

Leaves

from the Mynderse Library

BOOK REVIEW

"The Lacrosse Story"

By Ann Cramer

"A few generations hence little will be left on the American continent to remind the generations yet alive of the red men who once ruled it, save a few names in the geography -- and lacrosse."

Given in memory of David E. Tarnow by The Board of Trustees of the Mynderse Library, The Lacrosse Story, by Alexander Weyand and Milton Roberts, was a real trailblazer in sports writing when it was published in 1965. The "Lacrosse Belt" of serious collegiate and amateur clubs was confined mainly to Maryland and Virginia with a scattering of schools in New York, New England and Pennsylvania and articles and books on lacrosse dealt mainly with Indian tribal history or Canadian lacrosse.

The Lacrosse Story spreads before the reader the long history of lacrosse and its ups and downs from the Indian games before 1492 to the All-America girls team tour of Great Britain in 1964. While not a "how-to-do-it" book (there is no instruction or tactics), the authors have more than made up for it in their colorful descriptions of Indian games, international matches, rules changes, and the exploits of leading founders, coaches, players and teams. Even the novice can easily grasp the difference between American field lacrosse and Canadian indoor box lacrosse (invented by enterprising Canadians who wanted to utilize their ice hockey rinks in spring and summer).

For the serious player or fan there is an appendix of team records, All-Stars (The North South Classic Annual Match), All-American selections, and sections on lacrosse in Great Britain and Australia.

Local history buffs and non-athletes such as I will particularly enjoy the long sections on Indian lacrosse. As played by over fifty tribes in Canada and the northern United States including our own Iroquois tribes, "baggataway" as it was called, was a mass "happening" long before Woodstock. From one hundred to a thousand Indians played on a side, and the game was used as much for training warriors as for recreation. Major tribal feuds and conflicts were often settled by "baggataway" instead of war, and our own Chief Red Jacket of the Senecas once led his whole tribe off the field before a game to protect a Mohawk team's lack of sportsmanship.

Since this book was written, "the fastest game on two feet" has risen to new popularity. The citadels of Johns Hopkins, the Universities of Maryland and Virginia, and Army and Navy have been joined by Cornell, Hobart, Cortland and a host of other schools to challenge the old giants. (This year's North-South All-Star game brings the best lacrosse game in the United States to our own area at Cornell on June 14.) High school lacrosse, particularly in Upstate New York, is now beginning to hold its own with other sports. Plastic sticks, mass produced and adaptable to either right or left handers, have supplanted in America the wooden sticks that took a year to make on Indian reservations. But The Lacrosse Story still stands in the forefront of entertaining and highly readable tributes to "the game of stick and ball with its speed, endurance, savoir-faire, brilliant individualism and smooth teamwork".



STATUS OF MYNDERSE LIBRARY IN THE FINGER LAKES LIBRARY SYSTEM

Mynderse Library was notified via letter dated December 19, 1974 that the System's agreement for library service would be terminated effective March 1, 1975 unless prior action was taken toward full membership in the Finger Lakes Library System.

Mr. Weitzel, Director for the Finger Lakes Board of Trustees, advised on February 27, 1975 that he had been authorized to state that the System will continue to honor its agreement for library service with Mynderse Library Association until further notice. This was further verified via letter dated April 1, 1975 from Mr. Weitzel, advising that the System's trustees voted at their March 15, 1975 meeting to confirm the action taken on their behalf by Mr. Weitzel.

The Mynderse Library trustees have been in contact with Finger Lakes Library System, the State Education Department at Albany and our Assemblyman, Mr. Garry Lee, in an effort to resolve the problem of membership in the Finger Lakes Library System. Your trustees will continue to investigate and evaluate this situation in an effort to make a decision in the best interests of your Library. At this point, we are assured of continued library service from the Finger Lakes System until a decision can be reached relative to full membership.

Edward E. Chase
President, Mynderse Library
Board of Trustees
April 9, 1975

THE MYNDERSE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

In the beginning, all libraries were association libraries. The first and perhaps the most famous in the United States was Benjamin Franklin's Library Company of Philadelphia.

The Seneca Falls Library Association was granted a charter by New York State on December 18, 1839 and a Reading Room was opened on Fall Street. On January 28, 1906 the charter was amended and the name changed to the Mynderse Library Association.

State legislation regulating libraries in New York State was first passed in 1851 and since been amended several times. In its current form the statute defines an "Association Library shall be construed to mean a library established and controlled, in whole or in part, by a group of private individuals operating as an association, a closed corporation, or as trustees under the provisions of a will or deed of trust.

The Mynderse Library Association comes under this definition. It has 325 members contributing to its support and is governed by a Board of Trustees. The Trustees are elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting held in June each year. Elections are staggered and the term of office is 5 years. Reports from the trustees and the Librarian are brought before the meeting then, as well as any other business, and followed by a speaker on matters relevant to the library.

A "Public Library" is defined in the law as one "established for free public purposes by official action of a municipality, or a district, or the legislature where the whole interests belong to the public". In other words a public library must be established by a government agency and supported by a tax on all the people and open to anyone wishing to use it.

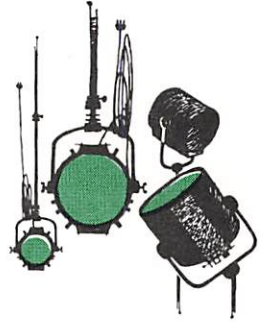
An association library is supported by its members and gifts from interested citizens. The decision of its members is the determining factor in whether the library will be open to the public, and with the interest of the community in mind, the members have said that the Mynderse Library should be available to anyone wishing to use it.

Mynderse LIBRARY

31 FALL STREET, SENECA FALLS, NEW YORK 13148

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SENECA FALLS, N.Y.
13148

HIGHLIGHTS of the MONTH



Friends of the Library will have a meeting May 8. Mary Carey, Tompkins County Childrens' Librarian Consultant, will talk about childrens' programs in libraries. Joan Fogg is acting chairman. Anyone who would like to come, please do.

Junior and Senior High School Art Classes prepared a display of their arts and crafts for the Library. Drop in and see it.

A childrens' film program sponsored by the Women's League and the Finger Lakes Library System were shown April 12, 16, 19 and 26. Mrs. Mary Lee Miller was in charge of arrangements.

The Business and Professional Women's Club of Seneca Falls donated \$50 to the Library to be used to buy books which will help teachers in the school system to understand and help pupils of the former Alpha Day School they will have in class.



Among the new books recently added to Mynderse Library are the following:

- Fiction
- Gory and the Lightning by Taylor Caldwell.
- Harlequin by Morris West.
- Oil by Jonathan Black.
- Great Maria by Cecelia Holland.
- Grand Rounds by Harrison Hopkins.
- Image of a Lover by Elizabeth Ogilvie.
- Knight's Acre by Norah Loftis.
- The Bottom Line by Fletcher Knebel.
- Bachelors Anonymous by Felham Wodehouse.
- Cry for Help by Doris Miles Disney.
- Non-Fiction
- Alive by Piers Read.
- Strawberries in the Wintertime by Red Smith.
- Hollywood by Garson Kanin.
- Companions Along the Way by Ruth Montgomery.
- Meeting at Potsdam by Charles L. Mee, Jr.
- Something More by Catherine Marshall.
- For Teenagers
- Never Jam Today by Carole Bolton.
- Teacup Full of Roses by Sharon Bell Mathis.
- The Girl from Puerto Rico by Hilda Coleman.
- Why Me by John Brantfield.
- A Time to Choose by Richard Parker.
- For Beginning Readers
- Nice Little Girls by Elizabeth Levy.
- He's My Brother by Joe Lasker.
- The Kitten in the Pumpkin Patch by Richard Shaw.
- More Fables of Aesop by Jack Kent.