

Crandall Public Library's

Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs

1997 Annual Report

by Todd DeGarmo, Director of the Center

Mission

The Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs at Crandall Public Library is committed to original research and documentation, special collections, cultural programs and scholarly discussion on the living and historical heritage of the region. The Center helps to serve the library's mission of outreach as the Central Reference Library of the Southern Adirondack Library System.

Staffing

Director of the Center, Todd DeGarmo is full-time, professional staff and a department head. He has worked for the library since 1986, first as a consultant and later as staff folklorist. He is a doctoral candidate in American Studies, holds a masters in Anthropology, and has 11 years experience in research, grantsmanship, and public programming in folk arts. A board member of New York Folklore Society since 1990, Todd has served as President of the Board since 1996. He also serves as a member of the advisory committee to the Capital District Library Council's Documentary Heritage Program (1994-present), is a member of the Saratoga History Roundtable (1994-present), and is adjunct faculty, teaching one course each year in American Studies at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs.

Librarian/Archivist I, Albert Fowler, part-time professional staff, is helping with the daily operation of the Center's Reading Room, and with the organization of the archives and special collections. He has masters degrees in library science and history with over 20 years experience in both public and academic libraries/archives around the country. Albert is also part-time Regional Archivist for the Documentary Heritage Program at the Capital District Library Council (1996-present), and is a consultant for the Archives Project of the New York Folklore Society.

Reference Librarians, Bruce Cole, Diane Jones, Teri Weston and Judy Santoliquido help from time to time to cover the Center's Reading Room when primary Center staff are not available.

Interns, Spring 1997: Cecilia Bernard (Skidmore College), Bill Englert (Adirondack Community College).

Volunteers, Betty Kern and Lillian Beswick (each 2 hrs/wk all year).

Grants

This past year we received funding from the New York State Council on the Arts-Folk Arts Program (\$23,000), the Washington County Youth Bureau via the Southern Adirondack Library System (\$1200), Glens Falls Rotary Club (\$1000) Northeastern Geneological Society (\$50).

Original Research & Documentation

Special programs like *Warren County Tourism*, *Indian Camps and Upstate Tourism*, *Washington County Barn Tour* and ongoing programs like *Growing Up in the North Country*, *Regional Folk Art and Artists* generate fieldwork (slides, audio tapes, notes, objects and other materials) and program files (interpretative flyers, exhibition text, videos, and other materials) that become a permanent part of the Library's Archives and Special Collections.

Archives & Special Collections

Of special note: The Folklife Center was nominated for an award from the State Archives for excellence of an archives program in a public institution.

Additions

Holden Reference Collection:

\$3800 was spent from the Library's book budget on new titles in the subjects of local and regional history, folk arts and folklife studies, genealogy. In addition, 531 titles were donated, processed & added.

Archival Collections:

A major single donation this year has been the Elsa Steinback Collection, 20 cubic feet of books on local and regional history, Native American crafts and some manuscript materials, including a scrapbook of photographs by Seneca Ray Stoddard, apparently used to sell his images to tourists. Another 17 donations were added to the collections, including the papers of the Glens Falls Rotary Club.

Use:

The Reading Room, staffed 15 hours/week, had 2,269 users, asking 2,445 reference questions, using 5,863 items and making 6,658 photocopies.

A new information center highlights other repositories in the region.

Tours of the Center were given to Jackson Heights 5th grade, St. Mary's 8th grade, Saratoga History Roundtable, Cub Scouts, Glens Falls Seniors, Adirondack Community College students and library staff.

Arrangement & Description projects:

Richard Dean Photographs, Rotary Club records, scrapbooks, archival records of businesses and organizations, Look Magazine Glens Falls Hometown USA Collection, CPL architectural blueprints, Empire Real Estate and Theatre Company records, Arthur P. Irving Papers, serials, genealogical books reclassification, regional vertical files, Folklife collections.

Public Programs

Folklife, Music, Storytelling & Dance

(2 programs, 16 artists, 6 sessions, 331 participants)

A continuing series of public performances by traditional artists. Publicity includes press-releases, two-sided, three-fold interpretative flyers bulk mailed to targeted audience (approx. 2000); feature stories in local newspaper. Programs are usually videotaped for the library's archives.

A Bit of the Irish

- Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, with guests Rosemary Campbell (Irish stepdancer) and Bairbre McCarthy (storyteller)

concert: Friday, March 7, 7 pm
CPL Auditorium
170 participants

workshops: Saturday, March 8
Folklife Center
10 am: 32 participants
11 am: 32 participants

- Jeff Walton & Friends

concert: Friday, March 14, 7 pm
CPL Auditorium
31 participants (ice storm closes library, govt, banks)

workshops: Saturday, March 15
Folklife Center
10 am: 37 participants
11 am: 29 participants

Batt & Maura Burns from Ireland

(Ireland's master storyteller & wife, a traditional musician)

- Children's sessions

@ CPL Auditorium

9:00 am 75 participants (Sanford St School 2nd graders & others)

10:30 am 90 participants (Kensington 4th grade, Fort Ann 6th grade, +)

12 noon 100 participants (South Glens Falls 7th graders & others)

3:15 pm 30 participants (parents & kids)

- Evening Performance

@ Adirondack Community College's Scoville Learning Center Auditorium

7:00 pm 105 participants

Folklife Lectures

(2 programs, 2 scholars, 100 participants)

A continuing series of public lectures by scholars/authors on research related to folklife studies. Interpretative publicity flyers are bulk mailed to a targeted audience (approx 2000); introductions are made by the director of the Center; formal presentations are followed by questions from the audience, book signing and informal discussion; sessions are usually videotaped for the library's archives.

Local Memories of American Artists

- Remembering Grandma Moses
by Beth Moses Hickok
Wednesday, September 24, 7 pm
CPL Auditorium
48 participants
- Norman Rockwell at Home in Vermont
by Stuart Murray
Wednesday, October 1, 7 pm
CPL Auditorium
52 participants

Growing Up in the North Country

(3 programs, 4 artists, 13 sessions, 418 participants)

A continuing children's workshop series where local people share their own traditions in narrative/demonstration and participatory formats. Publicity includes press releases, articles in several area papers, 3 different interpretative flyers bulk mailed to targeted audience; sessions are usually videotaped. Handouts included soap recipes, woolens newsletter.

Soap, Everlastings & Woolens

Soap with Joanne Steele, Shushan Soap & Glass Works, Steele Ridge Farm

- Granville Library, Thursday, September 11, 7 pm 28 participants
- Fort Edward Library, Wednesday, September 17, 7 pm 33 participants
- Easton Library, Thursday, September 25, 7 pm 22 participants
- Crandall Public Library, Tuesday, September 30, 10 am 32 participants

Everlastings with Meg Southerland, Gardenworks @ MacClan Farms

- Cambridge School, (4th graders + teachers)
Monday, September 15, 12:30 & 1:30 pm 128 participants
- Argyle School, (6th graders + teachers)
Monday, September 22, 9 & 10 am 82 participants
- Crandall Public Library, Tuesday, September 23, 10 am 36 participants

Woolens with Ursula & Heidi DePaul, Cambridge Village Farm

- Whitehall Library, Wednesday, September 10, 7 pm 10 participants
- Hudson Falls Library, Monday, September 15, 7 pm 17 participants
- Crandall Public Library, Tuesday, September 16, 10 am 10 participants
- Greenwich Library, Wednesday, September 17, 3 pm 20 participants

Exhibits & Programs

Traditions on Ice: Fishing, Skating, Harvest

Integrated program for students and adults of the Thyme for Learning Homeschoolers, in cooperation with the Children's Department:

- Display (4 months)
 - Folklife Gallery (3 cases)
 - photographs and drawings, objects from CPL collections and loaned by individuals, & painting by Will Moses (of Cambridge) and taxidermed ice fish by Carl Brainard (of Warrensburg)
- Wilbur Clothier (guest speaker)
 - 85 year old, one-time ice harvester, Ice Pond, Corinth, Saratoga Co.
 - Monday, February 24, 10 am; for 30 participants
- Packet of materials (articles, first-hand accounts, bibliography)

Memory Art of Mildred Louise Covell Lloyd

- Display (June-present)
 - family scrapbooks, crazy quilt, photographs, etc.
- Opening Reception
 - 40+ participants
- Book Busters' Memory Tour
 - 4th grade summer reading club (12 participants)
 - looking at different ways to preserve memories:
 - scrapbooks (Mildred Lloyd—schoolteacher, Sig Sautelle—circus owner, Charles Garlen—baker),
 - folk art (quilt by Mildred Lloyd, model lumbersled by Howard Huntley, bearskin rug, shot by Walt Hastings, preserved by Joe Bruchac Sr.)
 - music (Dan Berggren's song about Alice, founder of the Minerva community chorus).

Peaveys, Pike Poles, and Pickaroons:

Moving Logs from Stump to Mill in the Adirondacks

travelling display of photographs and Adirondack folk music developed in cooperation with officials from the Warrensburg office of Department of Environmental Conservation; sites travelled:

- Family Forest Fair, Greenwich (June)
- Saratoga County Fair, Ballston Spa (July)
- Warren County Youth Fair, Warrensburg (August)
- Washington County Fair, Greenwich (August)
- Chapman Museum's Lumbering Festival, Glens Falls (September)

Fine Art: rehang paintings, prints and photographs from the Special Collections in various locations around around the Library; investigate security options.

"Folklife Cubes" around the Library

- Chainsaw carved Bear by Bob Sutliff (Hudson Falls, Washington Co)
 - with over 200 kids participating in a "help-name-the-bear contest":
 - Cranberry Mocha Timberwood-Brown (called "Brownie")
- Handcarved Noah's Ark by Tom Wilkins (Fort Ann, Washington Co)
- Pysanky in Easter Basket by Marge Prehoda (Granville, Washington Co)
- Sheep & Fiber Farm Tour (Washington Co)
- Bird Carvings by Bob Jones (Cleverdale, Warren Co)
- Adirondack Guide-Boat Model by David Kavner (Keene, Essex County)
- Soap, Everlastings, & Woolens by Washington Co women (see Programs)

Special Projects

Washington County Barn Tour: Histories & Restoration Strategies

Saturday, May 17, 10 - 4 pm during National Historic Preservation Week, with Washington County Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; 3-fold Flyer; several newspaper feature articles; participant surveys; Visited 8 Sites, 10 Speakers (builder & owners), 50+ participants; plans for town-by-town barn survey in 1998.

Folklore and the Internet

Folk Arts Forums cosponsored by New York Folklore Society; Wednesday, October 8, 10 - 3 pm at the Folklife Center and CPL; presentation & sources by Mark Roberts and Todd DeGarmo for 30 participants; presentation at American Library Assoc mtg 1999.

Warren County Tourism: Amusements, Dude Ranches, and Summer Camps

Publication pending on this project funded Documentary Heritage Program to survey and inventory records of local tourism businesses; co-authored by Ellen McHale, Albert Fowler and Todd DeGarmo.

Indian Camps and Upstate Tourism

Curriculum kit pending, funded by the State Archives and Records Administration, based on local research by Todd DeGarmo with help of an advisory group including Mary Zwolinsky, Nancy Scheemaker, and area teachers.

Folklorist Presentations

Indian Camps and Upstate Tourism,

at the Conference on New York State History, Skidmore College, June 6.

- 200 professionals at conference
- featured with 3 photographs in *Albany Times Union* article

Folklore in an Archives at the Lake Ontario Archives Conference, SUNY-Fredonia, June 13; 40 archivists at conference.

Additional Professional Services

Participation

- guest host, Saratoga History Roundtable meeting, Glens Falls, April 9.
- Archives Partnership Trust annual meeting luncheon, Albany, May 8.
- student at two internet workshops: Introduction to the World Wide Web and Archival Resources on the Internet, SUNY-Albany, May 9.
- 12th Annual New York State Folk Arts Roundtable, Syracuse, May 21-23.
- 1997 Fall Conference, New York Folklore Society, Seneca Falls, September 5-6.
- selection committee, New York Folk Arts Mentoring Program of the New York Folklore Society, Fall 1997.

Guest appearance on local TV 8 program, *Senior Scene*, emphasizing Fall 1997 Folklife Programs and Barn Survey in 1998, as part of live, hour-long feature on Crandall Public Library, October 22, 1997.

General Services: to help those interested in folk arts by providing names of artists and programming suggestions to individuals and organizations, including Sagamore Institute, Vermont Folklife Center, Saratoga Springs Public Library, etc.