Packhorse Librarians in Kentucky
WPA Project
1936 - 1943

Goodman-Paxton Photographic Collection
University of Kentucky
PACKHORSE LIBRARIANS IN KENTUCKY: WPA PROJECT, 1936-1943

This visual display has been prepared to complement the promotion of the University of Kentucky Libraries’ Works Progress Administration / Work Projects Administration (WPA) materials collection.

Recognized as a Center of Excellence for its WPA collection, UK Libraries is committed to the continued development of the collection, acquiring material for both preservation and use.

Display Curator: Angelia Pulley
Full Credit Narrative - Posted on Wall

Photos and text included in this display were obtained from the Goodman-Paxton Photographic Collection, Special Collections, University of Kentucky Libraries.
“Packhorse Library Carriers mounted on horses outside Packhorse Library in Hindman, Ky.”
“Four of the Packhorse librarians ready for the day's work”
“Many roads can be traveled only on horseback by the carriers on Packhorse Library Projects”

box 11 item 610
“Packhorse librarians cross footlogs to reach home used as a distributing center for that mountain community”
“WPA Packhorse librarian visits isolated mountain house, carrying books in saddle bags and homemade hickory baskets”
“Mountain recipes and scrap books of current events have been developed by the Packhorse librarians who deliver 3,548 books monthly”
“Packhorse Library Building in Hindman, Ky.”

box 23 item 2877
“Red, white and blue Packhorse Library sign outside Louisa, 1941”

box 24 item 3058
“Mrs. Short, certified Packhorse Library worker, standing in doorway, 1941.”

box 24 item 3059
“Sign at Norris Packhorse Library project, 1941.”

box 24  item 3060
“Mr. Hale, Librarian at Norris Packhorse Library, 1941.”

box 24 item 3061
“Interior of WPA Library in Hyden, KY.”

box 24  item 3102
“Packing saddle bags with carefully chosen books which will be distributed in rural and mountain communities”
“Librarians checking out rural carrier at McKee Public Library operated by WPA”
“Interior view of McKee Public Library operated by WPA”
“Four pack horse librarians in this county [Owsley] rode 564 miles last month with saddle bags filled with books and magazines...”
“Pack Horse Librarians start down Greasy Creek to remote homes of mountaineers anxious for books.”

box 31 item 4968
“Interior of mountain cabin visited by WPA Packhorse Librarian.”

box 24 item 3101
“One of the mountain homes visited by WPA Packhorse librarian. Man was permanently injured by bullet wound”

box 13 item 696
“Interior of mountain cabin. Packhorse Library Carrier is seated at wooden table.”

box 23  item 2886
“Packhorse Library Carrier mounted and ready to leave mountain cabin after delivering books.”

box 23 item 2887
“WPA Librarian visits mountain school.”

box 24 item 3100
“Eleanor Roosevelt visiting the Packhorse Library in West Liberty, KY”
“Mrs. Roosevelt chats with a Pack Horse Librarian of the Kentucky Mountains at the dedication exercises of the West Liberty High School.”

box 31  item 4965
“Books donated for distribution on WPA Packhorse Library Project. 3,914 books and 8,808 magazines delivered monthly...”

box 13  item 693