

the ASU faculty this fall. His previous writing and editing experience make him well qualified to edit our state library journal. Mell has appointed Gary F. Barefoot, librarian, Mt. Olive Junior College, as associate editor.

William S. Powell, librarian of the North Carolina Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill Library, has agreed to serve as acting editor of *North Carolina Libraries* until a permanent editor is appointed. Mrs. Pattie McIntyre, humanities division, UNC-Chapel Hill Library, will serve as acting associate editor to assist William Powell beginning with the Winter, 1969 issue.

Mr. Lennox Cooper, librarian of Sandhills Community College, has accepted a position on the library staff at the University of Georgia and has resigned as chairman of the N.C.L.A. Recruiting Committee. Mr. John Johnson, librarian of Durham Technical Institute, has accepted the appointment as chairman of this committee.

The Fall meeting of the Executive Board was held September 28 and the chairman of each section of N.C.L.A. was invited to meet with the Board as non-voting participants. Mr. Arial Stephens attended this meeting and presented a proposal from the White House Inn in Charlotte for the next biennial N.C.L.A. Conference to meet in Charlotte October 23-25, 1969. Board members approved this proposal.

Late in August Mrs. James M. Harper of Southport was appointed as chairman of the lay committee charged with planning activities for the observance of National Library Week in 1969 in the Tar Heel state. Mrs. Harper and members of her committee will work closely with Charles M. Adams, librarian of UNC in Greensboro, the state's 1969 NLW executive director.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mildred S. Councill, *President*

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## SOUNDING OFF

by

ALVA STEWART

At the June ALA conference in Kansas City James H. Richards, Jr., librarian of Carleton College, made the following observation in a discussion of the report of the National Advisory Commission on Libraries: "There is evidence that we're not moving toward cooperation fast or well enough. We're scratching around and talking, but not getting anywhere."

Amen, Brother Richards! I couldn't agree with you more.

Cooperation between libraries takes several forms: union catalogs, union lists, interlibrary loans, reciprocal borrowing privileges, photographic reproduction services, and central processing.

Perhaps the most basic form of library cooperation is represented by interlibrary loans and supplying photocopies of periodical articles in lieu of the bound volume. Almost all types of libraries have had occasion to borrow a book from another library and/or to obtain a photocopy of an article from a periodical not owned by the library whose patron needs it. Such cooperation has made it possible to satisfy many requests for material from library patrons relatively quickly and easily.

As a reference librarian at two Southern universities, I have observed that the greatest obstruction to library cooperation is the old-fashioned attitude of some librarians that it is better for a book to be shelved in the stacks than loaned to someone who might read it. Too many librarians insist that an interlibrary loan form be on their desk before the book requested by another library can be mailed. They don't seem to realize, that to some library users, a book is of little or no value for a particular purpose unless it can be delivered within a few days. These same librarians would undoubtedly protest if they called a local drug store and requested that a gallon of ice cream be delivered to their home by 7 p.m. on a particular day and were told that a form was necessary before delivery could be made. Must we have a form before any positive action is taken? Unfortunately, too many librarians answer this question in the affirmative.

Most librarians are willing to extend the normal loan period for books loaned to another library to allow for several days transit between libraries. However, a few librarians who believe in strict adherence to regulations with no exceptions under any circumstances insist that a book loaned to another library be returned within two weeks from the date it is mailed. The fact that transit between libraries, both ways, may require a week is of no consequence to the librarian, who may even go so far as to refuse renewal of a book for no valid reason.

I know a librarian who refused to loan a book to a student from another institution who drove 15 miles to the library and presented an inter-library loan form signed by the reference librarian at that institution. The student was willing to take 30 minutes of his time to obtain a book he needed urgently, but the librarian was not willing to help the student by making an across-the-desk loan. Apparently the librarian preferred to spend 30 minutes preparing the book and form for mailing rather than taking two or three minutes to transact the loan in person. Such unreasonable actions on the part of librarians understandably create ill will and resentment of libraries in general and reinforce the undesirable image of the librarian held by many laymen. These actions are responsible for our faculty image; consequently, any improvement in our image will require that such actions be eliminated, or at least reduced to a minimum.

Full cooperation among libraries in interlibrary loans and other ventures is a goal we should continually seek to reach. Attainment of this goal will be an accomplished fact only when we view service to our patrons in a broad sense more important than strict adherence to our own library's regulations and procedures. Regulations and procedures should always be regarded as guides for action, not as excuses for inaction or non-cooperation. In our relationships with other libraries, let us always opt for cooperation.

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## THE NEW FRONT IN SCHOOL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

*by*

FRANCES KENNON JOHNSON

The statement that "the library is the heart of the school" has been so over-worked that it has lost the power to communicate. But while the words have diminished in meaning the school library has been assuming the dimensions they imply.

We have moved from the organization stage in school library development into a