



Janet



from the President

1989 is going to be a busy year for Huronia. Much of the planning for the 1990 conference has to be done this year. We have a good conference committee who have been meeting frequently to get things underway.

March 18th is the annual meeting in Barrie at the public library. Elections will be held in the afternoon. Please consider letting your name stand for any of the positions. The President, Director and Treasurer cannot run for re-election. Our constitution states that a person can only hold the same position for three years in a row.

If you know of other technicians or interested persons who would like to come bring them along. Check the notice of meeting which you will be receiving soon for the R.S.V.P.

See you on the 18th.

Janet Iles

President

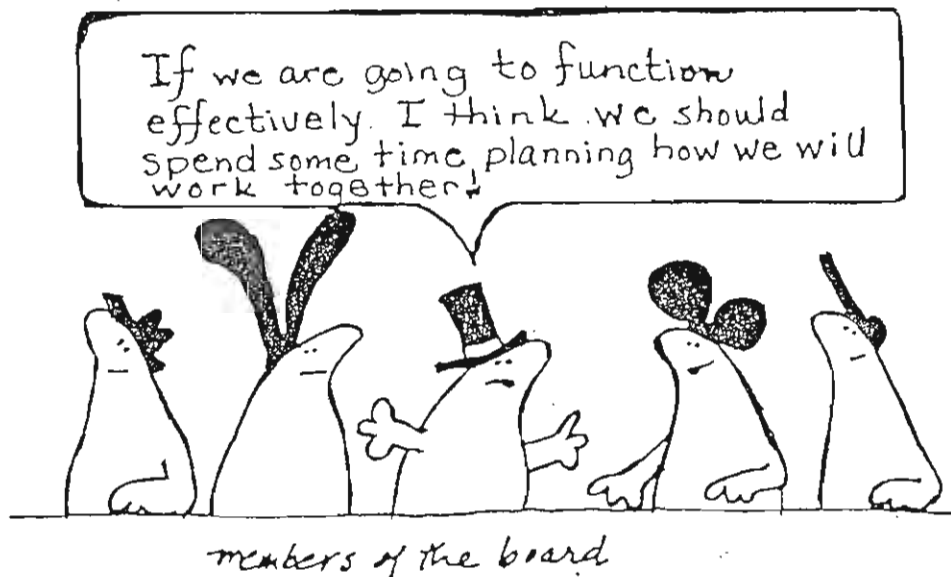
FIRST LIBRARY TECH STUDENTS GRADUATE

A two-year diploma program with a long history, but a low profile has produced its first graduates.

At the October 29 convocation in Barrie, Judith Koenig of Collingwood and Bonnie Reynolds of Midland graduated from the School of Continuous Learning, the first two students to complete Georgian's Library Technician Diploma program.

Judith and Bonnie merit extra congratulations because they completed their program entirely through part-time studies. Both entered the program in 1982, and have been conscientiously taking courses and completing field placements every since. The program consists of library-specific courses, which are taught on Saturdays, and general education courses, which are evening courses. Consequently the students not only have to give up a lot of evenings, they must committ most Saturdays to the program as well.

Further, Judy and Bonnie continued this demanding schedule for six years, sometimes even giving up facations in order to complete field placements, while holding full-time jobs. For Judith Koenig, the jewel in this hard-earned crown was graduating on the Dean's List.



PIZZA CASSEROLE

1 pk. - 4oz. sliced pepperoni (or buy your own and slice it after boiling)
1 medium onion chopped fine (optional)
butter for sauteing
about 6 oz. thin spaghetti cooked for 10 minutes, drain
1 pkg. (4 oz.) grated Swiss cheese
1 pkg. sliced Mozzarella cheese
1 can (8 oz.) tomato sauce
1 can (10 oz.) mushrooms
½ tsp. oregano
½ tsp. basil

Boil pepperoni to remove excess fat for 5 minutes in water to cover, then drain well.

If adding onions - saute in 1 1/3 tbsp. butter until golden brown

Preheat oven to 350°

Put spaghetti in casserole, cover with tomato sauce.

Add the following ingredients in order listed:

one half of the swiss cheese

one half of the pepperoni

one half of the mozzarella cheese

all of the mushrooms and onions

sprinkle with oregano and basil

Top with the remainder of Swiss cheese, pepperoni and finally the mozzarella cheese.

Bake for 35-45 minutes in 350° oven or until bubbly

Serves approximately 6

A HEMINGWAY DINNER

Cocktails: Poppa's Dubla's

2 oz. rum
4 oz. grapefruit juice
twist of lime

Main Dish: Swordfish Ernest

4 swordfish steaks at least 1" thick
2 tbsp. chopped chives
6 tbsp. butter
½ tsp. garlic powder or 1 crushed clove of garlic
1 tsp. celery salt
pinch of cayenne pepper

Blend together, butter, chives, garlic and seasonings to make a paste. Place steaks on a grill pan and spread $\frac{1}{2}$ the paste on one side of the steaks. Broil for 3 minutes in a preheated oven. Turn steaks and put other half of paste on and broil another 3 minutes. Serve at once.

Serves 4

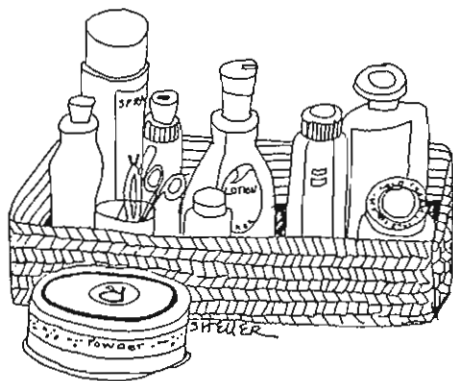
Dessert: Key Lime Pie

4 eggs, separated
1 can sweetened condensed milk
 $\frac{1}{3}$ c. lime juice
1 tsp. grated lime rind
1 baked 9" pie shell

Beat 4 egg yolks and 1 egg white together until light colored and thick. Add milk and beat thoroughly. Add lime juice and rind and stir until mixture thickens.

Fold in remaining egg whites which have been beaten stiff. Turn into pie shell.

Bake in 325° oven about 15 to 20 minutes until set.



Will Manley:

Facing the Public

Every so often, maybe eighty or ninety times a year, I get a letter from a reader suggesting, in rather harsh and strident tones, that I don't now what I'm talking about. While I would prefer to receive letters that suggest I am "an incisive, witty, and perceptive surveyor of the American library scene," I do appreciate receiving any kind of mail at all, even if it is critical. And who knows, the possibility exists that if so many people are willing to take the time to advise me that they don't think that I know what I'm talking about maybe they're right. Maybe I don't know what I'm talking about. The thought has occurred to me.

So maybe I should do something about that. Obviously if I don't know what I'm talking about I had better start talking about something that I do know something about. That means I should brush up a little on my library science basics, acquaint myself with recent developments in the field (it's been suggested I'm a little weak on the twentieth century), and catch up on my professional reading.

Each year during the Rose Bowl I make a New Year's resolution to start reading "library literature." There are many things I would rather do than read library literature such as eating moldy peas, watching "Mr. Rogers" reruns, and driving through Kansas. I do, however, prefer reading library literature to watching onion dip turn green and listening to my neighbor whistle "Stars and Stripes Forever."

So eleven years ago when I got my first letter suggesting I didn't

know what I was talking about on the subject of interlibrary cooperation I sat down to read what was then all the rage in library literature—a book entitled *The Matrices of Library Networks*. Although it was the big professional best-seller that year (fifty-eight copies were sold if I remember correctly) I couldn't get into it. The problem I kept running into was the word "matrices." For the life of me I couldn't understand what a matrice was. I have since found out that there is no such thing as a matrice. "Matrices" is plural for matrix. Still I don't know what a matrix is, which makes understanding that book very difficult. So I didn't finish the book. I didn't even finish the first chapter.

Thus began a trend. Every so often in response to the letters that say I don't know what I'm talking about I will sit down and try to read a library science book. I have tried all the modern day library science classics—*The Dilemmas of Information Retrieval in an Age of Bibliotechnical Ambiguity*, *Packet Switching in Integrated Library Systems*, and *The Boolean Search: Panacea or an Invitation to Informational Anarchy*. Despite the fact that all my colleagues were raving about these titles I was unable to get past the author's acknowledgments.

Dropping Snowballs

So it occurred to me that maybe I should start reading around in the more personal and less technical area of librarian autobiographies. For starters I tried Herbert Bird's *A Library Life* and Gertrude Mustard Strong's *Library Lady*. After just a few pages of each book I decided that Herbert and Gertrude made Fred Rogers seem charismatic.

So like James Fenimore Cooper

declaring that he could write a better novel than Sir Walter Scott, I decided to challenge the literary renown of Herbert Bird. I decided to write my own book. I don't suppose you read it. Not many people did. It was entitled *Snowballs in the Bookdrop*. My wife, to whom the book was dedicated, said it went down hill after the title. It was published in 1982 by Shoestring Press. I always felt that the book would have done better if Shoestring had put a couple of million dollars into an ad campaign. But they didn't. I was ready to do the speaker's tour, but Phil, Oprah, Geraldo, and Johnny never invited me. I was ready to fight off young admirers at autographing parties but Walden and Dalton never dropped me a line. I was ready to write the screenplay, but Spielberg never called.

So if you were to ask me if the book was still in print I would say "yes" because nobody bought it when it came out. Somewhere there are a couple thousand copies of the book available. If you can figure out where that someplace is you can probably purchase a copy of the book.

So who did buy the book? I do know of four people who purchased it. It retailed for \$14.95, which I thought was a bit high for a two-hundred-page paperback (but you could probably have it prebound for an extra five dollars to protect it from heavy library use). My mother, my father, my Aunt Dorothy, and my Aunt Helen purchased it. My Aunt Helen used to tell me that it was her favorite book and then she died and I lost my biggest fan.

So what did my mother, my father, and my Aunt Dorothy think of it? They thought it was good but

Will Manley is director of the Tempe (Arizona) Public Library.

"not Tolstoy." My mother gave my brother, Wick, a copy of the book. He thought it would have done better if I could have gotten Andrew Wyeth to illustrate it.

So if you can't obtain the book through your normal library jobber, I think you can probably get a copy from my mother who lives in South Jersey. She still has a couple hundred copies of it in her attic. She stocked up because she thought that with the new tax laws the book would go out of print very quickly. My mother also invested in the Studebaker Corporation.

And what did the critics think of it? Good question. In general the critics (those faceless people who review books for library periodicals) were positive. They thought it "might be appropriate for those librarians in large and medium-sized public libraries who were attempting to develop extensive library science collections." Apparently, however, not many librarians in medium and large public libraries were developing extensive library science collections at that time since not many of them bought my book. Actually if you take away my mother, my father, and my two aunts, I haven't bumped into anybody who has even heard of the book.

Secretly I hope that my book, like *Moby-Dick*, will be rediscovered forty years after its date of publication. Sometimes great books, like fine wines, need more time to age. The word to the wise is if you did buy my book for your library don't weed it. Give it about forty years to catch on. A first edition of my book will be worth a lot of money then.

Now that's what you're really interested in—money. What you're probably really curious about is what I did with all the money I made from the book. First of all, you're dying to find out what I cleared after taxes. Let's put it this way—it was under \$50,000. I decided not to spend this money wildly on cars and motorcycles but instead invested it wisely in stamps. In fact, I was able to buy a whole book of 25¢ stamps, which is why I have been able to answer

some of your letters.

So, hey, if you really want to know the truth I've never even read my book in its entirety. I wrote it in bits and pieces over a five-year period and when I finally sat down to read it all I couldn't get through it. In all honesty it didn't seem much more exciting than Herbert Bird's book.

I began to wonder if it was just me or did other librarians have trouble reading library science books. I wondered what the real truth was—not what librarians said they did but rather what they really did. The kind of

Book reviewers are reviewing library science books that no one is reading.

thing that Paul Harvey calls "the rest of the story."

So I began to ask my staff members if they had really read *The Matrices of Library Networks*. Most of them vaguely remembered it. But not even our best reference librarian could find any bibliographic record of it. I finally decided that *The Matrices of Library Networks* was a phantom book—a kind of symbolic title for all the books that had ever been written about the subject of library science. It was never actually written but it sounds like all the titles in the library science field that have been written—impressive, challenging, and boring. In short a book that everybody has heard about and talks about but has never really read.

So when I asked my staff members to name the best library science book that they had ever read, they all admitted that they had never actually read a library science book. They had read reviews of library science books, had dutifully ordered some for the library, and had even fondled a few covers; but none had ever actually sat down and read a library science book from cover to cover.

The next day I started calling librarians all over the country. I picked their names and phone numbers at random out of the

American Library Directory and then I lied to them. "This is Herbert Bird," I said, "and I am doing a scientific survey for the Bibliotechnical Institute of America on the professional reading habits of librarians who possess an MLS degree. I have three questions for you: 1) Do you have an MLS degree, 2) Do you read books on a regular basis, and 3) Have you ever read a library science book from cover to cover? After calling over 2,000 librarians who possessed the MLS degree I found out that although 29 percent of them read regularly not a single one had read a library science book from cover to cover. This is, I think, a professional crisis. Publishers of library science books are publishing books that no one is reading. This is a waste. Book reviewers are reviewing library science books that no one is reading. This is a shame. And libraries are buying library science books that no one is reading. This is a tragedy. Alice said, "What is the use of a book without pictures?" This begs the question "What is the use of a book that nobody reads?"

So I picked up the phone again and started calling thousands of librarians. "This is Herbert Bird again," I said. "I am doing a survey of the types of issues that you would like to see addressed in library science books." It turns out that librarians are not interested in matrices, Boolean searches, bibliotechnical ambiguities, or informational retrieval dilemmas. Sixty-seven percent said they were interested in the controversies surrounding public library bathrooms. Fifty-seven percent said that they would like to see a book written on a third-grade level about AACR2. Fifty-one percent said they would like to see a book exploring the idiosyncracies of the average cataloger's mind. And 45 percent would like to see a book strongly advocating the importance of keeping handguns away from circulation clerks. I must say these sound like books I too would like to read.

So would somebody please write them?■

PRESS RELEASE

OALT/ABO

1989 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

The Presidential Award is intended to recognize outstanding contributions or major achievements of an OALT/ABO Member in promoting and/or developing the association. The 1989 award will be presented at the annual banquet on June 2, 1989 at Kaleidoscope '89 in Hamilton.

Previous Presidential Award recipients are:

- 1984 - Danielle Amat (Ottawa)
- 1985 - Liz Aldrey (Lohania)
- 1986 - Sue Weaver (Halton-Peel)
- 1987 - Paulette Burton (Sudbury)
- 1988 - La Rea Moody (Thunder Bay)

Additional nomination forms are available from members of the Executive and Board of Directors or Donna Fossum, Chairperson of the Presidential Award Committee.

Nominees from previous years must be re-submitted for consideration this year. Please send fully completed forms to:

Donna Fossum
19 Crawford Green
London, Ontario
N6C 5S2

The deadline date for submissions is February 28, 1989.

1989

OALT/ABO PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

Please complete the following information as completely as possible:

Name of Candidate:

Address of Candidate:

Phone number of Candidate:

Membership status of Candidate:

 Regional Branch:

 Number of years as a member:

List contributions to OALT/ABO at the Regional Branch level (e.g. executive positions held, committee affiliations):

List contributions to OALT/ABO at the Provincial level (e.g. executive positions held, committee affiliations, conferences attended):

List other contributions to OALT/ABO (e.g. workshops presented, publications written, panel discussions):

List other contributions to the field of Library Technology (e.g. community service, publications, seminars, projects at work/school worthy of note):

Additional comments:

This Candidate is nominated by:

Name:

Regional Branch:

Phone Number:

Name:

Regional Branch:

Phone Number: