

Chapter 5 The Black Hawk County Demonstration: 1930-1939

During the summer of 1930, Callie Wieder, Librarian of Waterloo Public Library, attended the Institute in Rural Library Work at Wisconsin University in Madison. Her library was to be headquarters for what came to be known as the Black Hawk County Demonstration and she was taking a break from promotional activities to prepare for the opening scheduled for September 2. On that date, the headquarters library at Waterloo Public Library West began offering free service to rural residents of the county.

The Demonstration would not depend on the ability of rural readers to get to the library in Waterloo, however. The goal was to extend service out to rural areas of the county and the State Library Commission hired Mary Parmalee to achieve it. An Iowa Falls native, Parmalee had studied at Grinnell College and the Illinois Library School and had experience in library war work in the United States and France.

Her principal activity throughout the Demonstration was driving a book truck to over 100 stations throughout the county. Christened "the Parmalee bus" by Wieder, the maroon Ford delivery truck had been partially financed by trading in 'Miss Lydia,' the old Iowa Book Caravan vehicle, which the County Library Committee had not yet sold.

From the beginning, the Demonstration was intended to be an opportunity to promote the county library concept to the rest of the state. An active Publicity Committee arranged for radio broadcasts over WHO in Des Moines and for coverage in *Wallace's Farmer*, the *Des Moines Register*, and numerous local newspapers. The Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs, a traditional friend, and the Iowa Farm Bureau, a new ally, featured coverage of the Demonstration at state and local meetings.

The service seems to have been well-received locally. A farmer enthused: "you can put as many books as you like in our neighborhood. We are using them in our home, - but it's hard on my sleep." Eighth-grader Roger Ganske wrote "I don't know what I'd do without library books to read." Circulation statistics demonstrate the popularity of the service, with the 13,617 rural county residents borrowing 32,319 items at the rural stations and another 2,472 at Waterloo Public Library, for a total of 34,791 items for the year of the Demonstration.

The 1930 annual meeting was held as part of the North Central Library Conference at St. Paul, Minnesota, which included a general session on county libraries presided over most fittingly by Iowa Library Association President J. Sidney Johnson.

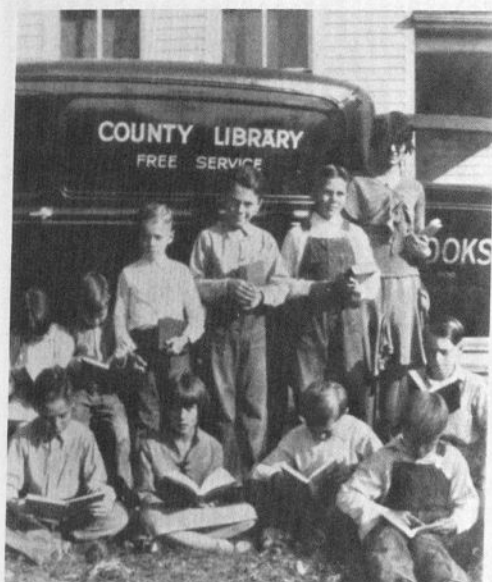
County libraries were discussed again at each of the 1932 district meetings. Lydia M. Barrette introduced a new approach to the issue at the North Central District Meeting at Mason City, suggesting that local library cards be recognized by all libraries in the state, but the idea was not discussed further.

In an article encouraging attendance at the 1932 annual meeting, Association President Johnson wrote:

I know there has been some feeling on the part of a few because we have devoted so much of our time and effort during the past two years to the county library demonstration. To some it has not seemed entirely appropriate for the ILA to expend so much of its revenue and effort on this one project.



Black Hawk County Book Van visits a farm station, ca. 1931



Children visit Black Hawk County Book Van, ca. 1931

He hoped that Demonstration supporters and opponents alike would come to the meeting at Cedar Rapids and discuss the subject openly.

By the time the annual meeting convened, the controversy had been rendered irrelevant as the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors had refused to consider a levy to support a county library, ending the project. Mary Parmalee returned to the Commission office in Des Moines and became a cataloger.

In a President's Address that earned its title, "A Critical Appreciation of Librarianship in Iowa," Johnson expressed disappointment in the number of Iowa library people who took no interest in the county library effort or its associated membership drive. He speculated as to the cause:

It has been whispered to me confidentially that some librarians, particularly in the smaller towns, were rather hesitant about supporting the county library proposition, fearing that its establishment might mean the loss of their jobs.

In her report on the Demonstration, Mary Parmalee implied that politics and the Depression combined to defeat the effort.

Noted author Carl Van Doren declared that "In literature as in life, the essential thing is to pay attention to what is before you, not what ought to be," in his address on American and European literature. A sense of such realism seems finally to have overtaken the county library movement, as well, and the Associa-

tion moved on to other concerns, at least for awhile.

Chief among these concerns was the worsening depression and its impact on Iowa. At the 1932 Southwest District Meeting in Creston, Forrest B. Spaulding spoke on "The Library in a Time of Depression," suggesting economies for librarians to consider.

The 1932 annual meeting was held in Des Moines as part of an ALA regional conference. At the Trustees' Round Table, former ILA President J. Sidney Johnson, a trustee of the Marshalltown Public Library, described a grim situation:

Our public libraries are being threatened by the hysteria which is sweeping the country demanding tax reduction. Self-appointed committees and mass meetings of taxpayers are demanding reductions in governmental expenditures. Ill-considered recommendations are getting attention from intimidated city councils, whose responsibility it is to levy taxes for the support of public libraries.

He urged trustees to "sell" their libraries to their communities to defend against funding cuts.

Among suggestions for economizing discussed at the 1933 district meetings were "use of scrap paper, backs of envelopes, short pencils, used cards, great care in use of lighting, bulbs of lower wattage," and others. The annual meeting was limited to a dinner held at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago during the ALA Conference. Commission Secretary Julia Robinson thanked the Association for its gift of the books used in the Black Hawk County Demonstration and noted that they were circulating throughout the state via the Traveling Library.

At a meeting on May 22, 1934, the Executive Board voted to offer a medal annually to the Iowa author making the best contribution to literature during the previous year as determined by vote of the membership. President Mary Bell Nethercut sought the advice of Iowa artist Grant Wood who recommended sculptor Christian Petersen to design the medal. Petersen's suggestion to make the award a plaque instead of a medal was accepted. He completed the design and production of the plaque in time for it to be presented at the 1934 annual meeting in Des Moines to Johnson Brigham, in recognition of his recently published anthology, *The Youth of Old Age*.

Historian Michael H. Harris has proposed that intellectual freedom emerged as a philosophical principle of

American librarianship only in reaction to the extreme censorship and propagandizing practiced by Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini. President Mary Bell Nethercut's address at the 1934 annual meeting supports this view, being one of the earliest statements in ILA annals of the importance of intellectual freedom to democratic government:

The libraries, perhaps more than any other public institution, may help make Democracy lasting. They are free, open to all, without class or creed distinction, and there is little censorship of books or restraint in the choice of reading.

In response to an ALA effort to promote certification laws in every state, Forrest B. Spaulding's proposal to revive the former ILA certification program was approved. Spaulding also speculated on "The Large City Library in 1960." ILA Secretary Charlotte E. Crosley, of Webster City, found his talk "fanciful, but interesting" and reported that he predicted "that our large libraries are to be built of glass and steel, the printed page thrown upon a screen from far distances, making reference work far more interesting and attractive than in this day."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt had just launched an unprecedented mobilization of the nation to combat the effects of the Great Depression when Dr. Hubert Phillips, of the State Teachers College in Fresno, California, addressed this meeting on the "Social Economics of the New Deal." At the Southeast District Meeting at Centerville the following year, Lyle K. Henry of the Civilian Conservation Corps camp at Oskaloosa described educational work in the camps.

For more than a year, an ILA State Planning Committee



Forrest B. Spaulding, President 1937

chaired by Iowa State College Librarian Charles H. Brown had been studying the library situation in Iowa. Early in 1935, the Committee submitted a list of estimated costs of repairing or replacing each library building in the state to the Iowa State Planning Board, which was developing comprehensive plans for all government services.

At the 1935 annual meeting in Sioux City, Brown presented "A Suggested Library Program for Iowa" and it was adopted by the membership. The program was based on two principles:

- a. Suitable library facilities should be available to every adult and every child of school age in Iowa.
- b. The State should see that library service is available to every citizen of the State. This statement does not imply that the State itself should necessarily furnish library facilities, but it should assume the final responsibility.

Specific recommendations included merging the Iowa Library Commission and the Board of Trustees of the Iowa State Library, with the resulting Iowa State Library Board to establish six regional branches throughout the state to support and extend local library services. A state board would administer a certification program for all professional library positions and income of municipal libraries would be raised to a minimum of \$1 per capita per year.

A State Supervisor of School Libraries would be appointed, the position of the library in elementary and secondary education would be emphasized, school library standards would be developed, and coordination and even consolidation of school and public libraries would be considered. The position of librarian of state institutions would be re-established. Finally, college, university, and large public libraries would develop a coordinated acquisition program for research materials and materials for visual instruction.

Perhaps spurred by this program, the Certification Committee, which had been approved at the 1934 annual meeting, finally met on February 27, 1936 and reviewed the twenty-three certificates which had been awarded under the first program in 1924. Four of the eight librarians who had received Grade A certificates remained in Iowa and enjoyed lifetime certification. The fifteen who had received B, C, or D certificates, now expired, and all other Iowa librarians were encouraged to apply for new certificates. Many did and the Committee held two meetings to review the applications before deciding that a new set of standards

should be prepared. A new plan was adopted at the annual meeting, a new form was mailed to all who had previously applied, and during the following year 185 new certificates were issued.

At the 1936 Northeast District Meeting at Nashua, former Nashua Librarian Fannie V. Eastman reminisced about an earlier era of librarianship in Iowa. She expressed condolences to the modern librarians of the day who would never know the joy of starting a new library in a community where there had been none nor the thrill of receiving word that the appeal to Andrew Carnegie for a new building had been granted:

Then many of the boys and girls had never seen a library and were eager to discover its treasures. It was all so delightfully new. One young lady timidly inquires if you have any books for men. Her brother liked to read but thought perhaps it was intended just for ladies.

The Iowa State Teachers' Association joined with ILA to sponsor speakers at the 1936 annual meeting in Des Moines including 1930 Newbery Medal winner Rachel Field and author Cornelia Otis Skinner. Guests at the conference banquet at the Hotel Savery were entertained by a string quartet provided by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Although the membership endorsed an invitation to the American Library Association to hold its 1938 national convention in Des Moines, nearby Kansas City was selected.

Noted British writer Vera Brittain, author of *Testament of Youth*, was a featured speaker at the 1937 annual meeting in Davenport and back by popular demand, having appeared at the 1934 meeting. In recognition of the long and distinguished career of Johnson Brigham, who had died at the age of ninety on October 9, 1936, the plaque awarded annually by ILA to the Iowa author of the most outstanding book of the year was named the Johnson Brigham Plaque.

In the summer of 1938, the Central Depository Library Committee concluded its two-year effort to plan a statewide depository. On the basis of forty-eight questionnaires received, the committee recommended that plans for a central depository of magazines be made ready in case the WPA would be able to provide assistance at some time in the future.

The 1938 annual meeting in Fort Dodge featured a theme for the first time: "Books For All Iowa." ALA President Milton J. Ferguson discussed equalization of access to library service and the trend toward larger units of service. The debate on how best to extend

library service to rural areas continued with a panel discussion on the subject featuring no less than twelve speakers. The Dubuque County bookmobile appeared at each of the 1939 district meetings, underscoring the enduring concern with rural service.

As ILA returned to Des Moines for its fiftieth anniversary meeting in 1939, the world was poised on the brink of war. Mrs. Raymond Sayre, Chair of the Women's Committee of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, spoke urgently on "Education for Democracy," arguing that it was essential for American farmers to adjust to changing conditions through continuing education and that public libraries must play a vital role in that process.

Announcing that a cultural renaissance was underway in the United States, novelist Sterling North recognized realist and regional writers including Iowans Phil Stong and Ruth Suckow, but ominously noted that most German, Italian, and Russian authors were working in exile.

Chapter 6 The Victory Book Campaign: 1940-1949

Although the nation would not be at war for nearly two years, the new decade dawned with furious industrial and military preparations well underway. Iowa State College Librarian Charles H. Brown addressed the 1940 annual meeting in Burlington on "Libraries and National Defense," while May B. Ditch of Ottumwa spoke at the College and Reference Section breakfast on "War Materials and National Defense As They Affect the Reference Department."

In 1935, Brown had been chair of the ILA State Planning Committee which had recommended establishment of six regional branches of the State Library to support and extend local library service. As chair of the ILA Board on Library Action, he revived the proposal at Burlington and it was approved nearly unanimously, with the number of branches increased to nine to reflect ILA's practice, adopted in 1938, of organizing along Farm Bureau district boundaries. In November, the Executive Board decided to request a \$250,000 appropriation to implement the plan.

The Catalyst debuted in October 1940, produced and distributed for ILA by the Iowa State Traveling Library, primarily as a means of keeping trustees informed and involved. It was discontinued after only four issues and did not reappear until November 1948.

President Dorothy D. Houghton went on the radio on February 13, 1941 to promote the proposal for regional library branches, which she said "would be run as the Lucas County Project, with their bookmobile called the Parnassus on wheels," after Christopher Morley's novel of that title. She was optimistic:

I have a feeling that this is the year when our library bills will be passed. One philosopher said: 'There are two great wonders of the world; one is the coming of Spring; and the other is the way women get their way.' We are about to face both of these phenomena. Let's not allow the former to be true without the latter taking real form in the passage of our pending legislation.

Houghton also appointed a special committee which recommended that counties join to form district libraries which would receive assistance from the Iowa State Traveling Library. However, neither the regional nor the district proposal appears to have received any legislative attention.

The 1941 annual conference in Ames featured ILA's first pre-conference, a Conference on Work with Children and Young People, and also its first conference registration fee, set at fifty cents. Among the speakers was 1940 Johnson Brigham Plaque recipient Paul Engle, who discussed "Poetry and the War." In her address on "Iowa at the American Library Conference at Boston," Lydia M. Barrette described the inauguration of Charles H. Brown, Iowa State College Librarian and ILA president in 1929, as President of the American Library Association.

Late in the year, Iowa joined the national Victory Book Campaign, its effort to be coordinated by an ILA committee chaired by Mildred H. Pike, Director of the Sioux City Public Library. Sponsored by ALA, the American Red Cross, and the United Service Organization (USO), the campaign's goal was to collect ten million books to distribute to army camps, naval bases, and USO clubs.

By the time it ended in December 1943, Iowa's campaign had contributed a total of 286,177 volumes to the national total of 18,449,974. As the Victory Book Campaign wound down with some feeling that insufficient numbers of appropriate titles had been collected, U.S. publishers and booksellers announced a program to produce and distribute 35 million paperbound pocket-sized books, launching what has been called the paperbacking of America.

The 1942 district meetings were the first ILA meetings to be held after the attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into the war and they would be the last regular meetings until the war ended. President Evelyn Spencer Bray of Grinnell warned:

There can be no stopping or letting down standards because of present war conditions. The present war program will continue to make heavier demands on libraries and we will be needed more than ever before.

The Executive Board considered an invitation to meet jointly with the Nebraska Library Association in Omaha and Council Bluffs before deciding that it would be "the wise and patriotic" thing to reduce travel by meeting in Des Moines. The Office of War Information warned in August that the U.S. could lose the war and called for cancellation of conventions not necessary to the war effort, however, and the 1942 meeting was called off.

ILA Defense Committee Chair Forrest B. Spaulding of Des Moines instead organized an instruction course

taught by representatives of the armed forces and defense agencies held on September 20, 1942 in Des Moines. The eighty-two librarians who attended then planned and conducted thirty-four War Institutes across the state, where a total attendance of 914 learned how to most effectively contribute to the war effort.

Frances Warner, of Iowa State College in Ames, became the first ILA president to be elected by mail ballot due to cancellation of the conference. Although she planned for district meetings in 1943, the membership voted against holding them and the Executive Board again cancelled the annual conference, as well. At an institute on postwar problems held in Waterloo on June 3, Warner and Dr. Leland Sage, of the State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, considered the problems libraries would face after the war ended.

In 1944, the Executive Board determined not to hold district meetings but planned for a fall conference to be held in Des Moines. A boy's and girl's institute, forums on post-war library problems, and panel discussions on the recurring topic of rural library legislation were among the programs being planned until the invasion of Europe on D-Day, June 6. The Office of Defense Transportation asked that nonessential travel be restricted even further and the conference was called off yet again. President Alice B. Story of Cedar Rapids would not give up so easily, however, and, with Lydia M. Barrette, collected and published the papers which were to have been given, distributing to all members ILA's only "Conference in Print."

No regular meetings were held during Barrette's term as president in 1945, either, as she urged members to follow Oelwein school librarian Thelma Spicer's advice and "be helpful in small specific ways instead of trying to deal in impressive generalities." She encouraged support of a project, being conducted by Helen Hurlbutt

of Iowa State College, to identify "books which have adult content but easy vocabulary," for compilation of a list to be used in helping returning soldiers adjust.

The dormant campaign for improved rural library service was quickly revived following the war's end during a series of four October workshops around the state. On a WOI radio broadcast on November 3, 1945, ILA Legislative Committee Chair Helen Rex of Marshalltown noted that forty-four percent of Iowa's population still had no access to free public library service. She pointed out that existing laws restricted counties to a one-quarter mill levy which could only be used to contract with an existing city library. She proposed legislation that would raise the levy to a full mill and permit counties to establish county libraries.

Following a 1946 annual conference held in Des Moines in May, Evelyn F. Van Wagner wrote in her hometown newspaper, the *Rockwell City Advocate*:

It seemed to be the "smart" thing at this year's meeting to deprecate and belittle the gift of the Carnegie corporation of the numerous libraries in small towns over the nation. The idea is that they have caused the general public to think of a library as a building when it should be thought of as a service. To this librarian that is only partially true and whereas, our library building is out-of-date and needs some re-arrangement, still would Rockwell City have had a library for as many years as it has if it had not been for Andrew Carnegie? I think not.

ILA was successful in having a new county library bill introduced in the Fifty-second General Assembly under the sponsorship of Senator Elmer K. Bekman of Ottumwa. It drew the opposition of the Farm Bureau, however, and at an Executive Board meeting on March 7, 1947, a Farm Bureau representative explained that the primary objection was a fear that the bill would permit the proliferation of small libraries rather than county-wide systems. The organizations worked out amendments that satisfied both, Sen. Bekman shepherded the amended bill through the legislative process, and it became law when Governor Robert D. Blue signed it after the session adjourned at the end of April.

The new law was the only topic on the program of the district meetings during October and November. Extension Committee Chair Alice B. Story was quite disappointed by the discussion at some of the meetings, however, reporting:



Lydia M. Barrette, President 1945, receiving citation from Donald O. Rod, President 1958

Too much emphasis was placed on the cost, and what it would mean to their own library, when the sole purpose of the meeting was to understand the law.

ILA held its 1947 annual meeting at the Upper Midwest Regional Conference in Minneapolis in early October, only a week before the district meetings began. Those who traveled north to the conference heard Newbery Medal winner Carol Brink, author of *Caddie Woodlawn*, speak against comic books, and journalist Eric Sevareid speak for Harold Stassen for President.

In an article in the April 1948 *Iowa Library Quarterly*, ILA Publicity Committee Chair Mary A. Woodward of Whittemore promoted county libraries as a weapon against what some saw as an emerging threat to the nation:

If we had county library services we could not only make existing small libraries more efficient but we could establish adult information centers which could revolutionize the thinking of this country which is allowing communism to make terrific inroads everywhere.

Among the many questions asked about the county library law at the 1948 district meetings were:

What would become of the present book stock of a library that participated in the county system, what would become of the present library board, would librarians now serving in small towns be retained....

Many questions could be answered in ILA's *Manual of Procedure for Establishment and Maintenance of County Libraries for Iowa* by President Robert W. Orr, of Iowa State College in Ames.

In its report at the 1948 annual conference in Mason City, the Extension Committee expressed disappointment that only five valid petitions for county libraries were filed by the September 15 deadline for the general election. Celebrating the upcoming votes in Jasper, Jones, Osceola, Scott and Woodbury counties, the Committee attributed the lack of success elsewhere to "apathy on the part of many librarians, and lack of sufficient knowledge and understanding of the bill among the rural population."

Jasper, Scott, and Woodbury counties did vote to establish county libraries in 1948. Although Orr and others hoped this would "set off a chain-reaction that

will blanket the state with county libraries in less than a decade," Dubuque County's vote in 1950 for a library would be the only one in the following four decades.

The Catalyst, only recently revived, found a silver lining in the election results, claiming to be "one of the few papers in the country which never predicted the election of Thomas E. Dewey," thus avoiding the embarrassment of appearing in winner Harry Truman's hands in front-page photos.

The report of the Committee on Recruiting for Librarianship at the Mason City conference recommended: 1) encouragement of the important role of children's librarians, 2) improvement of services for teenagers to encourage them to consider librarianship as a career, 3) consideration of greater informality and less monotony in work, especially in large libraries, 4) decreasing the importance of maximum age limits in library school admissions decisions, 5) improvement in work schedules, and 6) elimination of race and creed discrimination in library recruiting and hiring. The Committee proposed:

that the Association go on record as favoring, as a goal for 1949, the elimination of all questions of race or religion on our application forms, and that we set about to achieve a new degree of 'color-blindness' in the coming year.

The membership adopted the proposal.

ILA organized its Intellectual Freedom Committee in 1949. Serving as its first chair was Forrest B. Spaulding, who had drafted the Bill of Rights adopted by the Public Library of Des Moines on November 21, 1938. This document was revised at the 1939 ALA Conference in San Francisco and became the famous Library Bill of Rights, the fundamental ALA statement on intellectual freedom. Spaulding had also recommended establishment, and served as the first chair, of ALA's Committee on Intellectual Freedom to Safeguard the Rights of Library Users to Freedom of Inquiry, created in 1940.

In a somewhat different area of ILA activity, Mrs. Ray Delbert of Sac City solicited nominations through the summer and fall for a Queen of ILA to be crowned by Governor William S. Beardsley at the 1949 conference in Des Moines. She complained in the August issue of *The Catalyst* that:

I haven't found librarians to be very willing to be in the public eye. The battle is on to get more nominees with

good looks and a little come hither.

She persevered and on September 30, 1949, Lucile Miller of Iowa Falls was crowned as the first and only Queen of ILA by Victor P. Haas, Book Editor of the *Omaha World-Herald*, a conference speaker. The records are silent as to why Governor Beardsley did not perform the coronation as planned.

Chapter 7 The Library Services Act: 1950-1959

During the 1940's, a massive study of U.S. public libraries, known as the Public Library Inquiry, was conducted by the Social Science Research Council under the direction of Robert D. Leigh. Commissioned by ALA and funded by a \$200,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation, the project planned to produce a five-volume study covering public libraries and their place in society.

Margaret E. Davidson of Webster City presented a summary of the three volumes already in print at district meetings in Jefferson and Waverly in May 1950. She noted that Oliver Garceau, in the third volume, *The Public Library In the Political Process*, concluded "that the chief responsibility for the further development of library service belongs to the states -- not to the federal government nor to small cities." She reminded her audience that Garceau's model of district branches of the state library extension agency was "exactly" the plan Charles H. Brown and the State Planning Committee had prepared for ILA in 1934. She expressed regret at the lack of progress but also hope that the county library program might eventually lead to statewide service.

A surprise speaker at the 1950 conference in Waterloo was ALA's Washington lobbyist, Margie Sorenson Malmberg. She encouraged support of a new ALA effort to obtain federal assistance for library extension in the wake of the defeat of the Library Demonstration Bill by three votes in the House of Representatives earlier in the year. All eight of Iowa's representatives had voted against the bill.

At the conclusion of the conference, President Florence W. Butler of Sioux City pinned a yellow badge labelled 'BIG CHIEF' on incoming president Norman L. Kilpatrick of Iowa City. When Kilpatrick pinned a badge lettered 'BOSS' on his successor, Germaine Krettek of Council Bluffs, at the 1951 conference in Iowa City, he started a tradition that subsequent presidents would carry on through 1968.

During the summer of 1951, as the fear of communist infiltration swept the nation during the McCarthy era, *The Catalyst* ran a notice asking members to report to ALA Representative Beryl Hoyt, of Simpson College, any instances of librarians being asked to take oaths of allegiance, to denounce communism, or to deny association with subversive groups.

Exhibitors began to play a more important role at the 1952 conference in Sioux City. Ernest Hertzberg donated the conference programs, a practice he continued for

many years, and also introduced all twenty-two exhibitors in a brief program after the first general session. Keynote speaker Dr. Margaret Mead argued that:

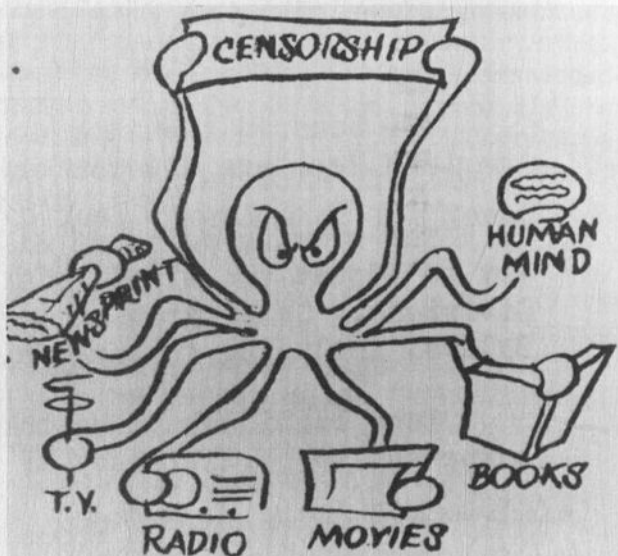
Americans are building a national culture as evidenced by their willingness to change, a willingness to move, an impatience with things that need to be "fixed" and are not, and a demand that the situation be explained and reasons given.

At its 1953 Midwinter Council meeting, ALA approved Iowa as its first, and only, state chapter. After suspending the application process later in the summer to review various problems, ALA discontinued the program in favor of regional chapters.

Renowned author Norman Cousins addressed the 1953 ILA conference at Des Moines on the current world situation, emphasizing the grave threat Russia posed to world security.

Early in 1954, an active Trustees' Section published and distributed to its members a thirty-page *Iowa Library Trustees Manual*, prepared by Section President Mrs. O. W. Harris and her predecessor Frank T. Milligan, both of Jefferson.

Before the year ended, the Legislative Committee finalized plans to seek a change in the Board of the State Traveling Library from an ex-officio body composed of the Governor, a Supreme Court Justice, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to a more active board of interested citizens. The bill that was introduced to



Censorship caricature, July-August 1953 issue of *The Catalyst*

accomplish this passed only after an unexpectedly difficult fight and was signed into law by Governor Leo A. Hoegh in 1955.

David H. Clift, ALA Executive Secretary, joined Elizabeth Hage of the Scott County Library, Robert W. Orr of Iowa State College, and Blanche A. Smith of the State Traveling Library, on a panel to discuss the proposed Library Services Bill at the 1955 conference in Council Bluffs. The bill, to be presented to Congress in 1956, would appropriate \$7,500,000 annually for five years for development of rural public library service on a state matching funds basis. The panel showed a plan to divide the state into seven regions, in one of which the \$174,096 Iowa was expected to receive could be used to fund a demonstration project.

During the early months of 1956, an ILA Library Development Committee worked on a plan for the expected federal aid to present to the Director of the Iowa State Traveling Library, which would administer the funds. In May, Chair Germaine Krettek reported that the committee recommended that the state be divided into seven regions, as the 1955 conference panelists had proposed, and that regional libraries be established in those regions which requested a demonstration and provided the greatest clerical and financial support. The required state matching funds would be used to "provide books, advice on local library problems, and where there is no service, temporary libraries on a regional basis."

President Eisenhower signed the Library Services Act (LSA) on June 19, 1956. At the annual conference in Des Moines, new Director of the State Traveling Library Ernestine Grafton outlined three plans for implementing the seven-region model recommended by the Li-

brary Development Committee:

The first plan could be that of a regional library under one regional library board which would serve an entire area. Each library could serve as a branch or station and bookmobiles could be used in unserved areas. Under this arrangement existing library boards would be dissolved and the libraries participating would be governed by the regional library board.

The second plan provides for a federation of existing libraries for cooperative service under a contractual arrangement. Each participating library would continue to control its own funds and operate its own library. Additional services in the form of more books and advisory services of specialists would be available to all the libraries. Each library would be encouraged to extend its services to surrounding areas and bookmobiles could operate from certain centrally located libraries. One library could serve as the administrative center for an area.

The third plan suggests that a branch of the State Traveling Library be located in each of the seven regions from which such services as outlined under the second plan could be carried out directly by the State Traveling Library.

Frederick Wezeman, of the Library School at the University of Minnesota, interjected a note of circumspection to the discussion. He acknowledged passage of the bill as an important broadening of the public library's financial base, but argued "I don't think we can consider it to be the answer to all of our problems." Maintaining that "the Library Services Act is the means, it seems to me, by which the map of librarianship can change," he envisioned that instead of "dots representing little isolated bibliographic centers untouched by each other," in the future "we will see a network, we will see lines drawn from one institution to the other."

This vision was in marked contrast to his observations on the present. In an address entitled "Librarians Working Together," Wezeman commented:

The most conspicuous thing about librarians working together is that they don't. Public libraries are virtually next



Frederick Wezeman
Speaker at 1956 and 1962 Annual Conferences

door to each other and they have no contact, bibliographic, or even social. Public libraries and school libraries in the same community have no contact -- no area of cooperation. There is no area of cooperation between academic and scholarly libraries and public libraries, even in the same community. There are communities where the public librarian does not darken the door of a special library in the community, so that she would know the resources of that special library.

In May 1957, *The Catalyst* reported on the recent acquisition of a Thermofax photocopying machine by the Cedar Rapids Public Library, noting that the Iowa State Traveling Library, Public Library of Des Moines, State University Library and others also provided photocopying services.

To the great disappointment of the Iowa library community, the Fifty-seventh General Assembly did not appropriate the required matching funds for the LSA program, thereby forfeiting two-thirds of the amount available to the state. With the limited funding she received, Grafton undertook needed collection development at the State Traveling Library and established film and phonograph record collections for state-wide loan. In addition to adding three professional and six clerical staff, she hired two part-time field representatives to begin extension work out in the state.

After nine years as Librarian of the Council Bluffs Public Library and an active career in ILA, Germaine Krettek left Iowa in the fall of 1958 to become Director of the ALA Washington Office, remaining until her return to Council Bluffs after retiring in 1972.



Germaine Krettek, President 1952

The first individual dues increase in the sixty-nine year history of ILA was approved at the 1958 conference in Mason City. The original \$1.00 annual fee was increased to:

Salary to \$2,999 \$2.00
3,000 to 4,999 3.00
5,000 to 6,999 5.00
7,000 and over 7.00
Trustees and friends 2.00

Institutional memberships were also increased on a graduated scale based on library revenue.

In his keynote address, former Iowan and distinguished foreign correspondent William L. Shirer commented on a disturbing consequence of the Cold War:

For over one hundred and fifty years our American policies or our American ways of life were based on a tremendous assumption, and nowhere was that assumption more widely assumed than by the people of Iowa, that our wide oceans made us invulnerable to attack from abroad. Tonight, every single one of us in this pleasant hall, know perfectly well that that assumption is gone. It's dead; because you know that we are now vulnerable to attack; and we know from where and how.

The 1958 district meetings posed a "Challenge to Iowa -- A Challenge to Iowa's Libraries," featuring speakers from the Iowa State College Extension staff. Attempting to explain the declining population and increasing urbanization of Iowa:

Our economists pointed out that mechanization of the farm enables fewer men to cultivate the same amount of acreage; small farms become part of large farms, and the unemployed go to the cities for work; and if there are not enough jobs in the industrial cities, people will leave Iowa to seek employment elsewhere.

At the annual conference in Mason City, Mari Sandoz, author of *Old Jules* and other tales of the West, noted that "Librarians are the caretakers of material about the past history of Iowa," and encouraged preservation of local historical materials. Following her address, President Donald O. Rod, of Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, presented to retired Mason

City Librarian Lydia M. Barrette a life membership and a bound citation "in gratitude for her devoted and imaginative leadership and counsel in the work of the Iowa Library Association."

Author Vance Packard returned to the subject of his best-selling book, *The Status Seekers*, in his remarks at the 1959 conference in Des Moines, warning that:

We should start taking a look at the presently developing suburbias with the same kind of people clustering together -- the togetherness which is an apartness.

The Director of ALA's Library Technology Project, Frazer G. Poole, celebrated the recent development of a corrosion-proof paper clip and called for design of a better newspaper stick. He noted that various obstacles had prevented widespread use of emerging automation technologies in libraries. Dealing with more futuristic technology was Air Force Major General Stanley T. Wray, who began his address on space travel by announcing that "we stand on the threshold of what could well be man's greatest achievement -- the conquering of space by manned vehicles."