

# library newsletter

November

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

1983

## Here & There About the Library

The earthquake of October 28 was a new and startling experience for most of us. The grandfather clock in the Librarian's Office danced a merry tune as the walls creaked and groaned. When all was said and done the building, both new and old wings, withstood the shock well. A preliminary survey by the custodial staff and later by A. E. McGinnis, Director of the Physical Plant Department revealed no structural problems. However, one of the whistling windows settled and is no longer a source of annoyance. A more extensive structural review is being planned.

.....Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 8th. The Social Committee is planning a luncheon at the Hillcrest Country Club.....That fabulous best seller the "Library Information Series" is undergoing revision and will shortly be available for distribution.....As you are all aware we have received two new IBM/PC's. The final location of these much desired instruments has not yet been determined and the administration is wrestling with how to divide two into five or more.....The Newsletter is generally used to list new serial subscriptions purchased by the Library. With the brightened budget picture we have been able to fund over 200 new subscriptions. Obviously to include that number on these pages would create space problems. Gloria Ostrander is circulating a list of the titles ordered.....Bicycle racks in front of the Library are inadequate and a source of concern to bikers who have expressed a need for more parking space. Mr. McGinnis reports that plans have been drawn for an enlarged bicycle parking area which would be located in an area of the lawn now tromped down by careless short-cutters. Unfortunately Physical Plant ran out of money for this project and construction will have to wait for next year's funding.....Mr. McGinnis also reported that improved lighting for the front of the Library is in the works but has unaccountably been held up by the light-fixture manufacturer.....This past summer the Reference Department conducted its first inventory since 1979. The results: 53 missing books of which 28 were withdrawn, 12 were reordered and 13 are being searched on the out-of-print market. In 1981 during a relocation/weeding effort 1,801 volumes were removed from the collection. Nevertheless, in the four years between inventories the collection has grown by 3,018 volumes and 853 titles for a current count of 20,102 volumes in 9,527 titles. While 53 lost volumes represents a minimum value of one thousand dollars the percentage of loss (.026% for four years) appears to be below the national average for reported book losses.... Welcome to Kathleen Noyes, a new addition to the Monographs Department. Before coming to BSU Kathy had worked for the Idaho Department of Transportation for almost three years. Kathy is in the slot formerly occupied by Kathy Fennell while Mary Oneida, the most recent occupant of that position has taken over Trish Christy's position.

## Fred Meyer & Libraries

The Fred Meyer Charitable Trust, located in Portland, Oregon, has announced that it intends to commit an estimated \$3.5 million over the next three years toward the development of a "technologically sophisticated" resource-sharing network among academic libraries in the Pacific Northwest. The project will involve assessing existing collection strengths, developing a cooperative acquisitions plan, and designing an electronic document delivery



system for participating institutions. The program is intended to help member libraries plan their their acquisitions to increase regional resources and eliminate costly redundancies.

The project will be headed by a full-time program director who will work with an advisory board. When the network's governance structure is established, individual institutions will be invited to make applications to the trust for staff training and technological implementation.

At this point no assessment as to the effect on Idaho libraries, or any libraries for that matter, has been made. The Fred Meyer chain is planning to open a store in or around Boise.

(Portions of the above from the Wilson Library Bulletin)

### Idaho Library Association

The Idaho Library Association conference was held October 6 - 8 in Corur d'Alene. It featured a diverse and varied program, including a pre-conference on microcomputers. The conference site, literally on the lake shore, the autumn colors seen going to and from and the perfect weather combined with the program and the chance to renew friendships and to produce a most profitable and enjoyable time. An added attraction was the Thursday dinner on the lake steamer Mish-an-nock which cruised around the lake with 120 happy and well fed librarians, trustees, exhibitors and friends. After dinner awards were handed' out to a variety of recipients.

The optimism expressed by convention-goers concerning future funding noted locally seems to be fairly wide-spread.

This is the first Fall meeting in several years. ILA's Spring meetings were often in conflict with other State Library Associations and created conflicts for speakers and the exhibitors (whose fees pay for the conference).

Suggestions for ILA's the Idaho Librarian were (and are) sought by the new editorial "team." Such suggestions can be sent to the Idaho Librarian in care of the Library at the University of Idaho.

Tim Brown, Ralph Hansen and Adrien Taylor attended from BSU.

### Bibliographic Instruction Up-date

In August I attended the PNLA pre-conference on bibliographic instruction in Sun Valley. From that day I gleaned several useful suggestions that I have been able to incorporate into orientations. The most useful has been to discuss search strategy. Using an outline developed during the summer for education students and modified by the workshop, I have developed a basic outline search strategy. During the lecture I give examples from various disciplines so the students can understand how the outline can be applied to their interests. I also vary the amount of detail for El01 and El02 classes. After the lecture I explain how to use the COM and card catalogs, periodical and newspaper indexes, and mention government publications. The sessions generally end with a tour of the building.



This approach has been well received by faculty and seems to make sense to the students. The amount of information given seems to be manageable. It is also flexible enough for me that I can vary it according to the research emphasis of the class.

During the first week in November the Library mailed a letter from Dr. Ken Hollenbaugh to all graduate students urging them to take advantage of our program of providing literature counseling. The impact of the mailing probably will not be felt until spring semester.

#### Report of the PNLA Board Meeting, October 27-28

As a divisional officer I attended the meeting in Portland. Major actions were:

- 1) To have a membership drive with a goal of 1000 members. Using a western theme an image will be developed so that PNLA publications and communications will be readily identified. A brochure will be designed and published advertising PNLA. The PNLA membership drive has been partially sparked by the Mountain Plains Library Association conducting a big membership drive in Montana.
- 2) A core committee will be appointed, with financial support, to work on resource sharing (Interlibrary Loan) in the region. The University of Washington Resource Sharing Program will be evaluated, as well as state and provincial programs. The goal is to have the committee provide some recommendations by the 1984 conference. The establishment of the committee is in response to the recommendations of the Joint Planning Team Report which was adopted by the Association at the 1983 conference.
- 3) The 1984 conference was planned for. The theme will be developed around ideas from the book MEGATRENDS. Programs will focus on high technology and also on "soft touch" or the humane, creative side of people. The conference will be in Billings, MT, August 21-24. A buffalo barbecue is planned.

#### Announcements of interest:

- 1) Expo 1986 will be in Vancouver, BC and the British Columbia Library Association is planning on having a booth. Although details are not worked out, there may be opportunities for librarians or library staff people from the region to staff that booth.
- 2) A consultant has been hired for the Fred Meyer Charitable Trust and the process has been started to obtain a director. A 15 member advisory board will be selected. The goal is to have collection analysis of regional academic libraries underway in 1984.
- 3) The British Columbia Library representative gave a report on her use of electronic mail to improve communications between libraries in British Columbia. Canadian mail is even more erratic than U. S. mail.
- 4) 1984 is the 75th anniversary year for PNLA.

Janet Strong



# HUMOR IN THE LIBRARY

The New Yorker recently published the following filler:

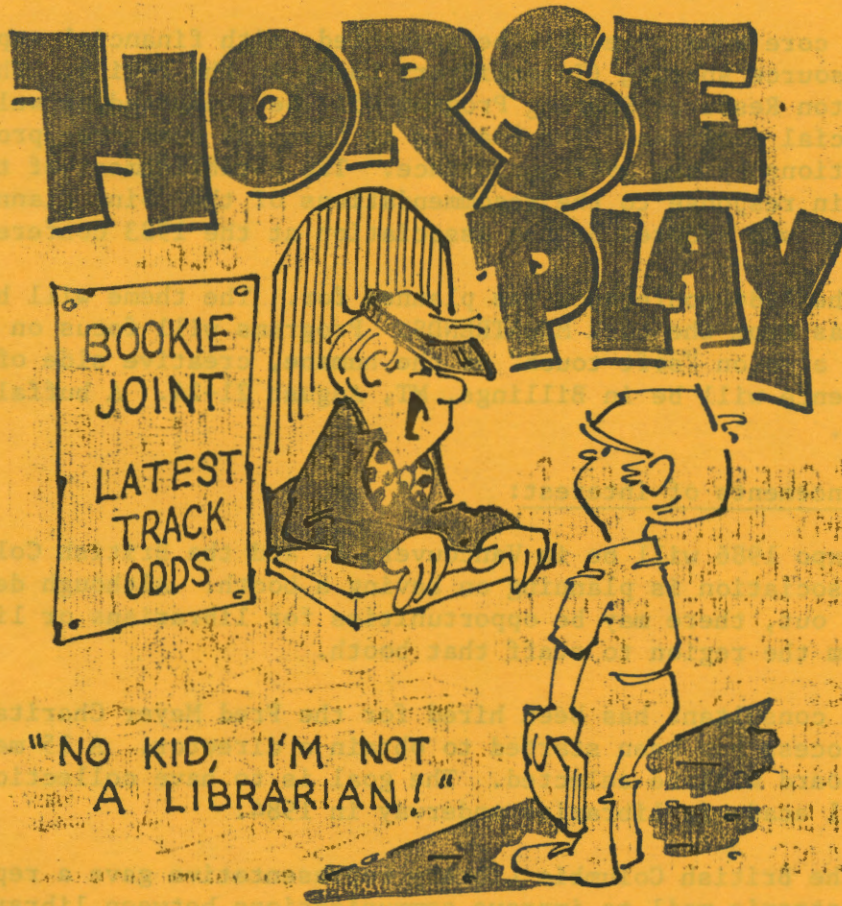
## RAISED EYEBROWS DEPARTMENT

[From the program of the Iowa Library Association's spring conference, in Iowa City]

\*\*Sleeping arrangements are also available free-of-charge with university librarians.

Rich Wilson, of the Idaho State Library submitted a couple of howlers to Library Hotline. According to Rich, at the recent COSLA meeting in Cheyenne, Elliott Shelkrot, State Librarian of Pennsylvania, was heard to say that "You can perceive the future more clearly in retrospect." And Tony Miele, Director of the Alabama Public Library Service made his bid for immortality with "It's too late to compromise; I've already changed my mind."

Not to be outdone Leslie Pass submitted a paper napkin which is reproduced below:



Question is, did Les get this at the track or at a library party?



"ALWAYS LEAVE THEM LAUGHING WHEN YOU

SAY GOODBYE" Mother Goose (1903)

Seventeen years and twenty pounds ago (the work has agreed with me) I came to the library to replace Julie Kriensieck as acquisitions clerk. This fell through when she decided to stay, and I became bookkeeper, binder, and serials person. We were Boise Junior College then, and the entire library staff numbered seven; with Ruth McBirney as librarian, Marcia Sigler, cataloguer, and Evelyn Everts in reference. Gloria Miller had started the previous year, and Gloria Ostrander and Gwen Pittam were student assistants.

A rigid dress code was in effect for staff and students alike. No slacks for women, no jeans for men. This posed some hazards of propriety in that era of short skirts, when retrieving volumes from high or low shelves.

The English, Art and Speech departments occupied the second floor and shared our staff lounge in technical processing. Sounds of hilarity issuing therefrom frequently brought remonstrances from Miss McBirney, whose office was next door. But a sense of camaraderie existed among us all. We knew everyone on campus and Dr. Chaffee was 'one of the crowd.'

When the new liberal arts building was completed, permitting some departments to move out of the library, periodicals and documents moved to the second floor, along with the Kardex, order records, indexes and me. The periodical stacks were closed and we also housed the infant (sorry) juvenile and ya collection, because Marge Fairchild's library science classroom was nearby.

When we moved another clerk was hired (later Ione) because we did all the bid lists, check-ins and binding as well as circulating documents, periodicals and juvenile books.

Soon the Curriculum Resource Center was started with Carole in charge and Darryl stormed this female bastion to become the first male librarian.

Within a very few years the college's name changed from BJC to Boise College to Boise State College and finally to Boise State University. When we came under the State system things really began to happen. The Legislature was comparatively generous in those halcyon days. Salaries rose, albeit slowly; and the four story addition rose, also slowly. Periodicals and Documents moved to the fourth floor, a Map collection was started, remodeling was rampant, new offices appeared, bookstacks were moved - again, and rapid increase in staff ensued.

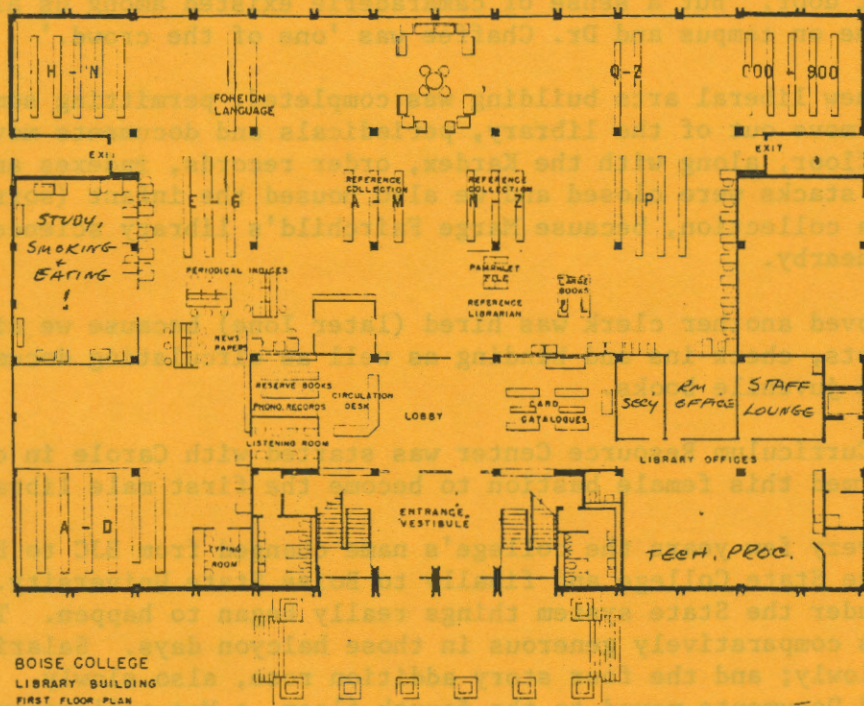
Later, periodicals were again shifted to the first floor in open stacks. Maps and Documents went to the second floor and indexes and I to Reference, which I welcomed as an opportunity to learn new skills. The entire catalogued collection moved to the third and fourth floors. For a few years there we seemed to spend every school vacation pushing heavy, recalcitrant book trucks to new locations.



As the library grew and staff increased, each job became more specialized. A far cry from the days when we were all jacks-of-all-trades.

It's been an enlightening and rewarding 17 years, and I shall miss the atmosphere and the associations. Good luck and happy appropriations.

Lois Cummins



The Library as Lois saw it 17 years ago.

Contributors: Ralph W. Hansen, Anne Matjeka, Beverly Miller, Leslie Pass, Janet Strong, Adrien Taylor (and others who we might have failed to note your identification when receiving your contribution)  
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