
Exalting Learning and Libraries

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

From the President

This is the space reserved for the president's column, but we decided not to have the president write this one. Instead, following is a profile of Pauline Myrick, 1985-87 president of NCLA, based on several conversations with Pauline during October, 1985. Ed.

Pauline Myrick, Director of Intermediate Instruction and Educational Media, Moore County Schools, became a fulltime library person in 1961 when her superintendent decided he needed somebody at the central office to develop and promote libraries, and Pauline was his choice. A principal and teacher at the time, she had also been working in libraries since her undergraduate days at UNC-G. As Pauline put it, "Wherever I went, I always got the library." Becoming a library lobbyist at the central office fulltime was a big decision, however, and when first approached, Pauline wasn't at all sure that she wanted to give up the classroom. But her superintendent was convinced he knew where she could make the most important contribution. Moore County schools and NCLA are the beneficiaries of his foresight.

When she became the supervisor of libraries in 1961, Pauline had a system with twenty-five "libraries" and one librarian. Her best resource at the time was probably the two hundred student library assistants, and she made good use of them. She'd had experience in that. When she was principal and teacher at Carthage Elementary, she developed a novel approach to book processing. She set up 10 stations in her classroom for the various book processing functions, and the students did the work. When they had some free time, they could go to whichever station they chose and do the task that that station was set up for. When they finished with a book there, they passed it on to the next station. This was an innovative response to necessity—the books needed to be processed, and there was no staff to do it. But at the end of the year, the direct benefit to the students became apparent—reading scores went through the roof. Those children were the first to get the new books, they took pride in pro-

cessing them, and they read them. And when Pauline tells the story, she glows with the satisfaction of someone who's had a very successful working life bringing children and books together.

She speaks of those early "pre-Sputnik" years with fondness—the years of hardly any money but a lot of ingenuity and elbow grease; the years when one "library" was in the principal's office and had to be locked when he wasn't there because the ice cream box was also there. Pauline solved that problem by having an oversized book-cart constructed for the student assistants to use to propel the library around to the classrooms.

One little pet peeve of Pauline's is removing book jackets to be saved for bulletin boards. Everywhere she went, Pauline raided the files of book jackets and put them back on the books, with the result that the kids began finding attractive books that they wanted to read. This ploy was almost too successful for one library aide who lamented, "But what am I going to do—the Southern Association accreditation people are coming and there are hardly any books on the shelves—the kids have checked them all out."

Pauline reached one of her major goals in 1975 when every school had at least one fulltime staff person. It took her a while to convince everybody that "students in a small school need the same service as those in larger schools." She's justifiably proud now of all the fine programs and facilities that Moore County school libraries can boast. The current state of affairs she attributes to the support of many dedicated teachers and librarians over the years. Her most recent major accomplishment, besides all of her NCLA activities, is the book she wrote about her employer, *Treading New Ground: A History of Moore County Schools, 1959-1985*.

Pauline believes that "teaching is whatever you do to help people learn," and that libraries and librarians are a very important part of the teaching and learning process. That's why the theme for her two years in office is "Exalting Learning and Libraries." Her goal for NCLA is to keep it moving forward, and she believes it takes the entire membership to do that. As Pauline puts

it, "All libraries have the same goal—educating the people of North Carolina—but they have unique responsibilities for meeting that goal. NCLA is a team effort. I feel that it is a challenge and an honor to head up such an organization."



Pauline F. Myrick, 1985-87 NCLA President.

**Pauline F. Myrick, President
North Carolina Library Association**

Director of Intermediate Instruction and Educational Media; Textbooks; ITV—Moore County Schools

Consultant for various state education programs and agencies

Past Chairman of North Carolina Association of School Librarians

Past Chapter President of Delta Kappa Gamma—International Society for Women Educators

Education:

University of North Carolina at Greensboro—BA, MEd.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—Supervision/Curriculum/Administration

University of California at Los Angeles—Clinical Supervision

Three Tar Heels on ALA Ballot

The chairman of the American Library Association Nominating Committee, Fred M. Peterson of Illinois State University, announced recently that three North Carolinians will appear on the ballot next April running for seats on the ALA Council for 1986-90. Ballot mailing will begin April 5, 1986.

Dr. Gene D. Lanier, professor and director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Library and Information Studies at East Carolina University in Greenville will be a candidate as will John Lubans, Jr., assistant university librarian for public services, Perkins Library, Duke University in Durham, and Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer, head librarian, Orange County Public Library in Hillsborough. ALA members will elect twenty-five councilors from the fifty nominees.

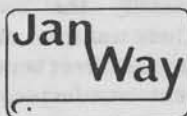
Lanier's name was omitted from the list of nominees published in the November issue of *American Libraries* but will appear on the ballot when it is presented at the Mid-Winter Conference of ALA in Chicago in January and also on the final ballot.

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