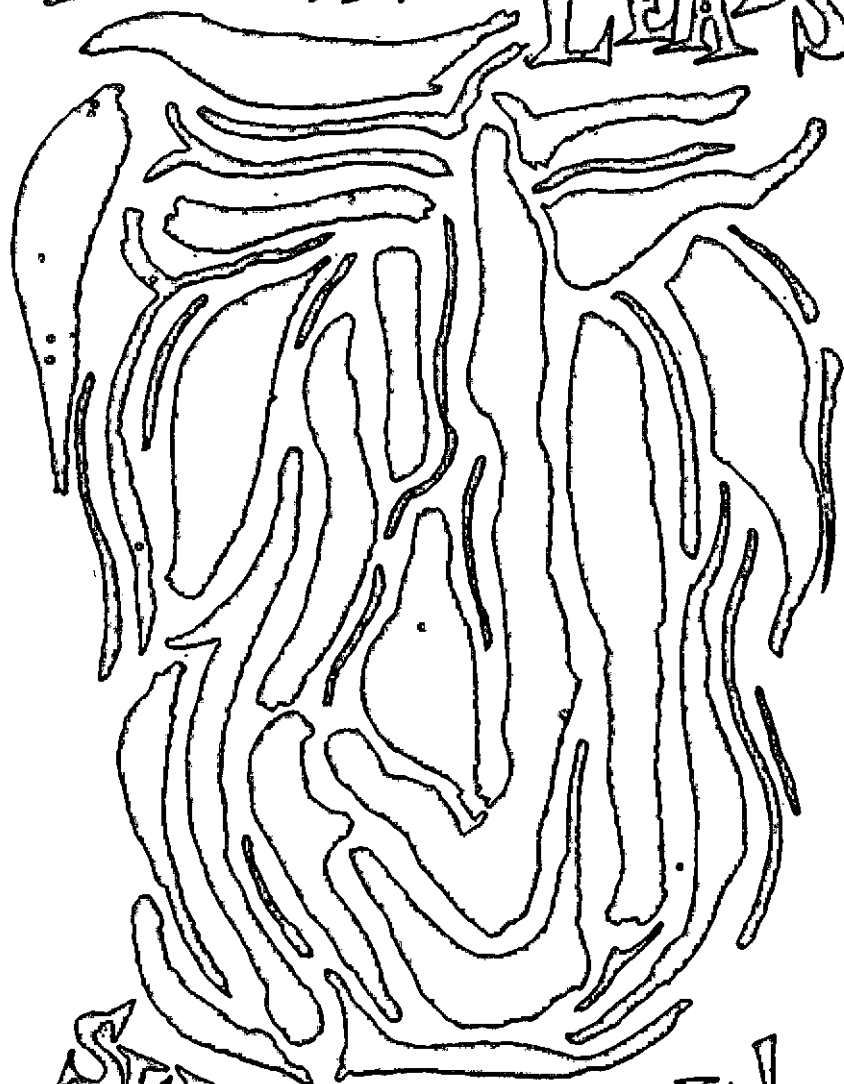


LIBRARY LEADS




SWING INTO BOOKS!

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OUR PRESIDENT . . .

Mrs. Evelyn Cornish, president of WSSLA, is Director of Elementary Libraries in the Bellingham school district. A native of Kent, Wash., she graduated from Whitman College and did graduate work at the University of Washington and Western Washington State College before taking her Master of Librarianship degree from the University of Washington in 1962. She taught English, speech, and dramatics in the high schools at Posco, Puyallup and Sedro-Woolley, before becoming interested in school librarianship.



A charter member of WSSLA, she has served on several state committees and was editor of **Library Leads** for two years. She has taught library science courses at one summer session at Western Washington State College. She was school library supervisor and high school

librarian in Sedro-Woolley for several years before moving to Bellingham.

I seem to have little time for outside activities, but I do a lot of reading, I like to cook, and I dream about doing some writing of my own some day."

A Freshman at ALA

It was a wonderful beginning to my year as WSSLA president to board a plane for the ALA Conference in St. Louis. Armed with a thick program and only a vague idea of what to expect, I was glad to be sharing quarters with Maxine Slagowski, now of the University of Utah, and a University of Washington alumna known to many of our members.

I arrived in time for the American Association of School Librarians' Pre-conference, under the joint sponsorship of NEA's Department of Audio-Visual Instruction and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Its theme was "Curriculum Design and Educational Media," and speakers, panels, and discussion groups explored the librarian and materials specialists role in the new educational patterns evolving today. Dr. Jahn Goodlad of UCLA, one of the chief speakers, reminded us that many of the educational changes today have come about through the interest and activity of subject-matter leaders,

"I Was There On The 1964 Newberry-Caldecott Awards Committee"

by SARAH DICKINSON

It was my privilege and pleasure to be a member-at-large of the 1964 Newberry-Caldecott Awards Committee. I accepted the nomination with some trepidation even after conferring with Ethel Telban and Jane Darrah who had had experience. They assured me I would be able to read enough books and, with Pat Foster, offered their help in supplying me with new titles. This was a great help.

In preparing this report I made lists of the winners and runners-up for both awards. [Lists at end of article]. Runners-up are more or less hard to find for the years after Miss Smith's book; **A History of the Newberry-Caldecott Awards**. I think runners-up are very important as well as interesting. Knowing that **The Good Master** lost to **Caddie Woodlawn** is my only consolation for its failure to win in 1936.

Analysis of the winners, the runners-up and their publishers, popularity etc. proved interesting. Here are authors who have had four [4] or more titles as winners or runners-up for one of the awards. Some won one or more times. Winners are indicated by asterisk. Some never had a winner.

Seredy, Kate			
Goodmaster	1936	Estes, Eleanor	
* White Stag	1938	The Middle Moffat	1943
Singing Tree	1940	Rufus-M	1944
Christmas Anna Angel	1945	100 Dresses	1945
		* Giner Pye	1953
Wilder, Laura Ingalls			
Little House on the Prairie	1933	Ets, Marie Hall	
On the Banks of Plum Creek	1938	In the Forest	1945
By the Shores of Silver Lake	1940	Mr. T. W. Anthony Woo	1950
Long Winter	1941	Play With Me	1956
Little Town on the Prairie	1942	Mr. Penny's Race Horse	1957
These Happy Golden Years	1944	* Nine Days to Christmas	1960
6 and never a winner!			
De Jong, Meindert			
Hurry Home Candy	1954	Sendak, Maurice	
* Wheel on the School	1955	A Very Special House (Krauss)	1954
(illus. by Sandek)		What Do You Say, Dear! (Joslin)	1959
House of 60 Fathers	1957	Moon Jumpers	1960
Along Came a Dog	1959	Little Bear's Visit (Minarik)	1963
		Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present	1961
		* Where the Wild Things Are	1964
De Angeli, Margaret			
* Door in the Wall	1950	Brown, Marcia	
Yonnie Wonder-nose	1945	Stone Soup	1948
Mother Goose	1955	Henry Fisherman	1950
Black Fox of Lorne	1957	Skipper John's Cook	1952
		Steakfast Tin Soldier	1954
		Dick Whittington and His Cat	1961
		* Cinderella	1955
		* One a Mouse	1963
McCloskey, Robert			
* Make Way for the Ducklings		Gag, Wanda	
Blueberries for Sal		Millions of Cats	(N) 1929
One Morning in Maine		ABC Bunny	(N) 1935
* Time of Wonder		Snow White	(N) 1939
		Nothing at All	(C) 1942
Lawson, Robert			
4 & 20 Blackbirds	(O) 1938	Eaton, Jeanette	
Wee Gillis	(C) 1939	Daughter of the Seine	1930
* They Were Strong and Good	1941	Leader by Destiny	1939
* Rabbit Hill	(N) 1945	Lone Journey	1945
		Ghandi	1951
Buff, Conrad and Mary			
Big Tree	1947	Gray, Elizabeth	
Apple and the Arrow	1952	Meggy McIntosh	1931
Magic Meadow	1954	Young Walter Scott	1936
Dash and Dart	1943	Penn	1939
		* Adam of the Road	1943
Newberry, Clair Turlay			
Barkis	1939	Foster, Genevieve	
April's Kittens	1941	George Washington's World	1942
Marshmallow	1943	Abraham Lincoln's World	1945
T-Bone the Baby Sitter	1951	George Washington	1950
		Birthdays of Freedom	1953

Miss Smith's study of the popularity of award winning books with children is revealing. It is good and healthy to consider popularity with children to an extent, but to an extent only. Children are too immature and inexperienced to be the best judges. It is interesting to note that some child-made awards are the same as that of the librarians: **King of the Wind**, YRC award, **Amos Fortune**, William Allen White award. Some of their awards have gone to runners-up more popular than the Newberry winners of the same years, i.e. **Mr. Popper's Penguins**.

Miss Smith rates the winners as follows: [A plus after a title means that at Enotai [my library] the book is more popular than her rating, a minus that is less so.] R means especially successful, read aloud.

Very Popular

Ginger Pye
King of the Wind
Island of Blue Dolphins
Caddie Woodlawn
Wrinkle in Time R
Bronze Bow

Popular

Johnny Tremain R
Rabbit Hill —
Voyages of Doctor Dolittle +
Miracles on Maple Hill

Middling Popular

Call it Courage R++
Matchlock Gun —
Snokey
Hitty —
Miss Hickory +
Roller Skates —
Amos Fortune R

Less Popular

Door in the Wall
21 Balloons +++
Silver Lands —
Carry on Mr. Bowditch +
Onion John R

Not Popular

Dark Frigate
Gay-neck Jr. Hi.
Adam of the Road
Trumpeter of Krakow
White Stag
Cat Who Went to Heaven +

Shelf Sitters

Secret of the Andes
And Now Miguel R
Waterless Mountain
Doby
Young Fu

A read-aloud book should be superior, should NEED to be read aloud to be understood and enjoyed by the children of the age when they hear it. It should not be a book they can read easily and understand and enjoy by themselves as well as if read aloud to them.

It may interest you to know how many times the awards have been won by men, how many by women. Men have won 18 Caldecotts and 18 Newberrys. Women have won 12 Caldecotts and 25 Newberrys. Husband and wife teams are split. A look at the publishers of the award winning books and/or runners-up is somewhat startling. Forty-two publishers have been represented. Of these Viking has had 53 titles with 16 of them winners! Harper is next with 32 titles of which 6 won. Harper hit the jackpot in 1964 winning both awards. Scribner runs third with 21 titles and 3 winners. Houghton, Macmillan and Harcourt are the next three.

Conclusions from these reflections on popularity, publishers, popularity of later titles versus earlier ones may be: first, there has been great improvement in quality of books which was Mr. Melcher's main purpose in establishing The Newberry Award; Second, librarians read more critically; and third, that to have had a book accepted by Viking's May Masee means one has had a good chance to be a medal winner! Doubtless an editor plays a big part in an author's success. Some seem to attract especially fine books.

At present the Awards Committee is made up of the officers of the Children's Services Division, the past chairman, the chairman elect, five members of the Book Evaluation Committee, The Chairman of

AASL and 4 other school librarians elected by AASL and 6 children's librarians elected by the membership of CSD. The membership of the committee is known in June each year and the members make an effort from then on to read as many new titles as possible. One needs to have access to a library where they receive many review copies and where many new books are purchased early after publication. Early in November committee members were asked to nominate and review three titles for each award. The results of this were mimeographed and returned to us at once and we then tried to read all the titles nominated that we hadn't read. In December we again nominated and reviewed three more titles. Again each member tried to get and read all these. ALA will send any book one can't get locally. At all times we were encouraged to nominate more books and even to bring nominations to the committee meeting January 27, in Chicago.

Early in January we received the last compilation and rushed about trying to read all by the 27th.

The committee in its first session began by discussing the books nominated. Those finding strong support were kept in the race. There was great concern that some worthy book would be overlooked by simply not having been read by any of the committee. I think that considering the flood of books per year that this well may be a foregone conclusion. Over 150 books were carefully considered for the Newberry. When only one can win, it becomes a sad slaughter. Here are those that made it past the first round of eliminations for the Newberry.

Baker, Killer of Death
 Behn, Faraway Lurs
 Clark, Medicine Man's Daughter
 Cole, Birds and Beasts Were There
 Enright, Tatsinda
 Fleishman, By the Great Horn Spoon
 Fritz, I, Adam
 Ish-Kishor, Boy of Old Prague
 Neville, It's Like This, Cat
 North, Rasool
 Ormoundroyd, Time at the Top
 Pundt, Spring Comes First to the Willows
 Ritchie, Ice Falcon
 Sandoz, The Story Catcher

Shemin, The Little Riders
 Shotwell, Roosevelt Grady
 Steele, Year of the Bloody Sevens
 Werasha, The Brave Balloon of Benjamin Buckley
 Wier, The Loner
 Trevino, Nacar, the White Deer
 Brown, Silent Storm
 Burch, Tylar Wilkin and Stree
 Coatsworth, Princess and the Lion
 Lee, Rock and the Willow
 Wibberly, Young Man From the Piedmont
 Downer, Story of Design
 Shippen, Heritage of Music

It was reassuring that these were among the top votes of the membership! **Maybe** the **best** book was found!

Caldecott nominees staying past the first round were:

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella (Adams)
 Ciardi, John J. Plenty and Fiddler Dan
 Ets, Gilberto and the Wind
 Lionni, Swimmy
 McCloskey, Burt Dow: Deep Water Man
 Ness, Josefina February

Ness, All in the Morning Early (Nic Leadhas)
 Sandburg, Joel and the Wild Goose
 Sendak, Sarah's Room
 Sendak, Where the Wild Things Are
 Valens, Wildfire
 Williams, Amigo

The Caldecott was decided on 5 ballots — an unusually large number, I was told by those who had served in previous years.

The Newberry winner was still more difficult to select. In the second round of discussions every book again received thoughtful, earnest consideration. Eliminations in this round were quite painful! Books like **The Little Riders** and **Deitrich of Berne** went down. After these discussions we began balloting for first, second and third choice. As you know there is, since, 1934 a point system giving 4 points for 1st, 3 for 2nd and 2 for 3rd choice vote. A book must get 12 firsts to win and

have a lead of 12 points. Quite early the titles under consideration dwindled to ten. Between every few ballots members would speak in behalf of their favorite. When I went to Chicago I had no sure favorite, but by the last session I had settled on RASCAL and felt quite strongly about it. As ballots were taken those getting no first choices were dropped and so it went until long after midnight and on a ninth ballot the winner came out. I didn't forsake Rascal until the last ballot, but knowing it couldn't win—[it had stayed 2nd or 3rd for several ballots]—and because we **had** to make a decision I voted for **It's Like This, Cat.**

I do like it, but not as well as I do **Rascal.** Its appeal is greatest for Junior High. Thoughtful consideration reveals it is a perceptive story of a boy's growing to maturity and of a child's life in the second largest city in the world. For the non-New Yorker it makes more understandable how children do manage to live there.

I don't feel either responsible or defensive or sensitive about the choices. They were committee choices and each of us readily realizes not all librarians and children will like them. It is everyone's inalienable right not to! Working on the committee was an interesting, exciting and stimulating experience. This committee had a fine spirit and being a part of it was a joy — and I think I speak for the whole committee in saying I respect the choices we made, although one of us laughingly remarked "We'll go down in history as the cuckoo Newberry-Caldecott Committee!"



A Visit To Rocky Ridge Farm

by ZOLA IRWIN

The sign read TWO MILES TO MANSFIELD, MISSOURI. I began to feel a thrill of excitement . . . another large sign ahead VISIT THE LAURA INGLES WILDER HOME . . . then, before we noticed, we were at the top of a little hill and by the roadway that turned into the yard of **The House.**

The pictures I had seen came to life; white house with a stone fireplace, green lawn, and the flag fluttering from a bracket at the side of the house. I jumped out of the car rather hastily as I had my eyes on my watch. There didn't seem to be any one around. The door was closed, I began to get a sinking feeling and then some slight noise made me turn to the left, and for the first time I noticed a beautiful new home just a little distance up the hill. The door had opened and a woman stepped out carrying a bunch of keys which jangled as she walked. As she approached, I thought how much she resembled my aunt who had been my teacher in the first and second grades. She had the same pleasant and interested-in-life air about her.

"Would you like to see the Laura Ingalls Wilder home?" she asked.

"Indeed I would," I almost shouted. "I was afraid we might be too late."

"Oh, no," she said with a laugh, "we open up for people most any time."

We had gone through the gate, up the walk and onto the back porch. As she was unlocking the kitchen door, I noticed many articles on the back porch.

These included a wire chicken catcher, hay hooks, a hay knife, harness and assorted carpentry tools. Perhaps these would be used