

ROWAN COUNTY LIBRARY MOVING DAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1951

Those librarians who have visited the old quarters of the Rowan Public Library can well imagine what "Moving Day, September 24, 1951" meant to the library staff. For the benefit of those who are facing the task of moving, the librarian would state that various articles written by those who have moved are of very little practical help beyond emphasizing the fact that each library must face the issue of moving in the light of its own peculiar and varied problems. The Rowan County problems revolved around the necessity of moving out of the windows and in through the garage.

Two conferences between the library staff and the head of the moving concern settled various problems about timing, the necessity of accurate labels for cartons and the division of library and moving staffs between old and new quarters. For weeks ahead of time all the library staff studied drawings of floor plans for the new building, and planned all placement of books and equipment. These drawings were marked as soon as decisions were reached and furniture as well as cartons of books were labelled as far ahead of time as practical. Copies of these drawings were carefully made for the use of each responsible staff member and all studied them carefully in advance. (This was most fortunate because all drawings were lost during the first hour of moving and not found until six hours later).

Mrs. James Cox, Mrs. J. O. Lee and Mrs. J. H. Nettles divided responsibility at the old and new buildings meeting the trucks and packing and routing the cartons.

Movers were scheduled to arrive at the old quarters at 8:30 on Monday morning, with the staff arriving fifteen minutes earlier. Luckily the librarian decided to arrive at 7:30 to recheck plans, because the movers had arrived an hour ahead of time. From then on things moved rapidly.

Some of the moving crew failed to report for duty, so library personnel assisted in packing as well as labelling boxes. The high point of the unexpected came during lunch time when only 2 tired librarians were in the old quarters. One delinquent mover arrived, strolled around and asked if "all them books got to be packed and moved?" On being assured that all were going, he paused long enough to say: "Tell Mr. Shaw that Alfred came"—and Alfred departed.

The shortage of packers slowed work at the old quarters, but proved fortunate in the long run. The Board of Trustees had decided not to open the new quarters until the day after dedication program, so there would be ample time to get things settled down.

Within a short time movers at the new building realized the importance of loading and unloading according to labels. By Tuesday morning movers were very distressed to report to Mrs. Lee that by error one truck had arrived with the top boxes packed with "what you folks call 'By Golly', and the bottom boxes holding 'Friction'"! the greatest handicap in having to move this way, was in having "By Golly and Friction" arrive together so that cartons blocked aisles in the stacks. The staff thought wistfully of schools who could use students to "relay" book stock with no traffic problems.

All books and materials were moved by noon on Tuesday, and by mutual agreement the furniture and equipment was brought in early Wednesday. The actual installation of stock proceeded rapidly and by Friday afternoon it was realized that the library could be opened the next morning, even though some files, periodicals and like materials still needed settling. The Board of Trustees held to their decision, however, and insisted that the staff take a well-deserved rest until Wednesday morning.

—Edith Clark, Librarian,
Rowan County Library, Salisbury