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MLA-CSRT

*Procedures*  
CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULTS'  
BOOK EXAMINATION CENTER  
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CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL EXHIBIT

MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY

8-26-75

CHILDREN'S SERVICES ROUND TABLE  
MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

HISTORY

Children's Services Round Table began in the hearts and minds of several librarians in Missouri who served children to the fullest of their energies. Chief of these were Jean Merrill of the Kansas City Public Library, and Leone Garvey at the St. Louis Public Library who had formerly been Supervisor, Children's Work, Public Library, Berkeley, California, and Marion Albrecht, Daniel Boone Regional Library. They had been concerned that the Missouri Library Association should recognize such services to children and youth and should present related programs at the annual MLA fall conventions.

In August of 1964, the State Library hired Thusnelda Schmidt from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, as the first Children's Services Consultant. Her encouragement gave impetus to this desire, and on October 8, at Jean Merrill's invitation, Margaret Elderry, Children's Editor, Harcourt, Brace, came to speak at one of the General Sessions of the MLA Conference held at Tan-Tar-A located at the Lake of the Ozarks. All persons interested in library services to children and youth were invited to meet later that evening to discuss the important task of providing excellent library service to children throughout the state of Missouri. 40 interested librarians enthusiastically supported the suggestion that a Children's Services group - made up of public, school, college, special librarians and trustees - become a Section of Round Table, of the MLA organization, and as such be given time at the annual conferences for programs representation. With recommendation from Miss Schmidt, a group was selected to investigate this possibility. Steering Committee, as it was then designated, included the following:

Miss Jean Merrill, Director, Work with Children,  
Kansas City Public Library

Miss Marion Albrecht, Acting Director  
Daniel Boone Regional Library  
Columbia, Missouri

Mrs. Ruth Fleming, Supervisor of Elementary Libraries  
Jefferson City Public Schools

Miss Leone Garvey, Supervisor of Children's Work  
St. Louis Public Library

Miss Thusnelda Schmidt, Consultant for Children's Services  
Secretary  
Missouri State Library  
Jefferson City, Missouri

During late 1964, a two-fold request was sent by Jean Merrill to Donnell J. Gaertner of St. Louis, President of MLA:

- (1) "That time be set aside at the MLA Conference for a luncheon meeting sponsored by the children's librarians at which time a specialist would talk on story-telling, and that later in the evening of the same day there would be an informal story-telling session with selected Missouri story-tellers participating."
- (2) That members of the Steering Committee meet with the MLA Executive Board at an early date to explore the possibility of having, as a part of MLA's Section, or Round Table for those working with children in all types of libraries.

The answer came from Mr. Gaertner on March 10, advising that the MLA Executive Board had approved the suggestion for programing, but had postponed a consideration of the request for a Round Table until the annual conference in the fall of the year. The petition to the executive board stated that: "Such a round table would provide for a continuing program within MLA for those members working in the area of Children's books and services in all types of libraries. It would cut across the present divisional organization of MLA. We do not feel that this would lead to fragmentation, since children's librarians already belong to one or more of the divisions and would continue to do so. We are confident that it would help strengthen library services to children throughout the state." Finally a formal presentation was made by the Committee, and approval was granted on September 30, 1965 for a Children's Services Round Table in the Missouri Library Association.

Meantime, the Steering Committee had assumed responsibility for finding a suitable program relating to Children's Services as well as one that would be of interest to the entire membership. Though time was short after Mr. Gaertner's letter was received, contact was made with Margaret Hodges, author of *The Wave*, well-known story-teller, Special Ass't of the Pittsburgh Carnegie Library, and personal friend of Thusnelda Schmidt. She agreed to come and speak on September 30, to the 2nd General Session of the MLA Conference in Columbia, Missouri at the Tiger Hotel. The title of her talk was "Telling Tales Out of School", stressing the value and importance of continuing the telling of stories beyond the preschool years. She charmed her audience with the telling of several folktales and the entire program was a great success. Further follow-up plans have been made with Stephens College to have a "Story-telling Festival" in the Penthouse of the Hugh Stephens Library after the dinner meeting when many of the good story-tellers throughout the state performed for an interested audience.



HISTORY - page 3

In October, the newly elected President of MLA, Dr. Andrew J. Eaton verified by letter the approval of the Executive Board, and also informed the Committee that membership blanks would be revised to include the listing of the new Children's Services Round Table. He also suggested that the current Steering Committee act on behalf of the Round Table until an organizational meeting could be planned.

This meeting was being considered and indicated in a letter dated December 3, 1965 from Jean Merrill. Encouraged by the enthusiastic reception of the first planned program, the Steering Committee met on November 20, 1965 to prepare for the 1966 MLA Conference, and the following letter sets forth the results of the session:

"We all agreed that the organizational machinery of the new Round Table should be kept to a minimum, with only a Chairman, a Secretary-Treasurer and a Steering Committee of five to include the two officers, the State Library Consultant for Children's Services as a continuing member and two others."

In thinking ahead to the MLA Conference to be held in Kansas City, November 16-18, 1966, we are requesting a program session to be held on Thursday, November 17, and an organizational breakfast meeting the following morning, the 18th. We suggest the breakfast meeting in an offer to avoid a conflict with the division business meetings usually scheduled simultaneously.

The luncheon or dinner session we propose sponsoring on Thursday, the 17th would be of interest to the whole MLA membership. For a speaker, we suggest Mr. Harry Behn. The author of a number of fine children's books Mr. Behn has also achieved an enviable reputation as a speaker. He has participated in a workshop on Poetry at the University of California in Berkeley, addressed the National Council of Teachers and English Convention in Cleveland, Ohio in November, 1964, and appeared at a Children's Book Week Program in the Central Children's Room of the New York Public Library. His address before the NOTE - "Poetry, Fantasy and Reality," appeared as the lead article in Elementary English, April, 1965 pp. 335-61. We feel that Mr. Behn would add a great deal to the conference program, and if you approve, I will be glad to approach his editor Margaret McElderry, Harcourt, Brace....."

The program was considered excellent and the Committee was urged to continue with present plans. They culminated on November 17th when the members met Mr. Behn in the Muehlbach Lobby, escorted him to the Golden Ox for dinner, and then heard his talk at the 8:00 p.m. Third General Session in the Trianon Room of the Hotel Muehlbach in Kansas

City, Missouri, with Jean Merrill presiding. The title of his speech was: "Organic and Fractured Poetry."

Leone Garvey compiled a bibliography of Poetry for Children which was given to those attending and a Reception was held for Mr. Bohn immediately following the General Session.

The Organizational Breakfast was held November 18, at 7:45 in the Burgundy Room of the Muehlbach with a record crowd attending. Tables seating eight to ten were used and a number given to each person so that there would be a "mixing" of groups for a better exchange of ideas. All in attendance were asked to complete a form in regard to their positions and interest, which were later used as a mailing list for Children's Services Round Table.

The Steering Committee had elected 2 from its group and 2 other ESRT members as a nominating committee to draw up a slate of officers for election at the organizational breakfast. It was suggested that the "Committee Chairman be from St. Louis for this time, and that the Children's Consultant at the Missouri State Library be the continuing member to serve as Secretary. It was also felt that after the election, two of the first four members should serve two years and the other two one year. In this way two year terms could be staggered to provide additional continuity for the committee," in the future. Those elected were:

Mrs. Grace Spear, Chairman (2 years) November 1966-November 1968  
Gladys Deevey (1 year) November 1966-November 1967  
Helen Mardorf (2 years) November 1966-November 1968  
Carolyn Peterson (1 year) November 1966-November 1967

The original Steering Committee offered to meet with the newly elected Committee in the Children's Library of the K.C.P.L. after the afternoon Divisional meetings. This was done and the type of program to be considered for the following years were discussed.

From this date of November 18, 1966, when the second Steering Committee began its leadership, the structure of the Children's Services Round Table remained approximately the same, with a hard-working Steering Committee of five that year after year attempted to bring a program to the MLA membership which related to the interests of all who worked with youth in our Missouri librarians. The initial breakfast meeting held in Kansas City set the pattern for an annual Breakfast Meeting, during the MLA Conference. Steering Committee members are chosen at this time.



In a letter written July 25, 1967 to Sallie Henderson asking her to be a nominee for the CSRT Committee we find this information which further clarified the simple organizational policy. "The organizational machinery of CSRT is to be kept at a minimum - a Steering Committee of five, four to be members of MLA who have indicated an interest in children's services, the fifth to be the State Library Consultant of Children's Services. Two new members are to be elected each year, to serve a two-year term. This makes for continuity on the committee. When making nominations the following is kept in mind - that both public and school librarians be represented, that various regional areas of the state as well as in the metropolitan areas be represented.

What does this involve? Usually 3 Saturday meetings to make plans for the CSRT programs at MLA and to bring any and all suggestions that would help further library work among children and youth. There are no funds to draw on, so committee members do have to make the trip at their own expense."

Attached is a listing of the names of the Steering Committees and the programs which were planned for those succeeding years. (The succeeding programs should be added to this list and be kept up-to-date). Continued below are other developments which should be a part of this history.

At the beginning of 1968, all in CSRT were shocked and shaken at the untimely death of Thusnelda Schmidt in a highway accident between Jefferson City and Columbia on January 20th. She not only served as our advisor and secretary, but she had provided much of the inspiration for the innovative programs begun at the MLA Conferences, had provided the encouragement to seek for excellence in the speakers and subjects presented, and through the constant communication from her office gave the cohesiveness to the loosely-knit organization that it needed.

At the time of Thusnelda's death, there were many who desired to contribute to her memory in some way. A Memorial was suggested from various groups and it was finally decided that a Scholarship Fund would be handled by the Missouri Library Association. Moneys did come in and were invested, but the total was not enough to establish any large continuing scholarship. Later, then, in 1973, the Committee approved the use of the money for the cost of speakers brought to the Children's Services Round Table Breakfast programs. This, the organization also approved, feeling that such use of the memorial fund would be a pleasing memory to Thusnelda Schmidt. The first Schmidt Lecture was held at the CSRT Breakfast on September 21, 1974 at Stauffer's Inn in St. Louis, Missouri. Miss Eve Merriam, poet and author, was the speaker for that occasion.

Other benefits to all librarians working with children, particularly those who were members of CSRT, were the workshops that Miss Schmidt, in her three and a half short years in Missouri, had developed in various sections of the state on "Story-telling." She had planned for one to be held at the State Library in the Spring of 1968. She had involved many members of CSRT both in the planning and the participation of that workshop. A Book Selection Conference culminated in the following excellent program dedicated to Thusnelda Schmidt's memory:

Theme: Building and Maintaining a Collection for Children  
Director: Miss Florence Butler, Director of Work With Children  
          Sioux City Public Library, Sioux City, Iowa  
Speakers: Robert Burch, author  
          Ben Nelm, Prof. English, University of Missouri  
          Margaret Sara Skiff, Coordinator Work with Children,  
                                  Cespahoga County, Ohio  
          Panel of Book Reviewers (mostly CSRT members)

In early 1967 a suggestion had been made "to consider writing a newsletter perhaps three times a year to send to those persons who check CSRT on their MLA form." No further notation on this could be found in the CSRT correspondence. However, here again, Thusnelda Schmidt, provided the communication that was needed. She regularly wrote a Children's Services Letter using an extensive mailing list of all librarians working with children. In the letters was a potpourri of helpful suggestions, items of professional interest, and inspirational articles. It was during these years also that she formed a State Book Reviewing Group using the Directors of Children's Services from the Regional Libraries plus a few school library supervisors. These reviews were also written in brief form with recommendations for purchase and sent out to all interested CSRT members.

After her death, all of this was discontinued. Mrs. Susanna Alexander, the Associate State Librarian replaced Miss Schmidt on the Steering Committee for the remainder of 1968-1969. Then Mrs. Joan Bodger was hired as the Consultant. Her goals were in an entirely different direction, and her communication with the Steering Committee for planning the MLA programs was not the same. The Steering Committee felt that there was a need to have a Nominating Committee outside of itself. It was decided that two members of the Committee and two selected people from the CSRT membership would become the nominating committee of the future. Letters were written to nominees for approval to have their names be placed on the slate, and election was done as before at the brief business session held at the time of the CSRT Breakfast Meeting.



Also, in 1968, it was requested of MLA that the CSRT be represented on its Executive Board. The permission was granted, and the Steering Committee appointed the Chairman of CSRT to represent the organization in this position.

In 1968, a change in election of members was suggested and approved. The motion was passed at the business meeting that the Steering Committee be made up of four members, each serving for a four year term. One was to be retired and one to be elected each year. As a member progressed to the fourth year, he or she became Chairman of the Steering Committee, and then would be retired at the end of that year. If, because of location of the MLA Conference, it was more convenient that a member from that same geographic location be the Chairman because of ease in local arrangement, the group could so decide. Nevertheless, the member remained a member for the four year term before she was retired. A fifth place on the Committee remained open for the Children's Services Consultant at the State Library when that vacancy would be filled. No dues are asked, and a Secretary is appointed within the Steering Committee. Members joining MLA are asked to indicate their interest in CSRT by checking the designation on the membership card. Membership is open to all who are interested in library services to children - public librarians, school librarians, special and college librarians, and trustees.

In 1971 CSRT was contacted by Mamie Neal, Chairman of the Mark Twain Award Committee, asking that a representative of CSRT be named to participate in the selection of titles to be listed for the first Mark Twain Award and for those to be selected in the future. Again, the Committee decided that the current Chairman of the Steering Committee would be the logical choice for this annual responsibility.

In 1973, under the leadership of Chairman Mary Ann Marshall, the Committee felt the need of having written By-Laws. This project was accomplished during the year and approved at the 1973 CSRT Breakfast Meeting.

In 1974, under the direction of Virginia Gleason, Chairman, a four-fold project was approved at the CSRT Breakfast Meeting by the entire membership. These were (1) to write a History of CSRT - Mrs. Ruth Fleming, Jefferson City was charged with the responsibility, (2) to compile a list of Missouri authors of books for children - Mrs. Lucille Lambur, Chairman, (3) to begin an exchange of ideas on children's programs and procedures - Mrs. Carol Klinkhart, Chairman, and (4) to attempt an exchange of bibliographies prepared for use with children - Mrs. Charlaune Ezelle, Chairman.

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES ROUND TABLE

## STEERING COMMITTEES AND PROGRAMS

1966 - Jean Merrill, Chairman - K.C.P.L.  
Marion Albrecht - Columbia P.L.  
Ruth Fleming - Jefferson City Schools  
Leone Garvey - St. Louis Public Library

Thusnelda Schmidt, State Children's  
Consultant

1967 - Grace Spear, Chairman (2 years) St. Louis  
Gladys Deevers (2 years) Kansas City  
Helen Mardorf (1 year) St. Louis  
Carolyn Peterson (1 year) Maryville

Thusnelda Schmidt, State Children's  
Consultant

1968 - Gladys Deever, Chairman  
Grace Spear  
Sallie Henderson  
Jean Westmoreland - Springfield, Mo.

Susanna Alexander, Associate State  
Librarian

1969 - Sallie Henderson, Chairman  
Jean Westmoreland  
Elizabeth Breting - Kansas City, Mo.

Joan Bodger, Children's Services  
Consultant

Harry Behn, poet, author  
Topic: "Organic and Fractured Poetry"

General Session, November 17  
Muehleback Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri

CSRT Breakfast - November 18  
Table discussion on Children's Poetry  
Organization meeting

Joan Bodger, author, lecturer on  
Children's Literature,  
Banks Street College, New York  
Topic: "Only the Rarest of the Best"

General Session, October 5  
Gateway Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri

CSRT Breakfast - October 6  
Table discussion of children's books  
with social implication, previously  
selected and previewed by CSRT members.

Morton Schindel, Weston Woods  
Topic: "Picture Book Parade Films-  
Author Interviews"

General Session, October 10  
CMS College, Springfield, Missouri

CSRT Breakfast - October 11  
Table discussion on Illustrations of  
Children's Books.

Nat Hentoff, novelist, critic, columnist  
Topic: "A New Generation Makes New  
Demands on the Library"

General Session, October 2  
Ramada Inn, Jefferson City, Missouri

CSRT Breakfast - October 3  
Discussion of "How Libraries are  
Meeting New Demands"



STEERING COMMITTEES AND PROGRAMS - Page 2

1970 - Jean Westmoreland, Chairman  
Elizabeth Breting  
Mary Ann Marshall - Warrensburg

No State Consultant

Lisl Weil, illustrator, author  
Topic: "Interpretive Illustrating of  
Children's Books"  
(Mrs. Weil cancelled at last moment  
because of husband's illness)  
Sandra Stoner spoke on "Media in the  
Library"

General Session - September 24  
Muehlebach Hotel, Kansas City, Mo.

CSRT Breakfast - September 25  
Group discussion on Children's  
Book Illustrators

1971 - Irene Eveland, Chairman  
Elizabeth Breting  
Mary Ann Marshall  
Jean Westmoreland

\*CSRT Breakfast - October 1  
Topic: "Puppets and Puppetry"  
Play Presentations:  
Kansas City - "Exerpts from Mark Twain"  
Pat Blehler, Joella Brown  
St. Louis - "The Chinese Cinderella"  
Mrs. Hseau-Wei Yu Chew, Helen  
O'Neil, Margaret Lynch, Claudine  
Kalacan

Stauffer's Inn, St. Louis, Missouri

\*Because of a change in programming, resulting from shortening the  
Conference session by one day, this year's CSRT program was pre-  
sented at the CSRT Breakfast rather than at a General Session.

1972 - Elizabeth Breting, Chairman  
Irene Eveland  
Mary Ann Marshall  
Virginia Gleason - Springfield

CSRT Breakfast - Dorothy Broderick  
School of Libr. Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Topic: "Realism for the Teen-Age Reader"

October 20 - Muehlebach Hotel  
Kansas City, Missouri

1973 - Mary Ann Marshall, Chairman  
Irene Eveland  
Virginia Gleason  
Mauree Talliaferro - Columbia

CSRT Breakfast - Jean Karl, Editor  
Children's Books - Atheneum  
Topic: "Fantasy in Children's Books"

September 28 - Ramada Inn  
Columbia, Missouri

1974 - Virginia Gleason  
Irene Eveland  
Mauree Talliaferro  
Pat Kern -

CSRT Breakfast - First Thusnelda  
Schmidt Memorial Lecture:  
Eve Merriam, author, poet  
Robert C. Lee, author

Martha Corgan, MASL President  
(Ex-officio member-provision of  
new CSRT By-Laws)

September 21 - Stauffer's Inn  
St. Louis, Missouri

1975 - Virginia Gleason, chair  
Mauree Taliaferro  
Pat Kern  
Linda Trotter  
Sally Metz (MASL Pres.,  
Ex-officio member)  
Patt Behler, Consultant  
Children's Services and  
Young Adult, Missouri State  
Library

1976 - Maruee Taliaferro, chair  
Pat Kern  
Linda Trotter  
Charlaine Ezell  
Lee Moeller (MASL Pres.,  
Ex-officio member)  
Patt Behler, Consultant  
Children's and Young  
Adults' Services, Missouri  
State Library

1977 - Pat Kern, chair  
Linda Trotter  
Charlaine Ezell  
Anitra Steele  
Micki Kirkham (MASL Pres.,  
Ex-officio member)  
Patt Behler, Coordinator  
Children's and Young  
Adults' Services, Missouri  
State Library

1978 - Linda Trotter, chair  
Charlaine Ezell  
Anitra Steele  
Pat Mertens  
Gaye Lee (MASL Pres.,  
Ex-officio member)  
Patt Behler, Coordinator  
Children's and Young  
Adults' Services, Missouri  
State Library

1979 - Charlaine Ezell, chair  
Anitra Steele  
Pat Mertens  
Maggie Preiss

Patt Behler, Coordinator  
Children's and Young  
Adults' Services, Missouri  
State Library

CSRT Breakfast - 2nd Thusnelda Schmidt  
Memorial Lecture:  
Marguerite Henry and her topic "A  
of Truth and a Warp of Fiction"

Ramada Inn, October 24, 1975  
Jefferson City, Missouri

CSRT Breakfast - 3rd Thusnelda Schmidt  
Memorial Lecture:  
Jean George and her topic "Wild  
Company That I Keep"

Howard Johnson's, October 15, 1976  
Springfield, Missouri

CSRT Breakfast - 4th Thusnelda Schmidt  
Memorial Lecture:  
Arnold Lobel and his topic "Seventeen  
Years Before the Drawing Board"

Ramada Inn, September 30, 1977  
Columbia, Missouri

CSRT Breakfast - 5th Thusnelda Schmidt  
Memorial Lecture:  
Sharon Bell Mathis and her topic  
"Writers Who Portray the Black  
Experience"

Hilton Airport Plaza Inn, September 30, 1978  
Kansas City, Missouri

CSRT Breakfast - 6th Thusnelda Schmidt  
Memorial Lecture:



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CSRT  
*procedures*

Guidelines for the Annual Thusnelda Schmidt Memorial Lecture  
for CSRT of MLA

The Thusnelda Schmidt Memorial Lecture shall be given at a main meeting of the Children's Services Round Table of the Missouri Library Association's annual conference.

In order to provide a CSRT program of interest to MLA members which includes the presentation of the Schmidt Lecture, we must always keep in mind the joy, gladness, and love of children's services that Thusnelda gave to her work. Therefore the speaker should be someone who is known for a very special contribution to children's services in both public and school libraries.

Programs should be innovative while providing excellence in both the speaker and the subject presented. They should be of such interest as to strengthen library services throughout the state and appeal to the entire membership of Missouri Library Association.

Until such time as the accumulated interest from the Schmidt fund will cover the complete expenses of the main lecture the interest will be applied to the honorarium and local expenses. The annual conference will bear the remainder of these expenses. The author's publisher will be asked to assume the speaker's travel expenses.

The vice-chairperson will be in charge of ordering, selling and scheduling the sale of the author's books.

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PROCEDURE GUIDE  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES ROUNDTABLE STEERING COMMITTEE  
MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

This Procedure Guide has been prepared in order to call attention to the specific responsibilities of the Steering Committee of the CSRT, some, but not all of which are mentioned in the CSRT By-Laws as adopted by the Missouri Library Association Executive Board in February, 1974.

The Steering Committee has the responsibility to:

1. Submit a CSRT budget request for the year to the MLA Executive Board. (Guidelines to be appended)
2. Work with the annual conference committee to provide a CSRT program of interest to all MLA members -- to those who work with adults as well as to those who work with children. This program will include the "Thusnelda Schmidt Memorial Lecture" which will be financed to the extent possible from the interest received on the Thusnelda Schmidt Memorial Fund.
3. Make an effort each year to increase the principal of the Thusnelda Schmidt Memorial Fund. This may be done by written solicitation of membership of CSRT, "passing the hat" at CSRT business meetings at the annual conference of the Missouri Library Association, and the sale of books at the Schmidt Memorial Lecture.
4. Assume leadership in promoting various projects each year to encourage reading by the youth of Missouri.

Special attention is called to the responsibilities of the Chairperson of the CSRT:

1. As mentioned in the By-Laws, the Chairperson should attend all meetings of the MLA Executive Board of which she is a member.
2. Also, the Chairperson of CSRT serves as a member of the Mark Twain Award book selection committee and as such, should solicit the help of the membership in recommending titles for the Mark Twain Award reading lists.

Special attention is called to the responsibilities of the Vice-Chairperson (chairperson elect) of CSRT:

1. The Vice-Chairperson shall serve as treasurer for the Committee.
2. The Vice-Chairperson shall serve as Program Chairperson for the up-coming CSRT program/MLA as well as for the Thusnelda Schmidt Memorial Lecture program and speaker.



The Coordinator of Children's and Young Adults Services, Missouri State Library (ex-officio member) shall serve as permanent secretary for the group, at the pleasure of the Steering Committee; shall maintain records and help Committee members with mailing and correspondence, as required. The Secretary shall submit copies of all minutes, procedures and procedure guides to the Executive Director, MLA office, so that a duplicate record of CSRT activities and procedures may be kept on file in that office.

Steering Committee 1974-75

prepared by: Virginia Gleason, Chairperson  
Linda Trotter  
Pat Kern  
Mauree Taliaferro  
Patt Behler  
Sally Metz

November 5, 1975