

## WHAT THE LIBRARY DID FOR THE COMMUNITY

1. Through a more modern idea of distribution, it brought reading of an informative and pleasurable kind to thousands of persons in the county who had previously not used a public library .  
organized
2. The Fayette Library organized the first book center especially for negroes. The first negro workers did an excellent work with shut-ins and groups of children.
3. The Library work at the Kentucky Houses of Reform was most interesting and important. Many people had felt that the children could not and would not take advantage of such service, and we found that they were eager readers and most careful in the use of books. With books better suited to their needs, with a wider selection to choose from, and with better organization at the school and in the library, the effects of such a program would undoubtedly have accomplished great changes in the spirit of the children of that institution.
3. Boys' Reading Clubs, based on the theory that children read better and read more when they have access to books on subject in which they are really interested, were very successful. We found, however, that our idea tended to duplicate work done by the 4H and Boy Scout organizations, and so we decided to try to supplement their work rather than to continue a separate project. The fact that the WPA personnel was changed so often and so suddenly made it hard to provide adequate leaders for our work.
4. For as long as we were able we cooperated with the elementary school teachers in transporting books which they had selected from the children room of the Lexington Library. And we attempted to keep up with the work of the classrooms in order that we might supply some enrichment material for the curriculum. Often, after the coming of the Fayette Library, the children were allowed to have reading periods in the school's book center; and many of the teachers felt that the children's reading skills were improved because of the library in the school. We found the faculties of every school most enthusiastic about the library and very helpful and appreciative of our efforts.
5. The librarian attempted to make available a service to the Homemakers' Clubs, both for their programs and for their wider reading interests.
6. We made an exhibit for the annual Homemakers-Farm Bureau picnic in June. The theme of the exhibit was: "A BOOK FOR EVERY FARM'S EVERY NEED. 2

During the library's fullest period of work there were ten book centers open, and additional work was done in supplying the Eastern State Hospital, and the County Infirmary with magazines. The former institution, under its new regime, was especially anxious for the magazines we supplied in order that they could do therapeutic work with their patients.

Since the library project was the first of its kind in this county, and since the book selection was hardly adequate or appropriate to the needs of this particular group, the total circulation figures are almost astonishingly good. After the first month's work we realized that we were facing a book shortage. The WPA director suggested that we ask for donations of discarded or duplicated books from other public libraries. This we did, and while the gifts thus acquired were gratefully received, the condition of the books and the selection naturally were not at all desirable for a modern library. Such titles as the earlier books of F. Marion Crawford, for instance (some of them paper-bound and dilapidated) are not the books to give such alert and interested persons as the residents of Fayette County.

In the summer the librarian was allowed to use some WPA money with which to buy some new books. This was granted because it is now recognized that books are the tools with which a library works, just as picks and shovels are necessary to the maintenance of a project involving road construction. The librarian worked long and hard to select books which would meet the diverse needs of the people in the county: books suitable to children at the Reform School, books which would enrich the Homemakers' group studies, books which would answer the people's desire to know and enjoy their own world, books which did not have too heavy a vocabulary load for the average reader in the more remote sections, and books which would appeal to the more exacting and better educated readers who have a right to expect such titles in their public library. The wide span of interest and reading ability in small Fayette County is really amazing; and the librarian who has few if any funds for book buying is hard put to it to choose wisely. The books bought with WPA moneys did not circulate, except in one instance when a small group of them was sent (more in the spirit of a demonstration than anything else) to the annual camp of the Homemaker's Clubs.

The librarian felt that she was forced to spend so much time with personnel problems and organization that she was not able to give the kind of service she desired. When the library closed she knew that, in spite of the fine circulation, the library had hardly scratched the surface of the possibilities for service to the community. Greater cooperation with the county agent and his staff, the elementary school teachers, the varied club interests and so on, would have been in order. The library should not try to compete with any existing agencies, but should bend every effort to cooperate and coordinate them when it is desirable.

The librarian wished to thank Miss Carrie Hunt, Acting Librarian of the Lexington Public Library and Colonel D. Y. Dunn of the Fayette County Board of Education, and Mr. O. B. Wilder and Mrs. Florence Fort of the Fayette Community Council for their constant help and advice. The library service to the county was highly important and successful and only the help of the four agencies made it so.

7. The librarian was interested in taking part in the recreational program which the Community Council and WPA undertook during the summer. She believed that book projects could be mutually helpful to the communities.

8. During the time in which the school libraries were not functioning the workers spent much time compiling bibliographies on the resources of the children's room of the Lexington Public Library. The lack of recent subject cards in that catalog made such a bibliography very important to the school teachers. When the Fayette Library had organized its dictionary catalog of its resources the teachers would have been able to gauge book facilities much more easily and surely.

9. We wished to do more work than we were able to do with the county churches and with the shut-ins and the sick. We did offer to provide books and magazines whenever a county minister suggested the names of persons wishing them.

10. At the time of the library's closing we were planning and working toward the dispersal of large quantities of magazines throughout the many negro settlements in the county. This, we felt, would give the colored people a great deal of good reading matter in spite of the fact that we were not able to supply them with books except in their one school center. We had also planned to hold weekly story-telling hours in the colored communities.

11. The librarian consulted with the county agent and with the home-demonstration agent and had hoped to buy books which their work needed. This was less necessary than other things, probably, because the federal government supplies them with a certain amount of money for such books. As they are not circulated widely in the county, however, the library could have made some contribution there. And it could certainly have supplied—as it did several times—books for 4H club programs.

12. The opinion of authorities on the subject is that a central county library can buy and circulate books to schools more efficiently and more cheaply than any other agency. Of course each high school ought to have its own library and librarian, and each elementary school which has its own library is fortunate.

13. The Parent Teacher groups were interested in our work and would have been increasingly helpful had the project lasted. The librarian spoke before several such groups.

14. The Fayette Library started and maintained the first/radio story hour for children in the county. The Lexington Story League and the Maud Lindsay Story League members were the story-tellers on our programs. During the month of March we gave a series of historical stories based on the lives of famous Kentucky pioneers.

15. On July 15, 1939 the librarian went to Cincinnati, at the invitation of radio station WLW and gave an eight-minute talk on the work of the library project.

16 - Ice cream - story telling party for children at  
Durbin's