



THE CONNECTOR

The Connecticut State Library Newsletter
www.cslib.org

IN THIS ISSUE...

[Under Construction](#)

[Merritt Parkway WPA
Watercolor Found](#)

[How Reliable Is It?](#)

[The Case of the
Mysterious Connecticut
Farm](#)

[With None of the
Spectacular](#)

[Still Beautiful at 70](#)

[Mighty, Mighty Hartford](#)

[User-Friendly, That's Us](#)

[A Few of My Favorite
Things](#)

[Read To Me](#)

[Milestone: Bonnie Delaney](#)

[Library Hours](#)

[Directions/Parking](#)

[Ask a Reference Question](#)

[New and Noteworthy](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

October 2008, Vol. 10, No. 4

From the State Librarian

Under Construction

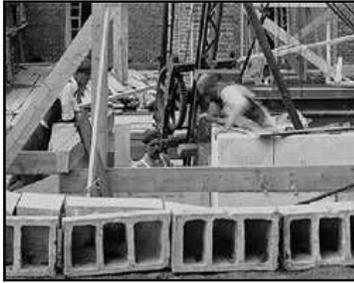
As noted elsewhere in this issue, it was 100 years ago that work began on the State Library and Supreme Court Building. The building represented a major advance in meeting the information needs of State Government and the people of Connecticut. It also represented a major financial commitment by the State.

Today the State Library is at the threshold of another major advance in meeting the information needs of state government, students, and the general citizenry.

The prevalence of the Internet, the World Wide Web, and the exponential growth of digital publishing and electronic government (e-government) all present challenges and opportunities for the State Library.

The State Library must seize the moment and build digital collections and online services that provide the citizens of the state with the same long term, comprehensive access to the historical record as has been achieved in the State Library's tangible library, museum and archival collections.

The challenges are many, but key among them are developing systems to capture and preserve current and future government information that is created only in digital form, i.e. born digital. It is also critical to create digital surrogates for those resources that only exist in tangible form.



Under construction, 1908

To build what I will call the Virtual Connecticut State Library will take the creation of bits and bytes instead of bricks and mortar; skilled librarians and technical staff instead of laborers and

craftsmen; and a technical infrastructure as state-of-the-art as was the State Library and Supreme Court building when it first opened in 1910.

Connecticut Patents Project

Eventually, this database will include all patents issued to residents of the state of Connecticut, from the first decade of the 19th century to 1900. Due to the destruction by fire of the early records, the items patented prior to 1836 are sparse and incomplete. The current database of Connecticut patents ranges from 1800 through 1890.

Each patent record includes:

1. Item being patented
2. Person or persons receiving the patent
3. Residence of the above
4. Issue date of patent
5. Patent number
6. A "notes" field containing miscellaneous information, including the name of the patent holder, other than the "patentee"
7. A numerical "subject code" which places each patent in a category; i.e. firearms, machinery, tools, musical, time pieces, etc. There are currently 44 different codes assigned.

Patents awarded to non-Connecticut residents have been included in the database if the patent was assigned to a Connecticut resident, company or business.

Invention	<input type="text"/>	e.g., stove
Inventor's Last Name	<input type="text"/>	e.g., Smith
Year	<input type="text"/>	e.g., 1842
Town	<input type="text"/>	e.g., Hartford
State	<input type="text"/>	e.g., CT
Code	<input type="text"/>	e.g., 15
Patent Number	<input type="text"/>	e.g., 002447



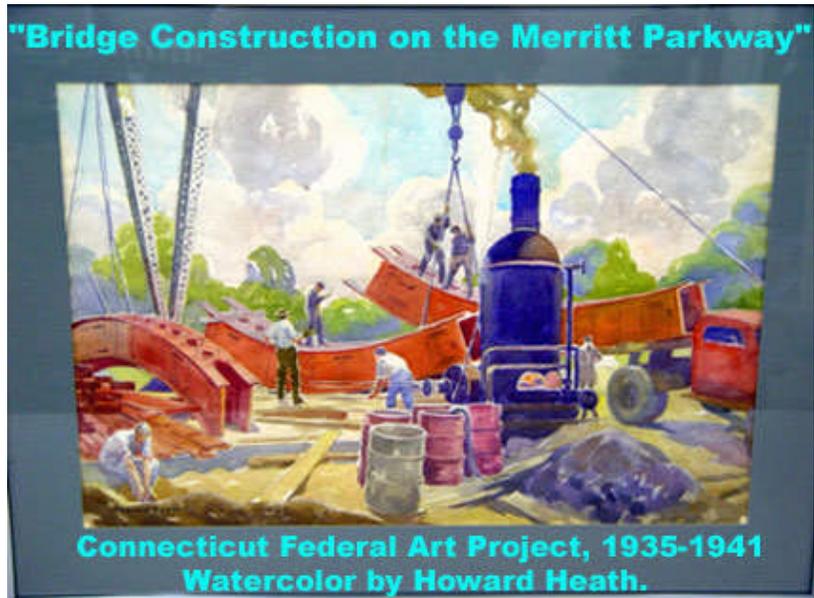
Such a virtual library will not replace the existing traditional print and object collections of the State Library, Archives and Museum; nor will it replace on-site access. But it will break down many of the existing barriers to access (hours of operation, parking, and non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)). The Virtual Connecticut State Library will provide citizens with cutting-edge discovery, visualization and access tools supported by professional staff.

The cornerstone of a Virtual State Library will be an e-Government Program, a Digital Collections Program, a Virtual Museum and an ongoing Web Presence Development Program.

The ground has been broken and the work begun, but over the next several years the State Library will have to find the political support and financial resources to complete the task. --By Kendall Wiggin

Merritt Parkway WPA Watercolor Found

By Mark Jones, State Archivist



It's very gratifying, but difficult, to find any of the artwork created in Connecticut under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The watercolor above was one of the missing Merritt Parkway Series of eleven watercolors.

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the opening of the first 14 miles of the Merritt Parkway, which is described elsewhere in this publication. In 1938, the Merritt was the largest public works project in Connecticut's history and was the first median divided highway built in the state. Before the opening ceremony, a WPA artist named Howard Heath completed a Merritt Parkway Series of eleven watercolors. The watercolors were transferred to the Stamford Town Hall in 1938. After that, no one knows what happened to the series.[1]

The Museum of Connecticut History in the State Library was able to acquire one Heath watercolor when it suddenly reappeared. This particular Heath watercolor of Merritt Parkway bridge construction had been, for some unspecified period of time, in the possession of an unknown state agency. That state agency eventually sent the painting to State Surplus in Wethersfield. When the Museum learned that several

WPA works of art were available at surplus, they purchased the Merritt Parkway work and others for \$5.00.

Fortunately, random chance led to the watercolor's preservation. We have black and white prints of some of Heath's Merritt Parkway Watercolor Series, but the Museum's copy is the only one extant that shows the vibrant colors.

How many other WPA works of art lay abandoned in unvisited storage rooms?

For the past year, the State Archives has been creating a digital database of information about 160 artists who worked for the Connecticut Federal Art Project (FAP), 1935-42. The FAP documented all the individual works created by artists engaged by the project, and it was not until the State Archives began tabulating all of this data that the scope of the FAP became apparent. During the seven years of the Connecticut FAP, over 5000 works of art were created.

This new database of FAP records is part of the ongoing State Library's Works Progress Administration (WPA) Art Inventory. The purpose of the inventory is to locate WPA artwork still existent in the state. The records of the FAP are part of the State Archives Record Group 033, "The Works Progress Administration", and include administrative reports, artist's work cards, allocation cards, and photographs for the one or more pieces of art created by 90 of the artists.

Unfortunately, only a small percentage of the 5,000 works were "allocated" to public and private institutions in Connecticut. Thus, the database will facilitate identification, but it will be very challenging to discover the fate of the total inventory.

Identifying and finding any of the WPA art produced in Connecticut will be significant for our state's cultural history. The inventory project is also assembling detailed biographical files for most of the 160 artists which, staff hopes, will serve the art and cultural historian community

in the future.

Heath was born in Boulder, Colorado on October 2, 1879. He completed three years of high school and went on to study at the Colorado Springs Art School, the Denver Art School, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Art Students League in New York City. While he was in Chicago, he worked as an illustrator for the Chicago Tribune. For the WPA, Heath completed around 192 easel paintings and block prints and 2 murals.

[1] Queries to the Town of Stamford failed to locate the watercolors. There are few, if any, persons alive who knew that these paintings ever hung in the old town hall.

--Editor's Note: Ironically, for someone with roots in Colorado, he lived in Silvermine, Connecticut when he created the watercolor series. Silvermine was an artists' colony in Norwalk, Connecticut.

For further information, contact Mark Jones at 860 757-6511 or mjones@cslib.org

How Reliable Is It?

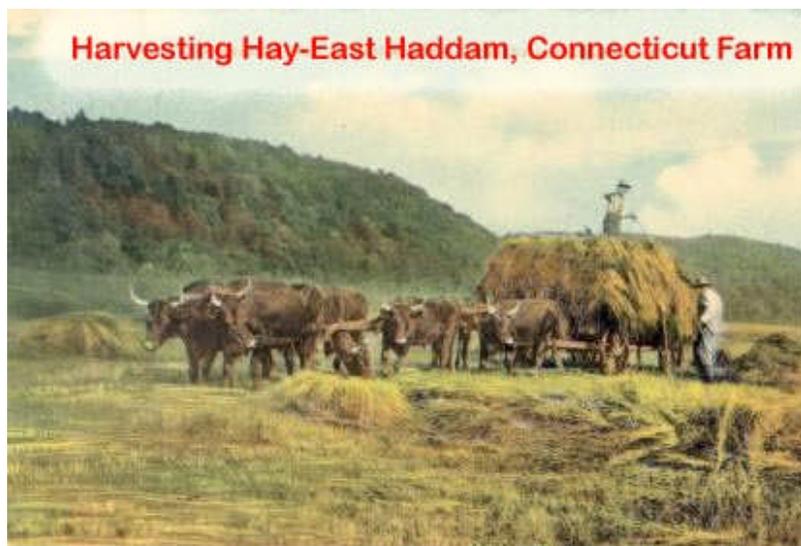
A recent survey revealed the startling fact that many online resources which have replaced print as the official legal resources are not protected from sabotage.

See the August issue of Information Outlook: The Magazine of the Special Libraries Association for an article by CSL Library Specialist, Steve Mirsky. "The Problem with Paperless", Vol. 12, No. 8 (August 2008): pp. 33-34 discusses the use of current technologies of authentication, such as encryption and watermarking, which have been implemented by some states.

Mirsky, who is the Bill Room Supervisor at the Law & Legislative Reference Unit at Connecticut State Library, is also the Government Relations Committee Chair for the American Association of Law Libraries.

The Case of the Mysterious Connecticut Farm

The "History Detectives" Investigates an East Haddam Farm at the Connecticut State Library



Mark Your Calendars: The Connecticut affiliate of PBS, CPTV, will rerun the "History Detectives" show with the Connecticut Jewish farm segment on Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 11:30 a.m.; and Sunday, October 5, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

A production crew for the popular PBS series "History Detectives" spent much of Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at the Connecticut State Library filming part of a segment for the show's sixth season. The segment involves a case in which "A resident of rural East Haddam, Connecticut owns an old home that he believes has a story to tell."

The house was occupied by a number of different people from 1891 to 1906, and their names seem to suggest a Russian or Eastern European background. Many Eastern European Jews immigrated to America at this time because of the political situation in Russia. Could there be a connection? The episode, which originally aired on PBS "History Detectives" on Sept. 8th, was pre-empted locally, but will be rerun on the dates above.

To complement the episode, the Connecticut State Library has created an [online exhibit](#) focusing on the history of Jewish farmers in Connecticut. It features images of Connecticut agricultural scenes from the late 1800s through the mid 1900s. Additional photographs of old East Haddam houses are included in the [WPA Architectural Survey](#).

For the full story of the History Detectives' visit to the State Library, please see the article "[History Detectives](#)" [Visit the State Library](#) in the July 2008 edition of the [CONNector](#), the Connecticut State Library newsletter.

--by Jeannie Sherman and Richard Roberts, History and Genealogy Unit

With None of the Spectacular

By Nancy Peluso, Librarian

"With none of the spectacular, ground was broken late Wednesday afternoon, July 29, 1908, for the new state library building at the corner of Capitol Avenue and Lafayette Street"¹. The reporter who filed this story with the Hartford Courant may have been puzzled and disappointed about the lack of ceremony



After all, the man who headed up the Commission responsible for the new building was none other than the illustrious Morgan G. Bulkeley, U.S. Senator for Connecticut and President of Aetna Insurance Company. A colorful, larger-than-life figure, Bulkeley had already been Governor of Connecticut, Commissioner of the National Baseball League and Mayor of Hartford.

As noted elsewhere in this issue, he would eventually have an important Connecticut River bridge named for him.

But the official groundbreaking for what would later be described as “one of the most beautiful structures in the country and said by some to be the handsomest building in New England” 2 was a low key affair. Perhaps it was muted out of deference to the late Dairy Commissioner, J. B. Noble, whose funeral would occur the following day. The State Capitol building was closed the next day from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. during Noble’s funeral.3

“Senator Morgan Bulkeley, chairman of the commission, took a new shovel furnished for the groundbreaking by Contractor Edward Balf and said; ‘Gentlemen of the Commission, by your authority, representing the state of Connecticut, I shall now break ground for the building that in future years shall be devoted to the literary, historical and judicial purposes of this commonwealth.’, according to the Courant. Excavation began the next morning. 4.



Prior to 1910, the State Library was located in the State Capitol where it had been housed since 1878. By 1906, the space for the Library was inadequate and State Librarian George Godard actively lobbied

for a new building where “all the books of the library could be brought together, where the several portraits and paintings [of the Governors] could be properly and safely hung, where regularly constructed vaults for invaluable records and papers might be accessible, and where rooms or special apartments for study could be provided...” 5

“The Commission to Make Repairs on the Capitol and to Procure A Site for New Building for State Officials” decided to combine the State Library and Supreme Court

into one building and retained architects Donn Barber of New York and E. T. Hapgood of Hartford. Their design for a building across the street from the State Capitol consisted of a central lobby with three wings: the State Library on the eastern wing; Memorial Hall on a small southern wing; and the Supreme Court on the western wing.

Construction of the building took two years of painstaking labor under the supervision of the builder and general contractor, Marc Eidlitz & Son, Fifth Avenue, New York City. Horses and wagons were used to excavate the site and haul the granite, marble, cement, tools and millions of bricks necessary for the project.

Concern about the horses prompted a site visit from the Connecticut Humane Society: "Dwight W. Thrall, agent for the Connecticut Humane Society, visited the new State Library Wednesday and found that the horses being used for the heavy teaming there were being driven up steep grades that were full of ruts and made hard work for the animals. He took the matter up with the contractors, with the result that cinders have been thrown over the temporary roadways in and out of the library grounds, making it easier work for the horses." 6

The Library opened to the public in November 1910. State Librarian Godard reflected in his 1910 Annual Report: "We have seen gradually brought to completion our new State Library and Supreme Court Building, dignified and beautiful in its architecture, solid and substantial in its construction, and complete and convenient in its arrangement." 7

1. "State Library Begun", The Hartford Courant, July 30, 1980, page 4; 2. "Capitol Annex About Ready", The Hartford Courant, December 17, 1910, page 18; 3. "Capitol Closed An Hour This Afternoon", The Hartford Courant, July 30, 1980, page 1; 4. "State Library Begun", The Hartford Courant, July 30, 1908, page 4; 5. Report of the State Librarian to the Governor for the Year Ended 1906, page 41; 6. "Looking Out For The Horses", The Hartford Courant, March 19, 1909, page 14; 7. Report of the State Librarian to the Governor for the Year Ended 1910, page 5.

Still Beautiful at 70



By Lynne Newell, Director, Information Services Division.

Born of a need that resonates today, hailed for its beauty and its bridges, the “Queen of Parkways” opened 70 years ago on June 29th, 1938. Growing traffic congestion on the Post Road led to clamors for an alternate or expanded road.

The Merritt was the answer to this problem, and to the unemployment woes of the Great Depression. The project also generated controversy, scandal, and a criminal case.

The 38 mile road running from the Greenwich border with New York to the Housatonic River on the Stratford-Milford border was named for nine-term Connecticut Republican Congressman and Stamford resident Schuyler Merritt who had promoted the new road. At the opening ceremony, Merritt rode in the governor's car.

The State Library's web exhibit at <http://www.cslib.org/merritt/> explores the history, construction, and controversy surrounding this unique Connecticut roadway. Using materials from the Library and Archives collections, the exhibit covers the story of the Merritt from planning and funding to opening and preservation.

Designed to "provide a peaceful, lovely drive that would revive the senses, instill an appreciation for nature, and provide an edifying rest from the pace of modern urban life", the Merritt project was notable for its landscaping and its bridges.

Landscape architect Weld Thayer Chase worked to save as many existing trees as possible, and used new native trees, shrubs, and other plants along the hills and on the "landscaped dividing strip". Chase remained interested in the Parkway throughout his life. In his 80's he was leading the fight against the destruction of the charm of the Parkway by proposed highway projects.

Even more famous than the landscaping are the thirty-five unique bridges crossing the parkway. Designed by



architect George Dunkelberger of the State Highway Commission, the steel frame concrete bridges in all variations of the Art Deco style are highly prized now, but were much criticized by some

towns along the parkway who wanted stone bridges.

Recently, the Merritt Parkway Conservancy and other groups have submitted petitions, and testified before the Connecticut General Assembly and U. S. Congress opposing any alterations to these cherished structures.

Controversy ensued when Dept. of Public Works head, and future governor, [Robert A. Hurley](#) alleged gross mismanagement by the [State Highway Department](#),

criticized construction of the Merritt Parkway, and declared the bridges were unsafe. Highway Commissioner John A. MacDonald answered the Hurley report's accusations in his own report. Both the Hurley and McDonald reports are online in the web exhibit, along with photographs, and other documents that tell the story of the Merritt.

Acquisition of the land for the project led to a criminal case over the real estate commissions paid on unreasonably high purchase prices. Real estate agent and former Republican state representative from Darien G. Leroy Kemp, who had been the State Purchaser of Right of Way for the Parkway, was convicted of conspiracy and spent four years in prison.

To answer charges of potential traffic danger at the bridges, Governor Cross hired engineer Charles Bennett who found nothing wrong with the bridges and recommended that construction go ahead, thus saving the famous bridges that we know today. Bennett concluded: "...that the construction of bridges on the Merritt Parkway is not a serious traffic hazard and that with careful study of traffic control and protective marking this highway can be considered an excellent piece of highway construction. There is no reason to expect calamitous accidents on account of the bridge construction."

The bridges are now a unique part of the parkway's charm. At the opening of the parkway, The Bridgeport Post proclaimed: "One can build a concrete highway anywhere. But the Merritt Parkway is different. More than any 'Futurama' at the World's Fair, more than any dream of the futuristic designers, it shows what the highway of the future should look like: a highway where the eye is filled with beauty and the mind with peace as the car purrs safely along."

In addition to those in the web exhibit, more [Merritt documents and images](#) can be found in the [Connecticut State Library Digital Collections](#) 'Roads and Bridges' collection.
by Lynne Newell, Director, Information Services Division, based on research by State Archivist Mark H. Jones.

Mighty, Mighty Hartford

By Dave Corrigan, Curator, Museum of Connecticut History

One hundred years ago this October, Hartford celebrated the opening of the Bulkeley Bridge with a three-day extravaganza jubilantly described as "The Grandest Combined Electrical Display, Historical Pageants,



Military, Civil and Industrial Parades Ever Seen on this Continent!", according to the Hartford Courant. Hartford was at the zenith of its manufacturing prowess in 1908 and had

struggled for decades with an inadequate and decrepit bridge. Finally, Hartford had a bridge worthy of its needs. The new Hartford Bridge, as it was initially named, connected Hartford and East Hartford. The new stone arch structure was a replacement for the old wooden bridge that had burned in 1895.

Seventy-five thousand people reportedly participated in the various parades and pageants, which were viewed by thousands more each day who filled the specially-constructed, twenty-two thousand seat grandstands and bleachers which provided good views of all the festivities. The celebration ran from Monday, October 6, to Wednesday, October 8, 1908.

The revelry included a parade of 15,000 school children; a reenactment of the 1636 arrival of Thomas Hooker and his party and a 500-man strong "Historic Marching Pageant" which showed every type of military equipment used by Connecticut soldiers from the Pequot War to the Spanish-American War. There was a water carnival of 300 decorated yachts on the Connecticut River and twelve historical tableaux depicting major events in Connecticut history such as the arrival of the Dutch in 1614, the signing of the Fundamental Orders in 1639, the hiding of the Charter in 1687 and the meeting between Washington and Rochambeau in 1781. Ten thousand Knights Templar and Masons marched on the last day. After officials of the Connecticut Grand Lodge laid the

last stone of the bridge there was another parade of 6,000 men, band concerts and a \$5,000 fireworks display.

Industrial Day: This was designated as October 7, 1908. The major event was a parade of 8,000 working men and 80 floats, representing most of the major manufacturers of the greater Hartford area. The Courant described it as "the day of the workingmen, of the men who by their daily labor earn the money necessary to the support of their families, marching for the honor of their shops, for the men who give them employment. It was a thing worth seeing.



First in line for the industrial parade were the Underwood typewriter floats, probably because the company's President, Charles D. Rice, was Chairman of the Industrial Committee. One of these floats was a huge replica of the Underwood No. 5 Typewriter, which was 210 times larger than the original. It was "perfect in every detail" and was mounted on a rotating base so that the crowd could view every angle of the model. Fifteen hundred Underwood employees marched behind wearing white caps and carrying a banner with the monogram "UT".

One thousand workers from the Cheney Brothers' silk manufactory in Manchester marched behind their company's silk, velvet and brocade covered float.

The Hartford Machine Screw Co. float carried a giant

hexagonal bolt and nut which was painted to imitate metal. The head of the bolt was four feet across. The



Courant reported that it would have weighed 18 tons if the bolt and nut had been made of metal. Three hundred men marched for this company.

The Henry & Wright Manufacturing Company's float exhibited several examples of their single- and multiple-spindle ball-bearing drilling machines.

The float from Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company was described by the Courant as a "small arsenal". Featured prominently on the float was the large wooden Model 1873 Single Action Army, the gun that supposedly "**Won the West**". It had been removed from above the entrance to the company's office just for this special occasion. The float also included examples of the company's revolver production and examples of the Maxim guns, Gatling guns and Colt Automatic guns.



The Courant described the attire of many of the contingents of working men and reported that each group was roundly applauded by the crowd as they marched past, over the bridge and into East Hartford.

These surviving photographs of the industrial parade capture the civic pride in the accomplishments of a thriving city poised at the beginning of a new and promising century.

User-Friendly, That's Us



Making User-Friendly Changes at iConn

By William Sullivan, Administrator

Making library systems more usable ("user-friendly") is a topic that we have taken to heart at iConn.

Toward that end, we make it easy for users to provide feedback (pro or con) about their "iConn experience", and we continually monitor that feedback to identify opportunities for improvement.

Using that feedback, we recently implemented two noticeable improvements.

Streamlined display for search results:

Previously, when entering a search at the main keyword search screen, the system would automatically search and present separate search results for over 25 databases, including several databases with overlapping content.

We found that displaying this many search result lists tended to overwhelm and confuse users, especially novice users who are not knowledgeable of how content is organized in iCONN. It reinforced the perception that iCONN is "too complex."

The solution we settled on was to reduce the number of

resources searched and presented to just three that together comprise the majority of iCONN's content.

This change resulted in a much cleaner and less confusing display of search results. At the same time, we preserved the user's ability to search over 25 databases simultaneously, in any combination, or individually.

Separate menu screens for each grade level of school libraries: elementary, middle and high:

Previously, school libraries, which tend to use the classic menu screens rather than the main keyword search screen, had only one classic menu screen that listed all iCONN databases regardless of grade level.

It was a "one-size-fits-all" presentation of all available databases in iCONN. While this may have been workable for high schools, it was less so for middle and especially elementary schools.

The obvious solution was to create separate menu screens for elementary, middle and high schools and to include the ability to toggle between these screens.

We also added a search box to the high school menu and are exploring whether this can be done for the middle and elementary school menus as well.

Reactions to the changes have been positive. If you would like to comment on iCONN, you can use the online form at <http://www.iconn.org/SendComments.aspx>.

A Few of My Favorite Things

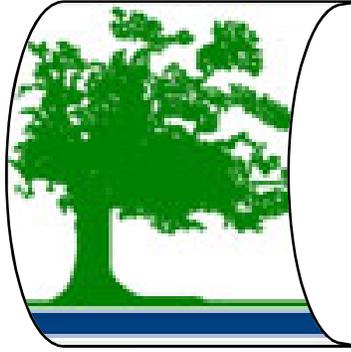
By Patrick Smith, Curator of Education, Museum of Connecticut History



Two Programs Inspire Young Inventors and Historians

Plastic straws, a Frisbie pie tin, Silly Putty®, tape measures, a 1930's toaster, a copy of the Royal Charter of 1662 and a Hartford Dark Blues baseball cap. These are just a few of the things I bring with me when presenting one of my education programs to schools, libraries and historical societies across the state. Making history fun, engaging and of course, educational, is my goal as I help students of all ages discover for themselves Connecticut's truly amazing past. The Museum of Connecticut History currently offers two outreach education programs to do this: Connecticut Invents!; and A Connecticut Sampler.

Connecticut Invents! Is an exploration of famous and not so famous Connecticut inventors and their inventions from the 18th century to the present. Through guided discussion and hands-on activities, participants discover the simply amazing inventive heritage our state can claim. Kids learn about the "serious" Connecticut inventions like the submarine, Sam Colt's revolver, the helicopter and John Fitch's steamboat. Balancing those are the "fun" Connecticut inventions such as the Wiffle® Ball, Silly Putty®, the hamburger, the sub sandwich, and the Frisbee®. Using the Museum's Patent Database <http://www.cslib.org/patent.asp>, I also highlight inventions from the kids' hometowns. This really drives home the idea that inventions and inventors come from all across our state. And, of course, the kids get to invent a couple of things themselves. Not giving away any program secrets, let me just say I have gone through over 10,000 straws in the past two years!



The newest program the museum offers is “**A Connecticut Sampler**”. This program was created as a way to introduce or summarize different aspects of Connecticut’s past for budding historians. Using objects, images and documents, students are introduced to the

political, industrial and military history of Connecticut. An overview of pre-contact Native American life in Connecticut leads to a discussion of Connecticut’s first European settlers. We re-enact the legend of the Charter Oak using simple props and role-play that keep the story fun and educational. Other topics include Connecticut nicknames and place names, state seals and symbols and a bit of local history of the town where the program is presented. Plus a few other fun facts and stories about the Nutmeg state just to keep things light! This program was piloted in several schools last year and was well received. As with *Connecticut Invents!*, this program has been designed to meet a number of State Department of Education Curriculum Standards.

Both these education programs are offered free of charge to schools, libraries and other groups in Connecticut. To learn more about them or to schedule a program, please contact Patrick Smith, Curator of Education, at 860-757-6693 or psmith@cslib.org

Read To Me



By Susan Cormier

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales. "

Did Einstein really say this? Maybe not, but studies show that children whose parents read to them develop lifelong habits of intellectual curiosity, imagination and love of language. At the Connecticut State Library, we work to foster parental involvement in early reading.

That's why the Connecticut State Library's Division of Library Development is offering Connecticut librarians a full-day workshop on October 22, 2008. Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen will present her award winning, research-based program for babies and toddlers.

It is called "Mother Goose on the Loose" because it uses rhymes and songs to help babies and toddlers catch the contagion of reading. It incorporates music, movement, ritual, repetition, positive reinforcement, developmental tips, nursery rhymes, illustrations, puppets, musical instruments, colored scarves, and book reading into fun-filled sessions.

The program is designed for the child and its parent or care-giver. It takes "patty cake" and "baby talk" to a new level and has been a stunning success with an underserved population in rural Lebanon, where a version has been running since January of 2008. At the Trumbull Library in Lebanon, children's librarian Linda Slate, received a modest federal grant with which to administer her "Read, Rock and Rhyme" program.

"Baby talk" is sometimes used as a synonym for something so simplistic that it is almost mindless. But in reality, adequate early language development is an

absolutely critical process that starts a child on a lifetime of academic, social and economic success. Babies start acquiring language and literacy skills as soon as they are born. Reading, talking, singing and rhyming are all ways that infants learn to respond to sound, distinguish auditory patterns, focus their vision, and produce their own sounds. Reading, talking, singing, and rhyming are simple acts with amazing results. Children who have engaged in these activities show increased bonding with their parents and caregivers, stronger vocabularies, better reading skills, and greater success in school than children who have not had the opportunity to hear and use language from an early age.

To register for the workshop waiting list click here
<http://evanced.info/cslib/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>

Susan Cormier is Director of the CSL Willimantic Library Service Center and Children's Consultant. To contact her for more information: 860-456-1717 Ext.301 or

scormier@cslib.org



Milestone: Bonnie Delaney

Bonnie Delaney, Editor of the CONNector, the Connecticut State Library Newsletter, retired on August 1, 2008, after more than 22 years of State service. She had served in the capacity of editor since the news journal was begun in 1999.

Early in her tenure as editor, the Governor ordered the state to stop issuing paper publications and switch to an electronic format. Shortly after the paperless newsletter had been firmly established, sweeping changes in the state e-mail system made it necessary to change again, this time to a format which facilitates electronic delivery. Faced with swift and relentless change, Bonnie graciously continued to produce a quarterly newsletter.

Bonnie was also the Organizational Development and Training Specialist for the State Library. She organized each annual Connecticut State Library All Staff Day. In 2007, the facility chosen for All Staff Day was severely damaged by fire shortly before the scheduled event. Not only was Bonnie able to secure a new venue on short notice, but participants rated the event as the best ever.

Bonnie had an extensive background and many contacts in the field of organizational training. She started working for the Department of Administrative Services as a Trainer 2 on June 16, 1986; was promoted two years later to a Curriculum Specialist; and in 1993 to Organizational Development and Training Specialist. On June 5, 1998, she transferred to the State Library.

Before she began State service, she had worked in the private sector as Vice President of a Greenwich-based management and sales training company; as an editor in London at a British publisher; and in various positions in sales, merchandising and publicity in Manhattan for Coca-Cola Headquarters, Vogue Magazine and PRN, Ltd.

While at Connecticut State Library, Bonnie developed and produced an iConn training video to be used by state employees <http://www.cslib.org/iconnvideo.htm> and

oversaw the creation and printing of a colorful “rack card” for the Museum of Connecticut History which is now on display at state tourist offices. In 2006, the brochure she produced describing all the Library's operations won "Best in Show" at the American Library Association's Annual Meeting. Additionally, she surveyed the agency's training needs and at the time of her retirement had just completed a major project to update the agency's policy documents.

NEW EDITOR:

State Librarian Kendall Wiggin has named Hilary Frye as the new editor of the CONNector, replacing Bonnie Delaney who retired from the State Library in August.

"Hilary brings enthusiasm and experience to the position and I know our readers will be pleased", stated Wiggin. Hilary is a Library Specialist in the Law & Legislative Reference Unit and has worked at the Library for the past 25 years.

We hope you enjoy this issue and will share any suggestions you have for future issues with her at hfrye@cslib.org. Visit our web site at <http://www.cslib.org/>.

The Connecticut CONNector Editorial Board

Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian

Hilary T. Frye, Editor

Mark Jones, State Archivist

Richard C. Roberts, History and Genealogy Unit Head

William Sullivan, CT Digital Library Administrator

Carol Taylor, Director of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

David Corrigan, Museum of CT History Curator

Sheila Mosman, Reviewer

Denise Jernigan, Reviewer

Connecticut State Library 231 Capitol Avenue Hartford, Connecticut 06106 www.cslib.org

[Update your email address or unsubscribe from future messages](#)



