

From the President

Gwen Jackson, President

Since "graduating" to the presidency of the North Carolina Library Association on October 22, 1993, several "C" words have loomed on my horizon. Among them, and perhaps one of the most important, is *celebrate*.

According to *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* *celebrate* means "to demonstrate grateful and happy satisfaction in an event by engaging in festivities, indulgence, merrymaking, or other similar deviation from accustomed routine; to proclaim or broadcast for the attention of a wide public; to portray with a high valuation and usually in enhanced or exalted interpretation in a way to contribute to public awareness, edification, or enjoyment."

The North Carolina Library Association celebrates its ninetieth birthday this spring! On May 14, 1904, seven librarians met in Greensboro and founded our state association. Articles in the fiftieth anniversary issue of *North Carolina Libraries* (Spring 1992) provided the

history of libraries in North Carolina and offer an excellent opportunity to reexamine "our roots." From these early beginnings ninety years ago, libraries in North Carolina have become specialized; but we all began with a single mission — to make information available.

Over 1700 of us had an opportunity to *celebrate libraries* at the fiftieth North Carolina Library Association Conference in October 1993. We celebrated as librarians and library supporters all having common interests and concerns in our chosen profession — not as academic, public, school or special library types.

As library supporters — staff, trustees and friends — we have many things to celebrate. I *challenge* (another of my "C" words) you to take a few minutes and reflect on your day. Did you note:

- the relieved expression on a patron's face when you were able to provide needed information?
- the feeling of excitement as you suggested a special book to a patron?

- the relief you and a colleague experienced as a technical problem was solved?
- the thrill of making the budget stretch?
- the joy of having a 'good' day?

Any one of these opportunities to celebrate can happen to you. Our individual celebrations often come in small sizes at no cost.

My goal for the 1993-95 biennium is to strengthen the association by each of us making a personal *commitment* to the profession of librarianship. Look for ways to *collaborate* and work with other libraries in your own community. Make opportunities to visit the other types of libraries in your area to see "first hand" what services are offered. Strengthening our profession begins at home. These goals are not new. Our priorities for the past biennium were based on networking across all types of libraries and marketing our profession. We are continuing the good work that has been going on in the North Carolina Library Association.

***Celebrate* libraries every day!**

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