

# Friends of Kentucky Libraries

NEWSLETTER  
October 1966

FRIENDS OF KENTUCKY LIBRARIES...ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON...NOVEMBER 11, 1966  
Phoenix Hotel  
LEXINGTON

The Kentucky Library Association will have its annual meeting in Lexington at the Phoenix Hotel, November 10, 11, 12.

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries organization traditionally has a luncheon and meeting during the annual meeting of the Kentucky Library Association.

Our luncheon will be at 12:30 at the Phoenix Hotel, November 11. Reservation (\$2.75) may be made by sending a check to Mr. Sherwood Kirk, Department of Libraries, Frankfort, Kentucky.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for 10 A.M., just before the luncheon - November 11, also at the Phoenix Hotel.

- - -

Report on REGIONAL MEETING AT ROUGH RIVER STATE PARK, SEPTEMBER 10, 1966

On Friday, September 9, Dorothy Day, head of the Audio-Visual Program of the Louisville Free Public Library, led an intensive workshop in "The Care and Feeding of Audio-Visual Materials." In the evening, librarians and members of our organization enjoyed a charming program she offered. It consisted of three very different but outstanding films, in color.

On Saturday, sixty-one persons attended our luncheon, both librarians and members of Friends of Kentucky Libraries. In the absence of our president, Mrs. Joy Bale, the meeting was chaired by Mrs. William Brooks of Winchester - very ably, too.

A few items of business were considered.

Scholarships. Mrs. Houston, Secretary, reported that there have been two applications for scholarships (\$500.00 each.)

Jackson County. A memorandum about a problem in this county was read. It was written by Margaret Willis, addressed to Mrs. Bale, Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Houston. The memorandum follows.

"Jackson County came to Frankfort today to get a reconditioned, large bookmobile. Their small bookmobile from the Bookmobile project refuses to run.

"This is one of Kentucky's poorest counties. The county has tried, but the Public Library Program is pitiful.

"The Bookmobile driver is paid \$5 a day, two days a week. He needs to run the Bookmobile more days each week, but there frankly is no more money in the county with which to do this.

"A donation from the Friends of Kentucky Libraries of \$250 would enable the bookmobile to run another day each week. The county would have to provide the extra gasoline and oil required.

"It is a tragedy for a bookmobile to sit idle most of the time.

"If the Department of Libraries can possibly help Jackson and other remaining poor counties more in the next fiscal year, we shall. Everything depends on what is appropriated by the Library Services and Construction Act for the next fiscal year.

"Jackson County receives bookmobile books and a small amount of State Aid from us now.

"If anything can be done, regardless of the actual amount, we know it will be more than appreciated by Jackson County.

"If this help is impossible, everyone will understand."

#### Special Contribution Fund

It was decided that, rather than ask those present to make contributions, the situation should be explained to all members, through the Newsletter, and request made for contributions, large or small. Already there have been two contributions for a total of \$15.00. The amount needed (\$250) is, of course, small in comparison with other amounts the Friends of Kentucky Libraries have raised for various projects. If each member sends in a dollar or two, not only can the \$250 be obtained but some will be left over to swell the now depleted scholarship fund. On the coupon, page 4, please mark your donation "Donation for Jackson County".

- - -

After the business meeting, the first speaker was Mr. C. E. Rowe, Brandenburg, a member of the Library Trustees of Meade County, and also a business man. He spoke on a subject he knows from both sides - Business Support and the Library Program.

He told us that there are four steps which must be taken by anyone who obtains money from industry for a public library in the community.

1. The person must know the library program and be able to answer questions about it. He must be able to say what the library has to offer - its values, such as raising the literacy of the community, enriching the lives of those who use it, making the community a better place to live which will be a factor in securing new business, and the educational values, which are obvious, the obtaining of a source of information for the community, and last - the therapy that there is in reading, itself. The person may not have thought of all these benefits, obvious as they may be to the librarian and those who work with libraries.

2. The person who wishes to obtain money from industry must know the man he talks to, or at least something about him and the business, whether or not this man has authority to act or whether he is in charge of a branch and the authority comes from elsewhere. It is wise to find out as much as possible about the situation before one interviews the industrialist. One should not become impatient if immediate results are not forthcoming. Most people interviewed can be interested in a library program but many will have limitations of one kind or another. If the industry employs a large number of people, the industrialist is more apt to be interested in a community library than if only a few persons work for him.
3. "Make your pitch" after you have accumulated the information mentioned above. It may be a good idea to write it as a letter or memo and leave this with the man interviewed. He may need to think it over or talk it over with others before reaching a decision. Make it easy for him by putting the facts on paper for him to refer to. Don't embarrass him by expecting an immediate answer. If he needs time, ask for another interview at his convenience. This is better than taking "no" for an answer.
4. Clinch the matter, if it is possible.

Mr. Rowe told us something of his own experience in Meade County where he proved quite successful in his interviews. There already was an appropriation from the school board and another from the fiscal court. Brandenburg also gave its support. A chemical company in the county made a donation, its incentive being to build up Brandenburg. This company gave the first bookmobile as well as a large contribution. He thinks they did so as a matter of public relations. The bank in Brandenburg contributed, after thinking the matter over and deciding that this was to its advantage since the library might be instrumental in bringing in new businesses. The results, Mr. Rowe said, show that salesmanship pays off - there is a new library in the county and the library tax was passed.

- - -

The second speaker, Mrs. Jewel Thomas, Librarian, Wolfe County, told us some of her experiences as a librarian and as bookmobile driver. She began as a bookmobile driver in Cumberland County in 1957. When the question of a library tax arose, she worked for it, night and day, and was happy to see it pass, five to one. She came to Wolfe County in 1964. Soon after arriving, she hunted for the library and found it - padlocked! She got the key from the Superintendent of Schools but when she entered the room, she found little. In March, 1965, some boys from the neighborhood Youth Corps came into the county. Six of them came to work in the library. Naturally, they did not know anything about library work and could only dust and clean. She talked to the school superintendent, offering to help in the library and to train the boys. This she did for three months, as a volunteer.

After that, the new librarian arrived - an untrained young girl. Mrs. Thomas gave up the project at that point. However, the girl stayed only a short time - until the money for her salary ran out. Last March, another person was hired - not a librarian, just someone who can keep the room clean. Recently, however, this person circulated 300 books, an improvement on the previous 30 or so per month.



Wolfe County is not in a region and is in great need of help. Mrs. Thomas has been riding bookmobiles in this and other counties and urges all to take such trips to see that this program is really reaching into the homes and lives of people who have never known books before. She is one of the drivers who sold the program to these people by stopping at every house and knocking at the door and telling the people about the bookmobile program and what it could mean to them.

- - -

REMINDER: HAVE YOU WRITTEN YOUR LETTER TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON ON THE NEED FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION FOR FULL FUNDING OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION FOR THE LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICES ACT? If not - PLEASE ACT NOW!

THIS IS OF FIRST AND LAST IMPORTANCE!

- - -

#### ATTENTION POETS

(Whether or not members of the Friends of Kentucky libraries)  
(If you do not write poetry, please hand this notice to the nearest Kentucky poet.)

Work began in September, 1966, and is still going forward, on a second anthology of contemporary Kentucky poetry, published under the aegis of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries. The first such anthology, Contemporary Kentucky Poetry, was published in June, 1964 and was sold out in less than six weeks. It is by popular request that a second volume is being planned. As in the first volume, the anthology will carry poems written by Kentuckians only. Poems must have been written since 1960, and must be submitted for consideration of the editors between September 1st, 1966, and January 1st, 1967. Poems of every sort, light or serious, on any subject, will be considered by an editorial board of five. Previously published poetry will not be considered, but copy-right privileges will remain with the writers following publication of the anthology. No payment can be made for poems. Poets should keep copies of poems submitted, as neither accepted nor rejected poems can be returned. Acknowledgement will be made of accepted poems only, and such notification will be given during the months of January and February 1967. Poets who have not received notification by the end of February will be free to submit their poems elsewhere. Poems should be sent to

CONTEMPORARY KENTUCKY POETRY, Care of Joy Bale  
110 South Maple Street  
Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701

- - -

For the convenience of those who wish to renew their memberships (membership year ends September 30) and/or make a donation for the Jackson County Bookmobile and the scholarship fund, here is a coupon which you may tear off and return with your check.

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee