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## EC63-527 Reading.... the 5th Freedom Enjoy it!

Ethel Saxton

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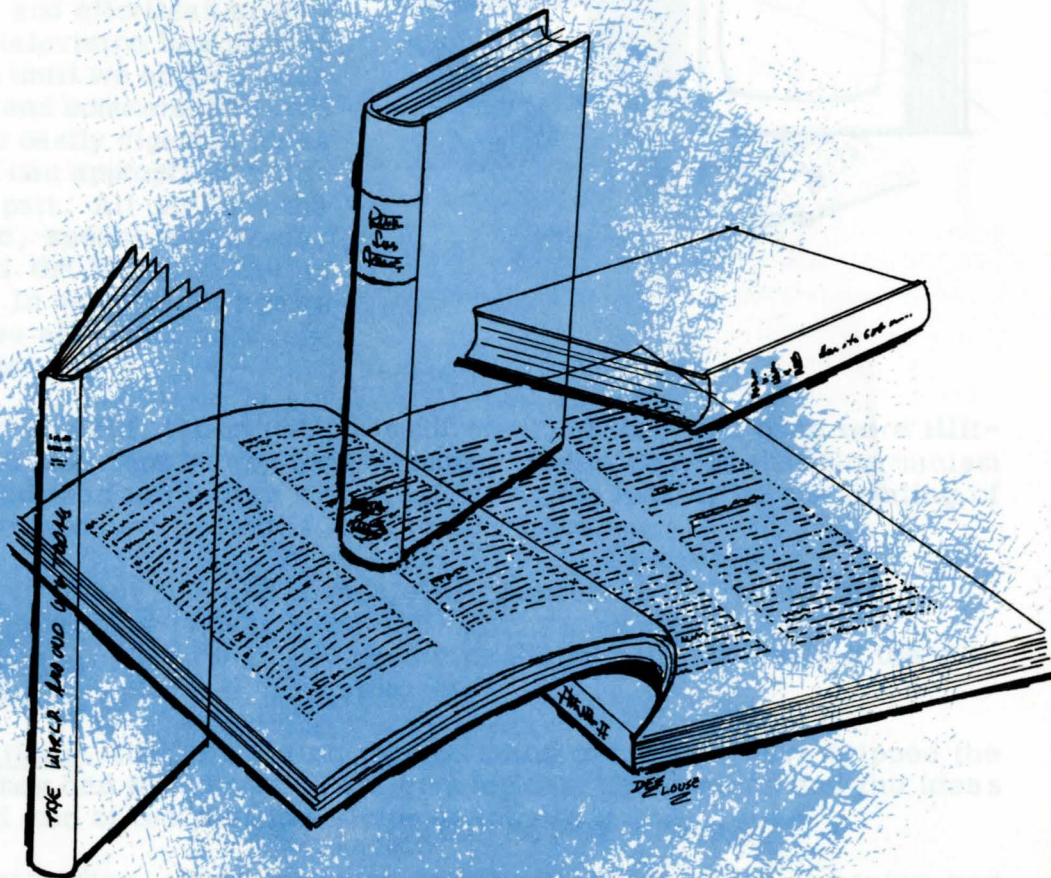
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EC 63-527

# READING.... the 5th FREEDOM ENJOY IT!



EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COOPERATING  
E. F. FROLIK, DEAN E. W. JANIK, DIRECTOR



# READING...the 5<sup>th</sup> Freedom...

## Enjoy it....

By Ethel Saxton 1/  
Assoc. Prof. Home Economics  
(Agricultural Extension)

A home Extension club is made up of women who desire information. Through reading, they benefit from the world's treasures of wisdom and knowledge and explore the realms of adventure and entertainment. In a few hours time, a reader can benefit from a life time of research and study. No homemaker can provide a better heritage for her family than a desire to read and a love of books and knowledge.

"It is becoming increasingly more difficult for people to read. The emphasis on visual aids promises painless and effortless study. Picture magazines and television lure us into an effortless day dream until we abhor a page of solid type. Digests and commentators boil down current events into easily digested ideas and concepts which we can appropriate without any thinking on our part. All day long the radio blares forth music, speech and words, but we have cultivated the habit of having ears that do not hear. In most of our homes the budget encompasses all of the necessities of life - except books.



"In many areas of the world, the situation is different. Those who once were illiterate, having learned to read, are hungry for literature. The tragedy is that Communism is providing more to read than is the free world. However we look at it, the reading of books will open the doors to new treasures, and to new freedom.

"Books are visits with great men and women of the past made to live again.

"Books are experiences to be relived. By observing the pitfalls, as well as the successes of others, we can be wiser than our forefathers.

"Books are inspirations, they are living thoughts and ideas that have gripped the minds of other men. They can pass on to us the convictions, the burdens and the ideas which have transformed men of the past into living evangels.

"Books bring understanding. Activity is no substitute for reading, listening and seeing." 2/

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1/ The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Mrs. Lars Ibsen of Kearney, Nebraska, in preparing this circular.

2/ Alex Koval, Evangelical Free Church of America Bulletin Service. No. 5943, Free Church Press, Minneapolis, Minnesota.



## RESPONSIBILITIES OF READING LEADERS

It is an honor to serve as a reading leader. Although it takes time and effort to plan a program to meet the needs of your group, the results will be rewarding.

The best reading programs lead to action with a definite purpose, encourage people (all of us) to read more, make reading materials easily available to more people, and coordinate reading with the total club program.

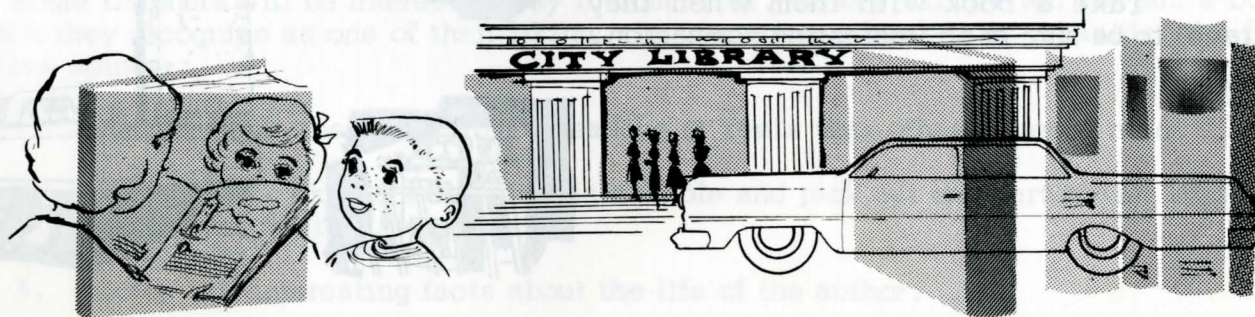
### SUGGESTIONS FOR PLANNING A CLUB READING PROGRAM

1. Decide on what you want to accomplish in the reading program.
2. A well planned reading program once or twice a year may be more effective than trying to have something every month.
3. Plan with your club program committee to coordinate reading with other phases of the club program, i.e., citizenship, study lessons or music. Remember, reading is only one part of your club's program. Plan to use your time effectively, but do not take the time allotted to other club leaders.
  - a. Read about and discuss public problems.
  - b. Arrange for book panels - several members who read about issues, international relations and report the author's point of view to club members.
  - c. Plan for supplemental reading by members after interesting study lessons.
  - d. Plan a program around the culture of a given country - books, cookbooks, pictures, music, costume, folk tales - have several members read along these topics and present information to the club.
4. Plan a club program around a historical period, including readings from great writers, music from great composers, pictures of art masterpieces, and costumes, i.e., "An Evening in Colonial America", "The Gay Nineties", "A Hundred Years in Nebraska".
5. Book talks.
  - a. Read "shorties" to club members.
  - b. Give short 5-10 minute thumbnail sketches (encourage club members to do this).
  - c. Present longer book reviews.





- d. Review new books available at library.
  - e. Plan a story time for small children at club meeting.
  - f. Dramatize a book or one sequence of a book.
6. Roll call at club. (Make this very brief, no more than 5-10 minutes and perhaps not more than once or twice a year.)
- a. Ask members to briefly tell about an interesting magazine article - tell where others may read it.
  - b. Ask club members to exchange favorite bits of poetry.
  - c. Ask members to report by name, books they have read recently.
  - d. Ask club member to report interesting news items she has read.
7. Exchange reading program with other clubs.
8. Encourage members to know about and to use local library services.
- a. Plan a tour to local library or follow a bookmobile on its route.
  - b. Club members gather at book stop of a bookmobile some day to borrow books.
  - c. Invite librarian to club to discuss local library services.
  - d. Get permission from library to check out books which local members may take home from club meeting.
  - e. Club buy books to read and donate to library at end of year. Consult with librarian about choice of books.
  - f. Find out and discuss the Nebraska plan for improved library service. 3/
  - g. Tell members about the services of the Nebraska Public Library Commission.
  - h. Find out and report on library services for the blind.
  - i. Celebrate National Library Week.
  - j. Find out how members can get library cards for local library.



3/ See Study lesson - "Better Library Service for Nebraska People"



9. Encourage club members to read.

a. Provide members with book lists for individual reading. Suggest they keep a reading log.

b. Encourage members to take part in Great Books discussion groups. (Your librarian can tell you how this may be organized in your community.)

c. Acquaint members with idea of leaving family preference lists with librarian so that she may suggest books when individuals come into library to borrow books.

d. Encourage club members to have books about the home so that they are convenient to pick up and read.

e. Encourage club members to read aloud to their children.

f. Enroll in The Home Reading Courses. University of Nebraska Extension Division. 4/

g. Encourage club members to make reading planned, not incidental. Suggest they try the following if time for reading is hard to find:

Carry a book in their purses or in the car to read while they wait.

If they can't sleep at night, they may read, not just roll and toss.

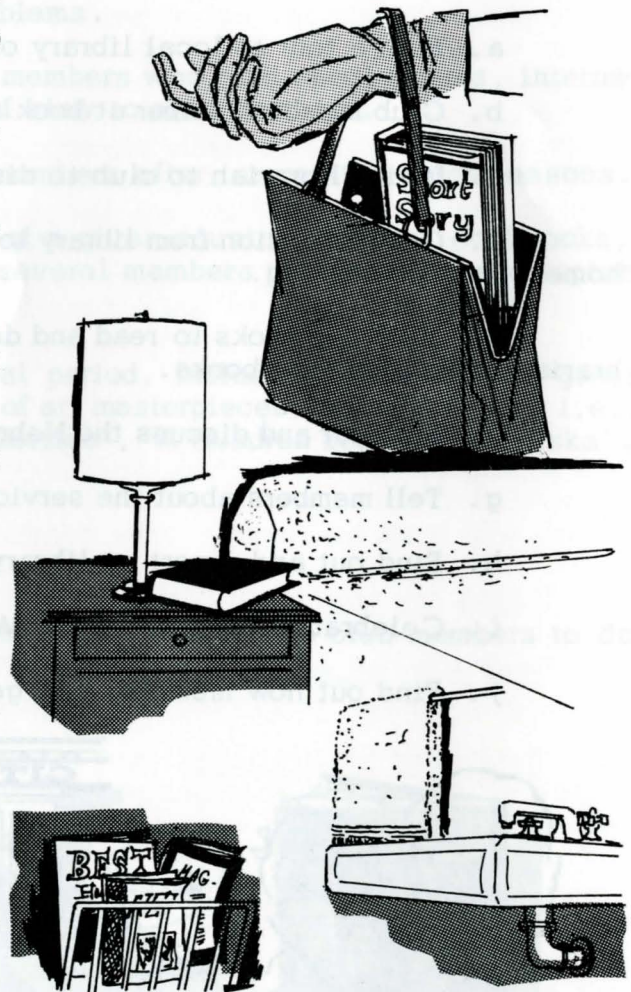
Read a few minutes of something comforting and relaxing before they sleep at night.

Wake up early and read something that will give them a lift for the day.

Keep a book handy in the kitchen to read while the meal is cooking.

Keep a magazine rack in the bathroom.

Take a book with them when they travel to be sure of an interesting companion.





h. Suggest the resource material below to give purpose to reading.

To gain information on  
current public problems --- Newspapers, new magazines.

To know more about job as  
homemakers --- Homemaking magazines, books, Extension circulars.

To acquire knowledge about  
an interesting hobby --- Public Library, Nebraska Public Library Commission

To become informed as  
citizens --- Newspapers and news magazines.

To increase knowledge about  
people and places --- Travel magazines and book clubs.

To use leisure time for  
purposeful self-education

To have interesting things  
to think about.

To have fun and relaxation.

---Don't overlook drugstore paperback books of  
best sellers as well as old classics and "who-  
dun-its."

To gain inspiration for the  
day --- Daily Bible readings and devotional books.

### HOW TO MAKE A BOOK TALK

It is a privilege to tell friends about a book. It is also an art. A book talk is a quick preview which helps the listener decide:

"This is something I will enjoy."

"I really must read this book."

"Here are some ideas I need to know."

Some listeners will be interested only in comments, others will be led to read a book which they recognize as one of their liking. In preparing a book talk, consider the following points:

1. Select a book one has enjoyed reading or feels that others should read.
2. Scan the book as to its contents as a whole and pick out one part to tell that will whet curiosity, yet not tell the whole.
3. Briefly tell interesting facts about the life of the author.
4. Quote a brief review about the book, found in a magazine or newspaper.
5. Suggest an audience that will enjoy the book.



6. Tell where the book may be obtained (Public Library, newsstand for paperbacks, issue of magazine, etc.)

7. Show book if reviewer has a copy.

8. Plan the book talk to fit into the spot in the club program reserved for it. Book talks are brief--limited to 5-10 minutes.

9. Use a style suited to the subject matter of the book. An enthusiastic presentation (voice-manner and interest) begets an enthusiastic response to the speaker.

10. Rehearse the book talk aloud, and time it.

11. Answer questions, if listeners want more information. The question period becomes a barometer of the effectiveness of your talk.

### BOOK EXHIBITS

A book exhibit can be a wonderful means of interesting and enticing people to handle books and to even look inside and read. It is a silent though often colorful "come on" which makes people stop just to read a title. These may be in store windows, at clubs, in the library, at county fairs and at other county meetings. <sup>5</sup>/There are many kinds of exhibits such as:

1. Small exhibit of books at a local club meeting that people can handle and look at.

2. A book exhibit in a store window, made by a club to call attention to National Library Week.

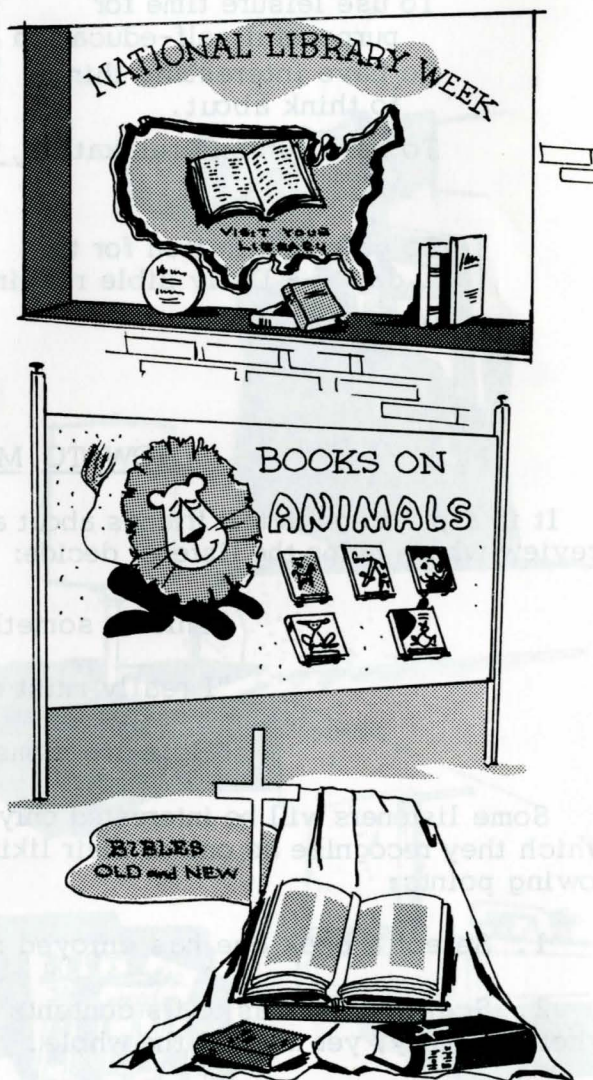
3. An exhibit of books at Christmas time to suggest gifts or ways to celebrate the holidays.

4. A collection of books suitable for children.

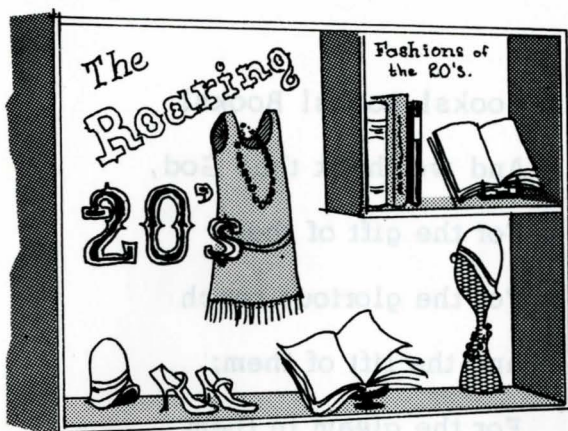
5. An exhibit of favorite books of club members at a club meeting.

6. A collection of Bibles, old, new - in different languages.

<sup>5</sup>/Exhibits of current children's books are available from the Nebraska Public Library Commission. Adult books, too are available on special subjects.







7. A collection of old books.
8. Store window exhibits of books giving information about merchandise being displayed.
9. A hobby show with a display of books relating to the hobby.
10. An exhibit of old magazines (fashions - room arrangement) and current magazines.
11. Books included with costume, furniture, and other objects to depict a historical era or a country.

### READING FOR CITIZENS

A good citizen is a good reader. In a country as huge as ours we have to educate ourselves concerning its government, resources, and even its scenery. Even if we travel extensively, reading helps us to see the wider meaning of what our eyes have told us.

The newspaper is a good source of information on the part our community or state has in the national community, but it should be supplemented by news magazines that tell more about the significance of what is going on. Books can provide information on the history leading up to present issues.

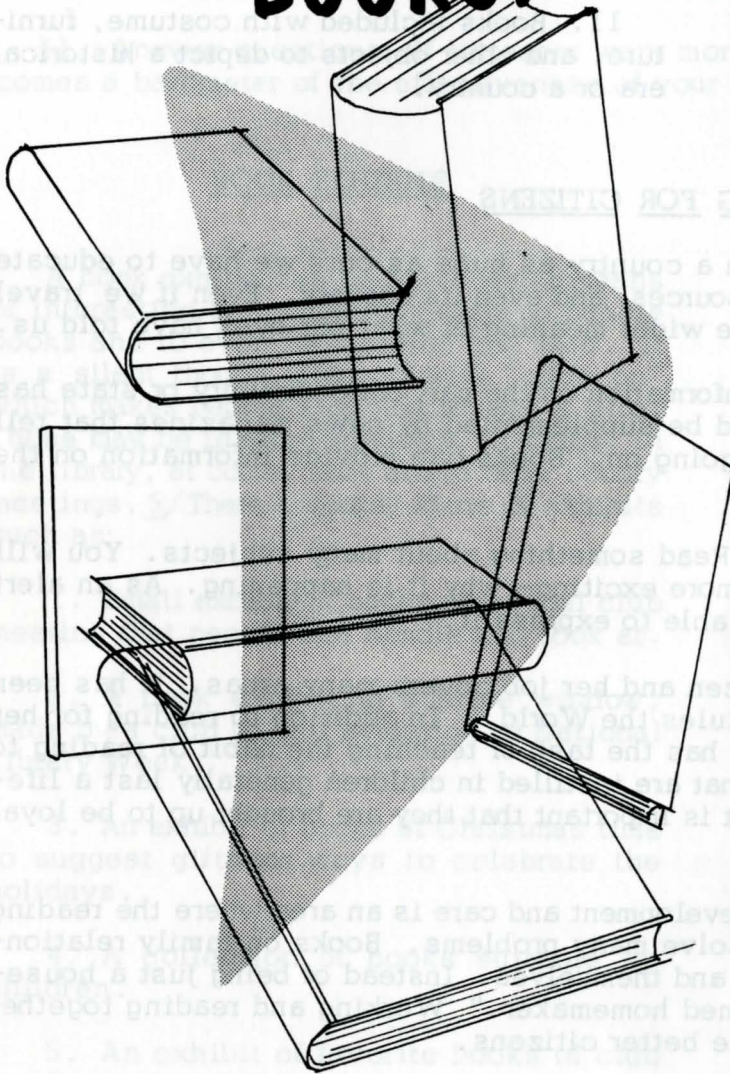
Read with an open inquiring mind. Read something about many subjects. You will enjoy knowing what is happening and--more exciting--why it is happening. As an alert citizen you will have an opinion and be able to express it.

The homemaker is an important citizen and her job covers many areas. It has been said "The Hand that Rocks the Cradle Rules the World." In addition to reading for her own information and pleasure, a mother has the task of teaching the habit of reading to her children. The ideals and opinions that are instilled in children generally last a lifetime. They are the future citizens and it is important that they are brought up to be loyal and intelligent.

The guidance of children and their development and care is an area where the reading of books and other materials can help solve many problems. Books on family relationships help the reader understand others and themselves. Instead of being just a housewife she can proudly say "I'm an informed homemaker." Working and reading together helps to strengthen family life and make better citizens.



# BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!



From There Are Sermons in Books,  
by William L. Stidger. George H.  
Doran Publishing Co., 1922.  
Garden City, New York.

Books! Books! Books!  
And we thank thee God,  
For the gift of them;  
For the glorious reach  
and the lift of them;  
For the gleam in them  
And the dream in them;  
For the things they teach  
And the Souls they reach;  
For the magic of them  
And the blaze of them;  
For the ways they open to us  
And the ray they shoot through us!  
Books! Books! Books!  
And we thank Thee God,  
For the light in them,  
For the night in them;  
For the urge in them  
And the surge in them;  
For the souls they wake  
And the paths they break;  
For the gong in them  
And the song in them;  
For the throngs of folks they bring  
to us  
And the songs of hope they sing to  
us!