

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

Vol. IX No. 2, November, 1950

MID-CENTURY CONFERENCE SOUTHEASTERN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

October 11-14, 1950

The Southeastern Library Association opened its 14th biennial conference on October 11, 1950, at Atlanta Biltmore Hotel. The registration for the conference was about 650 with North Carolina librarians well represented.

The first general session was called to order by President Clarence "Skip" Graham on Wednesday evening the 11th. Mayor Hartsfield of Atlanta welcomed the assembled guests in the ball room of the hotel and John Mackenzie Cory, Executive Secretary, American Library Association, extended greetings from that organization.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. Allen D. Albert, Jr., Professor of Sociology, Emory University, who was introduced by Miss Evalene Jackson, also of Emory. In his address on "Leadership in the South," Dr. Albert cited the implications for this region in the revolution which has taken place in the agricultural world. Among other significant facts he noted the growth of factories and of city population, the increased value of farm produce with resulting higher incomes, and the creation of great potential markets of our own. These developments, he reminded us, offer challenge in the fields of education, housing, health and citizenship.

Conceding that education and literacy are not panaceas for all of our problems, Dr. Albert nevertheless emphasized that education is a tool, and books are necessary fuel in the development and extension of citizenship.

Following the first general session the Atlanta Library Club and the Georgia Library Association jointly entertained at a charming reception at the Atlanta Biltmore.

General business sessions of the conference were held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings and were devoted almost entirely to discussions which culminated in the formal adoption of plans launched at the Louisville Conference whereby the Southeastern Library Association becomes a legal entity (incorporated in Georgia March 13, 1950) with a number

of related purposes for ultimately improving library service of all types throughout the region.

Toward this end a constitution was adopted which authorizes the establishment of a headquarters office, employment of an executive secretary, issuing a quarterly journal and permits a wide variety of activities for this new, unified and strengthened organization which replaces the loosely organized but affectionately regarded old "Southeastern."

There were so many helpful sectional meetings that lack of space prevents reporting on all of them. Prudence warns that we refrain from commenting on any since all cannot be described fully, but our personal enthusiasm for some leads us to risk mentioning a few.

Mrs. Frances Cheney of George Peabody Library School, speaking before the Reference Librarians Section, reported on a unique informal survey which she had recently conducted. Following unorthodox methods of refreshing originality Mrs. Cheney found Southern educational institutions extremely lax in giving students instruction in the use of libraries. However, she noted a helpful sign in the increasing number of faculty members who, themselves, sought information about reference books from reference librarians. She expressed the belief that the general reference librarian "is definitely not on the way out," notwithstanding the increase in subject specialists. She likened present circumstances in the library field to similar conditions in the medical profession where the general practitioner holds his own regardless. She advised against spoon-feeding students who should learn library processes for themselves. Mrs. Cheney closed by warning that because of the increasing complexity of human knowledge the general reference librarian's job would become tougher and tougher but that the satisfactions would be proportionately greater.

At the same session of the Reference Librarians Section Miss Louise H. H. Patrick of the University of North Carolina Library speaking on "Interlibrary Loan Problems," cited facts and figures from many libraries which should form the basis whereby her hearers may determine the wisest course to pursue in solving this problem of growing seriousness in their respective institutions.

Another largely attended and enthusiastic sectional meeting was that of the School and Children's Library Section, the first session of which was attended by more than 125 librarians. In the absence of the invited guest speaker, Miss Marguerite Vance of E. P. Dutton & Company, a panel discussion, "Librarians Talk About Editors," was conducted by Miss Frances Cox, Head of the Boys and Girls Department, Atlanta Public Library and Secretary of the Children's Library Section of A. L. A., Miss Fannie Smith, School Library Consultant, Alabama State Department of Education, and Miss Evalene Jackson, Associate

Professor, School of Library Science, Emory University. Miss Roxanna Austin, Chairman, Town-Union Regional Library, Young Harris, Georgia, presided at the session and acted as Moderator for the Panel. Miss Susan Caldwell, Librarian, Winthrop College Training School and Chairman South Carolina Committee to Study Standards for Elementary School Libraries, was elected Chairman of the School and Children's Library Section of Southeastern for 1951-52. The group then joined the Public Library Section to hear Mrs. Sidonie Gruenberg, an Associate Editor of the Junior Literary Guild, and author of "Favorite Stories for Boys and Girls" and "More Favorite Stories for Boys and Girls," discuss the modern woman's dilemma in obtaining equal and identical opportunities with men.

At the luncheon meeting of the School and Children's Section Miss Mae Graham, Library Adviser, Maryland State Department of Education and President of the Division of Children and Young People of A. L. A., spoke on "Common Denominators of Service to Children and Young People." She was introduced by Miss Sarah Jones, Georgia State Department of Education. Miss Roxanna Austin presided. Important meetings of the section were the pre-session review of books for children and young people with reviews being given by Mrs. Agnes Gregory, Florida State University Library School; Mrs. Martha Neal Warth, Cataloging Staff, Charleston Free Public Library, and Mrs. Ruth Schaeffer, High School Librarian, Ozark, Alabama.

Fruitful meetings of the Catalogers Section, Public Libraries Section, and College and University Libraries Section were well attended as were a number of social affairs. These included a tea on Thursday afternoon given by President and Mrs. Blake Ragsdale Van Leer at the President's house, of Georgia Tech, a tea on Friday afternoon, given by the Trustees of the Decatur-DeKalb Library at the library in Decatur, and tours to various libraries in the Atlanta district.

More than thirty commercial exhibitors contributed a great deal to the enjoyment of the conference both educationally and socially.

At the closing general session on Saturday morning the following officers were elected: President, Dr. Louis Shores, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida; Vice President, Mrs. J. Henry Crosland, Georgia School of Technology, Atlanta; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Robert Alvarez, Nashville Public Library.

One of the brightest hours of a well planned conference program was the closing banquet at which Samuel Gaillard Stoney of Charleston, South Carolina, was the speaker. Introduced by Miss Emily Sanders of the Charleston Free Public Library, Mr. Stoney entertained his large and appreciative audience with a series of Gullah readings.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION TO CELEBRATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebration of its 75th Anniversary will be fittingly observed by the American Library Association in 1951. The celebration will be climaxed by the Annual Conference to be held in Chicago July 8 through 14th, 1951, at which a record-breaking attendance is desired and anticipated.

VIRGINIA WILLIAMSON MEMORIAL BOOK FUND

The Virginia Williamson Memorial Book Fund was inaugurated by the North Carolina Library Association to honor Miss Williamson who was killed in an automobile accident on February 17, 1950. The purpose of this Fund is to purchase attractive children's books for the Johnston County Public Library, Smithfield, North Carolina, of which Miss Williamson was librarian, and the Aireborough Libraries, Yorkshire, England, where she served as exchange librarian for the year of 1949.

Miss Williamson was the first American exchange librarian in the public library field, and the inspiration for the idea of sending some of our attractive American children's books to the Aireborough Libraries was her own conceived while she was still in England. She felt greatly the lack of such books in English publishing and English libraries.

The drive has been successful beyond the fondest hopes of the Association. Except for some of her library school classmates and a few publishers and authors, only North Carolina librarians and friends of Miss Williamson were solicited. Others hearing of the drive through the newspapers or word of mouth contributed. The total sum collected is \$1,130.87. In addition 18 books have been contributed by authors and publishers. All of the books presented by authors are specially autographed. It is a tribute to the warmth and appeal of Miss Williamson's personality and of the cause itself that the drive has been so successful.

The entire list of more than 100 books selected by a committee appointed for this purpose has been purchased in duplicate, one set for the Aireborough Libraries and one for the Johnston County Public Library. In addition \$100.00 worth of children's books published in England have been purchased for the Johnston County Public Library. These were selected by Miss Margaret Scoffield who exchanged positions with Miss Williamson for 1949.

There is still money in the Fund. This will be used for the purchase of more books, some of which have been requested by Miss Scoffield who remembers them from her year in an

American county library, and for the printing of a specially designed book plate to go in all books bought with the Fund.

It is interesting to note here that the people of Yorkshire, quite unaware of our memorial efforts at first, had their own memorial book fund drive for Miss Williamson. Miss Scoffield told them that this was what was done in America, and as one Englishwoman wrote, "This is an idea quite fresh with us, so perhaps you will catch its special significance. We all loved Virginia here." The books purchased with this Fund were selected to show England, and particularly Yorkshire, to Johnston County readers and have already been received in the library there.

MOTTO OF THE MONTH

Politeness is the art of making your guests feel at home—instead of wishing they were.

DEDICATION OF GUILFORD COLLEGE LIBRARY

Many librarians from all over North Carolina accepted invitations for Founders' Day at Guilford College on November 10, the program for which was largely devoted to dedication of the recently completed \$300,000 addition to the college library.

At the morning session Dr. Homer Halvorson, Librarian, Johns Hopkins University Library, delivered an inspiring address on "The Student and the Library." In the afternoon Dr. Benjamin Powell, Librarian, Duke University Library spoke on "From Storehouse to Workshop: The College Library at Mid-century." Dr. Powell pointed out that while the library has been recognized for many years as an important arm of college it was not until the past two decades that it has functioned effectively as an instrument of teaching.

Samray Smith, Librarian, General Collection, Stephens College Library, was another speaker on the afternoon program telling of "The Stephens Plan of Integration." The afternoon session closed with a discussion by the above two speakers and Dr. Charles Adams of the Woman's College of University of North Carolina, and Charles Rush of the University of North Carolina Library at Chapel Hill.

The dedication of the library addition was directed by Dr. Garness Purdom, Chairman of the Library Building Committee. President Clyde Milner presented the keys and Dr. Frederick Crownfield, acting librarian, and Dr. Harvey Ljung, dean of the college, made responses for the library staff and faculty.

A LETTER FROM MISS BEAL

Following the description in our September issue of the presentation to Miss Marjorie Beal, retiring Secretary and Director, North Carolina Library Commission, with a \$500 Savings Bond as a token of esteem from North Carolina librarians, it is a pleasure to reproduce here a letter of appreciation from Miss Beal.

315 Sixth Street,
Havre, Montana,
August 15, 1950.

Mr. Harlan C. Brown, President,
N. C. Library Association.

My dear Mr. Brown:

For more than two months I've endeavored to express my appreciation for the United States Savings Bond given me by members of the North Carolina Library Association. All of my efforts have failed to show my deep appreciation, so I'm saying "Thank you."

I hope you can convey to my good friends my delight and my joy over the gift which insures my return to North Carolina. Intermingled with the opportunities and the responsibilities of my years in North Carolina are a vast number of happy memories and of choice friendships.

My interest in North Carolina library development will always be keen and I will watch with pride every forward step.

As ever,
MARJORIE BEAL.

N. C. L. A. NEWS AND PERSONAL NOTES

The 27th Biennial Conference of the North Carolina Library Association will be held in Greensboro, April 26-28, 1951, with headquarters at O. Henry Hotel.

The Executive Board of NCLA has authorized the President and Secretary to extend an invitation to North Carolina High School Library Association to meet with NCLA at the 1951 conference.

Mr. Spencer Murphy, well known newspaper editor of Salisbury, has been named as one of the two members of North Carolina Library Commission to be appointed by NCLA.

Dr. Ben Powell, with Charles Brockmann as alternate, has been named by the Executive Committee of NCLA to serve on the Nominating Committee, Southeastern Library Association 1951-1952.

Upon request of the North Carolina English Teachers Association the NCLA will co-operate in compiling a reading list of North Caroliniana for use in high schools of the state. The President of NCLA has been authorized to appoint a committee of librarians for this purpose.

Miss Antoinette Earle, Librarian, Davidson County Library, Lexington, N. C., was elected one of the two members from North Carolina to serve on American Library Association Council, at a meeting of NCLA Executive Committee on October 28. Miss Earle succeeds Dr. Benjamin Powell, Librarian of Duke University, who is now a member-at-large of ALA Council. By reason of his position as President of NCLA Harlan Brown, Librarian, State College, is automatically the second North Carolina member of ALA Council.

Rev. George B. Ehlhardt, formerly of Divinity School Library of Duke University is now President of Brevard College, Brevard, N. C.

Miss Jessica Vann Graham, has succeeded Miss Julia Bennett as Head of Extension Department, Charlotte Public Library. Miss Bennett resigned to accompany her parents to Washington, D. C., and for the time being, will not be professionally engaged.

Mrs. Mary Drue Kline, formerly Elementary School Librarian at Charlotte, is now extension Librarian, Alberson Library, Orlando, Florida.

The North Carolina Negro Library Association held its annual conference at the Booker T. Washington High School, Rocky Mount, N. C., November 3rd and 4th. Approximately 200 librarians were in attendance.

Dr. Rufus E. Clement, President of Atlanta University, delivered the keynote address, "Libraries in a Democratic Society." Mrs. Evelynne Thomas, Director of Dramatics at Shaw University, served as main speaker at the conference dinner. Her subject was "A Sane Reading Diet for Living." The various sectional meetings proved interesting and informative.

Mrs. Eloise Camp Melton, President NCLA 1946-47, concludes the October-November School Library Letter of North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction, as follows:

"As your State School Library Adviser for the past three years, I want to say au revoir. These have been the grandest three years of my life, and I shall miss all of the happy contacts I have made as well as the privilege of pursuing the greatest profession there is. And while I have joined the ranks of the homemaker and am enjoying every minute of it, I promise you

that at heart I will always be a school librarian and hope that you will remember me as such.

My successor has not yet been named, so during the interim I will be delighted to give you whatever assistance I can through correspondence. My address is Mrs. J. R. Melton, Faculty Apts. 32, Boone, North Carolina.

Sincerely,
ELOISE CAMP MELTON,
Former State School Library Adviser."

In the above-mentioned letter Mrs. Melton makes a recommendation in which we heartily concur, as follows: "I cannot do justice in trying to describe to you the 'Literary Map of North Carolina' if you have not already seen it. I sincerely hope you will find \$1.50 for this purpose. We are grateful to Dr. Lodwick Hartley and Richard Walser of the English Department of North Carolina State College, and to Dr. Hugh Holman, Specialist in Southern Literature, University of North Carolina, for serving as advisers to the North Carolina English Teachers Association for this project. Enclose \$1.50 and order from North Carolina Education Association, Box 1050, Chapel Hill, N. C.

AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS COMMITTEE

The Audio-Visual Aids Committee of the NCLA met in Charlotte, North Carolina, October 25, to discuss ways and means of state-wide film service through public libraries. Mr. Hoyt Galvin, Director of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, was host to the group. Meeting with the committee as special advisors were Mrs. Patricia Blair, ALA Film Advisor, and Mr. Kenneth McIntyre, Chief of Communications Center, University of North Carolina.

Mrs. Blair explained briefly the four types of plans now used to provide film services through public libraries: 1. local libraries and a state agency (Missouri); 2. local units with contract plan with a very large library (Cleveland, Detroit, Cincinnati); 3. local units alone, planning joint buying and film interloans (Tennessee); 4. local units and a University Film Library (University of Washington).

Mr. McIntyre explained the organization and services offered by the Communications Center, University of North Carolina. After a discussion of these resources and a survey of those which might be available from other film collections within the state, the committee decided that North Carolina public library film needs could best be met through a cooperative plan closely allied with the State Library Commission. What the North Carolina

county libraries might do in close cooperation with the Library Commission was considered, and a number of recommendations as to specific needs and interests were formulated to be sent to the North Carolina Library Commission for their consideration. However, it was the opinion of the Audio-Visual Committee that in order to continue its work, and to make any real progress toward developing a program to provide educational films for the communities of North Carolina, specific information must be available as to precisely how many libraries feel the need for film service, how many would contract for it if available, and the percent of budget which could be used for such service. A questionnaire designed to secure this information has been sent to each county librarian.

Present for the meeting were: Charlesanna Fox, Asheboro; Mae Kreeger, Winston-Salem; Mrs. Ellyn Beaty, Yadkinville; Margaret Johnston, Waynesville; Helen Thompson, Wadesboro; Phyllis Snyder, Murphy; Hoyt Galvin and Tera Bailey, Charlotte; Barbara Heafner, Gastonia; Gladys Johnson, North Carolina Library Commission, Raleigh; and the special advisors, Mrs. Blair and Mr. McIntyre.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE N.C.L.A. ARE REMINDED OF A MEETING TO BE HELD IN LIBRARY OF WOMAN'S COLLEGE, U. N. C., AT GREENSBORO SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 2nd AT 10 O'CLOCK

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

310 N. Tryon St., Charlotte 2, N. C.

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Correspondence regarding membership should be directed to the Treasurer.

CHARLES R. BROCKMANN Editor

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JUNIOR MEMBERS ROUND TABLE

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