

Letter to the Editor

May I present a problem that public librarians face in getting material published in *NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES*. Articles are accepted for publication with a note that they will appear "within 12 to 18 months." Sometimes it is longer than that before they appear if at all. A case in point, John Barrow's article, "The Whole Earth Bookmobile" was published almost two years after he had gone from the state. The article would have been much more effective if published two years earlier.

Is there any way to include some portion of the magazine for things of timely interest for more immediate publication? We are proud of the high standards, but often there are things of great interest that should be published sooner than the present arrangement allows.

Perhaps there could be, along with the more scholarly articles, a section devoted to articles that are more in the realm of news and need more immediate release.

If *NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES* is the organ of the North Carolina Library Association, should it not serve all interests?

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gilleland
Northwestern Regional Library
Elkin, N. C.

The Editorial Board of *NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES* appreciates Kathleen Gilleland's letter for two reasons. First, we are grateful that someone among the readership is willing to express themselves when the journal does not meet their satisfaction. We have always solicited constructive criticism both privately and publicly as a tool for the improvement of our publication

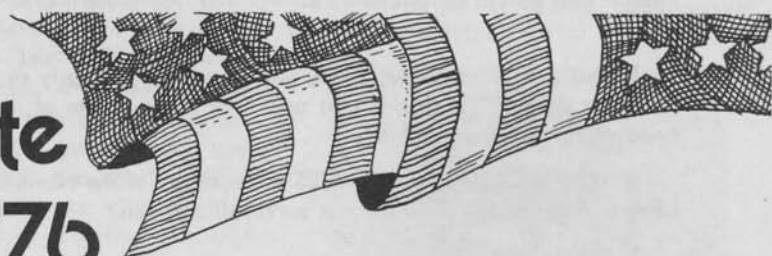
effort. Secondly, Kathleen Gilleland's letter provides an opportunity for your journal to explain something about which a few people are wondering. There was a time, approximately four years ago, when your journal had no manuscripts beyond those for any one immediate issue. We felt this was a precarious situation for the journal to occupy, and so we moved immediately

to rectify the problem. The result has been that we have been successful to the point that we have for two years had a backlog of good manuscripts from which to pick and choose as each issue was put together. This often means that a person who has produced a manuscript which is accepted for publication will not see it in print as soon as he or she would like. Each of us suffers from this "agony of the author" and so too do members of the Editorial Board.

The simple fact of the matter is, however, that in order to have the security of a backlog of manuscripts we cannot publish papers as rapidly as many writers

would like. Thus we ask people to be patient with us and understand that we are, more than anyone, mindful of their desires, and yet we must remain concerned with the welfare and continued viability of the journal. If there is some currency to a manuscript which would be lost while having to wait its turn, we are happy to be told of this and to set the manuscript up for publication sooner than what might normally be the case. Let us know when the manuscript is submitted and we will do our best, as doing our best is, of course, exactly what we want to do.

**Salute
'76**



and North Carolina's Heritage

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JOHN F. BLAIR, Publisher

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The Legacy of Phil Ogilvie



Philip Smythe Ogilvie, 1919-1976

In high school many of us wrote our class wills, leaving items of value to those who followed us. In his unique way, Philip Smythe Ogilvie has left North Carolina librarians a legacy which we will in turn leave some day to those who follow — quality library service equally distributed to all Carolinians.

Beneath the friendly exterior, the family-oriented, always-listening, open yet modest Phil, was a deeper Phil — the shrewd and careful planner. What made Phil happy were results, not for himself but for others. North Carolina is ninth in the United States in total state aid given to public libraries. Almost every little town in North Carolina has its own library, usually located prominently and built through the efforts of its citizens. Regional libraries include over 50 smaller counties, bringing quality library service to isolated communities and individuals. North Carolina is a leader in library networking, information retrieval and dissemination, service to the institutionalized, and service to the blind and the handicapped.

Phil may be gone, but our future is his too. We build on his work. Phil was traditional only in his approach. His ideas were up to the minute. Change and progress were his keynotes. One recalls Phil's own words on this:

"Tradition is not a tomb in which to hide from progress. It is rich ground well-tilled and warm with sunshine of hope for an even greater future. Into it we drop the seeds of our aspirations for a better world and from it they grow strong and well-nourished and bear fruit and become new traditions to nourish others as time passes."

This then is the legacy of Phil Ogilvie. He was a Carolinian . . . a planner . . . a librarian . . . a friend.

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