



# SHORTGRASS CLIPPINGS

Room 219, Provincial Building, 770 - 6<sup>th</sup> st. S.W.,

Medicine Hat, Alta., T1A 4J6

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AUTHOR TOUR - JOHN CHARYK

John Charyk, the Hanna author of "Syrup Pails and Gopher Tails" will begin his tour of the Shortgrass region in Bassano on Wednesday, November 19th, from there he will go on to Brooks, Duchess and Medicine Hat. On the Thursday, he will be in Rolling Hills. Foremost, Redcliff and Ralston. Mr. Charyk will make a slide presentation and will also talk about his experiences during his early school years.

Shortgrass is very pleased to be able to present Mr. Charyk to the people in the area. Once the Shortgrass System is in operation, it is expected that this type of presentation will be made on an annual or semi-annual basis, giving everyone an opportunity to greet and meet the many Alberta authors who have entertained and informed Albertans for many years.

The cost for this first Author Tour is being borne by Shortgrass, in addition, a Tour Kit is also being sent to every library in the area regardless whether the author is touring that community or not. Again, the cost of the Kits is a Shortgrass expenditure. This type of presentation is just one of the many services that will be provided once the System is operational in 1987.

## TILLEY BOARD MEETS SHORTGRASS

For the first time, the Tilley Library board met with Bonnie Gray and Cliff Dacre of the Shortgrass staff. This was the first meeting of Tilley and Shortgrass. After a lengthy discussion on the advantages and disadvantages, the Tilley board decided to study the information about the Shortgrass Project before making a decision on the matter.

## MEDICINE HAT COUNCIL TO DECIDE LATER

Wayne Craven, the Chairman of the Medicine Hat Library Board went before the Medicine Hat City Council on September 15th, 1986 to explain that board's position on the Shortgrass System. Wayne commented to the council that if Medicine Hat does not follow the lead of other centres in the province, then the city library and the other communities within Shortgrass will be left out for some years to come. As it was not expected that the city council would make a decision at the first presentation, the matter of Medicine Hat joining the Shortgrass System was left to a date after the civic election in October. In the meantime the facts and figures have been left with the Finance Committee for further study and comment.

## M. D. OF CYPRESS TO DECIDE IN OCTOBER

Tuesday, Sept. 16th was the date set for Shortgrass to meet with the members of the Municipal District of Cypress #1 council. In late June the council advised the Shortgrass staff to set up meetings with residents, the results and comments from the meetings were forwarded to the Cypress council. At Tuesday's meeting, Cliff Dacre, Bonnie Gray and Vilma Brost used these comments in support of the Shortgrass Project. The main concerns of some of the councillors was the present and future use of the existing libraries by the residents and the cost to each resident when the System is operational. A decision on the Shortgrass Library Project proposal to the M.D. of Cypress #1 will be made at its next meeting on Oct. 7th.

# SHORTGRASS FALL WORKSHOP

All is in readiness for the Fall Workshop to be held at the Medicine Hat Lodge on October 18th. During the course of the day three presentations will be made. By this time all boards in the southeast part of the Province will have received the registration form for the Workshop. Please make every effort to attend and to inform the Shortgrass office of your intentions.

Along with the boards and personnel of the Shortgrass area, invitations have also been sent out to the boards in southwest Alberta.

The following is a recap of the sessions to be presented:

- 8:30 - Registration
- 9:00 - AUTOMATED NETWORKING IN REGIONAL SYSTEMS - Rowena Lunn of the Marigold System will talk about the MARSHAN System, why it was implemented and what is expected of it.
- 10:30 - MICRO COMPUTERS IN SMALL LIBRARIES - Catherine Williams of SAIT will explain the practical application of the micro computer in Alberta libraries.
- 12:00 - Lunch
- 1:30 - SCHOOL AND PUBLIC LIBRARY CO-OPERATION - Barbara Clubb of Alberta Culture Library Services takes a look at the formal co-op structures between schools and library systems and what the future holds.

## AN INVITATION TO MEET THE ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

In addition to the Workshop on Friday, October 17th at the Medicine Hat Lodge, the Shortgrass Steering Committee invites board members, library staff and municipal officials to meet the members of the Alberta Library Board. The ALB is an advisory board to the Minister of Culture on matters relating to the expansion, development, co-ordination and encouragement of libraries and library systems in Alberta.

## Invitation cont'd:

The board also promotes communication among groups in the library community by providing mechanisms such as workshops, forums, conferences, briefs, and position papers through which individuals and groups can discuss library development.

If you are concerned about the future of libraries in Alberta, this would be an opportune time to make your point to the members of the Alberta Library Board. A Wine and Cheese reception will be held at the Medicine Hat Lodge to enable the ALB to receive your remarks and comments concerning library funding, library assistance, system development and so forth. Make a point to meet the Alberta Library Board Friday, October 17th at 8:00 p.m. at the Medicine Hat Lodge.

## SHORTGRASS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Over the past few months there have been changes to the membership on some of the library boards. Of particular interest is the loss of Larry Hurton on the Bow Island Library board. Larry has been very active in not only promoting the activities and functions of the Bow Island Library, but he has also been very supportive in promoting the Shortgrass Library Project. Larry and his family have taken up new residence in Fenelon Falls in Ontario.

Although Bill Olson had not been on the interim board representing Redcliff Library Board very long, he has been a help in assisting the Steering Committee in forming a Personnel Policy for Shortgrass. Bill has been transferred to Edmonton, his involvement has been very helpful.

Replacing Bill as the interim board member on the Redcliff Board is Margaret Dutton who has been a member of the Redcliff Library Board for six years. Along with Margaret, we also welcome Joan Ennis as a member of the Redcliff Library Board to the Shortgrass Steering Committee.

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## IRVINE LIBRARY OPERATIONAL AGAIN

With enthusiasm and excitement, the Irvine library is once again operational in that community. After a hiatus of about six months the library is once again set up in its original building. The board is very enthusiastic that it can provide a variety of programmes and many hours of reading pleasure to the residents of town.

In early August, Bonnie Gray and Cliff Dacre visited the board to familiarize the board members with the benefits of the Shortgrass Project. After

explaining this and presenting the "Within Our Reach" videotape, the board members of the Irvine Public Library unanimously accepted the Shortgrass Plan of Service. The next step is the town council presentation which was held in early September.

With the acceptance of the Irvine Board, this makes six the number of boards to approve the Plan of Service. The Steering Committee of the Shortgrass Project is appreciative of the enthusiasm that the Irvine board displayed at this meeting.

## SHORTGRASS VISITS THE SMALL COMMUNITIES

At a late Spring meeting with the M.D. of Cypress, the Shortgrass Steering Committee was advised that in order for the Cypress council to know what the residents feel about library service, that the small communities should be visited and advised of the benefits of the System and to also get feedback from the residents.

During July and August Bonnie Gray and Cliff Dacre met with the residents of the suggested communities.

The first meeting was held in Hilda where there is already a book depository in the Hilda Community Hall. The residents present at the meeting were very interested in what Shortgrass could offer them. There was also interest in obtaining more books for the depository and also providing information about the possibility of including the school in the System. As was the case in all of the communities, a letter of encouragement was presented to the citizens to sign in order to let the councillors know that there is interest in improved library service in the M. D. of Cypress.

## SHORTGRASS cont'd:

The two communities of Ralston and Suffield were visited next to explain the advantages of joining the Shortgrass System. The results of this meeting were encouraging and Cliff and Bonnie left confident that the citizens of these two communities and surrounding district would support the Shortgrass System when the presentation is made to the M.D. of Cypress.

The audience in Seven Persons was most attentive and quite concerned about the lack of library service in the community. There was assurance that the residents of the hamlet and the surrounding area would have easy access to library service in both Medicine Hat and Bow Island when the Shortgrass System becomes operational.

The next meeting was held in Schuler the following week. It was encouraging to have all of those in attendance sign the letter. Again, those people in attendance were assured that not only would they be able to use the Hilda depository but they would also be able to make use of the Medicine Hat library and any other member library in the Shortgrass area.

The last meeting was held in Walsh where the audience was most receptive of the Shortgrass proposal. They went away in the expectation of having easier access to library services from Irvine and Medicine Hat.

On two occasions, Cliff was accompanied by Sandra Macdonell, the Shortgrass secretary in the absence of Bonnie who had to spend some time at her home office in Edmonton. This gave Sandra an opportunity to meet with interested citizens and it also gave the residents of the various communities a chance to meet the Shortgrass staff.

The results of these meetings have been presented to the councillors of the Municipal District of Cypress. The results of that meeting are printed on page one of this Newsletter.



SHORTGRASS COMMITTEE MEETS IN FOREMOST

Foremost was the location for the early fall meeting of the Steering Committee on September 13. The members were given an update of the progress of the Project and what to expect in the next few months. At present seven library boards have accepted the Plan of Service and two councils have been committed to contribute to the System. The Shortgrass staff is now working on obtaining approval from the other four councils. The projected target date for start-up of the Shortgrass Library System is July of next year. It was stated that three councils will be approached within the next two weeks to get input and approval for the Project.

An ongoing duty of the staff and executive is updating the Goals & Objectives and at the Foremost meeting these were reviewed and changes were made to keep this information current. The sub-contract for resource sharing was also reviewed and the final draft of this document between the future Shortgrass Library board and the Medicine Hat Library board was approved by those in attendance. Also concerning the Medicine Hat Library, a presentation was made dealing with a study to be undertaken to determine a system to use in the conversion of the Medicine Hat Library and Brooks Library from card system to computerized cataloguing.

The inclusion of school libraries in the Shortgrass System was a concern of members. A committee will be struck to look into the feasibility of school involvement and to determine whether or not schools should be involved, and if so, how and when they should be approached.

All library boards within the Shortgrass region are advised that the next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held at the Medicine Hat Library on Saturday, November 15th, 1986. Travel and meal subsidies will be provided. Make a note of the date and plan to attend this important meeting.

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The next issue of "Shortgrass Clippings" will be printed in November.

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Shortgrass Clippings is published by the Shortgrass Library Project six times annually - February, April, June, August, October and December.

"Shortgrass Clippings" purpose is to keep the library trustees, libraries and all interested parties informed of the developments within the boundaries of southeast Alberta. The opinions expressed are not necessarily endorsed by the Shortgrass Library Project.

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