

Friends of Kentucky Libraries

INCORPORATED

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NEWSLETTER

Mrs. John Davenport, President

Our new president has had a wide and varied background. Born of Philadelphia Quaker and Scotch ancestry, her father, Vice-Admiral James E. Keys, U.S.A.N., was stationed in the Canal Zone at Colon when she was born, but moved to various other stations and England before returning to this country.

Gwen Keys graduated from Vassar College, majoring in drama and English. After graduation she worked as a copywriter.

She married John A. Davenport, a business executive, and settled in Louisville. They have three children all of whom are now engaged in careers of their own, but keep in close touch with their parents.

While looking after her family, she wrote "A Soldier Not Afraid," a novel, published in 1943. Her best-known work is "Mr. Belvedere," a novel which was later put on the stage and then on the movie screen under the title, "Sitting Pretty." It is still sometimes on a late show, on television. The story gave a delightfully humorous picture of life in an ordinary family in Suburbia.

Mrs. Davenport also wrote "The Tall Girls' Handbook" and numerous magazine stories which she sandwiched in between work for civic organizations, the main one being reading for recording for the blind.

As vice-president of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Incorporated, she made a trip in a bookmobile working out of the Louisa library. Recently, she made another trip to visit with the newly-formed library group operating a bookmobile out of Booneville in Owsley County. She brings an open and sympathetic mind and will be a great help to us.

The Newsletter salutes her!

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Mrs. Garnett Bale, An Appreciation

Joy Bale is aptly named. During her term as president, recently ended, she was our leader and our joy. It is a pleasure to express gratitude and appreciation for her work for this organization and mention the dedication, charm, enthusiasm and friendliness which have widened her already wide circle of friends.

Here is a thumb-nail sketch of her life and work, as a small gesture of affection. She is a resident of Elizabethtown, though born in Chicago. As you probably know, she is the wife of a doctor and the mother of six children as well as a poet of note, a book-reviewer of wide reputation, and since 1963, publisher of the quarterly, "Approaches" which prints many otherwise unprinted Kentucky poets

as well as quite a few well-known poets of this state. She herself is listed as a poet in "Who's Who of American Women" and other reference books, though any of her readers do not need further proof. She has twice edited "Contemporary Kentucky Poets," a collection published in connection with Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Incorporated. (1964, 1967.)

Her book reviews are often found on the book page of the Sunday Courier-Journal. Like most poets, she writes lively prose. She has appeared on television and radio numerous times, often on Lure of the Library. Last year, she gave reviews, also, on Educational Television.

Do you think you are busy? Just scan her activities and appreciate all your free time! Beside being wife and mother, poet and editor, she has been, among other things, secretary of the Recreation Department in Elizabethtown, member of the Kentucky Association for Mental Health of which she was president, 1959-60; chairman of Library Week for the state from 1962-67; vice-president of Kentucky Citizens for Child Welfare, 1956-59; consultant for Kentucky Council of Human Relations; member, League of Women Voters of which she was local president, 1944-46, and Kentucky president, 1947-50, president of the Elizabethtown P.T.A., 1943-44. In addition she was our own president, of course.

Mrs. Bale has received many honors including the Sullivan Medallion, a high honor from University of Kentucky, in fact the highest given by that college. (1969.)

She has recently been assuming duties on a radio program in Elizabethtown. No doubt she has a hand in many other activities. She is a living example of the old saying, "If you want to get something done, ask a busy person to do it." Her boundless energy and sparkling health as well as her vast enthusiasm explain how one person can juggle so many careers and do more than justice to them all.

This is part of the vote of thanks which we all owe to her. From the presidency, she goes to the Board of Directors for the coming three years. We expect to continue to see her often.

Mrs. Clo Era Sewell, Retired

Clo Era Sewell, long a librarian in the Regional Library of the Valley of the Parks, London, has recently retired and is now living in Mexico. We hope she is enjoying her new home and new freedom. If you wish to write to her, use the following address: Apartado Postal 362, Aguas Calientes, Ajo, Mexico.

Report on Mini-Demonstration, Owsley County

Report on book circulation for two of the early months in the life of the book-mobile in Owsley County:

Month	Number of Books Circulated
September	986
November	1,769

These figures represent success against odds and show that much work has gone into the project. Congratulations to the County and to Mrs. Ruby Gibson, Bookmobile-Librarian, who really started from nothing and worked her way up fast! People of the county had to be assured that the service was free. Often, when starting work on a new route, she had to visit each home to tell the residents about the service.

There was a good reason against continuing to keep the non-circulating books in the extra bookmobile parked on the square in the center of town. The Library Board of Owsley County has succeeded in renting a room for \$300 a year in a motel located just off the square. The room contains sufficient room for storage space and also a small closet (now a work room) and bathroom facilities. The room, itself, 12x 15, has bookshelves all around the walls, all jammed with books waiting to take trips in the bookmobile. While this is not an ideal solution of the problem, it does get the books and the librarian helpers out of the cold and off the street and provides them with running water. It is hoped that it means just one more step in the direction of a permanent library to back up the bookmobile.

Mrs. Jewell Thomas, Wolfe County, who is helping Booneville when she has a spare moment, when asked what the Owsley County library now stands most in need of suggested record, hymns and country music, preferably, as the most likely to be appreciated. Music would round out the collection since the bookmobile is now full of books and has several framed prints. (More would be welcome - framed prints of well-known masterpiececes or money to purchase them.)

The real need of Booneville, however, is a fire truck. The library is always in danger of fire until one exists. The city fathers are aware of the danger of living without protection against fire and have located a second-hand fire truck they can buy and repair for \$600. Fortunately, there is water available to service it quite near the library-motel room. Anyone have a good used truck or want to buy this one for Booneville?

More reports from Booneville will be given as events happen.

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Memorial Gift

Copy of a letter received from Mr. R. L. White, President, Crittenden County Library Board, Marion Kentucky, addressed to Marjorie Smith, Publicity Secretary, whose mother, Mrs. Maysie C. Smith, and grandmother, Mrs. Robert Coffield, were born and lived in Marion

"Your memorial gift of a set of the New Encyclopedia of Gardening has been received and we are indeed grateful. Our Bookmobile Librarian, Mrs. Gustava McDonald, has many calls for such books and has asked that she be permitted to carry them on the bookmobile. We assure you that these books will be most useful and are a welcome addition to our library."

Watch for This!

Later this month, you will receive, enclosed in a mailing from the Department of Libraries' "Miscellany" a copy of the American Library Association's Washington Newsletter to inform you on the current status of the national library scene in Congress. This information concerns us all.