

North Carolina Libraries

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North Carolina Library Association Twenty-sixth Meeting

April 28, 29, 30, 1949

The Twenty-sixth biennial meeting of the North Carolina Library Association was held at the Washington Duke Hotel in Durham on April 28, 29, 30, 1949. Three hundred and sixteen enthusiastic librarians, trustees and friends of libraries gathered for the three-day session.

On Thursday afternoon three sections held their meetings. Miss Madge Blalock presided at the Catalogers Section. Dr. Susan Grey Akers spoke on Activities of the A. L. A. Division and Miss Elizabeth Walker explained the Activities of the Southeastern Regional Group of Catalogers. Miss Elaine Von Oesen discussed Cataloging Audio-Visual Materials. At the newly-formed section of Special Libraries, Mrs. Helen Monahan presented Mr. Robert W. Christ, who spoke on Words, Words, Words. Miss Olivia B. Burwell, presided at the Public Librarians Section. Miss Margaret Scoffield, Exchange Librarian from England spoke on Library Co-operation in England. Mrs. F. C. Wycoff, Rockingham County Library, told of the Library Participation in the Community Fine Arts Festival.

A tea, with Duke University and the Duke University Library Staff organization, the Durham Public Library and the Durham Public School Libraries as hosts, was given at the Duke University House from 4 to 6 o'clock. Miss Jane Wilson and Miss Dixie Parker welcomed the guests. In the receiving line were Miss Margaret Ligon, president, Dr. Ben Powell, Mrs. L. B. Griggs, Miss Clara Crawford, Miss Margaret Johnston and Miss Marianna Long. The hospitality of the hostesses and the charm of the University House added together made it a delightful occasion and many lingered to talk and to meet new members.

The First General Session was held in the Main Ballroom Thursday evening at 8 o'clock with Miss Margaret Ligon, president, presiding. Dr. Ben Powell, Librarian, Duke University, welcomed the group in behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, the citizens and librarians of Durham and Duke University. The president read greetings from Mr. Errett W. McDiarmid, President of the American Library Association, and Mr. John MacKenzie Cory, Ex. Secretary, also a letter from Mr. Clarence R. Graham, President of the Southeastern Library Association. The president introduced the speaker, Mr. George H. Wright, Attorney and

Library Trustee from Asheville, who spoke on Libraries in the Future of North Carolina. Dr. Louis R. Wilson, University of North Carolina, presented an interesting paper on The North Carolina Library Commission, 1909-49 in celebration of its fortieth anniversary.

The president introduced the following new officers:

- **President** - Mr. Harlan C. Brown
- **First Vice-President** - Mr. Charles R. Brockmann
- **Second Vice-President** - Miss Hortense Boomer
- **Secretary** - Miss Margaret McIntyre
- **Treasurer** - Miss Marianna Long
- **Executive Committee** - Miss Marianne R. Martin, Miss Annie Graham Caldwell

Mr. Charles M. Adams announced that the \$500.00 contributed to the Scholarship-Loan Fund by the Association is to be named in honor of Dr. Louis R. Wilson.

The Bookmobile Breakfast held at 8 A.M. on Friday morning opened the program for the second day. Miss Alice Bryan presided and introduced the speaker, Mrs. Wendell Thomas, Librarian, Avery and Watauga County Libraries, who used for her most interesting and inspiring talk the subject, Books and Shoes Must Fit.

The Second General Session was held on Friday morning. Mr. Charles E. Rush was asked to serve as parliamentarian. The minutes, financial and committee reports, which had been distributed previously in mimeographed form, were approved. The name of Mr. J. F. Wilkes of Charlotte was added to the list of Honorary Members of the Association.

Mrs. Hallie Sykes Bacelli gave a brief history of the North Carolina High School Library Association whose meeting was being held in conjunction with the N. C. L. A.

Following the business session, Mr. Jack Dalton, Associate Librarian, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, and Chairman of the Activities Committee of the Southeastern Library Association, spoke on The Role of the State Associations in the Southeastern Program. Dr. Ben E. Powell presented a brief summary of the Report of the Fourth Activities Committee of A. L. A.

Miss Marjorie Beal, Secretary and Director of the North Carolina Library Commission, announced that the Appropriations Bill passed at the North Carolina General Assembly carried \$350,436 for State Aid to Public Libraries for each year of the biennium, 1949-50, 1950-51. Miss Beal expressed her appreciation to all librarians and citizens for their interest and co-operation in support of the State Aid Bill.

Dr. Susan Grey Akers presented the report of the Resolutions Committee.

Miss Margaret Scoffield, Johnston County Exchange Librarian, from Leeds, England, was recognized. Greetings were sent to Miss Virginia Williamson, who is in England as an Exchange Librarian.

The Trustees at their Luncheon Meeting heard Mr. Allen Langston of Raleigh talk on Trustees and the Library of the Future. At the same time, the Junior Members Round Table were having a panel discussion on Recruitment as a Serious Responsibility of the Junior Librarian. Later in the afternoon, the School and Children's Librarians Section held a panel discussion on Enriching the School Curriculum Through the Use of Audio-visual Materials with Dr. Arnold Perry, Associate Professor of Education, University of North Carolina, as the leader.

The highlight of the meeting was the Banquet held Friday evening in the Ballroom at 6:30 with Miss Jane Wilson as toast mistress. The new and old officers were seated at the speakers' table together with special guests, Mr. J. P. Breedlove, Miss Annie F. Petty and Dr. Louis R. Wilson. Dr. Louis R. Wilson gave the invocation. Mr. Henry B. Clark, Reidsville, president of the Student Group, presented Miss "Boots" Black of Charlotte with an engraved medal for having won the First Annual Literary Contest sponsored by the High School Library Association. Miss Black read her winning poem, "Charlotte." The Triple Quartet of the Duke University Men's Glee Club sang several numbers. Miss Josephina Niggli, author and lecturer of Chapel Hill and guest speaker of the evening, talked on Books and the People Who Make Them. She described the course of the writing and publishing a book, using personal incidents to illustrate.

Mr. Charles M. Adams announced that the total received for the Scholarship-Loan Fund was \$1,009.44.

Miss Ligon turned the gavel over to Mr. Harlan C. Brown, the incoming president, who spoke briefly about the organization and declared the 1949 meeting adjourned.

Libraries in the Future of North Carolina

Address by Mr. George H. Wright, Attorney and Library Trustee, Asheville, N. C., April 28, 1949

I've done a few things in my life of which I am proud. One of them is that I persuaded Miss Margaret Ligon to go to Library School. When she asked me to appear on this program I am

frank to say I was very much flattered. More so than I let on, and I think that it was under the influence of that flattery that I accepted.

You are not going to find me giving you any advice this evening on any technical aspects of your activities. As Miss Ligon told you, I have had an interest in library matters for a long time. I have seen our local library grow from a very small institution to a rather respectable group of libraries. I think in the course of that time we have made almost all the mistakes that could well be made, and perhaps occasionally we have had slight attacks of skill and ability.

This evening, against the background of that experience, I would like to look for a little while at the library movement in North Carolina to see very briefly what has been happening in that movement; what progress has been made; and having done that to see if we can, as Mr. Churchill said, do a little "peering" into the future.

It must be a great satisfaction to you who are actively engaged in this profession to look back over the record of the last few years. I do not know of any state that can show more library progress in that period. Just the mere comparison of where you were in 1941 with where you are today makes you stop and realize that something's been happening.

I suppose 1941 is one of the key years in the history of libraries in North Carolina. Prior to that there had been a record of effort going back many, many years. We have record of the North Carolina Library Association going back to 1904. And we have a record of the North Carolina Library Commission going back to 1909. I believe this evening we are going to recognize the 40th anniversary of that. Then we have the record of the Citizens' Library Movement, going back more than 20 years, and other activities.

But 1941 was the beginning of state aid. I think the labors that resulted in state aid were statesmanlike. I don't know of anything that was more needed at the particular time than state aid for libraries in 1941. I don't want to worry you with statistics but I want to give you one or two figures as a basis for some observations.

In 1941, 51 per cent of the people of this state were receiving library service. At the present time, 92 per cent are receiving that service. That is a tremendous increase, and when you consider the fact that the 51 per cent represented very largely the easier half to reach, you realize even more the progress that has been made in extending library service so nearly throughout the entire state.

There are now, I believe, nine counties, with I suppose 200,000 population, not receiving state aid and having no county-wide library service.

And now may I turn completely aside for a few minutes to drag something in that I want to say at some time. I might as well say it now. The work in this state among the negroes has lagged. Of an estimated 900,000 negroes in this state, there are still about 300,000 outside of the field of library service. (We're going to try to remedy that situation in Buncombe County this year.)

I think the burden of extending that service to all of the negroes of the state ought to rest somewhat upon the shoulders of this association and upon you people who have the professional know-how. I do not think that any other group exists that can hope to extend that work effectively.

The Library Commission and others are working hard, I know, on these nine counties I have referred to, and I suppose they're the nine tough counties, if I may say so. It would be a great thing to be able to say that in North Carolina there isn't a man or woman or child of any race who does not have access to library service and privileges. That's the ideal, and it occurs to me you're getting near enough to the end to have some hope of realizing the ideal in the relatively near future.

But to go back to my little comparison. In the same period that service was extended to 92 per cent of the population, as against 51 per cent, the circulation of books in North Carolina has increased from 6 million a year to 6 million, 700 thousand a year. I think it's perfectly obvious what's been happening. The mere fact that you have been able to take library service into a county that didn't have it, through state aid, and to fit out a small country library and perhaps to start a bookmobile, doesn't mean that you have, in any sense of the word, covered that county with library service.

So, although this extension jump from 51 per cent to 92 per cent is a magnificent job, as far as getting your hand in, is concerned, the great bulk of the work still remains to be done. It isn't just establishing the service. It's developing the service.

At the same time I discovered that in 1941 the income of libraries in North Carolina was \$366,000. In 1947-48 it was over \$1,300,000, an increase of almost \$950,000. To my mind, that is the most astonishing fact of all. For, you see, although state aid came in there, yet if you examine this increase to see where the increase came from, state aid doesn't begin to explain it.

State aid, in this last figure, amounted to \$266,000. That was entirely increase over 1940-41 receipts. In the same period, funds provided by counties increased \$275,000. That's more than state aid. Local funds (I suppose that means largely municipal tax money) increased \$172,000 and other sources of income increased \$237,000. I don't think I ever saw a clearer example than this of a little leaven leavening the whole lump. It's perfectly obvious

that this state aid was, as it were, the spark that set fire to the library movement, that this little money offered to these various counties was just what it took to induce those counties to participate in this work.

There's a comparison that I've made before and I want to make it now. I hope it won't offend you. I think that acquiring a taste for books is somewhat like acquiring a taste for liquor. Here's a man who's never been told or experienced the effects which, I am told, come from the use of alcoholic beverages. And he's perfectly content. Then some friend takes him out some evening and demonstrates to him what those effects are. And if he's that kind of a man, the first thing you know he wants to have a demonstration every single evening. He just can't get along without it.

People who never have experienced library service just don't know what they're missing. But if you can tease them into introducing the service and let them find out, it isn't very long until they simply can't get along without it. I never will forget as long as I live what happened in Buncombe County when, during the depression, outside groups brought a bookmobile into the county for a few months and took it around offering service. At that time, nobody in the county was asking for bookmobile service. They didn't know what it was. But let me tell you after six months you simply couldn't have stopped that bookmobile no matter what happened.

Now I think that the ground work has been done for the work throughout the state in a magnificent way. I think that the field is fertile for development. But I want to talk for a few minutes about what seems to me to be a very great obstacle that is going to have to be overcome. I want to call your attention to something. Back in 1940, local sources - city funds - were furnishing about 45 per cent of all the money received for library purposes in this state; and counties were furnishing about 40 per cent - other sources 15 per cent. As of the present time, state aid is 20 per cent; the city contribution has dropped from 45 per cent to 26 per cent (although it has increased in amount); the counties are contributing 31 per cent and other sources 23 per cent.

The point I'm getting at is this: the county is looming larger and larger as the source of revenue. When all is said and done, state aid can never be anything but a help to get the work going. If the Legislature would take off all the wraps and give you tremendous sums of money, when you divide it by 100, for the 100 counties, you haven't much per county.

The real problem in North Carolina it seems to me, is to provide adequate funds on the county level to support your library work. And that is a real problem. Now here's a field where I can talk with a little bit of assurance because it involves just a little bit of law. As you know, a county has no right to use money derived from taxation of property to support a

public library unless the voters approve a special tax for that purpose. Under our constitution, those funds can only be used for necessary expenses. And our Supreme Court, by some remarkable series of convolutions, has arrived at the conclusion that a library is not a necessary expense. That being so, no county is allowed to dip into its tax money, its general tax revenue, to operate libraries, and as you know, counties have very little revenue except from their taxes on land and other property.

It seems to me, and this is the point I'm getting to, that as we look forward in the North Carolina library movement, if we're going to develop this thing properly we're going to have to start programs of voting special taxes for libraries. Personally, I'm very sorry that I think that is so. I have tried my best to close my mind to this, because I know it's a very difficult thing to do, but I don't see any other way we can possibly hope to finance an adequate library movement throughout the state in the future unless we can persuade these counties to vote a small special tax.

If that is done, that money will be available to support libraries. Nine counties, I believe, and nine cities have such a tax at this time. Mecklenburg, of course, is an outstanding example of what can be done when it has to be done. There's no use in the world of closing our eyes to it. When we start out to convince the taxpayers of North Carolina, county by county, and particularly in small counties, that they ought to vote a tax of 3 cents to 5 cents per \$100.00 for libraries we are undertaking a very big job.

That can never be done unless the ground is prepared by what has happened already. All of your counties are becoming library conscious, and as the service is rendered in the various counties, I believe that more and more people will realize the benefits from the service. But I think that the librarians of North Carolina and the trustees and others interested in libraries have a tremendous selling job on their hands. It's a job, of course, that is going to have to be undertaken and pushed largely by you people who are in the business professionally. You will have to furnish the intelligence and direction. It's a job in which you're going to have to have a considerable amount of assistance - the assistance of trustees, and many more.

I would like to refer to something that has been happening in Buncombe County that is suggestive. Many years ago, in order to meet a special need of a special library, there was organized in the county (largely in Asheville), a group known as "Friends of the Library." This group was well organized and well directed and has accomplished results, I believe, of which it is unaware and which are more important than the results they have striven consciously to achieve. They must have from 1200 to 1500 members of Friends of Library in Asheville. They're always doing something, writing about it in the paper, talking about it. It's

very hard to circulate in Asheville very long without hearing about libraries. That publicity has made our community very library conscious.

The point I'm trying to make is this: As a trustee, it seems to me that the library movement in North Carolina needs a lot of friends. It needs a lot of people interested in what you're doing. It seems to me that one of the best things that you could do would be to go back to your various communities and try to organize groups willing to work in almost any way to help you meet your needs and make the public library conscious. If you'll do that, then you'll have some hope of getting the public in the mind to vote these taxes. As Miss Beal pointed out to me today, it's easier now than it used to be. Time was (until last fall when we had the constitution amended) if you wanted to vote a special tax, the tax had to be approved by a majority of the registered voters. That meant that a person could just stay at home and vote "no." But to vote "no" now, the voter has to go to the polls and vote "no." The result now is determined from the votes cast. That makes it much easier to carry a special tax election.

So, if I were to bring you any message at all this evening, it would be to congratulate you upon some very fine work done in recent years, and in that connection, I want to pay a tribute to Miss Beal and the Library Commission, who have planned so wisely in much of this work. Another thing I would like to say to you is that you have just started. You have most of the work yet to do. Another thing is that you're going to have to solve most of your problems on the county level. The state can't do it for you. The last thing is that you're going to have to go to work and sell libraries to people of this state to get the funds you need for adequate library service.

American Library Association Southeastern Regional Conference

Conference Details

Place: Miami Beach, Florida

Time: October 26-29, 1949

Headquarters: Floridian Hotel

Meetings and Exhibits: Municipal Pier

Registration Fees: \$3.00 for the Conference; \$1.00 per day

Invitation

All librarians in the Southeastern states - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia - are invited to attend. The first meetings are scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, October 26, and the closing session will be on Saturday morning, October 29. The first general session is Wednesday evening. A reception for new members will follow this session. There will be several general sessions but ample time will be scheduled for A. L. A. Divisional and other group meetings. Friday afternoon and evening will be free periods.

The details of the program have not been completed. Dr. Leigh, Director of the Public Library Inquiry, President-elect Lord and Executive Secretary Cory are expected to attend.

Room Reservations

The Floridian Hotel, 540 West Avenue, Miami Beach, has agreed to open Tuesday afternoon, October 24. The Conference will have the exclusive use of the Hotel. Any delegates wishing to remain beyond October 29 may have their rooms at the Conference Rate. The Floridian has 240 rooms which may be occupied on single, double, or triple basis at the following per diem rates (European plan): Single, \$6.00; double, \$8.00; triple, \$12.00.

Those expecting to attend are asked to make their reservations by September 1, 1949, if possible, so that the Committee may know whether additional accommodations will be needed.

Negro librarians will find accommodations at the Mary Elizabeth Hotel, 642 N. W. Second Avenue, Miami. Reverend John E. Culmer, 1732 N. W. Third Court, Miami, has indicated his willingness to serve as a clearing house for those wishing rooms in private homes.

Planning Committee

Randolph W. Church, Chairman; State Library, Richmond, Virginia; Tommie Dora Barker; Mrs. Augusta B. Richardson.

The North Carolina Library Commission, 1909-1949

Condensation of paper read by Dr. Louis Round Wilson, 26th Conference, North Carolina Library Association, Durham, N. C., April 28-29, 1949

Tonight the North Carolina Library Association celebrates the fortieth birthday of the North Carolina Library Commission. The record of achievement of this organization merits notice and congratulations.

The Commission is the Association's eldest child. In fact, one of the first major objectives of the Association was taken in 1906 when it appointed a committee to draft a bill providing for the establishment of the Commission and authorized the committee to try to secure the enactment of the measure into law.

The participants in this first effort were A. M. Scales, of Greensboro, E. P. Wharton, of Greensboro, with Miss Annie F. Petty, Mrs. Annie Smith Ross, Mr. J. P. Breedlove, Mr. J. F. Wilkes, and myself as assistants.

The bill was drawn and taken to Raleigh by Mr. Wilkes and myself, and to legislators, but the idea was too new and revolutionary to win general acceptance. So it went over until 1909.

In the meantime the bill was revised, and when presented a second time by Mr. Wilkes and myself through Dr. J. B. Gordon from Greensboro, it was started on its way. The library bill passed the appropriation committee of the House, but got lost somewhere before the appropriation committee of the Senate acted on it.

At this point, through the efforts of Mr. Sol Weil of Goldsboro, D. P. Stern, a young lawyer of Greensboro, took over and in the last days of the session the bill ran the gauntlet and was duly passed, carrying an annual appropriation of \$1500.

The sections of the law defining the functions of the Commission were substantially those governing its operation today.

In accord with provisions of the Act the Commission was established April 1, 1909, and was formally organized on April 18, with the following members and officers: Hon. M. O. Sherrill, State Librarian, and Dr. J. Y. Joyner, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, ex officio; Dr. Charles Lee Smith, President of Edwards and Broughton, appointed by Gov. W. W. Kitchin; and Mrs. Annie Smith Ross, Librarian of the Carnegie Library of Charlotte; and Louis R. Wilson, Librarian of the University of North Carolina, appointed by the North Carolina Library Association. Mr. Wilson was elected Chairman, Mrs. Ross, Secretary, and Dr. Smith, Treasurer. The three officers were named as the Executive Committee and were charged with the selection of a Field Secretary.

Quarters were secured in the gallery of the old State Library, and at the second meeting of the Commission, Miss Minnie W. Leatherman, of the Louisville Public Library, was installed as Field Secretary and Editor of The North Carolina Library Bulletin.

For forty years, the Commission, charged with the functions mentioned, has steadily striven to promote the development of all types of libraries in the State. Four lines of activity may be reviewed briefly.

1. Library Legislation

Least spectacular but fundamental to library progress, has been work of the Commission in securing the enactment of laws making libraries possible and providing funds for service to libraries and for state aid to public libraries.

Since 1911 legislation has been steadily pressed upon the General Assembly and has kept pace with the best thinking of the Librarians of the State, region, and nation.

In 1917 new legislation was passed to allow commissioners and county boards of education to make appropriations for library service and to allow cities to make appropriations to association libraries. In 1927 a further act was passed providing for the establishment of county libraries. In 1933 provision was made for contractual relationships with rural areas, other libraries, and other counties. Certification of librarians was provided for through the creation of a Certification Board in 1933, and the authorization of receiving and administering federal funds was granted it in 1937.

In 1937, the State Aid law was presented and again in 1939, but without success. In 1941 it was passed and a fund of \$100,000 for each year of the biennium was secured. This was increased to \$125,000 in 1943, to \$175,000 in 1945, to \$275,000 in 1947, and the legislature just adjourned increased it to \$350,436. Support from counties and cities has also increased two and one-half times during this six-year period. At the 1949 session other laws were passed clarifying and extending previous legislation and authorization was granted counties to use surpluses, to issue bonds, and to levy taxes for library buildings and equipment.

This was general legislation. The effort to secure it has been accompanied by the biennial struggle to increase the appropriation for the services and administration of the Commission itself. These funds have grown from \$1,500 the first year to \$25,318.98 in the peak year 1928-29. In the biennium, 1949-51 the appropriation stands at \$33,261 each year with \$20,436 from the State Aid fund set up for its administration, making the total \$53,697.

2. Book Services

Book services have taken a number of forms. The Commission took over from the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs its collection of traveling libraries and added to them. These were sent out at the beginning. This service was supplemented by loans to individuals and by an expanding reference service which is supported today with a collection of more than 50,000 volumes. Service to Women's Clubs, to debaters and to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Four H-Clubs, etc., has been continuous and has introduced thousands of North Carolinians to the value of books in daily living. Books in larger

quantities have been made available to new libraries to ensure the success of their formal opening and early period of service.

3. Professional Aid

Professional aid to communities and libraries has been constant. Stimulation of local interest, advice concerning ways and means of establishing libraries, assistance in dealing with technical problems, aid in book selection, participation in institutes and summer schools for the training of library workers, co-operation with local authorities in securing bookmobiles and setting up procedures for participating in State Aid, planning co-operative programs with the North Carolina Library Association, the Citizens Library Movement, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Tennessee Valley Library Council, the W. P. A., the Southeastern States Co-operative Library Survey, the Southeastern Library Association, and the American Library Association - this has provided a bond of interest and helpfulness that has stimulated every form of library development in North Carolina.

Two of these activities call for special note - the co-operative relationships of the Commission with T. V. A. and the W. P. A.

From 1938 to 1947 the Commission worked co-operatively with the T. V. A. in extending library service to counties in western North Carolina in the Valley area. It assisted in working out contractual arrangements and advised as to the amounts that were to be secured from the T. V. A. the maximum to be received in any year being \$17,700 in 1942-43.

Work with the W. P. A. began in 1937 and was discontinued in June, 1941. Mrs. Mary E. Campbell was the State Director of W. P. A. and Miss Julius Amis was in charge of the W. P. A. library project. She worked in the Commission office in close co-operation with the Secretary of the Commission and the State School Library Supervisor. After W. P. A. was discontinued Miss Amis became a member of the Commission staff and was able to assist in the transition of library service from W. P. A. status to its present form. Miss Amis had during her connection with W. P. A. 11 professional and 48 non-professional supervisors. The peak of employment was in 1940-41 when 1450 people were on the payroll.

In 1937-38, which was the first year of the Project, W. P. A. appropriated \$545,000. Local units, school and public libraries appropriated \$258,496 as sponsors' contributions. In 1940-41, 44,768 books and 12 bookmobiles were owned and operated by W. P. A. During 1940-41, 110,000 books were mended. Many of the people engaged in the W. P. A. Program, who were workers in public libraries, have been continued as non-professional workers.

4. Publication

Publication has likewise been a fairly constant aspect of the Commission's work. Biennial reports giving statistics for libraries in the State have been maintained from the beginning and now constitute a body of data by means of which much of the growth in North Carolina libraries may be traced. In 1909 the Commission began the publication of The North Carolina Library Bulletin which served as the professional journal of the libraries of the State until it was discontinued in December, 1931. Since then news letters and folders have been issued from time to time. In 1948 Libraries in North Carolina was published containing the report of the survey made in connection with the Southeastern States Co-operative Library Survey.

This then has been a part of the record. In December, 1910 when the Commission made its first report there was no legislation in North Carolina providing for the establishment of new public libraries. There were only 29 public and association libraries, the largest of which contained 12,000 volumes. At the same time there were 39 college and university libraries, the largest of which, at Chapel Hill, contained 55,000 volumes. At the end of 1948 there were 237 public, county, and regional libraries. They possessed 1,672,143 volumes and circulated 6,525,040. They spent \$1,312,653 in maintaining service of which \$266,588 or 7 cents per capita was in the form of state-aid, and carried books to rural districts in 79 bookmobiles. College and university libraries numbered 53 in 1947-48, owned 2,702,727 volumes, and spent \$1,252,758 on their operation. The N. C. L. A. and the Negro N. C. L. A. had 574 members. Four library training agencies were preparing librarians, and the legislatures of 1947 and 1949 appropriated a total of \$8,143,869 for library buildings at state institutions. Expenditures from state funds for school libraries had grown from \$10 per school in 1910 to \$360,000 for 1949-50, and the State Department of Education employed a school library supervisor and maintained systematic supervision and regulation of all school libraries in North Carolina.

Four secretaries of the Commission have served as leaders in developing these institutional resources for the educational, social, and cultural well-being of North Carolina. They were Miss Minnie W. Leatherman (Mrs. E. R. Blanton), 1909-1919; Miss Mary B. Palmer (Mrs. M. D. Phillips), 1919-23; Mrs. Lillian B. Griggs, 1924-30; and Miss Marjorie Beal, 1930 to date.

These four working with the members of the Commission, their staffs, and the librarians and citizens of North Carolina interested in library development, have fashioned much of the splendid work that has been wrought. To them and their associates we, the members of the North Carolina Library Association, offer our heartiest congratulations and praise.

From Your New President

As I consider the objectives of our organization and the role and responsibility of the president in providing the leadership which should foster our program, it challenges me to offer my philosophy of librarianship and to contribute my particular background to the pattern of our Association.

My philosophy of librarianship stresses service. I believe strongly that if our function of custodianship begins to take precedence over our function of service, something is drastically wrong and corrective measures need to be taken.

In emphasizing the service function, it can mean, though not necessarily, losses of material - sometimes material that is difficult to replace. It can result, and frequently does, in extra work for the circulation staff. It can also mean, unfortunately, that service to uncooperative individuals may result in poor service to others. To counter-balance these elements, however, there can be achieved a friendship for the library which is priceless.

I believe that many things can be done for library patrons, and done cheerfully, that are definitely impositions on the library staff. I also believe that we can say no gracefully when an imposition is too gross.

I believe that personality and knowing how to get along with people are as essential in our profession as knowledge of library techniques. In fact, sometimes I believe they are more important, for we are frequently called upon to deal with difficult personalities and delicate situations. Good will, cheerfulness, and willingness to learn will go a long way to compensate for undeveloped skills that will develop with study and practice.

Your new president welcomes his responsibilities, and salutes the members and friends of the North Carolina Library Association.

HARLAN C. BROWN

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