

CARNEGIE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY

Sept. 16
1938

My dear Mrs. Dugan:

Miss Edna G Moore and I as co-chairmen
of the Small Library Section, wish you
to speak for fifteen minutes, at the
Luncheon meeting on October 21st. on
How to Avoid the Groove of Mediocrity.

Could you not bring in your Book Trailer
Project under this.

Please let me know at once as Mr. Henry
is anxious to get the program completed
by the last of the month .

Looking forward to meeting you at the
luncheon, I am

Very sincerely

Sue R. McCulloch
Librarian

#3

Lexington

FAYETTE COUNTY CIRCULATING LIBRARY
Lexington Public Library
Lexington, Kentucky

October
Twelve
1938

Mr. Wade Heavey, Assistant Supervisor
Division of Women's and Professional Projects
Works Progress Administration
Lexington, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Heavey:

This new library has so many new problems which are unique to this community and to this work alone, that I am asking for your interpretation of an existing rule for W.P.A. workers. I know that you understand that I ask for this special ruling only in order that this project may be as useful as we can possibly make it in this community. Here, then is my problem:

On many of the big farms here, far from any road over which I can take the book trailer, or even walk, there are many deserving tenants or independent, poorer farmers. These are the people who will have to be very strenuously won over to becoming library users. But on our success depends much of the glory of this library's work.

Now it happens that the churches in this county- a few of them, that is, provide school buses to bring these remote people to the churches each Sunday. As soon as they heard of the new library service several ministers and some of the leaders in the congregations- and hence leaders in the communities- asked us if it would not be possible for books and a worker to be available at those times in order that these people could have the opportunity of checking out books after the services. The ministers have made fine speeches to their congregations about the new library, and there is a definite paternalistic feeling between the minister and his congregation, the people are far easier to reach at that time than in other possible ways that we can work out. In order to gauge the importance of this to our work, you would have to know how backward these communities are as to cultural opportunities or as to any idea of what a public library service can mean to them. This is the first time in the history of this county that such people have had any opportunity to make such contacts and it will be years, I fear before we can reach them except through these churches.

I am asking, therefore, if a special ruling could be made in order that a few workers who are willing to do so, could attend these church services on

Sunday and spend not more than fifteen minutes checking out books to these people. I assure you that I would never insist that a worker do it if he did not want to, and that it would not be on extra or over time. Many of our workers are from rural homes, many of them are religious, and I honestly believe that, should they undertake this particular work, they would find it very rewarding to them personally, for they would enjoy meeting the people and in having such a responsible part in the communities activities. I continually stress to the workers the fact that in order to best serve W.P.A. they must take part in the activities in their communities, to win the friendship and good will of the people there. That is something which the existing public library has never stressed in the slightest degree, and our reward for doing so would, I'm sure, be overwhelmingly worth while.

There have also been requests for a Sunday afternoon Story telling hour. Of course I have not made any plans for it yet. But we find it very difficult to schedule Story hours during the school year because of the late school buses and the fact that all country people go to town on Saturdays.

Yours very truly,

Frances L. Dugas, Supervisor
Fayette County Circulating Library

FLD:ml

LIBRARY BACKGROUND

On August 22, 1938, the Fayette Library WPA Project was formally opened. The sponsors for the undertaking were four: the Federal Works Progress Administration, Fayette Community Council, Fayette Board of Education, as financial sponsor, and the Lexington Public Library.

Under an arrangement with the Fayette County Fiscal Court the Lexington Public Library had for many years allowed county residents to freely check out books. This agreement was made when the Fiscal Court appropriated \$1000.00 a year for the Lexington Public Library's budget.

The members of the Fayette Community Council, however, had long been aware of the fact that too few rural residents made use of the Lexington Library; and, believing that country people wanted books and would use them if such books were made more available to the people, the Community Council asked their Executive Secretary, Mr. O. B. Wilder to see what arrangements could be made to remedy the situation.

The Works Progress Administration set up a project which made available \$14,000 for salaries for WPA workers. The Fayette Board of Education agreed to build a small book trailer which the librarian would attach to her car, and also to reimburse the Lexington Public Library for books lost during the time the library project functioned. The Lexington Public Library thereupon gave its permission to the sponsors to allow the circulation of many of their books through the channels of the Fayette Library Project. The Fayette Community Council acted as advisor to the project and through its secretary helped with all the necessary organization before and after the project opened.

The project was scheduled for an indefinite period of time, and provision was made for the employment of a supervising librarian and from ten to twenty certified WPA workers.

Five book centers were opened in county churches, schools, and in the Community Rest Room of the Fayette County Court House. By October 25th eight centers had been opened. Later one of the church centers was moved to a consolidated school and another school center had been added. In the spring of 1939 a library center was opened at the Kentucky houses of Reform, and during the summer a small collection of books was circulated from the home of a Mr. Barnes on the Jack's Creek Pike. At the time of the closing of the project on August 1, 1939 negotiations for the opening of a library center in a vacant store in Athens Village had been nearly completed. During the summer the schools closed and those school centers which were located in neighborhoods where people could reach the schools easily, were opened for two days a week.

The Fayette Library's book resources included the books from the Lexington Public Library, the Fayette County Board of Education, gifts made direct to the Fayette Library, and books bought with WPA funds, which came too late ever to be circulated.

LIBRARY EXTENSION DIVISION

LENA B. NOFCIER, DIRECTOR

OLD CAPITOL

FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY

November 22, 1938

Mrs. Frances L. S. Dugan
316 Madison Place
Lexington, Ky.

Dear Mrs. Dugan:

Thank you for the picture of the trailer and your letters of October 8 and November 16. I am sure your project is a most interesting one.

Thank you for the kind invitation to go over the routes with you. I want to accept it as soon as I possibly can. I cannot imagine anything that would be more fascinating or enjoyable. What days of the week are the best days for such jaunts?

You are certainly to be congratulated on the splendid work you are doing. I am glad you also have a citizens' group actively interested. Mrs. Preston Johnson should be a tower of strength and be able to secure the support you will need to continue building up the project.

I, too, am sorry you could not be at the citizens' meeting. Due to inclement weather the group was rather small; not too small, however, to transact the important business pending.

Best wishes for the Thanksgiving season and for the future success of your library project.

Cordially yours,

Lena B. Nofcier

Lena B. Nofcier, Director
Library Extension Division

jhb

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
IN KENTUCKY

COUNTY FAYETTE DISTRICT No. 3 CITY LEXINGTON KENTUCKY

FAYETTE COUNTY FREE CIRCULATING LIBRARY

30 June, 1939.

Mrs. Tom Dulin, President
Fayette Community Council
Lexington, Kv.

My dear Mrs. Dulin:

During the month of June the Fayette Library project has had open only five of its ten regular centers and one sub-station in a private home down on the Jack's Creek Pike. Our circulation figures for the month, then, are comparatively small; but they do not include the circulation figures for the girls' part of the Reform School nor those for that sub-station. Shelby School center has not been running the full month, either.

Many of the library workers have been employed full time at necessary clerical work which must be done if the library is to function properly and if the project is to be renewed. Book gifts have been accessioned and prepared for circulation, long lists have been checked in order that we may have accurate records of lost books, and bibliographies necessary for the best use of library resources by county school teachers have been and are being prepared. Our file of library patrons is being completed. Two colored workers have been mending books and one white worker is clipping magazines for the use of Reform School children.

On June 22 the library had an exhibit at the county wide meeting of the Homemakers Club. One of the workers made a miniature farm and above it were placed the titles of books which would be of help to farm families. Over it we placed the motto, "A book for every farm's every need." *about 350 people saw this exhibit*

It is interesting to note that as soon as our school centers closed the small center at Durbin's Tabernacle began doing a rush business.

I have been most interested in trying to start a library center in an unused store room in Athens Village. We hope to be able to go out there to begin business soon. I have spoken very informally at one meeting of a Homemaker's club about getting their support for this community-book center. I have also had a conference with Mr. Ed Parker about ways in which to in-

crease the library's usefulness to the 4H Clubs, the Homemakers, and to the farmers in general. One agriculture teacher suggested that I offer suggestions to his Future Farmers groups next autumn.

We sent our first gift of 284 magazines to the County Infirmary.

Some of the officers of the Reform School felt that, as the boys are to be working in the fields and canneries during the summer instead of attending classes, that we could not continue our regular work there. When, however, the matron of the girls' side of the school heard of our plans for temporarily abandoning our work she telephoned at once to Frankfort to Dr. Norman Braden, assistant to Miss Margaret Woll; and Dr. Braden said that he was very anxious indeed that we continue our work there. I have written to ask him to help us make this possible.

At a meeting of the sponsors of the project we discussed the possible renewal of the project, and Miss Gertrude Flora, the WPA representative gave it as her opinion that the work probably would be continued the following year. There are still funds enough on hand to continue the work for six months more under the present working conditions. Colonel D. Y. Dunn gave us the use of two typewriters for the summer months and said that he believed that one of them could be kept permanently on the project. He also offered us a room in the old Pythian Home Buildings and we are expecting to move into it in the autumn.

This month the library has received 3,890 magazines as gifts and 243 books. The books ordered with money appropriated by WPA have not yet arrived. I have worked several times with a committee from the county school on a joint book order for books for use in the elementary grades.

Yours very truly,

Frances L. S. Dugan

Mrs. Hammond Dugan

Supervising Librarian

Copy to Mrs. Florence Fort.

WPA FAYETTE COUNTY CIRCULATING LIBRARY

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

3 August, 1939.

Mrs. Tom Dulin
President, Fayette Community Council
Lexington, Ky.

My dear Mrs. Dulin;

The circulation figures of 2002, while an increase over the previous month, do not show accurately the work of the Fayette Library for the past month. We have had six centers in operation, and a book deposit on the Barnes home far down on the Jack's Creek pike, (for which we do not yet have circulation figures.) I will not take much of the time of the Council, but I would like to point out some of the activities back of those rather cold circulation figures.

First, the Kentucky Houses of Reform had the largest circulation, and Durbin's center ranked second. When you consider the community which Durbin's serves, I think the situation is very significant. When the members of that community heard that the library was to close, they flocked to the library and took out 195 magazines because they could not take any more books. (That 195 is not part of the circulation figures.)

Second, the work at Kenwick, under our very able Mrs. Colingsworth, is unique in this library's history, or that of the Lexington Public Library. Mrs. Colingsworth has built up a wide interest in that community, and an interest which was increasing rapidly. She had a daily story-telling hour, to which came all kinds of eager children. And the adults in Kenwick district were using the library more and more.

We were just completing plans to open a center at Athens.

A small collection of books—new books given by WPA—was taken down to the Homemakers' camp.

Our workers have been working on bibliographies which would make it possible for us and for the county teachers to know the resources of the Lexington and county board libraries on the subjects which they teach in the elementary grades.

The story-telling, ice-cream party, ^{at Durbin's} was very successful. We owe thanks to Mrs. William Fuson and Miss Lucinda Burns for their splendid part in the program. Mrs. Fuson came over from Berea for it; and when I asked the children if they wanted ice cream or more stories,

they voted immediately for more stories!

When he heard that the library was closing, Mr. Kearns (technical advisor at the Reform School) begged us to leave books for the boys to read. I do not yet know whether we can arrange it.

The Library of the University of Kentucky gave us 66 beautiful posters depicting life in foreign countries, for use in our various centers.

We answered an appeal for books and magazines ^{from} by the Rockcastle County library by giving them 285 books and a thousand magazines. Of course we did not give them books which we felt to be useful in Fayette County. We were also instrumental in getting a donation from the Girl Scouts for that library.

The Girl Scouts of Lexington gave this library 103 books.

The first shipment of WPA books which I selected especially for the needs of Fayette County has arrived; but we were not able to circulate them to any but the Homemakers' camp before the order for closing came through.

Total gifts for this month are as follows:
168 books besides those from WPA
7573 magazines
66 posters.

We sent 284 magazines to the County Infirmary, 853 magazines to Eastern State Hospital, and 200 magazines to the girls' part of the Reform School.

Our patrons' list is nearly completed. Durbins' is the only center still to report, I believe.

I spoke over radio station WLW on July 15, on "Everybody's Farm" hour, on the work of this library. I have accepted an invitation to speak about or work to the Woman's Club of Midway next November. I cite these two speaking invitations merely to show the increasing interest being shown in the work of the library which your council has started.

Before the next meeting of your Council I hope to present the "annual" report for the eleven months' work of this library.

Yours truly,

Frances L. S. Dugan

Mrs. Hammond Dugan

Supervising Librarian.

Centers in operation are listed with their figures on the enclosed page.

My dear Mrs. Fort:

Will you not read the whole of this report to the Council when they meet Saturday? I do not think it will take too much time, and I believe that it is better for them to have the report in this form.

Yours truly,

Frances L. S. Dugan

Mrs. Hammond Dugan

Supervising Librarian.

August third, 1939

Berea, Ky.
Apr. 3, 1939

Dear Mrs. Dugan:

Perhaps you may have more time at Atlanta than at home to prepare your WLV talk so I am sending a few things which are very scrappy and only the beginnings of the information I hope to collect in the course of time. I am very sorry to have been delayed in sending this bit to you.

The public library statistics have so many "s" that you can use only a part of them as I have done in the p. c. note. These figures were taken from the Ky Lib. Ex. Div. 1935-7 report and I am sure Miss Hoffer could explain the huge difference e. g. between Wootton and Richmond. Evidently the p. c. has not the same basis for estimate in all cases.

Only 67 libraries in the state reported statistics in 1935-7 so my own statement of 26 counties in the mountains without libraries may be slightly changed now if WPA is counted.

As yet I have not been able to collect all the information I wish about the WPA libraries but Miss Humble tells just how many there are in Ky. i. e. the pack horse libs.

If you have time to read the entire article by Bell from which I quote it will help you at Memphis. Also be sure to read in the Oct. '38 and Jan. '39 Mt. life and work the articles by J. Wesley Hatcher on Basic conditions in the Appalachian mountains. In vol. 5 of this same magazine - I think it was 19 Miss Barber had an article about library facilities in the Southern mts. Of course these would be on file at the Emory library.

I have sent you the Berea College Ex. Lib. notes in some detail because it serves so well as an example of what can be done and should be done.

This letter is written very testily but I hope there is something in this envelope to help you a bit.

I know you are having a very profitable time. Should you hear anything of very special value about publicity our Com. would be very glad for a slight relay.

Cordially yours
T.H. Ridgway

Berea, Ky.
Apr. 6. 1939

Dear Mrs. Dugan:

The enclosed data from the State Dept. of Education I regard as quite important, altho not up to date.

Berea's "mountain territory" includes parts of some of the counties bordering on or including the "Blue Grass" and Pennyroyal. Hence, the variations that appear from the tabulation I sent you a few days ago. For purposes of comparison the enclosed data offers a more adequate basis, I believe.

Should you wish further details consult this Bulletin of the Dept. of Education v. 2 no. 11 Jan 1935 Library service available to the public schools of Ky.

Will you kindly advise me before next Thursday whether the broadcast is to be made?

Cordially yours
J. H. Ridgway

FAYETTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

204 MORTON BUILDING

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

MRS. TOM DULIN, PRES.
MR. J. EDW. PARKER, JR.,
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRES.
MRS. J. W. BARKER, TREAS.
MISS CAROLYN STEWART, SEC'Y.

MRS. FLORENCE C. FORT
EXECUTIVE SEC'Y.
PHONE 1749

We Are Members of Fayette County Community Chest

Lexington, Kentucky
August 15, 1939

Mrs. Frances L. Dugan-Supervisor
Fayette Free Circulating Library
225 South Limestone Street
Lexington, Kentucky

Dear Mrs. Dugan:

On behalf of the Fayette Community Council I wish to express to you our sincere appreciation for your time, thought, and hard work to make the Library Project so successful and far reaching and we hope that its suspension will be of short duration.

Thanking you, I am,

Very truly yours

Mabel Kenty Dulin

(Mrs.) Tom Dulin, Pres
Fayette Community Council
Lexington, Kentucky

TD:QR

THE KENTUCKY CITIZENS' LIBRARY LEAGUE

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT,
MRS. A. S. GARDINER, HORSE CAVE
1ST VICE PRESIDENT,
MRS. RAY B. MOSS, PINEVILLE
2ND VICE PRESIDENT,
MRS. J. M. BAKER, DIXON
SECRETARY-TREASURER,
MRS. ROBERT M. FORT,
FRANKFORT

A Non-Profit Organization
For Promoting Libraries

EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. G. WEIDLER, BEREA
MISS LENA B. NOFCIER,
FRANKFORT
HAROLD F. BRIGHAM, LOUISVILLE
MISS MARY VERHOEFF,
LOUISVILLE
W. CLYDE HELM, MORGANTOWN

HORSE CAVE, KENTUCKY
September 20, 1939.

Miss Margaret I. King, Librarian,
University of Kentucky Library.
Lexington, Ky.

My dear Miss King:

Can you give me some information about the "Friends" group that is functioning in that county? I would like a list of the members if possible.

We have never taken any steps to incorporate "Friends" groups in our K.C.L.L. tho they properly belong in it, I think. Should any group wish to come in, as a group, we will provide in our constitution for them to have definer representation on the Council or the Executive Board.

But we do wish to send to each of them an invitation to attend the meeting Octlber 14th and to enroll as members of the K.C.L.L. Since there are no fees or dues I think every one could enroll with us.

I shall appreciate whatever information you may furnish

Just three weeks till we will be gathering in Louisville,- I am looking forward to it most eagerly. I hope Mrs? Dugan will be present. I find myself wondering if Miss Flexner will be with us this year,- I rather suspect she will. And how fine it would be to see her again!

Many thanks for this.

Very truly yours,

Flouner E. Gardiner

Mrs. A.S.Gardiner.

My dear Mrs Fort,

Herewith I am enclosing for the information of the Fayette Community Council the monthly report for the month of May for the Fayette Circulating Library.

There are several things which I wish to briefly point to as concerning our work:

First that although the circulation figure is lower than for the previous month, it is nevertheless very good considering the fact that our school centers functioned only three weeks out of the month. And that farm work is claiming the attention of many rural readers. At present only three branches are open for service: Durbin's, Community Center, and the Reform School. Next Monday at 9 a.m. the Kenwick branch will reopen in the school gymnasium.

The rest of the library personnel are very busy "mopping-up" checking in book collections brought in from closed centers. The amount of clerical work involved is very great, and we shall have to continue in this way for some time, since we wish to make a clear-and-d- report as to the books lost and circulated. As soon as possible we wish to reopen in suitable places. We hope to always have library workers on hand for recreation evenings, but we had hoped to have reading continue more widely and continuously. Since churches are not ^{very} entirely satisfactory we may put centers in filling stations or stores. We are especially interested in establishing small book deposits in the various little communities within the county—both white and colored.

The library wishes to thank the Council for supplying the paper for the registration of patrons in the county. Since the number

office
of library workers has been cut down such tabulation has been
delayed, but statistics have been gathered.

The Reform school circulation shows that books are being read,
even if not by as large a number as we could hope in the near future.
We find, according to the librarian there, that our greatest need in
the book collection is for a much larger supply of books for the first
and second grade levels. This, however is not peculiar to that par-
ticular branch; other librarians tell me that children in many of the
eighth grades like to read easy books too. We are now working on a
list of just such titles.

The four hundred dollar list of books submitted to WPA
for purchase, at their request, has not yet been offered for purchase.
But when new funds are available, we hope to get the books.

The chief preoccupation of the librarian this month has been
first,
with the organization of the Reform School Library, which presents
numerous unique problems, all of which probably never can be solved
under this present arrangement. Second, the librarian, with the help
of Mrs. Fort and her staff has collected over nearly 12 thousand
magazines and five hundred books which were given to the library
as a result of "Jay-Jay"'s little paragraph in his Four Bits column.
It has been a tremendous task, and has- but it has clearly proven
that Lexingtonians are interested in helping the work of this
organization.

Over and over again we have heard from teachers, parents, and even
from one book salesman that the branches in schools have increased
the reading ability of the children of the county this year.

Just one more thing: We face three very critical needs at
present: increased shelving space-the books are usually shelved three
layers deep on what shelves have been allowed us in the basement of the
public library. It is impossible to know what books we have under those

Saturday

8 October

My dear Miss Nofcier,

At last I'm sending the picture you asked for . Do forgive the delay.It was on a roll of films that I couldnt seem to finish off.

The project is beginning to shape up rather well,I think. But every time we get started we have a change of untrained personnel and new ones to replace them.But,as I looked around the group of seventeen at staff meeting yesterday I thought them about as fine a group as it could possibly be.

Our book needs are growing more and more acute each day, and I ma nearly at my wits end about it.We hope the girl reserves will help us put over a drive,but everything takes time,and in the meantime we are disappointing our new patrons. I do want to talk to you about all of it. Let me know when you want to see me.

Cordially yours,

circumstances, or to make intelligent selections for the centers.

Second, we need a librarian is increasingly in need of a trained library assistant, of which there are at least four available here in Lexington, and of a good secretary. I mention this simply because when and if the project is rewritten, such items should be considered if the library is to continue its usefulness.

The librarian wishes to make one suggestion at this time to the community council. It will soon be time to rewrite the project set-up if the library is to be continued next year. The librarian would like very much to discuss with Mrs. Fort and Colonel Dunn several of our greatest needs which could be cared for in the new project specifications if the library is to increase its usefulness this next year. ~~At present our shel-~~

Community Center : Adult - 131 - Total 240
Juvenile - 109

Durbin's Center : Adult : 261
Juvenile : 212 - 473

Kennick Center : Adult - 163
Juvenile - 270 - 433

Kentucky Houses of Reform : - 667

David's Fork : Adult - 17 - 30
Juvenile - 13

Shelby : Adult - 76 - 159
Juvenile - 83