

From 1996 Crandall Public Library Annual Report

## Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs

### **Mission**

Commitment to original research and documentation, special collections, cultural programs, and scholarly discussion on the living and historical heritage of the region with major support from the New York State Council on the Arts-Folk Arts Program.

### **Original Research & Documentation**

Warren County Tourism was funded by the Documentary Heritage Program to survey and inventory records of local tourism businesses, including summer camps, amusements, and dude ranches. DeGarmo presented an overview of the project to the NYS Folk Arts Roundtable in Syracuse. Consultant Ellen McHale and Todd DeGarmo presented a paper based on some of this research, *Ridin' High at the Dude Ranches of the southern Adirondacks*, at the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society in Pittsburgh.

Indian Camps information was collected from area families connected to these tourism destinations in Lake George, Saratoga Springs, and other sites in the late 19th century. The library received a State Archives and Records Administration Education grant to work with teachers on developing a curriculum kit in 1997. DeGarmo also presented findings on the Camps to various audiences this year: Historical Society of Saratoga Springs, NYS Archaeological Association, Adirondack Museum.

### **Archives & Special Collections**

Additions: In 1996, 168 titles were purchased at the cost of \$3,249.08.

Use: Staffed 15 hours per week (or a total of 742 hours), the Reading Room had 2,049 users, asking 1,718 reference questions, using 5,455 items, and making 8,746 copies.

Tours: Capital District Council-Documentary Heritage Program Advisory Committee, Southern Adirondack Library System, Saratoga History Roundtable, State Archives and Records Administration, Heritage Hunters, Moreau Community Center, Adirondack Community College, St. Mary's and Warrensburg school groups.

### **Arrangement & Description**

*A Guide to the Library's Archives*, funded by a State Archives and Records Administration Archives grant, was prepared by Albert Fowler with help from Katherine Chansky, Diane Jones, and Skidmore intern Donna Brunig. The guide provides access to the Library's institutional records.

The photograph collection, *Look Magazine: Glens Falls Hometown USA*, has been rehoused in acid-free materials, and detailed finding aids developed. Other collections receiving attention include Empire Theater records, Arthur Irving Papers, Holden

Scrapbooks, and assorted vertical files collections. Thanks to volunteers Betty Kearns, Lillian Beswick for their weekly efforts, and to Ben Maisel and Linzie Steinback from Camp Echo Lake for their help this summer.

### **Cultural Programs**

26 programs were presented at the Library to 1,296 people:

#### Folklife, Music, Dance & Storytelling (concerts & workshops)

Northern Melodies with George Wilson  
Bill Smith, storyteller & balladeer  
Cloudsplitter with Peggy Eyres & Dan Berggren  
Richard Brothers with Daddy Dick and Hugh

#### Folklife Lecture Series

Adirondack Discovery, in 5 parts: photographer Mark Kurts; scholar Ken Lawless; wildlife biologist Mark Brown; home movie maker Larry King; wolf advocate Nina Fascione.

Collecting Folk Songs of Inland Waters, 2 part series: *Canals* with George Ward, and *Lake Champlain* with Stan Ransom.

Jokes and Funny Stories: Musicians Joke Book with Dr. Nancy Groce; *Humor in Jewish American Stories* by Dr. Steve Zeitlin.

### **Exhibits/Displays**

#### Cubes throughout the Library

Adirondack Pack Basket by Jack Leadley  
Washington County Wool & Fiber Tour  
Christmas Tradition: Balsam Pillows  
Selections from the Old Childrens Book Collection  
Fishing Flies by Marc Francato  
Handcarved Noah's Ark by Tom Wilkins  
Halloween Memorabilia by Robert & Barbara Strangfeld

#### Folklife Gallery

American Cowboy (distributed by Library of Congress)  
Amusements, Summer Camps, Dude Ranches  
Documenting the Homefront

#### Reading Room

350th Anniversary of Father Jogues' Visit to Lake George  
(curated by Robert Nellis)  
Rustic Furniture by Barry Gregson