

From 1992 Crandall Library Annual Report

Folklife Programs

Todd DeGarmo is the part-time director of Folklife Programs, finishing his seventh year as the Library's folk arts consultant. This position is partially funded by a grant from the Folk Arts Program of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA). The program also receives funding from the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA).

Todd has an M.A. in Anthropology and is a doctoral candidate in American Studies at George Washington University, writing his dissertation on the tradition of tourism in the Adirondacks. He is also an instructor in American and comparative studies with Empire State College-SUNY.

Growing Up in the North Country

In addition to NYSCA funding, the library received public funds for the first time from the NEA-Folk Arts Program for Growing Up in the North Country, enabling the library expansion of this popular workshop series this year to include 16 presenters and 900 children and adults at 6 different sites with ore to come in the Spring of 1993.

During the vacation in April, the series, *Flies, Pillows, Sticks, and Lake George* offered programs on fishing flies, souvenir balsam pillows, walking sticks, and regional music. A rustic furniture program traveled to 3 libraries in Washington County (with additional support from SALS and the County Youth Bureau).

This summer *Pieces of Life: Women in the Adirondacks* featured the work of Jeanne Robert Foster (with songs and readings by Berggren and Laverty); memories, poetry, and scrap dolls by Dorothy DuRose; and a tied quilt workshop with the Johnsbury United Methodist Women (who incidentally are featured in the January 1993 issue of *Adirondack Life*).

Birds and People, with presentations on falconry, decoys, and taxidermy, was offered this Fall on Saturday mornings at Crandall Library and afternoons at the Georgi Museum (Shushan, Washington County).

Halloween program was attended by over 150 children and adults, and our ever-popular *Christmas Wreath* workshop was offered several times at the Library and traveled to the Queensbury Middle School and Whitehall Library.

Balsam Traditions

Hot off the press are *Balsam Traditions*, a series of five posters developed with the Adirondack Museum. These are part of an educational kit on regional traditions connected with the Balsam fir tree, funded in part by the New York State Council on the Arts, and available from Crandall Library. North Country Public Radio, Canton, NY aired balsam traditions as a Christmas feature recently.

Special Projects

Planning and fundraising continues for *Indian Camps and Upstate Tourism*. The New York Council for the Humanities grant provided funds for meetings with an advisory group of scholars and American Indians, and a proposal on this topic will be submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Research has also begun on a possible collaboration with Brookside: Saratoga County History Center, called *Amusements and Roadside Attractions*, and focusing on twentieth century development of Route 9 in Saratoga and Warren Counties.

Professional Development

Todd DeGarmo is on the Board of the New York Folklore Society and is active in promoting folklore activities around the state. In February he was guest lecturer at the Adirondack Museum's cabin fever Sundays with a slide talk on balsam traditions. In April, he participated in the New York Folk Arts Roundtable in Syracuse, and in October in a regional brainstorming session hosted by TAUNY (Traditional Arts in Upstate New York). In July he spent three days in Cooperstown as a guest instructor for their annual *American Studies Seminars*. He is currently helping the Albany Institute to plan a folk arts conference scheduled for this coming Spring 1993. His programs have been featured in the *Albany Times Union*, *Adirondack Life*, *Post-Star*, and *North Country Public Radio*, Canton.

New York Folklore Society Annual Meeting

Over Labor Day weekend, Crandall Library co-sponsored the 1992 Annual Meeting of the New York Folklore Society. Held in the central Adirondacks at Sagamore Lodge near Raquette Lake, the weekend included scholarly presentations, local folk artist demonstrations, music, and tours of Raquette Lake and the Adirondack Museum. The event was organized by Todd DeGarmo and featured in the *New York Folklore Society Newsletter*.

Archives and Special Collections

To obtain the skills needed to manage the Library's growing Archive of Folk Culture, Todd has attended workshops sponsored by the Federation of Historic Services on local history collections and collection management policies. He also obtained a grant from the New York State Documentary Heritage Program to work with archival consultant John Dojka (head of Special Collections at RPI) to develop a working plan for the many special collections housed here at the Library. He is currently writing a request for an inventory/planning grant from the New York State Archives and Records Administration to begin a comprehensive records management program at the Library. He is also enrolled in a course on Archives at SUNY Albany School of Library and Information Science.