
Exalting Learning and Libraries

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

From the President

*From dogwood white to dogwood red,
That's the way summer's fled.*

Sam Ragan

Sunday, August 17, 1986 was a very special day not only for Sam Ragan, North Carolina Poet Laureate, but for Norma Womack, Director of Davis Memorial Library at Methodist College and all North Carolinians. This day was special for honoring our Poet Laureate as his "Poems of Sam Ragan Read by the Poet" recording was officially unveiled before some 250 invited guests. This recording was the brainchild of Librarian Norma Womack and the Friends of Davis Memorial Library. Grants totaling \$7,440 funded by North Carolina foundations made it possible to give 1,000 records to libraries across the state for use in classrooms and discussion groups or for personal enjoyment.

A long list of distinguished associates praised Ragan for his contributions to his community and state through his poetry, his editorials and his teachings. He was hailed as a "gentle giant of a man" by former governor Jim Hunt; a "national and global thinker" by Dr. William Friday; a "literary godfather" by Dr. Sally Buckner. A telegram from President Ronald Reagan came as a complete surprise: "It is a great privilege to join with so many distinguished citizens of North Carolina as they honor you at a special presentation ceremony. During your long career as a journalist, lecturer, teacher and supporter of the arts, you have brought vision and inspiration to countless students of all ages. But it is your poetry that stands out above all your other accomplishments. You hold the title of Poet Laureate of the state of North Carolina and that is no little honor. What you do with words delights all of us fortunate enough to enjoy your art." Department of Community Colleges President Dr. Robert Scott, who as governor appointed Ragan first Secretary of the State Department of Cultural Resources, said Ragan has "keen insight into all that goes on

around us" and thanked him for being what "you are."

Among Ragan's many awards and honors received over the years was the North Carolina Library Association Honorary Membership award presented in 1985.

"We must face and defeat the twin menace of illiteracy and aliteracy—the inability to read and the lack of will to read—if our citizens are to remain free and qualified to govern themselves," according to a Library of Congress report. Talking about illiteracy is good to a degree, but doing something about it is necessary if indeed we are to defeat it at all.

Our teachers and librarians have known for a long time that the will to read often is lacking and is the reason many do not read. They work at motivating and hooking students on reading. Teachers teach them to read; librarians teach them to love to read. The support and involvement of knowledgeable and concerned parents and citizens is necessary in helping to erase the problem not only with young people but with adults as well. NCLA's Literacy Committee with Nancy Bates as chair is getting involved. With Nancy's enthusiasm things will happen. Give her your help!

Librarians are in the news and on the move! Secretary of Cultural Resources Patric G. Dorsey and State Library Commission Chairman Eleanor Swaim announced the appointment of Jane Williams to be the new State Librarian effective October 10, 1986. In making the announcement, Mrs. Dorsey said, "We are most fortunate to have someone of the calibre of Miss Williams for our State Librarian. She is a native North Carolinian and a respected professional who is held in very high regard by her colleagues for her dedication, hard work and personal integrity." Congratulations, Jane!

We welcome Dr. Kieth Wright as ALA Chapter Councilor who is replacing Dr. Fred Roper. Fred moved to the College of Library and Information

Science, University of South Carolina, Columbia, 29208 on July 1, 1986.

In October 1986, NCLA's newly elected SELA Representative Jerry Thrasher began his four-year term. He replaced Rebecca Ballentine whose term expired at the end of the '86 SELA Conference in Atlanta. Rebecca has been a loyal, faithful and effective representative for NCLA.

Summer's fled and the "dogwood red" disap-

peared with the robins' last lunch on the beautiful red berries. One season's beauty and joy flows on into the next beautiful season. North Carolina has so much to offer. May 1987 be even better than 1986 and always treat you kindly!

Our next NCLA Executive Board meeting is scheduled for January 23, 1987, 10:00 a.m., at Cumberland County Public Library with Jerry Thrasher, host.

Pauline F. Myrick, President



CBC Celebrates the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution

The Children's Book Council is observing the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution with three striking full-color posters created by Charles Mikolaycak. The posters depict groups of writers whose work conveys the spirit of American letters. The 17" X 22" "Our Constitution. Good Reading" center piece is a sampling of American literary notables. A precept in the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution ties together the authors on each 11" X 22" side poster: "Establish Justice" includes proponents of civil liberties and human rights; "The Blessings of Liberty" shows expatriates who appreciate the American concern with individual freedoms. A two-color schematic "Who's Who" key, suitable for display, accompanies the poster set; it identifies the authors whose portraits appear in the posters and includes titles and publication dates of famous works.

Charles Mikolaycak, creator of the Constitution posters, has illustrated more than 45 books for young readers. He is a recipient of the Society of Illustrators Gold Medal.

The full-color posters are printed on 100 lb. cover weight stock. The set is shipped rolled in a protective tube. The Constitution Poster Triptych is available only as a set (three posters and the "key") from CBC for \$27.50.

"Our Constitution: 200 Years," a companion piece to the Constitution Poster Triptych, appears in the June, 1986—March, 1987 issue of *CBC Features*, the Council's newsletter. The piece includes a brief, annotated bibliography of titles currently available from many publishers on the subjects of the U.S. Constitution, the founding fathers, and the birth of the Republic. Accompanying the bibliography are statements about the U.S. Constitution from prominent authors Avi, Christopher Collier, Jean Fritz, Jamake Highwater, Scott O'Dell, and Elizabeth George Speare. Single copies of "Our Constitution: 200 Years" are available from CBC for a 22¢-stamped, self-addressed, 6½" X 9½" envelope.

An illustrated materials brochure that includes order and discount information for the Constitution Poster Triptych and other CBC materials is available from CBC for a 22¢-stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope.

The Children's Book Council, sponsor of National Children's Book Week, is a non-profit association of children's and young adult trade book publishers. Proceeds from the sale of materials support CBC projects related to young people and books.

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