Nancy Chapman	Ruth Satterfield
John Cole	Sharon Saye
David Dalzell	Alice Thomas
Jill Dotts	Bob Tuckerman
Louise Galenza	Sharon Turner
Linda Lindsey	Myra Zeigler
Jane Mehaffy	Marjorie Zirk
Vickie Neely	

Subcommittee on Governance and Structure:

Charles Bates	Francis O'brienn
Virginia Bates	Ed Rauh
Nancy Chapman	Susan Reilly
Connie Clay	Brenda Riffle
Ann Farr	Virginia Rugley
Betty Gunnoe	Judy Rule
Judy Gunsaulis	Glada Stump
Crystal Hamrick	Dottie Thomas
Logan Hassig	Linda Wright
Vickie Johnson	

Subcommittee on Continuing Education:

Kathy Ash	Karen Goffe
Joel Beane	Jane Howser
Sandy Bumgardner	Thelma Hutchinsn
Connie Cutright	Ann Lorentzd
Judy Duncan	Dan Marslenderm
Pam Ford	Danny Mcmilliony
Phyllis Freedman	

Subcommittee on West Virginia Library Association:

Steve Christo	Peggy Turnbull
Linda Heddinge	Sharon Twentierr
Margie Pricee	Jennifer Siass
Julie Speigler	Audrey Taylorr

Subcommittee on Technology:

Karen Arnett	David Porterfield
Pam Coyle	Erika Reed
Mark Esslinger	Connie Suttono
Diane Heaney	Mary Kay Wallace
Lou Horacek	Kathy Wingfield
Kay Mccoy	Rich Young
Lynn Pauley	

Subcommittee on Collections and Resources:

Donna Calvert	Linia Overlya
Margot Durbin	Theresa Prunty
Yvonne Farley	Rik Rekowskih
Cheryl Harshman	Camille Rile
Charley Hively	Natalie Rutledge
Susanna Holstein	Gordon Simmons
Sharon Kastigar	Mary Ellen Weekly
Suzette Lowe	Martha Yancey

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Literacy, Women and Libraries:

An intercontinental collaboration

By R.N. SHARMA

West Virginia State College Library hosted a Symposium on Literacy, Women, and Libraries and invited eleven speakers to speak on this important topic which is making an impact in many countries of the world including the United States. The Symposium was held on April 6, and attracted librarians from academic, public and special libraries and faculty from all over the State of West Virginia.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr., President of West Virginia State College, reminded the librarians that "Illiteracy is an international problem and should not be ignored . . . libraries and librarians have played a major role in educating the world population and should continue to help solve this major problem . He added that "libraries should make special efforts to educate women in the Twenty-First Century." In his view, women in the Republic of Benin (West Africa) and in the United States, face special barriers when participating in literacy programs. Major factors which contribute to female illiteracy include personal problems, family violence, marriage, sex role stereotyping, and social acculturation. Therefore, libraries have a special responsibility to fight illiteracy. They should create a plan to arouse public consciousness, and apply for grants which give preference to literacy programs for women. He reminded educators and librarians that literacy is the key to economic stability for everyone including American women.

Pascal Gandaho, Ph.D., Director of Libraries, National University of Benin, West Africa, talked about Literacy, Women and Libraries in Benin. He said, libraries are not a high priority for the present government in Benin, therefore, it is not easy to manage them and bring them to the level of western countries. Women in Benin have to choose between family and professional life. At present, only a few women become librarians in his country as compared to the United States where they are the backbone of the library profession. Gandaho added that illiteracy leads to many problems in-



Marieta Harper of Library of Congress speaking to the audience at the symposium on Literacy, Women and Libraries held at the West Virginia State College.

cluding poverty, but he is of the view that literacy will improve in Benin, and more people including women will attend institutions of higher learning in the near future.

Susan Hayden, Literacy Consultant at West Virginia Library Commission, told the audience that over forty-million American men and women "cannot read above level one. It means that they have trouble reading a newspaper for information, completing forms, such as Social Security, and calculating total costs of purchases from an order form. According to the 2000 Census in West Virginia, 17% are not literate enough to get through life and work. Another 32% have difficulty with certain literacy skills, and an average of 20% cannot read above level one. As far as literacy goes, among the fifty states, West Virginia is ranked in the lowest one-third. In her view, low literacy skills of women are connected to social problems related to poverty. To combat literacy problems in West Virginia, the State Library is working hard with other libraries

and is committed to creating a model library literacy core collection including books, videos, software and computers. There are now strong, existing library based programs in 21 counties and library learning centers. The West Virginia Library Commission's mission is to ensure that training, information resources, and technical assistance are available to help West Virginia libraries and librarians develop effective literacy and outreach programs and services. LSTA Literacy grants have enabled the continued growth and support for library based literacy programs in the State.

Marieta Harper, Coordinator, African Section, Library of Congress, gave a talk on the historical development of the African collections at the Library of Congress. She said "Post World War II demand for more information on Africa by congressional, academic, commercial and diplomatic interests on the newly independent nations of Africa invigorated the Library of Congress to increase its efforts on acquiring materials on the continent." The African section of LC was established in 1960 with a grant from The Carnegie Corporation of New York. Permanent funding of this unit was funded by congressional appropriations. Since 1960, the Library of Congress, frequently in collaboration with other major U.S. African research collections, has continued obtaining, processing, and servicing material from and about Africa. The African collections on the Republic of Benin is rich in retrospective materials on economics, politics and culture in various formats.

R.N. Sharma, Director of Library at West Virginia State College discussed Literacy, Women and Libraries and informed the delegates that over 19% of the population in the United States is functionally illiterate. According to the United Nations records, 77% of the population in Benin is illiterate, and the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) latest report released in March 2001 shows that Great Britain has one of the lowest levels of adult literacy among the developed coun-

—continued on page 5

Library committee finds rewards in fight against Web filters

Recognition, donation follow group's efforts

Evadna Bartlett
Charleston Daily Mail staff writer

In winning a battle last year against mandatory Internet filtering at public libraries in West Virginia, the state Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee also gained national recognition and some cash.

In June, Kanawha County reference librarian Yvonne Farley, chair of the committee during the effort, is scheduled to accept the SIRS Achievement Award from the American Library Association in San Francisco.

The award includes a citation and \$1,000 cash donated by SIRS Mandarin Inc. The award recognizes successful and effective committees or coalitions that make a contribution to the intellectual freedom environment in which libraries function.

The state committee likely will use the money for some type of education work on Internet filtering, Farley said Friday.

A long-standing part of the state association, the intellectual freedom committee shifted into high gear in 2000 when then-Gov. Cecil Underwood in his State of the State address called for Internet filtering in state libraries.

Working with the Library Association's legislative committee, members successfully lobbied against Underwood's bill but the proposal resurfaced again in the summer.

Members of the committee in July discovered a state document seeking bids on a filter system for state agencies, public libraries and higher education.

"We did workshops to educate librarians around the state and worked with decision-makers and the public," Farley recalled. "We don't think filters work. We think good Internet use policies can take care of it."

In a public meeting organized by Farley, librarians spoke against any form of censorship, stressing that state libraries have strong policies posted for the use of the Internet.

Library associations nationwide oppose filtering software, arguing they block legitimate materials and do not fully protect children.

State librarians also argued that money spent on filtering systems should instead be used for library materials.

Other members of the committee last year were Richard Ressemeyer of the state Friends of Libraries, Chris Hatten of the Huntington Museum of Art Library, Mary Jane Howard of the Cabell County Library, Peggy Turnbull of the Bluefield State College Library, Virginia Rugeley, Kanawha County Library, Gibbs Kinderman, Pocahontas County Library and Jennifer Sias of Marshall University Drinko Library.

Writer Evadna Bartlett can be reached at 348-1756.

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Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public Library seeks library director

The Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public Library, located in the rapidly growing Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, is seeking an experience library director. The library serves a population of 70,000+ with a collection of over 130,000 volumes and an annual circulation of over 300,000. The director is responsible for the implementation of library policies, procedures and operations; an annual budget of over \$900,000; the management of a staff of 20 full-time employees; and for the delivery of modern public library service. MLS from an ALA-accredited program plus at least 5 years supervisory and administrative experience is required. Salary: \$40,000+ with health insurance and retirement. Position will remain open until filled.

Please send resume to:
Betty Gunnoe, Administrative Assistant
Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public
Library, 101 West King Street
Martinsburg, WV 25401

Visit us at tlc.library.net/martin/

Literacy, Women and Libraries

—continued from page 4

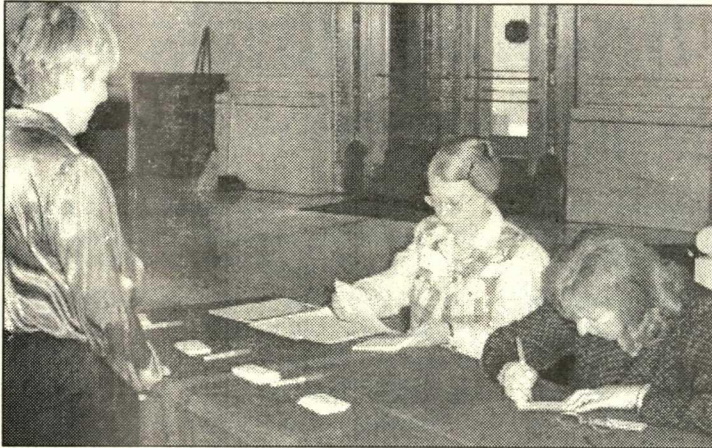
tries. According to the OECD report, Poland has the most illiterate people in Europe. Australia, Britain, and the United States adults are "well presented in the formal education system, but did less well on measures of literacy." He added that less than 30% high school graduates of West Virginia can read well, 20% can write well, and about 12% are good in Math.

According to the *West Virginia Education Profiles 2000*, only 17% of the adult population between the age of 25-26 has bachelors or higher degree, and West Virginia is ranked 33 in the nation for literacy. In Sharma's view, problems associated with illiteracy has made the role of librarians more important than ever. Librarians have the opportunity to become key players in

the new literacy initiative of the Twenty-First Century. To move away from this important responsibility and commitment to literacy, including women literacy, will be a serious mistake for both librarians and libraries. He suggested that academic librarians should use the model statement on the objectives for Information Literacy Instruction approved by the ACRL Board of Directors in January 2001.

The Symposium was made possible with a grant from the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

R.N. Sharma is Director of Drain-Jordan Library
West Virginia State College
Editor-in-chief, Library Times International
e-mail: RNSharmarn@mail.wvsc.edu



Myra Ziegler, Judy Rule and Deborah Musser
at the registration table



Stacy Richardson-Bond
as The Cat In The Hat



Lola Miller as
Old Mother Hubbard

Library Appreciation Day at the Legislature



Jennifer Sias with Mary Jane Howard as The Wizard



Charley Hiveley at the Adult Services display



Marshall's display of the WV Digital Library



Barbara Gilbert also as The Cat In The Hat and Connie Clay
and others as Star Trek characters dispensing coffee

State library committee wins award

Tuesday May 15, 2001
 By Paul J. Nyden • STAFF WRITER
 The Charleston Gazette

The American Library Association is giving a special award to the West Virginia Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee.

The award recognizes the committee's effort to block attempts by former Gov. Cecil Underwood and his administration to put filters on all computers in the state's public and state college libraries.

Yvonne Farley, a reference librarian at the Kanawha County Public Library in Charleston, chairs the Intellectual Freedom Committee honored for its work in building a coalition against the mandatory Internet filtering.

The committee's efforts "should be a model for other states in the ongoing fight," the ALA's award states.

Farley said, "I hope that what we were able to do in West Virginia inspires everyone involved with the Internet filtering issue to have heart."

"Sometimes, it seemed like a losing fight," Farley said. "But in an election year, we stopped the governor from mandatory filtering in all West Virginia libraries because of a united and informed library commu-

nity." Farley also said her efforts received strong support from "other groups in our state, especially the newspapers. We learned a lot about each other and about politics."

Critics of Internet filters argued that censoring words during Internet searches is a major impediment to students studying a wide variety of topics, particularly medical and scientific topics.

Some filter programs also censor sites they find politically offensive, because those sites oppose Internet filtering or because they promote political ideas not acceptable to companies selling the filters.

The award, funded by SIRS Mandarin Inc., consists of a citation and \$1,000. It recognizes intellectual freedom coalitions that make contributions to the freedom to read in libraries and communities where libraries function.

Jo Ann Oliphant, chair of the award committee, said, "The State and Regional Achievement Award Committee very much admires the West Virginia Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee."

The award will be presented on June 16 during the ALA's Intellectual Freedom Round Table program at the West in St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco.

To reach staff writer Paul J. Nyden call 348-5164.

West Virginia Library Association Roundtable Chairs 2000-2001

Academic Directors Roundtable:

Kathleen Parker, Chair
 parker_k@wvwc.edu

Automation Roundtable:

Ron Titus, Chair
 titus@marshall.edu

Children's Roundtable:

Cheryl Harshman, Co-Chair
 harshmac@wvsc.wvnet.edu

Georgina Doss, Co-Chair
 gdoss@cabell.lib.wv.us

Directors Roundtable:

Brenda Riffle, Chair
 riffle_b@martin.lib.wv.us

Government Documents Roundtable:

Robin Chesney, Chair
 chesneyr@wvlc.lib.wv.us

Literacy Roundtable:

Susan Hayden, Chair
 haydens@wvlc.lib.wv.us

Preservation Roundtable:

Kathleen Bledsoe, Chair
 bledsoek@marshall.edu

Reference and Interlibrary Loans Roundtable:

Charley Hively, Chair
 WVLA Executive Board Representative
 hivelyc@clark.lib.wv.us

Social Responsibilities Roundtable:

Michael Limer, Chair
 michaelimer@hotmail.com

West Virginia Literature Roundtable:

Gordon Simmons, Chair



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Putnam County Public Library



Judy Rule
Cabell County Public Library



Jennifer Sias
Marshall

Spring Fling 2001

By Yvonne Farley, Chair

Public Library Section

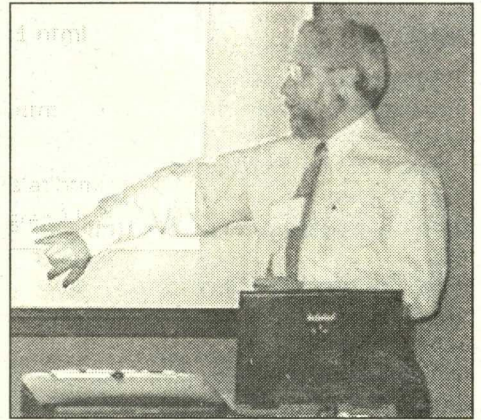
Spring Fling 2001 in Flatwoods hosted a total of 231 paid attendees this year and made approximately \$7000 for WVLA's depleted coffers. About 10 more people came this year than last.

Most conference evaluations were favorable. The biggest complaint was that there were no soft drinks or snacks for breaks. Also, people don't like the lunch at the Day's Inn. The reason we didn't have donuts or soft drinks was to make money. The cost per person for these breaks was very high at the Day's Inn. This year it is no secret that WVLA lost money on the Fall Conference and attempted to make up that shortfall at Spring Fling. Sorry, but it was a belt-tightening year. Many members of the executive board are not seeking reimbursement for travel to meetings and other expenses. Presenters donated their time and energy freely. The deliberate cut of refreshments was made in that spirit.

The Day's Inn at Flatwoods is such an easy conference center to work with in doing a library conference and so many things there do work out that the association doesn't want to move the spring con-

ference somewhere else. Every year the planning committee picks the most inexpensive lunch possible from a limited list of selections but lunch still ends up costing around \$12 or \$13. Evaluations show that attendees think the lunch is too expensive and not very good. There really is no solution to this problem unless the association moves the conference.

I have a tendency not to want to mention people by name for fear that I will forget someone. However it's impressive how many people contributed their efforts to such an event. Program presenters who donated time and efforts without reimbursement to WVLA included: Marjorie Price, Barbara Winters, Jennifer Sias, Judith Arnold, Tim Balch, Peggy Turnbull, Mary Jane Howard, Marilyn Johnson, Christy Cook, Georgina Doss, Olivia Bravo, Susan Hayden, Renne Casto, Suzy McGinley, Chris Gore, Eva McGuire, Stacy Richardson-Bond, Carol Campbell, Rick Wilson, Frances O'Brien, Peggy Bias, Monica Brooks, Ron Titus, Judy Rule, Steve Christo, Jennifer Soule, and Gordon Simmons. Thanks too to our excellent keynote speakers — Dr. Claire McInerney and Dr. Violette Esh - who did not charge an honorarium.



Tim Balch, Marshall

In addition, Brenda Riffle should be thanked for her job as Exhibits Chair as should Ann Farr for doing registration. She was assisted by Christy Grimm and Cherie Davis. Dottie Thomas took care of the registration packets. On the Spring Fling Planning committee were Dottie Thomas, Sharon Saye, Steve Christo, Georgina Doss and Brenda Riffle. Thanks also to Pam Shillingburg at Kanawha County Library who did the brochure and to Julie Spiegler for help with the bulk mailing and the marketing table.

Rebecca Van der Meer was helpful in coordinating the poster sessions for the WVLC library consultants as was Jennifer Soule.



**Jennifer Soule,
Marilyn Johnson and
Karen Hiser, WVLC**



Olivia Bravo, KCPL and Susan Hayden, WVLC



Monica Brooks and Lisa Hughes, Marshall

An annotated list of Hollywood films made in West Virginia

By Steve Fesenmaier

West Virginia Library Commission

The Internet Movie Database @http://Hus.imdb.com has the following feature films and television shows listed as the only ones made in the state of West Virginia:

1. *Evening Magazine* (1976) - TV series, aka *Evening: The MTWTF Show* (1976), first episode title. It was also known as *P.M. Magazine* (1976).

2. *Fear* (2000) - TV series.

3. *It's a Man's World* (1962) - TV series.

4. *Raw is War* (1997) - TV series, aka *WWF RAW is WAR* (1997).

5. *Chicken Hawk* (1994) - This film is subtitled "Men Who Love Boys." It won an award at a New York Underground Film Festival.

6. *Chillers* (1987) - Danny Boyd's first feature, filmed around the Charleston area. It was made with local actors and crew. For his second and third West Virginia features, he imported crew actors from out-of-state.

7. *The Dancing Outlaw* (1991) - (9/10, 51 votes)* - a WV favorite, selling at least 3000 copies within the state. Jacob Young made this film as part of the *Morgantown Public TV series A Different Drummer*. The film is an underground classic. Roseanne Barr saw it and invited Jesco to appear on her TV sitcom.

8. *The Deer Hunter* (1978) - (8.1/10, 8067 votes)* - Filmed around the Northern Panhandle, both in WV and across the border. Robert De Niro won fame in this winner of eight Oscars. It was perhaps the most influential film of the 1980s, bringing working-class themes to Hollywood cinema. De Niro also played a West Virginia native in *Cape Fear*. In the book on

which the movie is based, De Niro's character is from the Charleston area.

9. *Fools' Parade* (1971) - also called *Dynamite Man from Glory Jail*. Filmed entirely on location in Moundsville, the movie is based on a novel by Moundsville native son, Davis Grubb. The West Virginia Library Commission has a 16-mm film called *On Location with Fools' Parade*. It was Jimmy Stewart's last Hollywood film. Stewart, incidentally, grew up not too far away in Indiana, PA.

10. *Forest for the Trees* (1998) - no information available.

11. *Invasion of the Space Preachers* (1990), also called *Strangest Dreams: Invasion of the Space Preachers*. This oddly entertaining film is Danny Boyd's second WV feature. It is available on laserdisk from the WVLC.

12. *Matewan* (1987) - (7.6/10, 807 votes)* - called "the greatest labor history film ever made." John Sayles came to West Virginia after writing his book *Union Dues*, which talks about labor struggles around the country. It was nominated for two Oscars (best cinematography and best original screenplay). Many native actors and filmmakers worked on the film. It is still shown on the Bravo television channel and was reissued as a video several years ago. Chris Cooper, recently in *The Patriot* and last year's hit *American Beauty*, began his film career with *Matewan*, as did David Straithorn and Mary McDowell. It was made in Thurmond, a West Virginia town that has been restored. This film led to the revolution, led by Dr. Fred Barkey, of bringing labor history to West Virginia classrooms.

13. *Mothman* (2000) - Richard Gere film to be shot soon, but

NOT IN WEST VIRGINIA.

14. *The Night of the Hunter* (1955) - (8.4/10, 1949 votes)* - West Virginia's greatest film, and one of the best American films ever made. It was filmed mainly in California, with the final river scenes filmed on location on the Ohio River. This is a superstar film, like *Citizen Kane*, which was also considered a failure when first released and is now considered among the greatest of all time. It is based on Moundsville native son Davis Grubb's first novel.

15. *The Rain People* (1969) - (6.8/10, 97 votes)* - It tells the story of people on the run, cruising across America. One scene was filmed in Grafton by Francis Ford Coppola.

16. *Reckless* (1984) - (5.5/10, 163 votes)* - James Foley called me up after the success of *The Deer Hunter*, telling me that he wanted the "look and feel of *The Deer Hunter*." He found a graveyard next to a steel plant in Weirton. It was Aidan Quinn's first film and was written by superstar director Chris Columbus (*Home Alone*). Daryl Hannah plays the romance interest. Foley has gone on to direct many other Hollywood action films, including *Fear* and *The Corrupter* and TV shows such as *Dark Angel* and *Twin Peaks*.

17. *Stage Struck* (1925) - (7.8/10, 5 votes)* - This is the first film made in WV by a Hollywood company. Gloria Swanson, at that time the most famous woman in the world, came to a little town, New Martinsville, WV, where she played the local girl, willing to do anything to get her man. The man was in love with a showboat star. This film is a comedy and H. John Rogers' father was in it! WVLC got a 16-mm print from Eastman House. For its centennial, the

city of New Martinsville also received a copy.

18. *Sweet Dreams* (1985) - (6.9/10, 179 votes)* - It was filmed in Martinsburg, near Winchester, VA, where Patsy Cline grew up. Jessica Lange was nominated for an Oscar for her performance. It is perhaps the best Hollywood film about a country singer.

19. *Teen-Age Strangler* (1965) - (3.1/10, 29 votes)* - This is the first independent feature film made in West Virginia, where it was not shown until 1990, when Yvonne Farley premiered it on Halloween at the St. Albans Public Library. It was shown in a Kentucky drive-in, but not in 35-mm. It was finally shown in Huntington, where it was made. The movie is listed in the *Psychotronic Encyclopedia of Film*.

20. *Whatever* (1998) - (6.3/10, 234 votes)* - It was filmed mostly in Wheeling, substituting for New Jersey. It was shown at the West Virginia Independent Film Festival two years ago, with the producer from Wheeling present. It is a very good independent film (not Hollywood) about a young girl growing up in a tough world.

21. *Wrestling with God* (1990) - It was filmed in California, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and near Wheeling. It tells the tale of Alexander Campbell, the founder of the Disciples of Christ denomination and Bethany College (alma mater of Fargo Oscar-winning actress, Frances McDormand).

*The movie title is followed by a ranking from 1 to 10, with 10 as the best. The number of votes shows how many people actually voted to create the ranking.

—continued on page 10

An annotated list of Hollywood films made in West Virginia

—continued from page 9

As the former head of Film Services at WVLC for almost twenty years and now as the film reviewer for *Graffiti*, the largest monthly in the state, I am often asked about films being made in West Virginia. I once made a map of the state, pinpointing where each film was made.

There are many, many limitations with the IMDB list. The main problem is that it lists only films and television shows, with a few exceptions, which were made in Hollywood. Just as the American Film Institute created a totally absurd listing of the "100 greatest American films" last year, the IMDB lists only 21 items. It does not include Martin Sheen's first film, *No Drums, No Bugles*, directed by Clyde Ware and filmed entirely in Doddridge County. Hundreds of films and TV shows have been made West Virginia. Independent filmmakers, most notably Robert Gates of Charleston, and many other filmmakers have made at least one hundred productions. Some of the best documentary filmmakers in the country, like Jim Rutenbeck of Boston, have come to West Virginia and Appalachia and made many fine films.

During the recent decade of cable productions, A&E has been notable in making some very interesting programs in and about West Virginia. For example, their biography of Charles Manson had footage showing both the West Side in Charleston and his grandparents' home outside Charleston, where he was raised. Their "Hatfields and McCoys" history was based on one of the best print histories of the famous feud. I learned so much about Don Knotts from A&E. Almost monthly, something on A&E or the History Channel deals with the history and culture of the state.

I have to say that as much as I have promoted filmmaking in West Virginia and published an annual list of available videos in Goldenseal, West Virginia libraries have failed to spend their scarce funds supporting WV's own in-state filmmakers. There are a few copies of Danny Boyd's films, *Chillers*, *Invasion of the Space Preachers* and *Paradise Park*, in WV libraries. And there are a few copies of Bob Gates' videos (*Morris Family Old-Time Music Festival* and *All Shaken Up*) in a few libraries. I have been working with various independent book companies, such as Bill Clements at Pictorial Histories here in Charleston, to provide WV films and videos to their public. Taylor Books in Charleston and Renaissance Books in Huntington do/did the best jobs of supporting our own artists.

Recently, the Marlinton Public Library established a large collection of WV/Appalachian videos and books. I hope that all WV libraries, from the largest to the smallest, have the chance to check out some of their titles. I hope that every WV library has at least a copy of *Matewan*, *The Night of the Hunter*, *Dancing Outlaw*, and the *WV Video History* tapes produced by WV Public Broadcast, which sent free copies to all WV public libraries when they were originally produced. To find out what titles are now available, including the most recent WV PBS film *Ashes to Glory* (about the 1970 Marshall University football team/airplane disaster) call 1-800-672-9672.

You might want to buy a copy of *Hearts of Glass*, the award-winning documentary about the Blenko Glass Company in Milton. It was done by the same filmmakers who made *Ashes*. You can reach Robert Gates, president of the WV Filmmakers Guild at 304-342-2624.

Recently, H. John Rogers told me that there is a famous Hollywood director from Summersville. Stephen Roberts was born there on September 23, 1895 and died on July 17, 1936 in Beverly Hills. He made at least 22 features in Hollywood. Two are currently available on video from Facets in Chicago - William Powell and Jean Harlow in *The Ex-Mrs. Bradford* (1936) and *Romance in Manhattan*, starring Ginger Rogers.

Facets Multimedia <<http://www.facets.org>> in Chicago distributes many West Virginia films, including *Teenage Strangler*, *Dancing Outlaw*, *Whispers from Space* (not listed above, a feature documentary made in Clarksburg about Gray Barker, the legendary science fiction writer), the director's cut version of *The Deer Hunter* (which

came out just five years ago), *Matewan*, and others. You will NOT find video copies of *Reckless* or *Fools' Parade*. The WVLC does have 16-mm copies of both and a video copy of *Parade*. It also has rare copies of other WV films, like *Goodbye, Miss Fourth of July*, based on a book by Montgomery native Christopher Janus, who gave a copy to the commission. Disney refuses to sell it; they show it every year on July 4th.

West Virginia has a rich history when it comes to cinema. Even the IMDB lists more than 100 people from West Virginia who worked in Hollywood. There must be thousands! Hopefully, librarians have some awareness of this deep history, and during the coming years will purchase, distribute, and promote West Virginia films.

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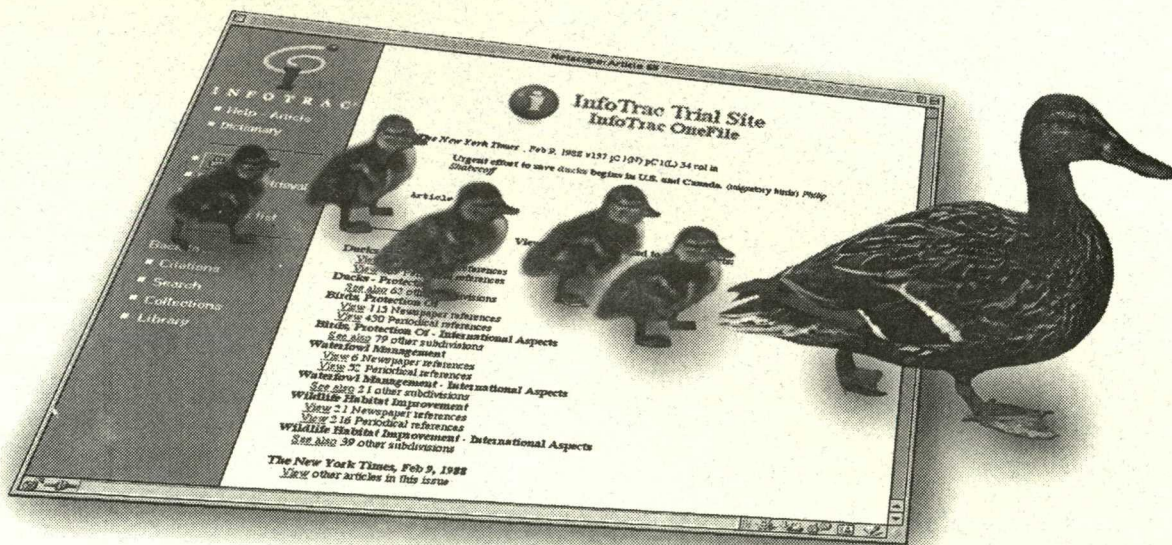
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- 17 WV Library Commission meeting,
Bluefield/Princeton • 10 a.m.

September

LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH!

- 14-15 Women in Print Conference • Madison, WI
Contact James P. Danky

Center for Print Culture in Modern America

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

816 State St. • Madison, WI 53706

608-264-6598 • 608-254-6520 fax

e-mail: jpearl@slis.wisc.edu

Web site: slisweb.lis.wisc.edu/~printcul/women.html

October

- 1-3 The Future of Rural and Small Libraries
Conference • Columbus, OH.

Register by September 17

Continuing Education, Clarion University of Pennsylvania

840 Ward St. • Clarion, PA 16214-1232

814-393-2227 • 814-393-1741 fax

e-mail: kstiglitz@clarion.edu

- 29-31 WVLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Canaan State Park and Conference Center
Davis, WV

NOTE: West Virginia Library Commission meetings are set monthly and dates will vary. Please check the WVLC web site for the exact date, time, agenda and minutes each month at <http://www.wvlib.org>

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March 15 for April issue

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November 15 for December issue

WVLA Membership Information

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