

WORKSHOP FOR UNTRAINED NEGRO LIBRARIANS

By MILDRED LOONEY*

A workshop for untrained Negro public librarians was held in the Richard B. Harrison Library, Raleigh, April 21-23, 1950, with forty librarians representing every section of the state present. Consultants for the workshop were Daniel Moore of the North Carolina College School of Library Science and members of the staffs of the Richard B. Harrison Library and the North Carolina Library Commission.

The purpose of this workshop was to give in-service training to untrained librarians in order that they might perform more effective programs in their libraries, and the three-day program developed the themes: making the library attractive, making the library useful, working with people, and employing technical processes.

Following a tour of the Harrison Library at the beginning of the opening session on the morning of April 21, Mrs. Mollie Huston Lee, librarian, spoke on making a library attractive and on presenting the library to the public through exhibits and other publicity. The afternoon session was devoted to discussions on the adult reader and his interests with Jessie Wilson, Harrison Library, as leader. Gladys Johnson, Library Commission, gave a talk based on the book, *The Mature Mind*, by H. A. Overstreet.

Mr. Moore spoke to the group at the evening session, using as his theme the importance of the library's collecting and making available to the public materials of lo-

cal interest historically and otherwise.

The second day's discussions centered around work with children and bookmobile service. Following a talk by Mildred Looney, Library Commission, on children in the library and their books, Mrs. Laura Kearns of the Harrison Library presided at a demonstration of children's activities. This demonstration consisted of a program of magic followed by a presentation of some of the books on magic that were available in the library. The setting-up of county service and working on a bookmobile were the theme of the afternoon session with Mrs. Annie Robinson, Harrison Library, and Elizabeth House, Library Commission, as speakers.

At the final session on April 23, Helen Rex of the Library Commission discussed technical processes using displays and illustrations. Marjorie Beal, director of the Library Commission, gave a talk, "The Future — Our Responsibilities," in which she stressed the importance of the application of the things learned. Mrs. Lee closed the workshop with a summary of the discussions and study of the three days.

The formal programs were followed by informal conferences in which members of the workshop participated, and freedom was also provided for individual conferences, for examining books and for participating in some practical library routines and activities. Visits to

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other libraries and to the Library Commission were a part of the program, and a social meeting was held on the evening of the second day of the workshop.

It was the opinion of those observing this workshop that there was excellent enthusiasm and participation on the part of those at-

tending. Mrs. Lee, who as supervisor of Negro service with the Library Commission has since visited several of the libraries whose librarians attended the workshop, reports that she has found this enthusiasm carrying over into actual practices.

