

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

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NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING

OCTOBER 16, 17, 18, 1947

By EUNICE QUERY

With its twenty-fifth meeting at the Hotel Robert E. Lee in Winston-Salem the North Carolina Library Association was able once again to conform to its regular schedule of biennial meetings. A record attendance of three hundred and eighty-five enthusiastic librarians, trustees, and interested friends contributed greatly to the success of the meeting.

Following registration Thursday afternoon these visitors were entertained by the Winston-Salem librarians at a tea in the Salem College Library. Dr. Howard Rondthaler, president of Salem College, Mrs. Rondthaler, and the officers of the North Carolina Library Association received in the reading room. The library as a whole formed an appropriate and beautiful setting for this delightful affair.

Dr. Rondthaler officially welcomed the convention to Winston-Salem at the opening of the first general session in the ballroom of the Robert E. Lee Hotel Thursday evening. He also announced that the Moravian Archives, containing all records of the Moravians back to 1775, would be open all day Friday, and that Dr. Adelaide Fries, archivist, would welcome all visitors. The principal address of the evening was made by Dr. William M. Randall, director of libraries at the University of Georgia, his subject being "Library Construction." Dr. Randall's picture of the functional library building was both stimulating and challenging. The film, "Books and People—the Wealth Within," was shown prior to an informal talk by Mr. Hoyt Galvin, director of the Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Public Library, on "Library Equipment."

The second day of the meeting began with a Bookmobile Section Breakfast, at which Miss Virginia Williamson presided. At each plate were copies of the "Manual of Suggestions and Procedures for Bookmobile Service" and statistical sheets presenting some of the findings from the North Carolina Bookmobile Survey. Miss Elizabeth House of the North Carolina Library Commission spoke on the subject, "Bookmobiles from Cherokee to Currituck."

Highlight of the second general session Friday morning was the announcement of the results of the election of officers, and a discussion of "The Southeastern States Cooperative Survey" by Mr.

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Marion A. Milczewski, director of the survey. The officers elected for the 1947-1949 biennium are: president, Miss Margaret Ligon, librarian, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville; first vice-president, Mr. Wendell W. Smiley, librarian, East Carolina Teachers College, Greenville; second vice-president, Mr. Charles M. Adams, librarian, Woman's College, Greensboro; secretary, Miss Margaret Johnston, librarian, Haywood County Public Library, Waynesville; treasurer, Miss Marianna Long, Law Library, Duke University, Durham; members at large, Miss Jane Wilson, supervisor, elementary school libraries, Durham, and Mr. George M. Stephens, Stephens Press, Asheville. Dr. Benjamin E. Powell, librarian, Duke University Library, Durham, was elected to serve as A. L. A. representative.

Following the reading and approval of the minutes of the 1946 meeting, other business was attended to in order. The Association voted to continue Miss Eloise Camp as its representative on the Executive Board of the Southeastern Library Association through the 1948 meeting; the President was authorized to appoint an expanded Constitution Committee to continue work on a revision of the constitution; the treasurer's report was read and accepted.

At the luncheon meeting of the Trustees Section at 12:30 in the Orangerie Room Mr. George M. Stephens, trustee of the Buncombe County Library, Asheville, spoke on "The Trustee, His Library and the Survey."

The afternoon was given over to section meetings. Miss Elizabeth Walker presided over the Catalogers' Section; Miss Page Ackerman talked on "The Personnel Situation in Relation to Catalogers," and Dr. Susan Grey Akers read a paper entitled "Do Your Cataloging and Classification Tools Fit Your Library?" Miss Margaret Johnston presided at the Public Librarians' Section; she presented Mr. Marion A. Milczewski, who spoke briefly on "The Survey and the Public Library"; Miss Marjorie Beal presented a new map showing North Carolina library service with 89 counties participating in State Aid and only three counties with no public library service at all. At the College and University Librarians' Section, Miss Virginia Trumper, chairman, presented Dr. Randall, who conducted a symposium on proposed library buildings in North Carolina; the section adopted a report recommending a summer workshop. Miss Jane Hinson was in charge of the School and Children's Librarians' Section; she introduced Mrs. Mebane Holoman Burgwyn, author of "River Treasure," who made a most entertaining and inspiring talk on "Perspective." The Special Libraries Group, with Mrs. Helen Monahan presiding, voted to ask the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Library Association to organize a Special Libraries Section.

Among the most satisfying developments in the history of North Carolina libraries was the organization at this meeting of a high school pupil assistants state club. Mrs. Hallie Sykes Bacelli helped the ninety-five young people present in setting up their organiza-

tion, and Mrs. Burgwyn delighted them with a talk.

The Association dinner held in honor of three charter members of the North Carolina Library Association was an appropriate climax to the convention. Honorary Life memberships were presented to Mr. J. P. Breedlove, Librarian Emeritus, Duke University, who was present at the banquet, and to Dr. Louis R. Wilson, University of North Carolina, and Miss Annie Petty of Greensboro who were unable to attend. Special music was furnished by the R. J. Reynolds High School Girls Chorus under the direction of Mrs. Kate Detmold. Miss Camp, president, turned the meeting over to Mr. Harlan Brown, first vice-president, who acted as toastmaster. Mr. Brown recognized the special guests: Mr. Meade Willis, chairman of the Winston-Salem Library Commission; Mr. Milczewski, Miss Ackerman, Mrs. Wendell Smiley, Mrs. Harlan Brown, Dr. J. Henry Highsmith, Mrs. Mebane Holoman Burgwyn, and the new officers. Mr. Brown then introduced Mr. Richard Walser, assistant professor of English at State College, who gave a delightful address on "North Carolina Poetry." At the close of the dinner hour Mr. Brown expressed the thanks of the Association to Mr. Charles Brockman, chairman of Exhibits, and to all of the exhibitors for their contribution to the success of the meeting. Miss Tera Bailey of the Charlotte Public Library conducted the drawing for the prizes which had been donated by the exhibitors.

Saturday morning activities began with a Junior Members Round Table breakfast at 8:30 in the Blue Room with Miss Tera Bailey presiding. Mr. Wendell W. Smiley led a round table discussion on "Education for Librarianship"; participating in this discussion were Dr. J. Henry Highsmith, Miss Mildred Herring, Mrs. Mary D. Kline, and Miss Mae Tucker.

The final session convened at 10 o'clock in the ballroom. The following committee reports were given: Federal Relations, Mr. Hoyt Galvin; Legislative Committee, Miss Marjorie Beal; A. L. A. Membership, Miss Janie Allsbrook, who reported a total membership of 366; N. C. L. A. Membership, Mrs. Harlan Brown, who reported a new record of 444 members; Resolutions, Mrs. Lillian Buchanan; Education for Librarianship, Miss Mildred Herring. Following the committee reports Miss Beal presented the matter of A. L. A. regional meetings and announced that questionnaires will be sent out later. Miss Camp announced that the next meeting of the A. L. A. will be in Atlantic City and that of the Southeastern Library Association in Louisville.

The new president, Miss Margaret Ligon, was installed and declared the twenty-fifth meeting of the North Carolina Library Association adjourned.

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Wendell W. Smiley Editor

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Today the responsibility of the librarian is greater than ever before. From the beginning of time, man has attempted to record through pictures and symbols his knowledge and ideas for the benefit of posterity. This urge for the preservation of man's progress has made a very significant contribution to our present day culture, and these ideas and records naturally fall within the walls of libraries—both large and small.

World conditions have become so complex, individual opinions so varied, our country so overrun with 'isms, that it is very difficult to arrive at a real solution to any problems. As librarians, we can be, by careful study and a deep sense of responsibility, an influence for the improvement of society in our community. With the multitude of ideas before the world today, librarians, by knowing their material and their patrons, have the opportunity to render a definite serv-

ice to society. North Carolina has librarians of this calibre and I feel that the result of our determination today will be evident in the years to come.

Margaret H. Ligon, President
North Carolina Library Association

SIDE LIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE

(Written anonymously by two
who were there)

Secretaries' minutes are important in the archives of any organization, but they are often obliged by the rules of the game to be noted for omitting the more interesting parts of a convention. For example, what secretary's record ever included the shopping expeditions which the women attending always manage to include in their program of activities. We "did" all the dime stores, but we know of others who visited Sosnic's and other high class emporiums of merchandise. We're willing to bet that the minds of, well, let's be conservative and say, ninety percent of the librarians present, dwelt fleetingly on the length of the skirts and the "new look" among the costumes there, before settling to more serious matters. And the tea at Salem—is its atmosphere found among the reports of our officers.

While archives are considered by many, even among librarians, as dull monuments of the past, a number of our delegates accepted the invitation to see the Moravian Archives at Salem and found them well worth the effort.

Some day Hoyt Galvin is not going to be betrayed by circumstances into having to display his pet visual aids

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under the worst possible conditions, but if any Irish banshee ever wailed more horribly than the vitaphone at the first general session or any ghost from Macbeth's castle ever proved harder to get into focus, we sympathize with their sponsors. (Do ghosts and banshees have sponsors?)

No conference would be complete without the rush from one meeting to another; but the tongue of one presiding officer suffered a traffic jam when trying to hasten the program along—she introduced the speaker as Mr. W. W. Chairman. That didn't spoil a peppy meeting from whose lively controversy one was loath to leave for the resolutions and reports of the final general session.

Speaking of rushing, we are reminded that the Rush from the University of North Carolina added much to the humor and tempo of the meetings as well as to the fun of the mezzanine gatherings.

The unscheduled events are not to be overlooked as being among the highlights of the convention. Displays and souvenirs such as free notebooks and cigarette lighters (ours are still working too) were not the only offerings of the commercial exhibitors. These extra-curricular gatherings were enjoyed by many who made the rounds. The gab-fests which lasted into the wee sma's did not seem to dull the sparkle of the Junior Members breakfast Saturday morning. Wits and enthusiasm seemed to go full steam ahead and the discussions were quite spirited.

The new organization for High School Pupil assistants got off to a good start. When those youngsters become librarians, there'll not be a "sourpuss" among them, judging from the group we saw at the banquet. Their faces, as they listened to the

High School Glee Club sing "My Hero," were lovely to look upon.

Jane Wilson was also enchanted by the singing. She didn't have that soulful look of the pupil assistants, but her lips were silently forming the words of the song as "her children" sang. You see she was once librarian at Reynolds Hi.

Dick Walser will always be popular with a large number of North Carolina librarians and his compliments to the ladies will not hurt his chances of being voted the most popular speaker. The ladies at the speakers table were easy to look at; so Dick was seasoning his poetry with truth when he appraised the beauty of the female of the profession.

Speaking of beauty, we can't leave Winston-Salem without mentioning the quite incredible beauty of the hills in and surrounding the city. The gold and scarlet, the pale lemon yellow and deep crimson against the dark evergreens, as we drove away that Saturday afternoon, were so eye-filling and soul-satisfying, that they were like a benediction.

We are hide-bound by tradition no doubt but our library looked beautiful as well as functional to us when we got back to it, in spite of the fact that it looks more like a temple than a modern department store; moreover its high ceilings are welcome wells of cool air during these warm Indian summer days.

BOOKMOBILE GROWTH IN NORTH CAROLINA DURING 1947

By Elizabeth House

North Carolina Library Commission

During 1947 for the first time since the war, trucks became available and real progress was made toward securing bookmobiles for those counties

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long anticipating them. The BHM Regional Library (Beaufort, Hyde and Martin Counties) had the first new bookmobile this year to begin service in March. This truck replaced the one formerly operated by the North Carolina Library Commission and used by the Region for the past six years. The next new bookmobile replaced the one wrecked in Buncombe County last fall. This is the second bookmobile given to Buncombe County by Mr. R. Lee Ellis of the Asheville Coca Cola Bottling Company, he having given the original one which was wrecked.

Columbus County, sharing in State Aid for the first time in 1946-47, began county-wide service with its new bookmobile in May. The long anticipated bookmobile service in Stanley County began with a new truck in June. Wilson County, feeling the need for a new and larger truck to meet the increased demands for county service, began operating a one-ton bookmobile in November. Fontana Regional Library (Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties) has the first of the new model one-half ton panel Chevrolet trucks converted into a bookmobile and it began operating early in December.

Through cooperation of the Division of Purchase and Contract with the North Carolina Library Commission, a contract was let for panel trucks to be used for bookmobiles.

Through November orders had been placed for forty-four such trucks. Of these orders twenty-two have been delivered and the delivery of the others is expected during December. Also through the Division of Purchase and Contract a contract has been let for the conversion of these panel trucks to bookmobiles. Of the twenty-two already delivered one has been converted and is in operation as stated above, and the contract calls for completion of the remainder at the rate of one each week.

North Carolina already has more bookmobiles in operation than any other state in the union and when these new ones are in operation there will be sixty-eight serving seventy-six counties. Counties which have bookmobiles on order and where service will begin within the next six or eight months are: Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Bladen, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Carteret, Cleveland, Craven-Pamlico Region, Cumberland, Currituck, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gaston, Halifax, Harnett, Haywood, Johnston, Lee, Lenoir, Moore, Nantahala Region (Cherokee, Clay and Graham), Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Pitt, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Scotland, Stokes, Transylvania, Tyrell, Wake (two—Negro and White), Washington, Wayne and Wilkes.

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