

Selection of School Library Materials

Report of Work Conference

BY FRANCES KENNON JOHNSON

The School and Children's Section of the North Carolina Library Association, in cooperation with the State Department of Public Instruction, held its biennial work conference at the Jack Tar Hotel in Durham, September 24-26, 1964. The theme for the meeting, attended by more than six hundred school librarians, library supervisors, and instructional supervisors from all parts of the state, was "Selection of School Library Materials." Planning for the conference was led by Mrs. Peggy K. Mann of Enka High School, section chairman; Carroll R. Powell of the Fayetteville City Schools, vice-chairman; Mrs. Arline Campbell of the Buncombe County Schools, secretary; and Cora Paul Bomar, State Supervisor, Library and Instructional Materials Services. Carolyn I. Whitenack, associate professor of library and audio-visual education, Purdue University, and Dr. Eugene E. Pfaff, professor of history, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, were featured speakers.

At the opening session on Thursday night, September 24, Miss Whitenack gave the keynote speech on "Current Issues in the Selection of Library Resources."

Conference participants divided into groups on Friday morning and afternoon for discussion of basic book collections for elementary, junior high, and senior high school libraries; social studies materials for elementary and secondary schools; periodicals; information films; filmstrips and recordings; and professional library collections.

A formula to guide schools in developing basic collections of filmstrips and recordings was proposed by James Carruth, Fayetteville City Schools.

At the Friday evening dinner meeting, Dr. Eugene E. Pfaff, professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, spoke on "Our Widening World." He stressed the responsibility of educators for bringing students into awareness of the nature of the world today, a world in which the "underdeveloped regions" will help to shape the future for all.

"... And Something More," the film on elementary school library service featuring Sedgfield Elementary School in Charlotte, was shown following Dr. Pfaff's speech. Sponsored by the Knapp School Libraries Project of the American Association of School Librarians, "... And Something More" was filmed in Charlotte last spring and released in July followed a premiere showing at the American Library Association conference in St. Louis. Loan prints are available from Modern Talking Pictures Service, Inc.

The closing session of the conference, on Saturday, September 26, featured a symposium on the selection of North Carolina materials for the school library, led by Mrs. Mary Peacock Douglas, director of libraries, Raleigh Public Schools. Mrs. Douglas and her group reviewed books, periodicals, pamphlets, filmstrips, recordings, and other materials about North Carolina and indicated major selection aids and sources for

obtaining materials. An extensive bibliography prepared by Mrs. Douglas will be used as the basis for a bulletin to be developed by the State Department of Public Instruction. Mrs. Memory Blackwelder discussed the publications and services of the State Department of Archives and History.

In the business meeting which closed the conference, members of the School and Children's Section voted to adopt a new name: the North Carolina Association of School Librarians. Cora Paul Bomar informed the group about pending Federal legislation (since enacted into law) to amend and extend the National Defense Education Act, offering matching funds for the acquisition of materials and related equipment in the areas of literature, reading, history, geography, and civics.

School Library News Items

On January 12, Elizabeth Lassiter joined the staff of the Library and Instructional Materials Services Section, State Department of Public Instruction, as School Library Supervisor. Miss Lassiter, formerly an elementary school librarian in the Raleigh Public Schools, graduated from Wake Forest College with an A.B. degree in English, and holds a master's degree, with a major in library science, from Appalachian State Teachers College.

David Hunsucker, also of the Library and Instructional Materials Services Section, has been appointed Instructional Materials Supervisor. Mr. Hunsucker will continue to provide consultant service to a number of school administrative units. In addition, he will spend a large portion of his time assisting local school units in the selection of materials for purchase under the recently-expanded provisions of Title III of the National Defense Education Act, which now provides matching funds for the acquisition of materials in the areas of literature, reading, history, geography, and civics.

University Press Books to be Selected by Librarians

A panel of five librarians will choose the university press books to be exhibited in the university press booth at the American Library Association's Detroit meeting, July 4-10. Charles Adams, Director of Libraries at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, has been appointed panel chairman. He is also President-elect of the College and University Section of the Southeastern Library Association. The panelists represent public libraries, high school libraries, and college and university libraries.

The panel will select recent university press books which have general appeal; books by prize-winning authors, books which have had outstanding reviews; and books which deal with subjects on the frontiers of knowledge.

Members of the panel include Robert S. Ake, Director of the Finkelstein Memorial Library, Spring Valley, N. Y.; Philip Fairstone, Director of the Ridgefield Free Public Library, Ridgefield, N. J.; Mrs. Lillian L. Shapiro, Acting Assistant Director for Senior High School Libraries, New York City Board of Education; and Lynn Robinson, Reference Coordinator for the Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Patchogue, N. Y.