

Obituary

BILL CHAPE, formerly City Librarian of Perth, died suddenly of a heart attack on Saturday, 3 November 1979.

This is a personal recollection because I, like many librarians and others, held Bill in a great deal of affection and respect. For 20 years until his retirement he was the 'father' of the public librarians working in Western Australia: by age, by experience, by his willingness to support and advise his younger colleagues.

Bill Chape had a long and varied career. He entered librarianship in the Depression years of the 1930s working in what was still the pioneer era in county libraries in Britain. As a master raconteur, Bill told some of his best stories about early days in British public libraries: about poverty-stricken junior assistants, about his first Library Association Conference with august Chief Librarians in top hats and tails, about pet lambs leaving their mark inside mobile libraries, about dedicated librarians who could say (and mean it) 'we have the best job in the world, Mr Chape: we have books and we have people'.

Bill developed an early passion for flying, joining the RAF Volunteer Reserve and being trained as a pilot before World War II. Again, more stories about the difficulties he had persuading selectors that with a 5'3" body and short legs he could pilot a Wellington Bomber (with a thick cushion behind!), about flying the North Atlantic for five years with Coastal Command, about the year of trying to fly aircraft fitted with strange experimental devices for the Boffins at Malvern.

He finished the war as a Squadron Leader, had meanwhile married Beatrice (Beattie), who was a WAAF equipment assistant, and they found that going back to the Cumberland County library was just too mundane. So they headed for the tropics, Bill spending periods of employment in Buenos Aires with the British Council Library, in Jamaica with the Caribbean Library Service.

Then Bill was appointed by F.A. Sharr as the first Circulation Librarian with the fledgling Library Service of Western Australia, joining the little band of pioneers at 11 Havelock Street in Perth. As a Yorkshireman, he was a little out of place in a group which became known throughout Australia as 'little Manchester', but this was not his reason for



Bill Chape

Photo: West Australian Newspapers

later accepting an appointment as the first City Librarian of Perth.

More pioneering: converting the old Perth Literary Institute into a City Library, then planning and seeing into construction the present service of Central Library and three branch libraries, all in rapid succession. Bill was justifiably proud of the fact that Perth was the first capital City Council in Australia to plan and build a Central Library in the city block.

After all this pioneering life Bill slowed down in later years – and why not? He had achieved a great deal, but all public librarians will agree that there is a constant and heavy demand on one's energy and enthusiasm to maintain support for the library service from those holding the purse-strings, and it is the exceptional person who does not run out of steam by retirement. As a former public librarian I found Bill full of mental energy and ideas to the end, and will particularly treasure the several LAA conferences which we shared.

After our first Conference, Bill and I spent a week visiting Victorian public libraries. I drove, we covered 2000 miles. Bill told marvellous stories for the whole distance, and never repeated himself. I'm certain that since 3 November, work has ground to a halt in Heaven while Bill re-tells all his stories!

Cecil Florey

WHAT'S IN . . . contents of Australian librarianship journals

AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL LIBRARIES NEWS (ASLN) v12, no3, September 1979. Edited by Eve Ahearn, PO Box 184, North Ryde, NSW 2113.

Managing Special Libraries under Financial Stress: the role of budgeting, cost analysis and evaluation by Prof Melvin Weinstock;

Managing Special Libraries in Times of Financial and Staffing Cuts by Diana Higgins; Politics and Economics; their impact on Library/Information Services by Gabrielle Watt;

Profiles of the Specials: CSIRO Dairy Research Laboratory Library by Susan Collins.

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL LIBRARIAN v16, no3, Spring 1979. Edited by Berres Colville, SLAV, Box 280, East Melbourne, Vic 3002.

SLAV Organisation and Aims;

SLAV Council;

Introduction by Wesley Young;

SLAV Policy on Staffing.

Reprints of SLAV Policy on Staffing 1979 are available from SLAV, Box 280, East Melbourne, Vic 3002. Price \$2.00.

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES (AARL) v10, no4, December 1979. Edited by D.H. Borchardt, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Vic 3083.

Leonard Jolley – articles by H.E. Hallam, R.O. MacKenna, D.H. Borchardt and H. Bryan, Jean Hagger and B.M. Hale;

British to the Core by John McKinlay;

Australian University Library Reports by D.M. Myers;

The Problems of Australian University Medical Libraries by Ann Harrison;

Contemporary Issues in the Economics of Australian Academic Libraries by John R. Brockman and Jane E. Klobas;

Reporting Europe by Ivan Page;

The Place of Ausinet in Technical Information Services by R. Price, L. Gough, H. Newton and P. Thomas;

Distance Education and the CIAE Library by Margaret Appleton and Neville Meyers;

IFLA 45th Council Meeting and Congress by D.H. Borchardt;

Alternative Futures? Canberra 1979 by Eric Wainwright.

Inter-library loan form

RESPONSE to the new Standard Inter-Library Loan Form has been most encouraging – 502,000 sets have been sold to 260 libraries as at the end of November, and another 70,000 are expected to have been sold before a revised printing is made.

The Technical Sub-committee on the Inter-Library Loan Form has received a number of suggestions for improving the form, most of which are being recommended for incorporation in the next production run.

Any suggestions for incorporation in the next revision should be made to a member of the sub-committee as soon as possible. The members are: Patricia Cawley (Murdoch University Library), Elizabeth Davie (CSIRO Central Library), Elizabeth Feeney (Queensland Institute of Technology Library), Mary-Ann Larkin (Bankstown Municipal Library), Frances Lemmes (State Library of New South Wales), Anne Mattay (State Library of Tasmania), Dianne Reilly (State Library of Victoria), Peter Simmenauer (Swinburne College of Technology Library (Convenor)), Beth Stone (National Library of Australia), Elizabeth Witton (State Library of South Australia), and Robyn Young (Darwin College Learning Resources Centre).

Peter Simmenauer

International relations group

LAST year members of the LAA China Library Study Tour Delegation voted to call on LAA General Council to investigate the possibility of the establishment of an International Relations Special Interest Group as a formal body within the Association.

The establishment of the Group has now been approved by General Council. If you would like to support this Group please send your names and addresses to John Barclay, c/o School of Librarianship, University of New South Wales, PO Box 1, Kensington, NSW 2033.

New position for SA

A LETTER in *AustLibJ* no20, 7 December 1979, stated that, at the time of writing, it was not known whether a Director of the newly formed Public Libraries Division of the South Australia Department of Local Government would be appointed.

It is now reported that a Chief Librarian of the PLD will be appointed with the status of Executive Officer Grade 1. The appointee will be responsible to the Director of the Department of Local Government.

STOP PRESS

February 7 LAA Special Libraries Section Vic Group AGM 6pm AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS, 49 EXHIBITION ST. Open forum discussion. Light refreshments. Contact: Henry Thorburn (03) 541 0811 ext 2317.
February 12 LAA Special Libraries Section NSW (Group) MEETING 5.30 for 6pm HERBARIUM LIBRARY, MRS MIAIC-QUARIE'S RD, BOTANIC GARDENS (ENT OFF ART GALLERY RD) Lecture and tour of library by Librarian Anna Whitten. Contact: David Hawkins (02) 217 5006.
February 12 VALA (Victorian Association for Library Automation) MEETING CAVAL on the brink of the 80s 5.30 for 6pm STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA THEATRETTE Speaker: Hans Groenewegen (Director, CAVAL). Contact: George Eichinski (03) 341 2335.
February 19 LAA NSW Branch SPECIAL OPEN MEETING Looking for members' comments on LAA General Council Agenda for the Feb meeting. 6 for 6.30pm GALLERIES, STATE LIBRARY OF NSW. Enquiries: Marea Terry (02) 692 2888, 89 4652 (ah) or Pat Ward (02) 30 691918, 371 7394 (ah).