



AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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From: Peggy Barber, Director
Public Information Office

Midwinter Meeting
American Library Association
January 19-25, 1975

For release Thursday, January 23,
4:30 p.m.

Press Room: Palmer House, Fifth Floor
Dining Room #17
Telephone: 726-7500, ext. 05 and 06

Beverly Cleary, whose stories have delighted millions of children, has been named winner of the 1975 Laura Ingalls Wilder Award by the Children's Services Division of the American Library Association.

Dr. Caroline Bauer, chairperson of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Committee, announced the winner at a press conference held in Chicago on January 23rd, during the ALA's annual Midwinter meeting.

The Wilder Medal is given every five years "to an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have over a period of years made a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children".

Henry Huggins, Fifteen, The Mouse and the Motorcycle, and Ribsy are only a few of the many books by Beverly Cleary which have encouraged young readers, made them laugh and inspired them to comment, "you catch the feeling of children who rarely get a chance to explain their side of things". Simplicity, realistic detail, ingenuity, and humor have made Beverly Cleary's contribution to children's literature a rich and resounding success.

Mrs. Cleary was born in McMinnville, Oregon, and now resides in Berkeley, California. After graduating from college in Ontario,

California, and the University of California at Berkeley, she entered the School of Librarianship at the University of Washington where she specialized in library work with children.

When asked how she came to writing books for children, Mrs. Cleary replied, "The stories I write are the stories I wanted to read as a child, and the experience I hope to share with children is the discovery that reading is one of the pleasures of life and not just something that has to be done in school."

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Award was established in 1954 to honor the distinguished author of stories of American pioneer family life based on her own childhood. Previous winners of the Wilder Medal in addition to Mrs. Wilder who received the first medal in 1954, have been Clara Ingram Judson, 1960, Ruth Sawyer 1965, and E.B. White 1970.

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Mrs. Cleary was born in McMinnville, Oregon, and now resides in Berkeley, California, after graduating from college in Seattle.