

ment the rich, evocative text and capture the universal longing to believe . . . the double-page spreads provide scope for the unusual perspective and slightly indistinct outlines that create a haunting atmosphere." This is the second Caldecott Medal Van Allsburg has won. In 1982, *Jujmanji* (Houghton) won the prestigious medal, and in 1980, his *Garden of Abdul Gasazi* was named a Caldecott Honor Book. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the Rhode Island School of Design, and lives in Providence, Rhode Island.

Newbery Honor books are *Commodore Perry in the Land of the Shogun* by Rhoda Blumberg (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard), and *Dogsong* by Gary Paulsen (Bradbury). Caldecott Honor books are *The Relatives Came*, by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Stephen Gammell (Bradbury) and *King Bidgood's in the Bathtub*, by Audrey Wood, illustrated by Don Wood (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich).

### Nat'l. Read-In Planned School Lib. Media Month

A nationwide "Read-In" is scheduled for April 1 to launch the second annual National School Library Media Month. The American Association of School Librarians is asking that school library

media specialists sponsor a read-in in the media center beginning at 10:30 A.M. local time. During this special time, everyone in the school should be encouraged to read for 30 minutes.

Guidelines and suggested activities compiled by the National School Library Media Month Committee are expected to be available from AASL, American Library Association, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Also available is *Handbook for National School Library Media Month*, which is \$9.75 for AASL members; \$12 for non-members.

### Patron Wants to Oust Cat: Library Board Lets Pet Stay

One winter, nine years ago, when a black and white cat strayed into the warm environs of the Woodbury (Conn.) Public Library, no one had the heart to send her out into the cold again. Fred, later discovered to be a female, enjoyed sleeping in the children's room atop a stuffed purple pig. But Fred's life became complicated when Phyllis Delaney, who is allergic to and afraid of cats, demanded that the cat be banned from the library. She made the issue public when she asked the First Selectman to aid her having the Board of Trustees research the le-

gality of keeping a cat in the library. She also sent an open letter to the local paper during the 1985 election.

Delaney's letter to the editor explained why she was so distraught: "When we first moved here, they told us that they had the cat because there were mice in the building. I figured that mice would ruin the books and that it would be better to have a cat. But when they built the new library with tax dollars that I paid [in 1980], I thought they would get rid of the cat." She claimed to have researched whether animals could be kept in a public building and found that it is illegal, "I know there are other libraries that keep cats, but I don't care if there are a million . . . the law is the law."

Acting on her complaint, the selectman had the town attorney conduct research; the library trustees offered to work out a compromise. Library director Jill Smith said the staff is prepared "to put the cat out back" if someone complains, however she has never had problems before. Smith also said that Delaney had a choice of libraries with a library card that is recognized statewide. None of these solutions were acceptable to Delaney who claimed they were prohibitive, and that she should not be denied entrance to the library. On January 29, the trustees granted Fred a reprieve. She remains at home in the library.

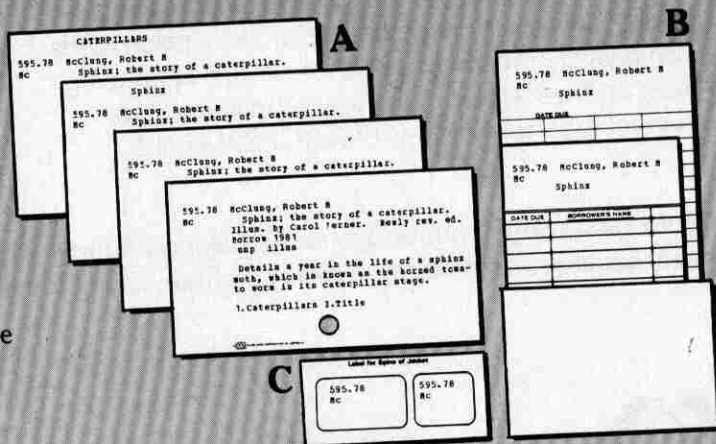
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