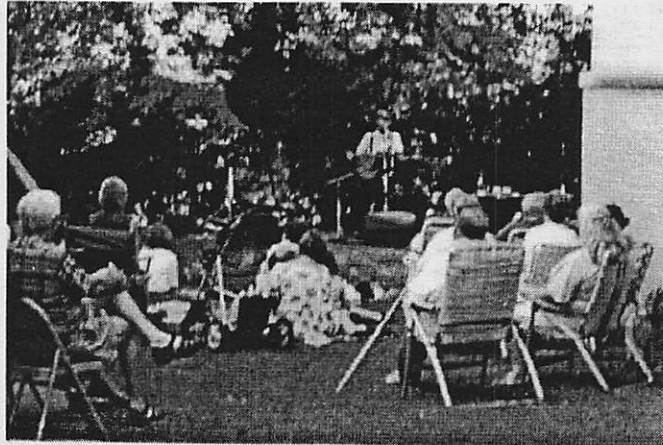

Mynderse Library
Seneca Falls, NY



Fall 1999

SUMMER READING CELEBRATED IN SONG AND STORY

From minstrels to an author and from Red Cross Disaster Dogs to free ice cream, "CELEBRATE! READ! 1999" in July and August at Mynderse Library was a great success, with 245



A few of the participants in Ken Hynson's singalong.

books read and 405 participants in 13 sessions or special events.

Under the direction of Children's Librarian Jan Caraccilo, preschoolers met on Tuesday mornings, Grades K - 3 on Wednesday afternoons and Grades 4 - 8 on Thursday afternoons for stories and reading related activities. Many of the children took out library cards for the first time and, guest speakers included Red Cross and Fire Committee volunteer Karen Kelley with her trained Disaster

Dogs Kody and K.D. Funded by a NYSCA (New York State Council on the Arts) grant, local children's author Robin Pulver spoke on writing children's books to 58 people, minstrel Ken Hynson

entertained 71 of all ages from babies to senior citizens at a canal bank singalong, and to end the summer program Chuck Cirao of "Chuck's Tuneful Tales" sang and spoke about popular children's books to an audience of 27.

Special thanks to Toni Fleszar of Bailey's Ice Cream for donating free ice cream coupons for every 10 books read, and to Trustee Gretchen Koch, Caraccilo, and Librarian Michael Caraher for writing the successful grant application.

UNITED WAY STORYTIME AT MYNDERSE LIBRARY

For United Way's Volunteer Day on Saturday, Sept. 18th, Mynderse Academy student volunteers Devon Messecar and Sara Hylwa read to students in Grades K - 1 and 2 - 4 at the library.

Many thanks to Devon and Sara and to United Way for this free service.



There is still time to sign up your Preschooler ages 2 to 5 for the new session of the popular "Mother Goose Time" with Children's Librarian Jan Caraccilo. The program runs Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. at Mynderse Library on September 28 and October 5, 19, and 26. Sign up by calling the library at 568 - 8265.

THIS POP QUIZ HAS A PRIZE

All Mynderse Library users are well aware of the cheerful and quick assistance of Assistants Ann Lawyer and Toni Betrus. But how many patrons can identify the man's portrait that presides on the wall in back of the Circulation Desk?



Library Assistants Ann Lawyer (left) and Toni Betrus (right) are always ready to assist patrons. But who is the "Mystery Man" on the wall in the middle?

The first person that tells Librarian Michael Caraher the correct identity of this distinguished gentleman gets 3 free books of his or her choice from the ongoing Myndwich Book Sale books either in the basement or on the Book Sale cart by the Circulation Desk.

The name of the winner and the correct identity of the "Mystery Man" will be published in the Winter edition of this newsletter.

MEET MULTI - TALENTED LIBRARY STAFFER TONI BETRUS

In 1993 while touring Seneca Falls, Toni Betrus remarked "I could live in a town like this". Five years later she, husband Tom, and their two now teenaged sons moved here and bought the former Mary King house on Gravel Road. Toni loves the

style of her house, and hopes that anyone with stories or anecdotes about either Mary King or the house will contact her.

Originally from L.A., Toni spent 11 years in the Air Force where she met her husband, and saw her first snow while stationed at the Plattsburgh Base. Toni's husband Tom, also retired from the Air Force, now teaches vocational carpentry at the Willard Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center, after teaching Dannemora prison inmates through Clinton Community College's Higher Education Program.

With a B.A. in Print Journalism from SUNY Plattsburgh, Toni formerly was Assistant Programmer for an alternative PBS tv station in Plattsburgh, fundraising and previewing shows. Her first library job was at NYCC's Media and Circulation Desk for 18 months before being hired at Mynderse Library last April for 5 evenings per week at the Circulation Desk and to help patrons "navigate the Internet".

"This is a Dream Job" says Toni, who loves being surrounded by both information and library users. Her hobbies include reading, especially women's history and biography, and doing counted cross stitch, a hobby she shares with fellow Library

Assistant Ann Lawyer. She designs many cross stitch pieces herself, collecting quotations (another hobby) and incorporating them in her designs. Toni's all-time favorite author is Willa Cather for her strong women characters. Two of her favorite quotations are "My friends are my estate" (Emily Dickinson) and "Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is the net by which we catch souls" (Mother Teresa).

STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

by Jean Rademacher

Bill Bryson, an American-born author, who lived in Britain for 20 years has compiled a series of columns he wrote for a British newspaper into a book.

"I'm A Stranger Here Myself," is a personal account of life across The Pond, written after Bryson returned to the U.S. In it, the author makes the mundane relevant, while observing differences that developed while he was out of touch with his homeland for two decades.

He is baffled by ATM machines and automated gas pumps, even as he extols the friendliness of strangers, joys of a garbage disposal, a country where ice is not a luxury and rooms that have more than one electrical outlet.

The anecdotes include a visit to the hardware store where he explains his needs, "Goopy stuff to fill nailholes," to the clerk. In America, it's called spackle, he is told.

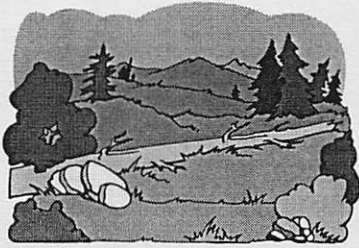
The humorist, who lives in New Hampshire with his British wife and four children, claims that as an American, he is twice as likely to die accidentally--citing a report that lists 12 people killed in his state each year by crashing their cars into moose. A fate unlikely to happen in the United Kingdom, he notes.

Among laugh-out-loud stories is one titled "Deck the Halls." In this chapter, Bryson wrestles with the problem of Christmas decorations stored in the attic. Climbing into the hatch opening, he accidentally kicks over the stepladder. He is stuck

there, swinging by his armpits, legs flailing, calling his wife. She does not respond. A lack he fails to understand from "A woman who can hear a dab of strawberry jam fall onto a white carpet from two rooms away."

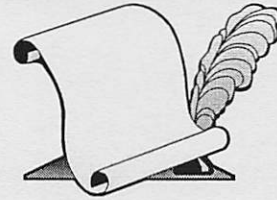
Praising the idiosyncrasies of its culture, and the American upbeat attitude of life, Bryson displays a deep love for his country that shines throughout the pages.

Bryson is also the author of the best-seller, "A Walk In The Woods," a witty account on hiking the Appalachian Trail. Both are available through Mynderse Library.



COME WRITE WITH US!

We are always looking for ideas and articles for this quarterly Mynderse Library Association newsletter. Please contact new Editor Ann Cramer at 568 - 6427 or Librarian Michael Caraher at 568 - 8265 with all comments, suggestions, and library articles for the newsletter.



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