

# THE FINE PRINT

MURPHY LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE SPRING 1992 NO.9

## Honoring Wisconsin Authors

Every year the Wisconsin Library Association honors Wisconsin writers. Wisconsin authors are defined as those individuals born in Wisconsin, currently living in Wisconsin, or having spent a significant amount of time in the state. Last year I served on the twelve-librarian Literary Awards Committee which selects the authors to be honored. Our committee of academic, public, and school librarians collectively read over a hundred books, from a guide to Manhattan toilets to the biography of an Irish saint. After many long, intense discussions, we finally made our difficult decisions.

The Banta Award is presented to the best work in a given year and includes a medallion from the Banta Corporation of Menasha. The 1991 Banta winner was *Threshing Days: The Farm Paintings of Lavern Kammerude* by Chester Garthwaite (w N6537 K25 1990 Special Collections.) Lavern Kammerude was a painter of Wisconsin farm life. The Wisconsin Folk Museum brought Kammerude together with farmer-teacher-writer Chester Garthwaite to create a portrait in words and paintings of Wisconsin rural life in the 1920's and 1930's. *Threshing Days* is both a work of art and a social and agricultural history.

The committee also recognized ten outstanding books by Wisconsin writers. These are:

Bissinger, H.G. *Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream*. An absorbing and depressing picture of high school football in Texas. GV958 P47 B57 1990

Boydston, Jeanne. *Home and Work: Housework, Wages, and the Ideology of Labor in the Early Republic*. The role of housewives in American life to 1865. HD6073 H842 U625 1990

Cherry, Kelly. *My Life and Dr. Joyce Brothers*. A novel set in Madison. Available at La Crosse Public Library.

Cooper, John M. *The Pivotal Decades: The United States, 1900-1920*. A history of U.S. politics and government during two lively decades. E756 C78 1990

Glad, Paul W. *War, a New Era, and Depression, 1914-1940*. Volume five of The History of Wisconsin series being published by the State Historical Society. F581 H57 v.5 Stacks; w F581 H57 v.5 Special Collections

Hickey, James. *Chrysanthemum in the Snow: The Novel of the Korean War*. Thoughtful war novel. On order. Available at Public Library.

Peters, Margot. *The House of Barrymore*. The history of the Barrymores especially Ethel, Lionel, and John. PN2285 P48 1991

Rindo, Ronald. *Suburban Metaphysics: And Other Stories*. Short stories. Not available in La Crosse.

Scribbins, Jim. *Milwaukee Road Remembered: A Fresh Look at an Railroad*. Railroad history. x q TF25 C5 S38 1990 Special Collections

Terrill, Richard. *Saturday Night in Baoding: A China Memoir*. Experiences of an American exchange professor in China. DS712 T38 1990

The Literary Awards Committee also names three Notable Authors, an award given for the body of an author's work. These were Kelly Cherry, a writer of novels, short fiction, poetry, and non-fiction; Florence Parry Heide, author of numerous children's stories including the well known *The Shrinking of Treehorn*; and the late playwright Larry Shue, author of the popular comedies, *The Nerd* and *The Foreigner*.

Serving on the committee gave me the opportunity to appreciate the diversity of Wisconsin's authors. I heartily recommend any of the works named above for a good reading experience.

Sandy Sechrest  
Documents Librarian

## The University Library: A Community Resource

The primary mission of Murphy Library is to serve the students, faculty and staff of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. We are committed, however, to the provision of service to citizens of the larger community as resources permit. As the largest library in the area, Murphy Library inevitably has become a resource for other institutions and individuals.

Currently, 321 area residents including local college students are registered borrowers of Murphy Library. In 1991, 132 Community members who did not wish to purchase a courtesy card opted to check out books on the basis of a free referral pass issued by the Winding Rivers Library System. A total of 2,786 books were checked out to community members in 1991, including 654 to Viterbo patrons, and 56 to WWTC students and staff.

Murphy Library's Interlibrary Loan Department sends approximately 500 books each year to the Winding Rivers Library System. Other requests from public and special libraries outside the system, come in directly through OCLC, a national database of library catalog records.

Murphy Library cooperates in resource sharing and collection building, in particular with the La Crosse Public Library. Our Reference Department is particularly active, sharing holdings information and collaborating on expensive reference purchases, so that holdings are not duplicated unnecessarily.

Lists of journal holdings are shared with WWTC, Viterbo, Lutheran Hospital, St. Francis Hospital and the La Crosse Public Library. The Winding Rivers Library System refers patrons to our journals via postcard, when an item has been requested through interlibrary loan. Dial-up access to our catalog is used frequently by other libraries as well.

In-house use by community members who wish to take advantage of the unique aspects of our collection is substantial, as is the amount of staff time involved in assisting these patrons. Library photocopiers are used frequently by area residents, and articles from journals are photocopied routinely by local hospitals, and by representatives from the National Fishery Research Center, along with students from Winona State, Viterbo, WWTC, and local high schools.

Our reference collection is used frequently by the community. *Business Newsbank*, *Dissertation Abstracts*, the CD-ROM stations, and the college catalogs on microfiche are particularly popular, along with basic information about journals and their publishers.

The Murphy Library staff shares its professional expertise with a number of businesses, organizations and individuals. Special Collections is frequently called upon to advise individuals and organizations on the conservation of photographic collections and the preservation of records. In addition, the department often provides photographic images for local television stations, as well as information on issues of local history. The Special Collections librarian, Ed Hill, is a frequent speaker on these topics.

The slide tape series developed by the Circulation Department to train student staff was studied as a model for a training series to be developed by a local insurance corporation. Acquisitions Librarian, Karin Sandvik, has translated genealogical records and technical papers for local individuals and companies. Area businesses take advantage of our online search service to research topics and prepare mailing lists.

The Special Collections Department benefits from donations of photographs and other primary material from the community, and serves as an important resource in return. A recent two-week sampling found that Special Collections received 23 mail and phone inquiries from the states of Illinois, Colorado, California, Iowa, Texas, Missouri, Massachusetts, and Washington for information relating to riverboat and river history, family history, naturalization records, and various categories of photo subjects. Nine of these were genealogical requests, eight were for riverboat or river history, and ten more dealt with Wisconsin subjects from Wisconsin towns outside of La Crosse.

This two-week sampling revealed that along with others, Special Collections assisted a maritime artist, a local court employee looking for court material from 1880's dockets, a Boston public TV station (WGBH) on visual materials for an upcoming special on American transportation, a West Salem citizen working on a video town history project, a La Crosse public school teacher preparing a course unit on local history, and a local architect researching commercial building history.

The Circulation Department has participated in the Community Action Summer Youth Program for several years. In 1991, a Circulation staff member was asked to

address parents and participants at an awards luncheon sponsored by the Optimists Club.

We have made a conscious effort to develop a collection on the Hmong, and several staff members volunteer to tutor the Hmong in the English language.

Murphy Library's development committee has sponsored public programs in the last couple of years, one featuring librarians who spoke on their experiences living in Latvia and Kuwait. For another program, a librarian from UW-Eau Claire presented his research about libraries in Japan, and faculty who had conducted research in Asian Libraries and Asian international students were invited to speak.

La Crosse is fortunate to have a rich collection of both popular and scholarly materials in its university, college, public and hospital libraries. We think Murphy Library is an important resource in the community, and we are proud of the services we offer.

*Cris Prucha*  
Circulation Librarian

## **Library Addition Plans To Be Reviewed By State Building Commission**

The State Building Commission will review the architects' design report for the new addition to the library in July. The architects, Schute-Larson of La Crosse, have designed a two story building addition to the north of the existing building.

Originally, the review was scheduled for April, but a number of design options for upgrading the existing heating, ventilation, and air condition system had to be presented as a part of the review process. Efforts are being made to keep these costs down in order to avoid cutting space and programs in the new addition. New features of the program include the College of Education Curriculum Library, a film/video library, a portion of the Geography Department Map Library, two computer labs, an extended hours reading room, and additional classrooms and seminar rooms.

*Dale Montgomery*  
Director of Library and Media Services

# **La Crosse**

## **IN LIGHT & SHADOW**

*A Pictorial Recollection of La Crosse, Wisconsin*



EDITED BY Edwin Hill AND Douglas Connell

Murphy Library is proud to announce the publication of *La Crosse in Light and Shadow*, a pictorial recollection of La Crosse, in observance of the city's sesquicentennial this year. Edited by Ed Hill, Special Collections Librarian, and local history researcher, Douglas Connell, the hardcover book of 144 pages features 250 images from La Crosse's past and present in nine topical chapters. The book which sells for \$40.00 is available in the Cartwright Center bookstore and other local bookstores and may be ordered from Murphy Library for a mailed copy. Orders should be sent (and checks made payable) to La Crosse History Book, Murphy Library, UW-La Crosse; add \$3.00 for shipping. After expenses are met, proceeds from the sale of the book will be given to the Murphy Library Endowment Fund.

## Voices from the Past: The Oral History Program

With a recently-completed collection guide, compiled by Professor Emeritus Stanley Rolnick, the oral history program at UW-La Crosse marked its first twenty-five years. Back in 1966, George Gilkey of the history department initiated the program when he interviewed a local citizen for his reminiscences of area events and history. From that beginning, the program began its gradual formalization through the cooperation of the library and the history department. Howard Fredricks, who joined the history department in 1965, became the major interviewer through the 1970's. His knowledge of the La Crosse area and his skills as an interviewer were instrumental in the program's early success; most of the interviews in the present collection bear his name.

By the time Fredricks retired in 1979, the oral history program was the state's second largest, surpassed only by that of the State Historical Society. The program became more or less dormant for the next decade, although Fredricks conducted a few more interviews after his formal retirement. The revival of the project began in 1989, thanks in large part to the efforts of Charles Lee, of the history department. His interests in social and public history led him, with several colleagues, to approach the university administration with a proposal for reviving the project.

This new beginning in 1989 was supported and strengthened under the auspices of the College of Arts, Letters, and Science. A program board was formed, which included Sandra Flake, Stanley Rolnick, Charles Lee, Elizabeth Jameson and Ed Hill. After Betsy Jameson left the faculty, Gerry Barker of the La Crosse County Historical Society joined the effort. This board oversees the program, recommends interview and transcription priorities and encourages oral history efforts in the nearby community. Interviews are very competently transcribed by Linda Jorgenson, who sits with the board during its meetings.

With the help of the Information Services staff, the board produced a brochure last year which outlines the program and its resources. A substantial effort has been made to organize and describe the collection more fully, with Stan Rolnick providing major assistance. Vice Chancellor Carl Wimberly deserves special mention for his encouragement and support of the entire program. With his assistance, we were able to reduce the large (and venerable) backlog of unprocessed tapes.

As the project moves into the 1990's, several recently-hired faculty members and administrators have been interviewed, as have members of the La Crosse Hmong community. Dr. Rolnick and Dr. Lee have both conducted interviews in recent years, and Dr. Lee has given presentations to area organizations.

*We were going to ski down the north side of Granddad onto the golf course. I said to the girls, 'See if you can get your brothers' army pants.' This was then the year of 1918.... So some of the girls got their brothers' army pants, and there were several of us out there in pants, and all the rest of them came in long pleated skirts, including Mrs. Wittich. It never occurred to me to ski or toboggan or anything like that with a skirt on! I don't know how I realized that Mr. Wittich was disturbed by it. I don't remember whether he said anything to me or not, but I knew that he was shocked.*

*-Leona Thompson, faculty member, physical education, La Crosse Normal, 1916-23, interviewed by Howard Fredricks, Oral History Project, 1977.*

Housed in Murphy Library's Special Collections room, these nearly three thousand hours of recorded interviews represent a resource of great and growing value. The collection documents both the university and the surrounding community with the first-hand observations and recollections of individuals whose experiences enrich our understanding of history. This diverse collection contains the recollections of teachers, administrators, labor and corporate leaders, the Vietnam vet, the Hmong immigrant, farmers, entertainers, political figures, and others both ordinary and influential. Most of these interviews may be either read or heard in the Special Collections Room.

As time passes, the need to better document the current scene has become clearer. All of those who have worked with the oral history program over its first quarter century are profoundly aware of the unique opportunity that oral history presents as it captures permanently the first-hand observations of some of life's representatives. It is a collection whose research value can almost be heard growing year by year as the present quickly becomes the past. In Special Collections, you may be delighted and intrigued by these diverse voices.

*Ed Hill  
Special Collections Librarian*

## Library Electronic Access Funding

This year, libraries at UW system campuses were awarded special legislative funding to provide for enhanced library access. These funds amounting to \$22,700 for the La Crosse campus were earmarked principally for CD-ROM (Compact Disc-Read Only Memory) products and online database access and equipment. A committee composed of Anita Evans, Randy Hoelzen, James Huesmann and Sandra Sechrest was formed in fall of 1991 to study various options and determine recommendations for how these monies could best be allocated. This Spring, as a result of the special funding, several computer workstations and new CD-ROM products have been added to the Reference area.

Ebsco *Academic Abstracts* on CD-ROM has already proven to be a tool heavily used by undergraduates for research papers and speeches on contemporary issues. It spans all subjects and provides references and summaries for articles indexed in over 500 popular periodicals and selected scholarly journals from the early 80's to the present. Magill book reviews for some titles are also provided. The search software is "user-friendly," and users can often locate information with little or no assistance.

*Psychological Abstracts*, a key tool for numerous campus disciplines, is not an easy index to search in paper format. The CD-ROM version was one obvious choice to improve the ease of access. SilverPlatter *PsycLit* covers all the journals indexed in *Psychological Abstracts*, over 1300 titles, and like its paper counterpart offers lengthy abstracts of the articles. *PsycLit* has the added advantages of allowing a user to search the literature over a considerable span of years, from 1974 to the present, and to limit search results to English language articles.



What the library was able to provide with the special access funding was stretched with a grant from the UW-L Foundation (submitted by Sandra Sechrest and Anita Evans). The grant allowed the Library to add *Ethnic NewsWatch* on CD-ROM produced by Softline Information, Inc. by supporting the subscription and a CD-ROM drive. This title which covers ethnic

newspapers goes beyond other CD-ROM products now in the library by offering not only the citation, but the full text of the article. This title, issued for the first time at the end of March, won the Optical Disc Product of the Year Award from *CD-ROM Librarian*. *Ethnic NewsWatch* will allow students to see issues from the viewpoint of minority cultures by delving into Native American, Hispanic, African American, Asian, Jewish, Arab and other minority group newspapers.

The CD-ROM computer station set up for *Ethnic NewsWatch* will also serve to provide access to two ISI products, *Current Contents on Diskette for Life Sciences* and *Agriculture, Biology & Environmental Sciences*. Information loaded onto the computer hard disk can be searched to scan the titles or perform subject searches of the most recent periodicals in the fields. This current awareness service will especially be useful to faculty and graduate students in the biological and medical sciences.

To assist us in training students to use CD-ROM products, demonstrating online services and access to online catalogs of other universities, the funding has provided for the purchase of a laptop microcomputer. It can be used along with a projection panel for demonstrations in the library classroom or another building.

The access funding is also being used for seed money to set up an account for OCLC's FirstSearch. This is a service designed for the "enduser." It allows library users to search remote databases via standard telecommunications networks or the Internet, without the intervention of a librarian. The major database provided by FirstSearch is WorldCat, a database of 24 million records (primarily citations to books) on all subjects. The service also allows online access to such electronic indexes as the Wilson family of indexes (e.g. *Humanities Index* and *Business Periodicals Index*). The inauguration of this service will be announced in the near future.

There has been a veritable explosion of information available in electronic format, whether it be an optical disc product or a mainframe mounted file. Internet has opened up access to remote library catalogs so we can now peer into the collections of universities as far away as New Zealand and gain entry into some electronic journals. This access funding makes it possible for us to attempt to keep up with this inevitable movement from the printed to the electronic word.

Anita Evans  
Coordinator of Online Services/Public Services

## Friends Group Being Formed

Dale Montgomery, Director of Library and Media Services, met with a small group of interested alumni, faculty and librarians in February to discuss the potential of forming a Friends of the Library group. During the hour long meeting a number of ideas and suggestions were shared, and it was the consensus of those present that another meeting should be held to develop a structure for such a group. Another meeting is scheduled for May.

The Friends would support programs on topics concerning books and publishing, as well as programs and projects conducted by the staff of Murphy Library. They would also assist in fund raising and help the library acquire special materials related to the mission of the library.

Membership in the Friends would be open to those who have an interest in library materials and programs. The first annual meeting will be held next fall semester.

*Dale Montgomery*  
*Director of Library and Media Services*

## Staff Notes

**Randy Hoelzen**, formerly Bibliographic Instruction Coordinator/Interlibrary Loan, was appointed Head of Reference/Interlibrary Loan in January.

**Kathy Woldrich Schmidt** joins the Library April 15 as Serials Collection Development/Automation Librarian. Ms. Schmidt has her graduate library degree from Indiana University and most recently was Manager of the Serials Department at Indiana University Ruth Lilly Medical Library in Indianapolis.

Ms. Schmidt assumes the position vacated in December by **Jim Huesmann**. He now is Librarian for Automated Systems at Linda Hall Library, a privately endowed library specializing in the sciences located in Kansas City.

## Inter-session Schedule May 13 - June 7

Monday - Friday 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Saturdays and Sundays  
Closed Monday May 25, Memorial Day

The Area Research Center is open Monday-Friday, 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Reference Desk is closed during the Inter-session.

## Summer Schedule June 8 - July 31

Monday - Wednesday 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Thursday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday Library Closed  
Sunday 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Hours vary over the July 4 weekend.

The Area Research Center is open Monday-Friday, 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Terms for UW-L faculty, staff, students, and  
friends of Murphy Library.

Anita Evans, Editor  
Dale Montgomery, Director of Library and  
Media Services  
Karin Sandvik, Department Chairperson

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