

# North Carolina Libraries

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*[Photograph: Six oval portrait photographs of the Founders of NCLA, arranged in two rows of three. Top row, left to right: Breedlove, Caldwell, Douglas. Bottom row, left to right: McIver, Petty, Wilson. A seventh portrait of Ross appears to the right of the middle section. All are formal black-and-white photographs.]*

## **Founders of NCLA — May 14, 1904**

J. P. Breedlove

*(Librarian, Trinity College)*

Miss Bettie Caldwell

*(Librarian, Greensboro Public Library)*

R. D. Douglas

*(Greensboro Attorney)*

Charles D. McIver

*(President, North Carolina State Normal College)*

Miss Annie F. Petty

*(Librarian, North Carolina State Normal College)*

Mrs. Annie Smith Ross

*(Librarian, Carnegie Library of Charlotte)*

Louis R. Wilson

*(Librarian, University of North Carolina)*

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## **The North Carolina Library Association, 1904–1909**

*By Louis R. Wilson*

The North Carolina Library Association came into being largely as a result of the vital influence of Mrs. Annie Smith Ross who became Librarian of the Carnegie Library of Charlotte in November, 1902. In order to fit herself for her work, Mrs. Ross went to Atlanta and worked for several months with Miss Anne Wallace, Librarian of the Carnegie Library. There she caught the missionary spirit of Miss Wallace and her library associates who had felt the stimulation of the Conference of Librarians held in Atlanta in

1895, of the establishment of the Georgia Library Association and the Georgia Library Commission in 1897, of the meeting of the A.L.A. there in 1899, and of the grant by Mr. Carnegie in 1899 of \$125,000 for the erection of the Carnegie Library building.

Mrs. Ross returned from Atlanta surcharged with library enthusiasm and during the winter of 1903–04, she began correspondence with a number of North Carolina librarians concerning the possibility of organizing a state library association. The Greensboro Daily Record of May 5, 1904, carried the following news story concerning the matter.

### TO MEET HERE

#### State Library Association Movement Finds Ready Favor

There is a marked interest throughout the State in the general development of the library idea.

The following circular letter will be sent out to libraries in all of the North Carolina towns, in pursuance of a movement begun some months ago:

*"To the Librarians of North Carolina:*

*"My communication to the libraries in January in regard to the organization of a State library association met with such favor, it has been decided to call a meeting at the State Normal College, Greensboro, N. C., at 2:30 p.m., on May 14th, for the purpose of organizing. You are cordially invited to attend this meeting.*

*"Please notify Miss Annie Petty, librarian of the State Normal College, if you will attend. If it is not possible for you to attend, please notify her of your willingness to join the association. I believe this is the beginning of a great interest in library work in North Carolina.*

*"MRS. ANNIE SMITH ROSS."*

Mrs. Ross's overtures were well received and at 3:00 P.M. on May 14, 1904, Mrs. Ross, Mr. J. P. Breedlove, Librarian of the Trinity College Library, Miss Bettie D. Caldwell, Librarian of the Greensboro Public Library, Mr. R. D. Douglas, an attorney of Greensboro, Miss Annie F. Petty, Librarian and Dr. Charles D. McIver, President of the State Normal and Industrial College in Greensboro, and I met in the College Library for the purpose of organizing an association. Mrs. Ross was elected temporary Chairman and I served as Secretary. Mrs. Ross stated the purpose of the meeting. This was followed by a general discussion concerning the status of libraries of North Carolina; how an association could aid in their development; who should become members; and what provisions should be included in the constitution.

At the end of the discussion, I moved the formation of an association, the passage of the motion being followed by the adoption of the constitution and the election of the following officers: President — Mrs. Annie Smith Ross; First Vice President — Dr. Charles D. McIver; Second Vice President — Mr. J. A. Bivens; Secretary-Treasurer — Louis R. Wilson. Miss Petty, Mr. Breedlove, and Mr. Douglas were added to the President and Secretary-Treasurer to constitute an Executive Committee. Correspondence followed with other librarians, members of women's clubs, and

educators during the summer, and the first meeting was scheduled for November 11–12 at the Colonial Club at Charlotte.

The first annual meeting at Charlotte was highly successful. Thirty-two individuals had indicated before the meeting in May their desire to become members if an association were formed. Consequently, they were considered charter members. Between May and November 17 others had indicated their desire to be included. The Association, therefore, began with 49 members and it enjoyed the full support of the Charlotte Woman's Club and was entertained by the Trustees of the Charlotte Carnegie Library and by the Colonial and Country Clubs at various luncheons and receptions. The Charlotte press and local correspondents gave the meeting full publicity and added distinctly to the success of its initial activities.

The first session was held in the afternoon of the 11th, at which a distinctly professional atmosphere was added by the addresses of Miss Anne Wallace, Librarian of the Carnegie Library of Atlanta, and Mr. A. H. Hopkins, Librarian of the Louisville Public Library, on "The Necessity of Library Cooperation Among the Libraries of the South" and "Organization of the Public Library," respectively.

The evening session was largely attended. Acting-Mayor S. S. McNinch extended the address of welcome and Mr. D. A. Tompkins, a leading manufacturer of Charlotte, spoke briefly on "Libraries." Dr. John C. Kilgo, President of Trinity College, made the principal address on "The Library as an Educational Factor."

Other speakers on the 12th included Dr. Eben Alexander, Professor of Greek and Chairman of the Library Committee of the University of North Carolina, who spoke on "The College Library"; Mrs. Hugh A. Murrill, of the Woman's Club of Charlotte, on "The Library and the Woman's Club"; Mr. J. A. Bivins, Principal of the Trinity Park High School, of Durham, on "The Relation of the Public Library to the Public School." President Charles D. McIver could not be present, and I presented a paper on "Rural Libraries of North Carolina" and offered a resolution in support of the work of rural school libraries being established by Dr. J. Y. Joyner, Superintendent of Public Instruction of North Carolina. Mrs. Ross and I were reelected and Miss Wallace and Mr. Hopkins were elected to honorary membership in the Association.

The second annual meeting was not held in 1905 due to the holding of a Southern regional library meeting in Atlanta that year. It was held at the Olivia Raney Library in Raleigh April 27 and 28, 1906. It was attended by 25 members and 13 representatives from Southern States. Papers were presented by Mrs. Lindsay Patterson, of Winston-Salem, on "The Library and the Literary Clubs"; Dr. Edwin Mims, Professor of English at Trinity College, on "Public Libraries of North Carolina"; Superintendent E. P. Moses, of the city Schools of Raleigh, on "The Library and the Public School"; Dr. J. Y. Joyner, Superintendent of Public Instruction of North Carolina, on "Rural Libraries"; and myself, on "The Growth of Libraries in Five Years."

The visitors from the South, all of whom were elected to honorary membership, included Miss Ida J. Dacus, Librarian of Winthrop College, who spoke on "The College Library"; Mr. John P. Kennedy, State Librarian of Virginia, on "A State Library Commission"; and Miss Julia Rankin, Director of the Southern Library School of the Carnegie Library of Atlanta, on "Library Organization." Miss Rankin was accompanied by the first class of

ten members of the Library School, many of whose names have been prominent in Southern library circles for many years.

The Association showed its commitment to constructive library promotion by adopting three recommendations: (1) To assist the North Carolina State Literary and Historical Association in seeking a new fireproof State Library building from the Legislature; (2) To invite the American Library Association to hold its meeting in 1907 in Asheville; and (3) To work for the establishment of a library commission by the Legislature. It adopted a formal resolution calling on the Legislature to provide funds for an adequate fireproof building for the State Library and appointed the following members on special committees: To extend invitations to the A.L.A., suggested by Miss Grace McHenry Jones of Asheville — The President and Secretary; To secure the establishment of a Library Commission — Messrs. J. F. Wilkes, E. P. Wharton, Hon. M. O. Sherrill, and Louis R. Wilson.

The officers of the Association elected for the next year were: President — Mrs. Annie Smith Ross; First Vice President — Dr. C. D. McIver; Second Vice President — Mrs. Sol Weil; Secretary-Treasurer — Louis R. Wilson.

The Committee to extend the invitation to the American Library Association outlined its plans immediately, quickly established a working relationship with Mr. W. F. Randolph, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Asheville, and with Mr. R. L. Vernon, District Passenger Agent of the Southern Railway in Charlotte; and secured letters from prominent Southern educators and leaders urging the holding of the conference in Asheville, and sent copies of them to members of the Executive Board and members of the Council of the A.L.A. It also bombarded the Executive Board and Council with descriptive booklets, folders, and post cards concerning the attractions of Asheville, Waynesville, Lake Toxaway, and other Western North Carolina towns and resorts. All of this publicity emphasized the stimulation to libraries and education generally which the meeting would produce in the South.

At the meeting of the A.L.A. at Narragansett Pier two months later, Mrs. Ross, Mr. Randolph, two representatives of the Southern Railway, and I presented the invitation to the Executive Board. We were joined by Miss Anne Wallace who had helped us pin big celluloid buttons of Mount Pisgah on the lapels of every member of the A.L.A. we could corral during the conference. Richmond, Virginia, was our principal Southern competitor and we won handily and the Association came to Asheville in late May, 1907.

The Asheville meeting gave the newly established State Association and the library movement in the South a vitality that they might otherwise never have attained. It was attended by 500 librarians and educational leaders from all parts of the Nation, with a large representation from the South. The old Battery Park Hotel served as headquarters, the officers of the State Association joining the Asheville local committee as hosts. Lieutenant Governor F. D. Winston delivered the address of welcome for the State, I the address for the State Association and Judge Jeeter C. Pritchard the address for the local library.

Miss Wallace read a splendid paper on "The History of the Free Library Movement in the South Since 1899," which was accompanied by papers by Mr. R. J. Tighe, Superintendent of Schools in Asheville; by Professor W. P. Trent, of Columbia University, formerly Professor of English at Sewanee; and by librarians from several

Southern States on various phases of library development in the region, including a fine summary by Mrs. Ross of library development in North Carolina. The paper by Miss Wallace had been written by her when she was on her vacation at Sorrento, Italy, where she had no reference materials at hand, but it set the style of many papers that have dealt with Southern conditions and objectives in the years since.

The North Carolina Library Association held three short sessions at Asheville in which it was joined by librarians from South Carolina who discussed the organization of an association for that state. The constitution was amended to provide for the separation of the offices of Secretary and Treasurer and to authorize the President and Secretary to select three members, the five to constitute the Executive Committee. The officers elected for the year were: President — Mrs. Annie Smith Ross; First Vice President — Mrs. Sol Weil; Second Vice President — Miss Annie F. Petty; Secretary — Louis R. Wilson; Treasurer — J. F. Wilkes; Executive Committee — President, Secretary, Mrs. Weil, E. P. Wharton, and J. P. Breedlove.

In addition to the librarians from South Carolina, the Association welcomed Mr. A. H. Hopkins and Miss Lutie E. Stearns, of the Free Library Commission of Wisconsin, to its second session; and at its final session it offered a special resolution commending Dr. Stephen B. Weeks for his work on the Bibliography of North Carolina history.

For all of the 75 members of the State Association who were in attendance at Asheville, the meeting of the A.L.A. was extremely inspiring and exciting. The State Association was formally affiliated with the A.L.A.; its members became acquainted with many of the library leaders of the country; and the publicity of the meeting skillfully handled by Mr. Don Gillis, of Asheville, gave all the libraries in the State a new sense of educational importance. In addition, many visits were arranged to the Vanderbilt estate, Mountain Meadows Inn, Rattle Snake Lodge on Craggy, and other points of interest around Asheville. The whole Association went on a drive to Strawberry Hill in West Asheville, where it was entertained at tea by Mrs. A. C. Bartlett. The post-conference trip of the A.L.A. included a visit to Lake Toxaway, and in addition to all the social activities, the conference staged an exciting political fight which resulted in the election of a candidate for the presidency other than the one placed in nomination by the Council.

Greensboro was host to the third annual meeting November 11 and 12, 1908. The Greensboro Telegram celebrated the event by bringing out a special section devoted to libraries which included sketches of 41 libraries and articles on a number of special aspects of North Carolina librarianship. The membership of the Association had grown to 100, and the program included addresses by Mrs. Lucy H. Robertson, President of Greensboro Female College; Dr. Stephen B. Weeks, author of *Libraries and Literature in the Eighteenth Century*; and a five-year summary of library development in North Carolina by Mrs. Annie Smith Ross, but read in her absence by Miss Annie F. Petty, Second Vice President. Miss Petty presided, and the Association appointed J. F. Wilkes, A. M. Scales, E. P. Wharton, and myself as a committee to work for the establishment of a library commission. The officers elected for the next year were: President — Miss Annie F. Petty; First Vice President — Mrs. Lindsay Patterson; Second Vice President — Mr. Ernest Cruikshank; Secretary — Louis R. Wilson; and Treasurer — J. F. Wilkes.

Work for the establishment of the Library Commission proved less spectacular but equally exciting and illuminating. Members of the first committee appointed in Raleigh in 1906 consisting of J. F. Wilkes, E. P. Wharton, M. O. Sherrill, and myself, met in Greensboro in the winter of 1906–07 with Mr. A. M. Scales who had secured the passage in 1897 of the Public Library Act. The first task of the Committee was to draft a bill for a Legislature that knew a minimum about libraries. The bill had to be conservative as to appropriations and politically safe. Best library theory and practice of the day demanded that a commission should be a separate organization and that it be administered by professionals and freed from political influence. It likewise should not be a subdivision of the State Library or of the State Department of Education. However, in order to gain the support of legislators, it was necessary to begin with what they were familiar with and build upon that. They knew that the two offices mentioned were concerned with providing useful information to State officers and legislators in conducting their offices and in drafting laws. They also knew that the Department of Education was responsible for the promotion of public education. Therefore, they were asked to support a measure which would create a commission on which the State Librarian and the Superintendent of Public Instruction would serve as ex officio members. The Library Association would appoint two other members and the Governor of the State a fifth member.

After the bill had been prepared in Greensboro, Mr. Wilkes and I took it to Raleigh and began to interest our friends in the Legislature in it. We consulted with various members but found little enthusiasm for it. The whole procedure of legislation was new to us, and although we made two or three visits to Raleigh during the session, no substantial progress was made in its enactment. Legislative procedures, however, were learned, the knowledge of which was utilized in 1909.

In 1909 the measure came up for consideration again. In the two-year interval the Association had given constant publicity to library activities in the State. The A.L.A. meeting had been held in Asheville in 1907, and the meeting of the State Association in Greensboro in 1908 had been widely publicized in the Greensboro Telegram and the State press generally. A new committee consisting of Messrs. Wilkes, Scales, Wharton, and myself, was placed in charge, and steps were taken to commit legislators to work for its passage before the Legislature met. In Greensboro, where the bill had the strong backing of Miss Petty, the President, and of Messrs. Scales, Douglas, and Wharton, and Miss Bettie D. Caldwell, it was arranged that the bill should be introduced by Dr. J. R. Gordon, of Jamestown, an experienced, widely informed Representative from Guilford, who was Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations. Mr. H. S. Williams of Concord, and Mr. John Hinsdale, of Raleigh, were on the House Committee on Libraries and were favorable to the measure. The support of several Representatives and the Senator from Mecklenburg had also been secured by Charlotte librarians. Other librarians and friends exerted such influence as they could and in due course, under the skilled, influential guidance of Dr. Gordon, the bill received favorable consideration by the Committees on the Library and the Appropriations Committees.

But at this stage a hitch occurred which occasioned Mr. Wilkes and myself considerable discomfiture. Near the end of February Dr. Gordon had to return to his home, and the bill was seemingly but not actually left without Dr. Gordon's personal direction. At this point, I happened to be in Goldsboro and conferred with Mr. and Mrs. Sol Weil

concerning measures to insure final passage. After I left Goldsboro, Mr. Weil secured the services of Mr. D. P. Stern, a lawyer in Greensboro, who went to Raleigh, ascertained the situation in which Dr. Gordon had temporarily left the measure, and kept in touch with it until the bill was ratified on March 8, carrying an appropriation of \$1,500 and providing for the appointment of a professional librarian to serve under the direction of five Commissioners.

On the day the bill was passed Dr. Gordon sent Miss Petty, President of the Association, a postal card notifying her of its passage. She passed his message on to me by telephone. The news greatly surprised as well as pleased me, for it had seemed to Mr. Wilkes and myself, since we had seen no notice of its passage in the papers, that the bill had failed of passage in the final hectic days of the Legislature. We did not know what steps Dr. Gordon had taken in its behalf during his absence and we had had no report from Mr. Weil or Mr. Stern. But the bill was passed, and the Commission was to be a reality!

Shortly after the adjournment of the Legislature, Mrs. Ross and I, who had been appointed as members of the Commission by the State Association, called on Governor W. W. Kitchin in Raleigh, who appointed Dr. Charles Lee Smith, former President of Mercer University and a member of the firm of Edwards and Broughton, of Raleigh, as the third appointed member. Dr. J. Y. Joyner, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Hon. Miles O. Sherrill, State Librarian, were members ex officio, completing the full membership of five.

The Commission met formally in Raleigh on April 8, 1909, and elected the following officers: Louis R. Wilson, Chairman; Mrs. Annie Smith Ross, Secretary; and Dr. Charles Lee Smith, Treasurer. On April 9, the Commission met again, adopted by-laws for its procedures, and passed the following recommendations:

1. That the Chairman immediately prepare for the papers a statement concerning the purposes of the Commission.
2. That upon the selection of a Field Secretary, the Commission prepare a bulletin or circular letter setting forth fully its proposed activities, and that it indicate the ways in which the public can best avail itself of its services.
3. That the Commission collect as far as it can, complete statistics of all libraries and library activities in the State.
4. That the Commission respond to all requests made upon the educators and librarians of the State, and especially by its Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Librarian for any help it may be able to give them in their work.

On motion of Dr. Joyner, the Executive Committee (consisting of the three officers) was authorized to employ a Field Secretary at a salary not to exceed \$75.00 per month, and to prescribe the duties and direct the work of such secretary.

Miss Minnie W. Leatherman, of the Louisville Public Library, was chosen later for the position and an office was secured for the Commission in the State Library.

The establishment of the Commission was reported by me to the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs at its meeting in Henderson, May 4, 5, and 6, 1909, and to the North Carolina Library Association at its meeting in Goldsboro, December 2 and 3, 1909. At the meeting of the Federation of Women's Clubs the traveling libraries of

that organization were turned over to the Commission for use, their number to be supplemented by the Clubs and by the State when additional funds could be secured from the Legislature.

At the fifth annual meeting of the Association held in Goldsboro on December 2 and 3, 1909, three major events in the first years of the life of the Association had been successfully completed. The Association had been organized and had grown from 7 members on May 14, 1904 to 100. Many of the leading men and women of the State had participated in its activities. The American Library Association had held an inspiring meeting in Asheville which kindled enthusiasm for libraries not only in North Carolina but throughout the whole South. It had likewise brought North Carolina librarians into close contact with the library leaders of the Nation. And the North Carolina Library Commission, established and supported by the Legislature, had been brought into being as the promoter of library development for all the people of the State. The fifth annual meeting at Goldsboro consequently celebrated these fine accomplishments. The address of Dr. W. C. Jackson, Professor of History at the State Normal and Industrial College at Greensboro, on "The Work of the Modern Library," and of Miss Leatherman on "The Library Commission," summarized these accomplishments and pointed up their significance to North Carolina in the enrichment of its expanding life. A brighter day for the intellectual and cultural life of the State had dawned!

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## **Dr. Wilson Receives Putnam Award**

North Carolina librarians were delighted by the announcement made at the ALA meeting in Minneapolis that Dr. Louis R. Wilson received the Herbert Putnam Honor Award in librarianship. The award, established in 1949, honors Dr. Herbert Putnam who served for forty years as Librarian of Congress and was twice president of ALA. The award has not been made since 1949 when it was given to Carleton B. Joeckel of the University of Chicago Graduate Library School.

We proudly quote from the citation of Dr. Wilson:

*. . . In his active career as a teacher, writer and advocate of the best and most progressive philosophy and techniques of his profession, Dr. Wilson has made notable contributions to the increased stature of his chosen field. He has continued to do so in his retirement, through his surveys and his writings, including the revision of his standard work on *The University Library; Its Organization, Administration and Functions*, in which he is now engaged. He also has contributed significantly to the field of bibliography, especially with regard to North Carolina history. A fearless, honest gentleman, he exemplifies the highest ideals of the library profession.*

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## **The College Library in North Carolina, 1904–1954**

*By Charles M. Adams, Librarian, Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.*

College libraries played an important part in the first meeting of the North Carolina Library Association in Charlotte fifty years ago. The theme of that meeting as expressed by the first president, Mrs. Annie Smith Ross, was cooperation among the libraries of North Carolina — public, school and college. The interesting thing was, not that college librarians were present and taking part in these meetings, but that they brought along members of their faculty. President J. C. Kilgo of Trinity College in Durham (later to become Duke University) made a major address the first day. His theme was, in part, that it would take dollars not just pennies to build great libraries for our state. Mr. J. P. Breedlove, a member of the Executive Committee, was Librarian at Trinity. Miss Annie Petty, Librarian at the State Normal and Industrial College (now the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina) and also a member of the Executive Committee, had her president, Charles D. McIver, scheduled for the program. A family illness prevented his attendance. Dr. McIver's theme since the founding of the college at Greensboro a decade or so earlier had been that "no institution without a good library can reasonably hope to send into the world graduates with a literary spirit," and he supported strong library programs not only at the College but for the whole of North Carolina. Louis R. Wilson, Librarian at the University of North Carolina, was the first Secretary and Treasurer of the Association as well as a member of the Executive Committee. He jumped into the breach left by the absence of Dr. McIver and delivered the talk on rural libraries in North Carolina. Dr. Eben Alexander from the University presented an address on "The College Library." Dr. Alexander gave statistics on great libraries of the nation, and pointed out that North Carolina then was third in the Southern states with a total of 132,000 volumes in all the college collections in the state. "The crying need now," Dr. Alexander said, "is for buildings better adapted for use as houses of books."

In June 1907 Louis R. Wilson, in writing for the special Southern Number of *The World's Work*, edited by Walter Hines Page, said, "Southern college libraries have undergone a complete revolution in spirit." It should be remembered that Walter Hines Page in his famous address entitled "The Forgotten Man" in Greensboro ten years earlier said: "There are no great libraries in the State, nor do people yet read . . ." By 1907 there had been built at Trinity a new \$50,000 library. Carnegie had financed college buildings at Davidson, at Guilford, at State College, at the State Normal, and at the University. Most important in Mr. Wilson's mind was a matching endowment of \$55,000 at the University which had been established for purchase of books when the new building was completed. This gave the University an opportunity to begin a systematic program of acquisition which under Louis R. Wilson's direction was to bring so much leadership to the educational program at Chapel Hill.

The meeting of the American Library Association in Asheville in 1907 made leaders in the State well aware of librarianship as a profession. College librarians had received a shot in the arm somewhat earlier. Louis R. Wilson had worked three years in Haverford College Library and had spent a summer of intensive study of library literature before beginning his work at the University in 1901. Mr. Breedlove had attended a summer session at Amherst College studying library techniques and Miss Annie Petty was given a year to study librarianship at Drexel Institute in 1898–99. There was an alert and dedicated group of men and women ready to make a career of building libraries in North Carolina.

Mr. Wilson at Chapel Hill in the summer of 1904 taught the first courses in librarianship in the Southeast. Miss Petty in a less formal way was teaching students also each year and helping many others throughout the State coming back to her for advice. The position of librarian in the colleges had been established. It was no longer a job to be handed from year to year to some conscientious student or graduate assistant under faculty guidance. The college library had been integrated into the teaching program as a department with the need for full-time professional guidance and funds for building the book collections. Mr. Breedlove had increased his book collection from 11,000 volumes in 1899 to 37,000 volumes by 1907. By 1907 there were 45,000 volumes in the library at the University and an insured annual income for books of over \$3,000. The North Carolina Collection had been established and special collections relating to history, literature and conditions of the South were being built. Mr. Wilson was made an Associate Professor in 1907.

Statistics are not too plentiful for the first decade of the century. The Library Commission made its first report in 1909–10. The revolution in spirit had taken place in North Carolina college libraries. Book collections had grown rapidly and more and more perfectly equipped laboratories for their use had been built. The library had become important to the college as a whole. The librarian was no longer a mere curator of books, but a well-trained professional man.

The periods following each of the world wars saw many new developments in all the college libraries and an increased impetus in the development of the university libraries into research centers for the South and for the nation. From the more or less one-man libraries of the period before World War I, the college and university library staff was growing to major proportions in the community. The summary of library conditions in the Commission's Report of 1913–14 listed only eight trained librarians in all the college libraries in the state. Eighteen years later the library staff of the University at Chapel Hill alone had increased to thirty (twelve of which were listed as non-professional). The staff at a number of other college libraries had grown proportionately and the library system had become a complex department of the university.

In an article on "The Use of Books and Libraries in North Carolina" in the January issue of *The Journal of Social Forces*, 1922, Louis R. Wilson showed that despite many increases in North Carolina college libraries, they were falling far behind those of the nation in the support they were receiving. Referring to statistics appearing in *The North Carolina Library Bulletin*, he said, "Six of the institutions added less than 100 volumes during the year. The actual figures were 16 to 62. Five added between 101 and 200 volumes, nine between 201 and 500, four between 501 and 1,000, six between 1,001 and 2,000, one between 2,001 and 8,000, and one over 8,000. The grand total, including state library and supreme court, was only 25,479, a total less by 505 than the 25,984 added to the library of the University of California alone. The library of the University of Michigan came within 26 of the grand total, Yale doubled it, and Harvard with 73,100 volumes practically trebled it!"

Louis R. Wilson was not satisfied. He was thinking in terms of our libraries compared with others in the nation and continued his program for improving libraries in North Carolina. Many magnificent and imposing new buildings were being built for college libraries during the 1920's. With increased staff and rapidly growing book collections,

new methods of book control were being sought. The Library of Congress Card Catalog at Chapel Hill was being expanded into a union catalog listing holdings of many major libraries of the country. The need for bibliographical control and cooperation in building research collections was in the air. The University had set up a Committee on Intellectual Cooperation early in 1930 and the Librarian, Robert B. Downs, was appointed a member. The cooperative program with Duke had its beginnings then and the first survey of research materials in North Carolina libraries was published in 1936. The meeting of the Southeastern Library Association at Signal Mountain in 1926 had important results. Criteria for school libraries and standards for accreditation were formulated and later accepted by the Southern Association. It was the go ahead signal for establishment of library schools in the South. Mr. Stone established a library school at North Carolina College for Women in Greensboro. This school was later, with the consolidation of the University of North Carolina, transferred to Chapel Hill and combined with the school there to make a graduate program for all types of librarians. Teacher training colleges and their libraries were also strengthened throughout the state during this period.

The period since World War II seems too close upon us and knowledge of the college and university libraries too intimate to readers of North Carolina Libraries to need much comment. The State of North Carolina has been investing millions of dollars in library buildings on the campuses of its institutions as well as generously increased book budgets. This has been true also for the Negro Colleges. The Negro College librarians have built up their own collections and in recent years, as a result of leadership among the librarians in those colleges, there are well equipped libraries with growing book collections especially in those colleges supported from State funds. Junior college libraries have also grown and collections are now larger than they were at Chapel Hill, Trinity or State College in 1904. A few total figures from the 1952–53 report of the North Carolina Library Commission speak for themselves of the growth of college libraries during the past fifty years:

**Table 1:** Number of staff and expenditures from the 1952-1953 North Carolina Library Commission report.

Category	Value
Full-Time Staff, 1952–53, for University and College Libraries	246
Full-Time Staff, 1952–53, for Junior College Libraries	26
Full-Time Staff, 1952–53, for Negro University and College Libraries	49
Full-Time Staff, 1952–53, Total	321
Annual Expenditure for Books and Periodicals, 1952–53: University and College Libraries	\$413,962.00
Annual Expenditure for Books and Periodicals, 1952–53: Junior College Libraries	\$22,775.00

Annual Expenditure for Books and Periodicals, 1952–53: Negro University and College Libraries	\$84,249.00
Annual Expenditure for Books and Periodicals, 1952–53: Total	\$520,986.00
Volumes in North Carolina Libraries, 1952–53: University and College Libraries	2,766,222
Volumes in North Carolina Libraries, 1952–53: Junior College Libraries	239,598
Volumes in North Carolina Libraries, 1952–53: Negro University and College Libraries	344,166
Volumes in North Carolina Libraries, 1952–53: Total	3,349,986

These figures compared to conditions in 1904 when Dr. Alexander spoke on the college library at the first meeting of the NCLA show the tremendous growth of college libraries during the past 50 years. In the revolution Dr. Wilson spoke of during the first decade of the century, the foundations for the modern college library in North Carolina were laid. We owe a debt of gratitude that they were laid with such soundness and vision.

Additional copies of this 50th Anniversary issue will be available. Orders at twenty-five cents per copy should be sent to NCLA treasurer, Miss Marianna Long, Law Librarian, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

## Public Libraries in North Carolina

*By Elizabeth House Hughey, Secretary and Director, North Carolina Library Commission.*

Even though the spiritual father of the public library in North Carolina never set foot in the state, he planted an idea which has grown until today 95% of our citizens have access to public library service through a network of municipal, county, and regional libraries.

In 1695 when the Rev. Thomas Bray, founder and secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, was appointed by the Bishop of London as his Commissary in the royal province of Maryland, one of the provisions of his acceptance was the promise of assistance from the bishop in furnishing books for the colonies. He himself did not come to North Carolina but sent "of his own particular pious gift" a collection valued at one hundred pounds, which was the origin of the first library open to the public in the state. The books prompted the first and only library law in the colony, passed in 1715. It provided "that the inhabitants of Beaufort Precinct shall have liberty to borrow any book out of said library . . ." Parish libraries were followed by a series of subscription and society libraries.

During the days of reconstruction little attention could be given to public service agencies. As demands advanced for public education toward the end of the 19th century, the need for a plan for continuing education became more evident. Public libraries began to be organized in North Carolina.

In 1897 the first public library supported by public funds was established in Durham, the result of a petition by a group of citizens to the General Assembly for "an act to incorporate the Durham Public Library." The first statistical report of North Carolina public libraries in 1910 shows a public library in Mooresville, also established in 1897. It is interesting to note that these were in industrial centers rather than the so-called "cultural centers."

Ten years prior to these two public supported libraries, a privately supported free public library was built and equipped by Mr. Charles H. Wing for the people of Mitchell County. This library, with a bookstock given by Northern libraries and friends of Wing was open and free to all the people of the county and was at that time declared the third county library in the United States. More significant in North Carolina was the plan of the building which had one floor to be used for an assembly hall for civic gatherings of the community. It may be called the forerunner of the multi-purpose room being incorporated into public library plans today.

The capital city, though not the first, may yet be called a leader in early public library development. It was at the turn of the century that a public library was established in Raleigh by Mr. R. B. Raney, who "having purchased the very desirable site at the southwest corner of Hillsboro and Salisbury streets, opposite the Capitol Square erected a brick building for the library of the best materials, tastefully and elegantly furnished it, and on the 1st day of February 1900, conveyed it by deed to a corporation" which was named the Olivia Raney Library in memory of his wife.

An indication of the strong liaison between educational development and that of the public library was evidenced in 1901 when the school commissioners of Charlotte operated a library opened to the citizens of the city. To supplement the commissioners' collection, the Charlotte Literary and Library Association turned over its small collection of books. This action inspired a request for the first Carnegie library building in the state. An original grant of \$25,000 was made in 1903 and a supplement of \$15,000 was added in 1914. By 1917 Carnegie grants for public library buildings had been given to ten North Carolina towns.

An act of the General Assembly of 1903 incorporated the Charlotte Carnegie Public Library and provided for the establishment of a "Charlotte Public Library for Colored People."

The Greensboro Public Library began in 1901 when a town canvass, led by the chairman of the State Library Committee, resulted in a very generous subscription of \$3,000. City Aldermen donated three rooms in the city hall and appointed, under the Scales Library Act, a board of six trustees to organize and control the new institution.

The following year, the idea of a public library for Winston was presented to Mr. Carnegie and within two years a building was completed and open to the public with \$1,500 worth of books, a stipulation of the Carnegie gift. The opening of this library and others encouraged the society of Sorosis of Wilmington to offer its collection of books to

the city, if the city would establish and maintain a public library. The challenge was accepted; and the library's first narrative report attested to its great use and value: "The library has induced the people to read more and it has also tended to improve the morals of the community and in this respect has proved a substantial benefit."

Other free public libraries established prior to 1910 were: Page Memorial, Aberdeen; Goldsboro Public, Goldsboro; R. Y. McAden Memorial Hall, McAdenville; Carnegie Library, Statesville; Hillsboro Public, Hillsboro; Hickory Public, Hickory; Waynesville Public, Waynesville. There was a total of fifteen public libraries offering books free to the citizens of their communities.

Until the organization of the North Carolina Library Association in 1904, the development of free public library service in the state had been on purely local initiative. Some benefactor, a literary or civic organization, or a group of interested citizens were responsible for the establishment of the public libraries in existence in 1904. Not once since that historic organizational meeting of the North Carolina Library Association on May 14, 1904, has the object of the Association been neglected: "Its object shall be to promote acquaintance and fraternal relations among librarians and those interested in library work; and by consultation and cooperation, to increase the usefulness and advance the interests of libraries and library work in North Carolina."

The Secretary-Treasurer's report of the first annual meeting of the Association clarified the organization's goals: "Professional librarianship, the creation of public sentiment favorable to public libraries, and systemized aid to rural, school, and public libraries, are matters which must be dealt with."

The term "rural library" is not to be confused with the connotation given it today. The phrase referred to the first collections of non-textbooks placed in the public schools. A special "rural library" law provided incentive funds to encourage the schools to develop these libraries, some of which were open to the public after school hours.

The need for a state agency to assume responsibility for public library service to the citizens of the state was recognized by the North Carolina Library Association April 26, 1906, following much discussion of a paper entitled "A State Library Commission" by Mr. J. P. Kennedy of Virginia. "It was moved that the Association should appoint a committee to appear before the next General Assembly to ask for the creation of a State Library Commission."

Success came in 1909 with the passage of "an Act to Establish a Library Commission" . . . which consisted of the superintendent of Public Instruction, the state librarian, two other persons appointed by the North Carolina Library Association and one appointed by the Governor. The Commission was authorized to give assistance, advice, and counsel to all libraries, and to all persons interested as to the selection of books, cataloging, maintenance, and other details of library management as may be practicable. It was further authorized to aid in organizing new libraries and in improving existing ones, and to establish and maintain traveling or other libraries as may be practicable.

The first secretary began work in September 1909 with an office in the State Library.

Another state organization exerting strong efforts for public library development was the Federation of Women's Clubs. Almost every club had a committee whose chief interest

was to obtain a public library for its community. Throughout the state club members have served diligently on library boards, and committees have contributed time, energy, funds, buildings, books and always statewide support to improve public library service.

Prior to the establishment of the North Carolina Library Commission, the Federation of Women's Clubs maintained traveling libraries which were made available throughout the state. In keeping with the Federation policy to "foster library development throughout the state," an agreement was made "that the Federation shall give to the Commission its collection of traveling libraries, the same to be operated by the Commission under the direct supervision of the General Secretary of the Commission."

With the limited number of free public libraries in existence, the Library Commission felt an urgent responsibility to offer some type of service to the unserved rural areas of the state. "Traveling libraries" seemed to be the answer. With the Federation's help the program was initiated and the first report showed an enthusiastic reception to the idea. The Third Biennial Report of the Commission stated that the traveling libraries furnished the people living on farms and in remote communities good books for general reading; the package libraries provided students and club workers with material for debate and club papers; and the reference department of the traveling library system supplied literature to individuals and libraries on special subjects. A traveling library was a box of books containing between thirty-five and forty volumes. About one-third of the books were for children, one-third or more were novels, and the balance were the best and most readable books of biography, travel, science, household economics, and agriculture. The boxes were fitted with shelves so that they could be used as book cases in the various communities. They were really the forerunners of the current traveling libraries — bookmobiles. The package library is not to be confused with the traveling library. The package library was a smaller number of books on some specific subject. The books were collected to answer requests from over the state for literature on social and political questions of the day. North Carolina's package libraries included magazine articles, speeches, briefs, newspaper clippings, government documents and pamphlets, or "shirtsleeve literature," as well as books.

Getting funds to operate the traveling libraries was a slow process. It was estimated that \$6,000 would be needed but the General Assembly of 1913 granted only \$1,500.

Demands for the libraries continued to grow and those made available were used extensively. Maps showing the use of these collections indicate that they were spread from the coast to the hills. The desperate need was illustrated by the following letter received at the Commission:

Dear Miss Palmer

I am interested in those books for my children there isnt eny Farmers union neer here if you will send me the libery I will pay expences and take all respsoncibility on my sef and return them in 3 months for the sak of my children getting chance to read those books we live in a swamp.

In the early days of the Commission, the publication of The North Carolina Library Bulletin was undertaken. It was an organ for spreading news and advice on library matters and for the publication and distribution of library statistics, required by law. An early issue carried this statement: "The best way to start a library is to start one." Thus the idea of demonstrating library service was proposed in North Carolina.

No law authorizing the establishment and maintenance of public libraries by taxation existed when the Scales Library Act of 1897 became inoperative because it was not brought forward in the Revisal of 1905. Consequently, one of the early tasks of the Library Commission was to try to secure the passage of a strong public library law. Until a new law could be passed, the Commission suggested the formation of local library associations at public meetings for the purpose of establishing public libraries within the communities which had none. Federated Women's Clubs again took leadership.

In 1911 the General Assembly passed a law which provided for the establishment of public libraries in incorporated towns, for their maintenance by taxation, for the appointment and organization of the library board, and defined the powers and duties of trustees.

In the meantime other libraries were giving free service even though funds came from subscriptions or other sources. Without benefit of law counties made appropriations to libraries to provide service to rural residents. Where counties made no appropriations some libraries extended borrower's privileges to county residents free, or for a small fee. The growth of the county extension idea was a sign of real library progress in North Carolina and created the need for additional legislation.

The General Assembly of 1917 passed a bill permitting county commissioners and boards of education to cooperate with trustees of public libraries in extending service, authorizing both groups to make appropriations, and giving cities and towns the privilege of continuing appropriations.

Conditions during the war years held up the development of library service. Several libraries were forced to close and the opening of several new ones was delayed. But there was a definite trend toward private and subscription libraries becoming free public libraries with public support.

During the early twenties there was an upsurge of interest in the establishment of public library service — also an interest in securing financial support from tax funds. Tax votes, encouraged by both the Commission and the Association, were a boon to the extension of library service. At a meeting of the North Carolina Library Association in 1919, a resolution was passed endorsing "the policy of establishing a system of county libraries for the State," and recommending "that it work for the enactment of legislature to this end."

A significant step in county library extension was made in Durham County in 1923 when the first bookmobile went into operation taking library materials to the citizens throughout the county. This successor to the "Traveling libraries" was a gift from the Kiwanis Club to the Durham Public Library and was christened "Miss Kiwanis." The countywide idea was contagious and by the middle of the twenties there were twelve counties making library appropriations.

New impetus to county library development came with an amendment to the library law by the 1927 General Assembly. The amendment allowed, upon petition, an election for a special tax to be held in counties as well as cities and towns. Added stimulus to the promotion of public library service came with the organization of THE CITIZENS' LIBRARY MOVEMENT and the grants from the Julius Rosenwald Fund.

In the November 1927 meeting of the North Carolina Library Association, the Association was challenged to "organize, press the fight, and put libraries" in the forty-six counties that had none. A resolution was passed for a "library campaign for the education and promotion of library growth in North Carolina" and for a committee to be appointed to plan a campaign. Thus, as the word spread, the first organized cooperative effort on the part of North Carolina citizens to secure more nearly adequate library service for all the people in the state was born — THE CITIZENS' LIBRARY MOVEMENT.

The Rosenwald Fund made grants to two counties — Davidson and Mecklenburg — for a period of five years to aid in the development of county service. The grant to Davidson was \$20,000 for a five year period and \$80,000 to Mecklenburg for the same length of time. These counties were to serve as demonstration counties. The Davidson County Library opened in October 1929, the first in the South to have a Rosenwald grant.

Libraries suffered from "the Depression" as did other service agencies. Financial support was greatly curtailed, but at the same time this economic crisis caused more people to seek out books and libraries. From 1929 to 1934 librarians used their ingenuity to serve more people with paralyzed budgets.

"A Plan for Library Development in North Carolina" was adopted by the North Carolina Library Association in 1933. This was a "five-year plan designed to create a coordinated library system reaching the entire population of the state," a means of bringing the libraries out of the rigors of the depression. Two basic tenets were to be followed: Demonstrations of library service should be given in areas with enough people and sufficient wealth to provide adequate service. An act of the General Assembly of 1933 gave legal implementation to the regional idea with the passage of a law permitting two or more adjacent counties to join for the purpose of establishing or maintaining a free public library. The same year the General Assembly established a certification board to issue "librarian's certificates under reasonable rules and regulations to be promulgated by the board."

Beginning in 1932 the federal government aided library service by furnishing clerks and bookmenders through FERA. In 1935 a new agency, the Works Projects Administration, was created. As this developed, long range planning took place and in 1937 there was a state WPA Library Supervisor directing the federal project from the Commission office.

The work project supplied demonstration bookmobiles which supplemented the demonstration bookmobile given to the North Carolina Library Commission by the North Carolina Library Association in 1936. At the time there was a total of eight bookmobiles in the state and it was observed that North Carolina "should have at least 80 to reach all the people who want books and who live too far from the libraries." (Today 95 bookmobiles are still not reaching all the people.)

PWA and WPA funds were also available to help construct public buildings. Ten library buildings and several community buildings with library space were a direct outgrowth of those projects.

The Citizens' Library Movement continued its work toward better libraries in North Carolina and asked the 1937 General Assembly for State Aid appropriations to help provide better service. This request was denied as was the next in 1939. A third request

in 1941 supported by individuals, the North Carolina Library Association, the Citizens' Library Movement and the North Carolina Library Commission secured an Act to provide State Aid for Public Libraries in North Carolina with an appropriation of \$100,000 for each year of the biennium.

By this time many of the people in North Carolina without library service had experienced some service through a demonstration bookmobile and the people in the seventy-two counties without countywide library service were eager to qualify for the state funds which were to "improve, stimulate, increase and equalize public library service to the people of the whole state." The North Carolina Library Commission was authorized to administer this fund.

And the idea of extending library service to all the people of the state became a very real possibility. Seventy-six counties developed plans for countywide service and met other specifications the first year. The funds also stimulated the development of regional and tri-county libraries.

The contract of some of the western counties with TVA for library service had already paved the way for contracts and cooperative service. People saw that two units of government could share services successfully.

Again a war made inroads into library progress. At the time many libraries were placing orders for bookmobiles to extend service to all areas of the counties, vehicles were frozen and improvisations had to suffice until sales were again permitted.

Up to the present time State Aid has provided the greatest impetus to public library development in North Carolina. Income per capita has increased from ten cents in 1941 to fifty-one cents in 1954 and county and city funds have increased at a greater ratio than State Aid. Service has been extended from 57% of the population to 95% of the population. Counties with bookmobile service have increased from twelve to ninety-one. Counties with countywide service have increased from 28 to 92. Eight do not have countywide service and three of the eight have no public library within their borders. Bookstock has not increased proportionately. More people reading more books have worn them out so fast that the gain is slight — from 1/3 to 3/5 book per capita.

During World War II extension of service was limited physically. Trucks were not available for bookmobiles and materials were not available for buildings. These limitations slowed progress, but they allowed time for very careful planning and since the war there has been a definite upsurge in library building. More and more the library is being considered the informational and cultural center of the community and buildings are being planned accordingly.

County service has increased until the one-half ton panel trucks converted into bookmobiles after World War II are no longer adequate in some areas. Many are being replaced with larger walk-in type bookmobiles which carry more books, phonograph records and films.

The development of more public libraries in the state has reduced the need for the traveling library service from the Commission. Emphasis has shifted from the general collection to more specific subject areas. Books are maintained in the general collection to serve the people without public libraries and to supplement the public library collections, but the greater use of the Library Commission collection is to answer

specific reference requests which are increasing steadily. Eleven public libraries with a State Aid supplement, are building up special subject collections in designated areas and are making the books available throughout the state through interlibrary loans. An adult film program has been established cooperatively by the Bureau of Visual Education (Extension Division, University of North Carolina), the North Carolina Library Commission and public libraries in the state. It is financed by State Aid funds. The combined efforts of the North Carolina Library Commission and North Carolina Library Association working with the General Assembly have resulted in the revision of library laws to meet both the changing fiscal pattern of the state and current library trends.

The cooperation of the Institute of Government and the Public Libraries Section of the North Carolina Library Association, with the North Carolina Library Commission, has provided workshops and institutes which have been invaluable to trustees and library staffs. Not to be overlooked in public library development in North Carolina are surveys, especially the one of the nine Southeastern states through the cooperation of the TVA.

Between Thomas Bray's gift in 1715 and the ninety-five bookmobiles today there have been many efforts from individuals, librarian and non-librarian groups, and organizations to provide good public library service to all Tar Heels. The goal remains the same!

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## **Trustee Section Publication**

The Trustee Section of NCLA has published a North Carolina Library Trustee's Handbook, which has been sent to public library trustees throughout the state. The section was assisted in this project by the Trustee Committee of the Public Library Section. Mr. William Medford of Waynesville is Chairman of the Trustee Section.

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## **School Libraries in North Carolina**

*By Mary Peacock Douglas, Supervisor of Libraries, Raleigh Public Schools.*

When one begins to delve into the records on any subject, fascinating information appears — and so it is with school libraries in North Carolina. As early as July 1, 1857, at a meeting of teachers in Warrenton, W. W. Holden, then editor of a Raleigh newspaper and later Governor of the State, advised the establishment of school libraries and in 1858, Calvin H. Wiley, the first State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who served from 1852 to 1865, further emphasized in a written report the idea of school libraries. How long this idea had been germinating does not appear, but it is known that the students of the Raleigh Academy, chartered in 1801 and a forerunner of the Raleigh Public Schools, presented a play in 1809 to raise funds for the benefit of its school library. Wiley's idea evidently took root and, although it was handicapped in almost every conceivable way during the Civil War and its aftermath, the idea did not die. Following Dr. Wiley's term the office of State Superintendent was abolished for a three year period. There was no stability in the office until 1877 when John C. Scarborough took office.

Dr. Scarborough must have been a very energetic and able administrator, for during his term of office growth in many educational facets appeared and a semblance of state unity in an educational program emerged. His printed report of 1898 shows how well he had cultivated Dr. Wiley's recommendation for school libraries. A new course of study for the public schools was issued in 1898 which included the following statement: "It is suggested that teachers may render great service to the communities in which they teach by leading in the formation of School Libraries . . . A school can do nothing better for a child than the implanting of such a thirst for knowledge as will lead to the formation of a habit of reading. Books are cheap, yet wisdom is needed in their selection." There then follows a list of 38 titles recommended for purchase for school libraries, of which 20 or more still appear in standard lists. These include such titles as Hans Andersen's Tales, Alice in Wonderland, Robinson Crusoe, and "Miss Alcott's Little Women." The list appearing in the 1898 course of study seems to be the first list of books for school libraries issued by the State Department of Public Instruction. Dr. Scarborough's philosophy of school libraries is still adhered to today.

The report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for 1898 includes reports from many school systems in the State. Since actual information on school libraries almost dates from this report, quotations from specific school systems merit inclusion here.

In Statesville a new building for white pupils was erected in 1892 which "is heated by furnaces and contains classrooms, office, library, and an excellent auditorium. The course of study extends through eight grades." Could this, perchance, be the first exclusively elementary school library built?

Greensboro reported: "In the Lindsay Street School there is a growing library of about five thousand volumes. It has a regular income and is one of the United States depositories for the publications of Congress. The books circulate among the children and are used largely with their class work."

Of Goldsboro the superintendent stated: "In connection with the school there is a good library of 2,000 well selected volumes. A librarian is employed whose sole duty is to care for the library. The books are selected with reference to their adaptability to children and hence the library is used to strengthen and give interest to the work throughout the whole school." Reference to earlier employment of a full time school librarian — with or without library training — has not been found, and the name of this one remains unknown.

From its inception as a school system, beginning on September 20, 1897, High Point has had a school library program and its first annual report states, "An excellent beginning has been made on a school library:"

Rural schools — largely one, two, or three teacher schools — were for the most part without school library facilities, although in a few counties some books could be borrowed from the school superintendent's office. Buncombe County was an exception, for the 1898 report includes the statement "Raised this year money enough to place a working library in nearly every public school in the County."

The dearth of library material in the rural schools was of such concern to Dr. J. Y. Joyner when he became State Superintendent that he besought funds from the

Legislature to remedy this lack. The first State appropriation for school libraries was in 1901 when the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$2,500 to aid in the purchase of books on a matching basis of ten dollars from the community, ten dollars from the county board of education, and ten dollars from the State fund. The \$2,500 amounted to about one-half cent per pupil enrolled in the public schools at that time. By the fall of 1903 every one of the 500 rural libraries made possible by the Legislature of 1901 had been established. In 1903 the Legislature granted an additional \$1,250 to the yearly appropriation of \$2,500 to be spent supplementing the originally established libraries. The supplementary fund was allotted in units of \$5.00 in the same manner as the original grant. A list of books from which purchases must be selected was issued in 1902. The list of books was arranged by the following subjects: science stories; myths, legends, and history stories; biography and travel; poetry; essays; pedagogy; and fiction. Participating schools were required to select some titles from every section to guarantee variety in the books which would be available to the pupils.

That same year (1902) Dr. Joyner issued Education Bulletin No. 4 entitled *The Librarian and the Books*. It was published in accordance with a law directing the State Superintendent to issue rules and regulations for proper use and preservation of books. Two items in these rules deserve comment. Item 1 states "The librarian shall be authorized to loan the books, free of charge, to any member of the school over twelve years of age . . ." This requirement evidently elicited objection from the "young fry," the teachers, or both, because in the revision of the rules, published in 1904, item 1 reads that the librarian may lend to "any member of the school over ten years of age, and to any member of the school under ten years of age whose parents will agree in writing to be responsible for the books." Item 5 in the 1902 bulletin reads that the librarian "shall report (to the Superintendent about June 1) the number of volumes taken out during the year, making mention by name of the three children of school age who have shown the greatest interest in the library and improvement made from the use of it." Thus began the policy of an annual statistical report on school libraries to the State Department of Public Instruction.

The recommendation that teachers enrich classroom instruction by using library materials on related subjects is not new. Dr. Joyner, in his 1904 library bulletin included a section called "Suggestions as to the use of the Library in the School." It is amazing that even the specific topics cited are apropos today. He said: "If in the daily reading lesson, the teacher should have a chapter on Indians, it would be very appropriate to read selections from *Story of Indian Children* . . . While there is much interest centered in Russia, Japan, and China just at this time, these stories (*Big People and Little People of Other Lands*) would be a helpful means by which the teacher could arouse the interest of the children to read about . . . these countries. . . . Whenever the school work can be improved by supplementing with a library book it will always pay to do this."

Along with this exhortation to use library materials came the General Assembly's stern admonition to protect and care for them. Section 3 of the 1903 school law reads ". . . The County Boards of Education shall furnish at the expense of the general county school fund, a neat book-case with lock and key to each library . . ."

In 1904, in his own report, Dr. Joyner included narrative reports from teachers in widely scattered geographic sections of the state. It is significant that every report printed

included enthusiastic reference to the school library and its use. This same state report carried a picture of the library at Bobbitt's School in Vance County. This is the first picture of a school library to appear in a report from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. It was replete with a reproduction of the Stuart painting of George Washington still found in many school libraries today.

Much had been done for school libraries prior to 1904 and little that had been done needed to be undone. The vision that had set the pattern for school library service began nearly a hundred years ago but it took half a century of slow growth before the idea was widespread. And another half century has passed and still there is much room for growth. But 1904 was a high water mark because it was then apparent what school libraries could do in furthering educational aims and the idea of State financial aid had been established.

In 1906 Charles L. Coon reported that there were 117,900 volumes in the rural school libraries and that \$11,176 had been spent for them during the year of which \$3,750 came from State funds. In 1953, Charles F. Carroll reported that there were 4,699,784 volumes in the school libraries and that \$1,398,109 had been spent of which \$441,155 was from State funds. The road up has been long and hard. The years from 1901 to 1923 mark a distinctive period of this story. This was a period of very small state aid to, for the most part, many small schools. The number of original libraries aided by the State during this period was 4,995 and the number of supplementary additions 2,344. In many places these small libraries constitute the entire community reading resources other than the Bible and textbooks secured for school age children. While no statistics are available showing the use of these books, local residents say they were read to shreds by young and old alike. In 1923 the basis of distribution of State aid was changed to a \$50.00 matching fund, rather than the earlier \$10.00. This new plan continued in effect through the school year 1931. The annual State appropriation which was established in 1901 at \$2,500, was increased to \$3,750 in 1903, continuing at this figure through 1927, and was then increased to \$10,000 where it remained through 1931. The amount appropriated in 1931 constituted 1.2 cents per pupil then enrolled. Expenditures for school libraries were way beyond the State appropriation, however, as it served only as a stimulating fund. The expenditure in 1923 was \$30,300 and in 1931, it was \$139,793.

In 1931 the Legislature enacted legislation for State support of a minimum school program. The upkeep of the school library was recognized as a necessary expenditure and funds were allotted for the purchase of library supplies, periodicals, and, to a limited extent, replacement of worn-out and out-of-date books. State aid the first year of this program was \$25,308 (about 5 cents per pupil). The total expenditure for school libraries was \$91,437. It will be recalled that this was a depression year. The appropriation for the current year is about 50 cents per pupil from State funds. State funds have at all times been available to both white and colored schools.

As the book collections became larger there was a growing awareness of the need for some type of library organization. In 1911, Educational Bulletin XVI, prepared by Miss Minnie W. Leatherman, Secretary of the North Carolina Library Commission, and entitled *The School Library and How to Use It*, was issued by State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. J. Y. Joyner. This appears to have been not only the first North

Carolina school library handbook but also the first printed school library handbook issued by a state department of education. Printed helps on school libraries have remained in demand. In addition to book lists issued from the State Department of Public Instruction, other publications which have continued to be requested are North Carolina School Library Handbook, first printed in 1937 and now in its 4th edition; Book Displays — January to December; and Planning and Equipping the School Library.

As the calls for help in organizing school libraries became more persistent, the North Carolina Library Commission shared its field worker, then called an "organizer" with the schools. Miss Mary Fournoy and later Miss Frieda Heller, serving in this capacity, gave invaluable service to the schools in helping them become aware of what libraries can do in the lives of people as well as in making book collections more effective. It was not until July 1930 that the State Department of Public Instruction employed a trained school librarian as a member of its own staff — through funds set up for the purpose by the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. Southern States were helped to inaugurate positions of state supervisors of school libraries in their state departments of education with a five year grant. Mrs. Mary Peacock Douglas was selected for the position in North Carolina and served as State School Library Adviser from 1930 until July 1947. Mrs. Eloise Camp Melton served from July 1947 until September 1950. The position was vacant until the summer of 1951 when Miss Cora Paul Bomar became State School Library Adviser. In September 1953 the position of Assistant State School Library Adviser was created and Miss Celeste Johnston was appointed to fill it.

One of the strongest advocates of school libraries in the State during the period of 1920 to 1953 was Dr. J. Henry Highsmith, Director of Instruction in the State Department of Public Instruction. Through his leadership library standards for accredited high schools in the state were set up in 1921. These standards were materially expanded in 1935 and were again improved in 1947. The first standards for elementary school libraries were established in 1924 and have also been expanded and improved with subsequent revisions. Dr. Highsmith was also active as a member of the library committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, whose library standards had marked effect in school library development in this and other states.

As school libraries developed, the need for trained personnel became more and more apparent. The University of North Carolina under Dr. Louis R. Wilson's leadership led the way with summer programs offering six semester hours in library science to meet minimum requirements for librarians in accredited schools. Of major significance, however, was the full year of library training offered at the Woman's College in Greensboro 1928–1933, for graduates of this program demonstrated, more than any other single group, what school library service under trained personnel could really mean. The later program for a degree in library science offered during the summer at the University of North Carolina did much to provide the schools with trained librarians, but only a limited number of school librarians have been recruited from the regular session classes. The library science program at Appalachian State Teachers College has also had marked effect in providing school library personnel in the State. In 1925–26 there were four full-time trained librarians in the state; in 1932–33 there were 58; in 1940–41 there were 95. For 1952–53, the number was 375.

In America, no matter how small the group interested in any movement, there is the urge to organize. In 1927 the school librarians met in Raleigh and organized as a section of the North Carolina Education Association. Miss Mary Flournoy and Mrs. Frank H. Koos, librarian at R. J. Reynolds High School, Winston-Salem, and later school library supervisor there, were especially active in formulating this section. In 1954, a school librarian, Mrs. Effie Meekins was elected president of the N.C.E.A., the first to hold this important position.

School libraries also felt their responsibility to the North Carolina Library Association. An informal group met in Charlotte in 1927 to discuss the desirability of forming a section, but experienced some discouragement and did not actually organize until 1933 at a meeting in Greensboro. This does not mean, however, that the North Carolina Library Association was not aware of the need for library service in schools. Indeed, with rare exception, every program of the association from its inception included a talk related to school library service. Since the topic was so consistent from year to year, it seems appropriate to indicate here something about it. The North Carolina Library Association had its organizational meeting in Charlotte in 1904 and at a general session there Mr. J. A. Bivens of the Trinity High School spoke on "The Public Library and the Public School." In 1906, the Superintendent of the Raleigh Public Schools appeared on the program with his subject "The Library and the School." The same topic was used in 1908 by another speaker. In 1909 in Goldsboro, a Round Table group really got down to work and discussed "Teaching the Public School Children How to Use the Library." The following year the topic was "Work with Children and Schools." A very full résumé of this program which was concerned with the use of books in classroom learning appears in the January 1911 issue of N. C. Education. Finally in 1923 at an N.C.L.A. convention held in Winston-Salem at the new R. J. Reynolds High School a "High School Libraries Section" is listed in the agenda with a very pretentious program with four speakers, covering topics which remain in the limelight today — the physical facilities of the library, cooperation between teacher and librarian, simplification of the classification scheme, and the importance of the school library. After this impressive beginning, a program for a school libraries section does not appear in a convention program again until 1933, at which time officers for it were elected. The school librarians came into their own as a strong and vital part of N.C.L.A. at its meeting in Southern Pines in 1939 at which time Althea Currin of national recognition was the guest speaker for the group which numbered about 80 school librarians. A school librarian was first elected president of N.C.L.A. for the biennium 1939–41.

The youngest of the school library organizations in the State is the North Carolina High School Library Association, organized in 1947 and composed of student assistants in high school libraries. This group is dedicated to the improvement of school library service and is serving as a means of recruitment to the library profession. The first president was Frank Driscoll, a student of the R. J. Reynolds High School, Winston-Salem.

It is perhaps strange to learn that the most rapid period of development in school libraries came during the depression. Through a well-organized W.P.A. program, some 1,200 persons were placed in nearly a thousand schools to serve as library aids. Under plans formulated and sponsored by the State Department of Public Instruction and the N. C. Library Commission, trained librarians served as district supervisors and

vigorously carried out a program which resulted in book collections being put in good physical condition; in books being classified, marked, and properly shelved; in shelf lists being prepared; in adequate circulation systems being installed; and in helping teachers to understand what organized library service could mean. This program reached large and small, elementary and high, rural and city schools. Having tasted this service and found it satisfying, many schools modified and adopted it so that it has been continued since the Federal project closed. The state appropriation to school libraries had made a project of this kind possible on a statewide basis.

Little has been said here of the program carried on by the State Department of Public Instruction during the past 25 years, but the history of the school library movement in the State would be incomplete without some summary of the activities of the office of the State School Library Adviser. Annual lists of books recommended for school libraries have been prepared — not restrictive lists, but helps to those in areas where books are not readily available for examination. A plan whereby library books can be bought in the state through a textbook rental service was inaugurated, to the end that even the most remote rural school might have some new books each year. A newsletter sent at regular intervals, has kept school library personnel throughout the State uniformly aware of problems and practices and has welded the group into a coordinated force. Visits from school to school attended end to end would show mileage sufficient to circle the globe at the equator at least ten times; every county has been visited many times. Workshops have been carried on from time to time. Activity as a liaison person with many various groups has been frequent. Service in planning, exhorting, extending, and interpreting has been constant.

Statistics show how great has been the progress since Calvin H. Wiley introduced educators in North Carolina to the desirability of school libraries, since John C. Scarborough made them a part of the schools' program, since J. Y. Joyner exhorted the Legislature to include funds for them in the State's school fund. School libraries like the North Carolina Library Association can celebrate a golden anniversary of progress.

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## **Tar Heel Librarians**

Early in October Susan Grey AKERS flew to the Near East where she will serve on the faculty of the University of Tehran for the next nine months. After that she will tour Europe before returning home in December 1955.

Mrs. Mary E. ANDERSON is assistant librarian of The Rockingham County Library, Leaksville. Mrs. Anderson is from Whiteville and received the B.S. in L.S. degree from UNC last June.

Mrs. Alice Gooze BAUER has resigned her position in the Serials Department of the Duke University Library to go to West Virginia.

Elizabeth BITTING is now the Chemistry Librarian at the University of North Carolina Library.

Mrs. Grace BRAQUE was promoted to Head of Extension, Public Library of Winston-Salem, September 1.

Betsy CARROLL (UNC '54) has joined the staff of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

Margaret CHAPMAN is now back in Chapel Hill as cataloguer for the Law Library of the University of North Carolina after working three years in the Florida State University Library.

Mrs. Nancy Turner CHASE is the new assistant in the Library Extension Department of the University of North Carolina Library.

Olan V. COOK is now Associate Librarian of The University of North Carolina.

Mrs. Anna J. COOPER has accepted a position in the Salem College Library. She was formerly Head of Technical Processes at the Public Library of Winston-Salem.

Elizabeth COPELAND is librarian of The Sheppard Memorial Library, Greenville. She was the former librarian of The BHM Library, Washington.

William Bryan CRUSE became librarian of the Dare County Library in Manteo on June 15. Mr. Cruse is from Lexington, Kentucky.

Jessie F. DE SHONG is the new librarian of Gardner Webb College, Boiling Springs.

Carlyle J. FRAREY, former Assistant Librarian of Duke University, has been appointed Associate Professor of Library Science at the University of North Carolina.

Andrew H. HORN, former Associate Librarian of the University of California at Los Angeles, assumed his duties as University Librarian at the University of North Carolina Library on September 1.

Mrs. Elizabeth G. HOWE has resumed her position as librarian of the Hendersonville Public Library.

Mrs. Elizabeth H. HUGHEY accepted an invitation to participate in the National Conference on Rural Education in Washington in October. Mrs. Hughey also was a member of the White House Conference on Rural Reading held in 1951.

Lucile KELLING has been appointed Dean of the School of Library Science of the University of North Carolina.

Mrs. Frances KING has accepted a temporary cataloging position at the Public Library of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Mrs. King is a graduate of UNC and was a former cataloger at the Duke University Library.

Robert E. LEE, formerly of the Greensboro Public Library staff, has joined the American Heritage Project staff at ALA headquarters as a field worker.

Donald N. MacKENZIE is assistant librarian of the Greensboro Public Library. Mr. MacKenzie received his library science degree from UNC last June.

Anne McMULLAN is the new assistant librarian of The Sheppard Memorial Library, Greenville.

Six Tar Heel librarians attended an Institute on County and Regional Libraries at Rutgers University in June. All were enthusiastic about the lectures and group discussions. Fifty-nine librarians and trustees from thirteen states registered. North Carolinians attending were: Marianne MARTIN and Mrs. Mildred HOBSON of Rockingham County, Antoinette EARLE of Davidson County, Mrs. Elizabeth HUGHEY, Mrs. Susan GRAY, and Elaine VON OESSEN of the North Carolina Library Commission.

Mrs. Catherine Marie MAYBURY was appointed an assistant in the Documents Department at the University of North Carolina Library on July 15.

Mrs. Vera B. MELTON, librarian of the Caldwell County Library, Lenoir, was named "Girl of the Year" by the Alpha Upsilon chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority.

Charlotte MONTGOMERY (UNC '54) is a new staff member of The Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

Mrs. Mildred W. MORRISON is now assistant librarian of Central High School, Charlotte. She was formerly on the reference staff of The Public Library of Charlotte.

Miss Joyce MOYER was appointed head of the circulation department of The Olivia Raney Library, Raleigh, on August 1.

Miss Evelyn MULLEN, former field librarian at the N. C. Library Commission is now Director of the Library Service Division of the state of Alabama in Montgomery.

Lawrence Quincy MUMFORD, the new Librarian of Congress and President of ALA, is a native of Ayden, N. C., and we claim him as a Tar Heel librarian. He was a student assistant at Duke University from 1922 to 1928. He is the eleventh Librarian of Congress and the first professionally trained librarian to hold that position.

Margaret Sangster PARROT, who was formerly at the North Texas State College Library, is now an assistant in the Law Library of the University of North Carolina.

Mrs. Louise M. PLYBON is the new Head of Technical Processes at the Public Library of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Mrs. Plybon was formerly librarian at Gardner-Webb College.

Mrs. Kate Smith PYRON has been named librarian of the Salem College Library. She was formerly Associate Librarian.

Mrs. Gladys ROBBINS was appointed to the staff of the North Carolina Library Commission as assistant reference librarian, August 1.

Marion L. ROBERTSON has resigned her position as librarian of the Hendersonville Public Library and has gone to Virginia.

Mrs. Bessie Watson SCOTT joined the staff of the North Carolina Library Commission as a field librarian July 1. Mrs. Scott was formerly librarian of The Sheppard Memorial Library in Greenville.

Grace L. SIEWERS has retired as Librarian of the Salem College Library.

Anne SINGLETON assumed the duties of assistant librarian of the Rowan Public Library, Salisbury, on July 1. Miss Singleton comes to North Carolina from The Miami (Florida) Public Library.

Mrs. Gay H. SPIVEY, former librarian in Halifax County, has accepted the new position of children's librarian of The May Memorial Library, Burlington.

Elvin STROWD is the new assistant in the Order Department of the University of North Carolina.

Elaine VON OESEN has been elected to a four year term as North Carolina representative to the executive board of the Southeastern Library Association.

Elizabeth WHITE (Syracuse '54) is a reference assistant at the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

## **NCLA District Meeting, Charlotte, October 17, 1922**

*[Photograph: Group portrait of approximately eighteen NCLA members on the steps of the Carnegie Library in Charlotte, taken at the District One meeting on October 17, 1922. Some attendees are seated on the steps, others stand in rows behind them, all formally dressed in early 1920s attire.]*

**Tell us if we're wrong:** Seated, Miss Nellie Rowe, Greensboro; Dr. E. F. Shewmake, Davidson College; unknown. First lady on left unidentified, behind her Miss Lottie Blake, Gastonia; then towards right, Miss Mary B. Palmer, Raleigh; unknown; Miss Anne Pierce, Charlotte; next two unidentified; Louis R. Wilson, Chapel Hill; J. Frank Wilkes, Charlotte; and Donald Gillis, Asheville on bottom step at right. Top row from left: Miss Cornelia Shaw, Davidson College; unknown; Mrs. Latta Johnston, Mr. Charles R. Brockman and Mrs. Gordon M. Finger, all Trustees of the Charlotte library; and Mr. H. P. Harding, superintendent of schools in Charlotte.

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## **District Meetings of NCLA**

The picture on the opposite page was taken at a meeting of District One of NCLA on October 17, 1922. The practice of holding smaller meetings between the annual meetings of the Association was begun in 1915 when three district chairmen were appointed. The meetings were successful and the number of districts was soon increased to seven.

The minutes of the District One meeting in 1922, chaired by Miss Anne Pierce, are reprinted below:

*"The North Carolina Library Association convened at the Carnegie Library in Charlotte on October 17th for its third District meeting. Mr. H. P. Harding, Superintendent of City Schools, presided over the meeting. The day's program began at 11 o'clock with notable addresses, the first being by Mr. Donald Gillis of Asheville, who made an interesting talk on 'Library Publicity' in which he told how fiction could be used, through newspaper publicity, in drawing other people to the Library. He stated that advertising is as necessary to a Library's progress as it is to that of a store.*

*"Mr. A. M. Elliott, Principal of the Junior High School of Charlotte, spoke on how the Charlotte Library is a part of the public school system—how its resources are put into the schools of the city by different grades visiting the Library and becoming familiar with the classification and arrangement of books and how credit in English is given for work done in Library use.*

*"Dr. E. F. Shewmake, of Davidson College, spoke on the 'Standards and Tendencies in Contemporary American Fiction.' In an interesting way he told of the beginning of the English novel in 1740, the American novel in 1820, and how American fiction can be divided into three distinct periods. That of the time of Washington Irving was listed as the first period of the short story in America, and lasted from 1820 to 1835. The Poe and Hawthorne period followed as the second division, and lasted 15 years as did the first. By the middle of the century the third*

*period commenced. This he labeled as the 'dawning of definiteness.' At this time came the modern magazine and the demand for something more definite than the sketchy short story. By 1861, he said, the movement toward realism was well under way. The modern short story began with the 20th century, Dr. Shewmake said, and, of the three types of novels, adventure, romance, and realism, the best work being done in America today is in the field of realism. In discussing the progress of the short story from Irving's time to the present, Dr. Shewmake expressed his belief that the success of the short story as a creative art is practically over.*

*"Dr. Louis R. Wilson, President of the North Carolina Library Association, spoke on the 'State's Challenge to its Public Libraries.' He stated that in the twenty-five years since the first library in the State was established by public tax, tremendous advance had been made, although the State is not the reading State, nor does it have the library facilities it should have.*

*"The members of the Association were entertained at the Rotary luncheon at one o'clock. An enjoyable feature of this hour was an address by Dr. Rondthaler of Salem Academy on 'Know North Carolina.'*

*"The trustees of the local Library carried the visitors on a sight-seeing tour of the city after a round-table discussion of library problems in the State which followed the luncheon.*

*"The resolutions adopted by the association were: 'Resolved, That Children's Book Week, November 12-18, be observed by all libraries and schools in the State.'*

*"Resolved, that cities having public libraries adopt as their standard of support the expenditure of \$1 per capita. The present North Carolina average is 20 cents per capita. [The 1953 per capita average was forty-six cents. Ed.]*

*"Resolved, That county and city boards of education set aside a definite fund in their budgets for the upbuilding of school libraries and that they cooperate with existing city libraries to this end."*

*Ruby McWhirter, Secretary.*

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## **Our Honorary Members**

During the early years of the North Carolina Library Association many of the out of state visitors to Conferences were elected to honorary membership "under suspension of the Constitution" which provided that honorary members were to be approved by the Executive Board. Perhaps this was a reflection of the gracious manners of the turn of the century; or simply the grateful acknowledgement of a young organization to important library leaders who came to North Carolina to encourage progress. But at the age of fifteen, in 1919, the Association decided to reserve this recognition for members who had made a definite contribution to library progress in the state, and amended the constitution to read: "Honorary members may be elected only by a majority vote of the Association at its annual meeting." Since that time sixteen persons have been elected to honorary membership; fourteen are living. For the benefit of newer members of the Association here are brief sketches of our honorary members. Some of them have sent us special messages for this Anniversary Issue:

### **Mrs. Minnie Leatherman Blanton**

Minnie W. Leatherman was the first Secretary of the North Carolina Library Commission. She was appointed in 1909 and served until 1919. During her term of office the Commission's annual appropriation was raised from \$1,500 to \$8,000, "the largest appropriation of any Southern state." Mrs. Blanton organized the "traveling libraries" (packing cases of books) sent out to rural areas in the state beginning about 1910. She was elected an honorary member of NCLA in 1919 when she left the state.

### **Mrs. M. D. Phillips**

*(Mary B. Palmer)*

Miss Mary B. Palmer was the sixth president of NCLA; she served as secretary from 1910 until 1915 when she became president. Miss Palmer was librarian of the Carnegie Library of Charlotte and taught at the Carnegie Library School in Atlanta before becoming Secretary and Director of the North Carolina Library Commission in 1919 where she served until 1923. At this time she left the state and the Association recognized her contribution to library development by electing her to honorary membership. She writes:

*It would probably not mislead anyone for me to say that the North Carolina Library Association was organized before my arrival in the state. For many years the memory has lingered of my enjoyment of my early contacts with its members, and my appreciation of their help, especially in my work at the Library Commission.*

*Now that Mr. Phillips has retired, and we have returned to North Carolina to live, this year is an important one for us also, and I am happy to join in congratulations to the North Carolina Library Association on its Fiftieth Anniversary.*

### **Miss Annie F. Petty**

Miss Annie F. Petty is one of the founders of NCLA; she was on the first executive board, served as a vice president in 1907, and became the second president in 1908. She was again elected as the fifth president in 1913. Miss Petty was the first professionally trained librarian in North Carolina. She was librarian of the State Normal and Industrial College (now the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina) where the organizational meeting of NCLA was held in May of 1904. She was elected to honorary membership in 1939.

### **Mr. Charles Whedbee**

The late Mr. Charles Whedbee of Hertford was made an honorary member of NCLA in 1943. The action was a recognition of his untiring efforts to obtain state aid for the public libraries of the state. As legislative chairman of NCLA he visited almost every legislator prior to the 1941 session of the General Assembly and discussed the need for state aid in that representative's own county.

### **Mr. Joseph Penn Breedlove**

Mr. Breedlove is one of the founders of NCLA; he served on the executive board for the first decade of the Association, and was the fourth president from 1911 to 1913. As librarian of

Trinity College (later Duke University) he continued as an active supporter of library progress in the state. He was elected to honorary membership in 1947.

### **Dr. Louis R. Wilson**

Dr. Wilson, the dean of North Carolina librarians, is too well known to the membership of NCLA to need identification here. One of the founders of the Association; the only person to serve three times as President (1910, 1912–23, 1929–31); member of the first North Carolina Library Commission; builder of the University of North Carolina Library; Dr. Wilson has served his state and profession well. He played a key role in the first years of NCLA which he describes elsewhere in this publication. After an absence at the Graduate Library School in Chicago he returned to continue efforts for library development. He not only remembers more of the past in the library world than most of us; he also sees farther into the future. His honorary membership was voted in 1947.

### **Mr. J. Frank Wilkes**

The late Mr. J. F. Wilkes was an active member of NCLA during its early years. He served as treasurer from 1907 to 1909, and vice president in 1910. He served as chairman of the legislative committee of NCLA which was instrumental in having the General Assembly establish the North Carolina Library Commission in 1909. As a Trustee of the Carnegie Library of Charlotte, Mr. Wilkes exemplified the importance of trustee members of NCLA. He was elected to honorary membership in 1949.

### **Mrs. Ethel Taylor Crittenden**

Mrs. Ethel T. Crittenden was for thirty-one years librarian of Wake Forest College and is now librarian emeritus. She was the eighth president of NCLA and took active part in the Association during her library career. Her contributions were recognized by honorary membership in 1951.

### **Mrs. Nellie Rowe Jones**

Mrs. Nellie Rowe Jones was librarian of the Greensboro Public Library from 1920 through 1949. She developed the collection of O. Henryana and the valuable local history collection now in the library. She was president of NCLA from 1925 to 1927 during which period the Association collected funds with which to purchase a bookmobile for the North Carolina Library Commission. Mrs. Jones is an author as well as a librarian and has published stories, articles and books. To fill a real need she wrote

*Discovering North Carolina* (1933) which will probably be found in every library in North Carolina. Honorary membership was conferred on Mrs. Jones in 1951. From her home in Greensboro Mrs. Jones writes:

*As an honorary member of the North Carolina Library Association I send my warmest greetings to each member on the Golden Anniversary.*

*Looking back through the many years when I was an active member it is a source of great satisfaction to note the wonderful growth of this splendid organization and its contribution to our State.*

*Please let me assure you of my deep and abiding interest in the future of our beloved North Carolina Library Association.*

### **Miss Katherine C. Ricks**

Miss Ricks was librarian of the Guilford College Library from 1922 to 1949. During her tenure the book collection was increased from eight thousand to over thirty-two thousand books, and she built up the famous Quaker collection at Guilford. An active member of NCLA, Miss Ricks was a vice president from 1925 to 1927 and secretary of the Association from 1931 to 1935. When she retired as librarian at Guilford College in 1949, becoming librarian emeritus, she continued as hostess in the alumni house until 1953 when she moved to Richmond, Virginia. Miss Ricks was elected to honorary membership in 1951.

### **Mrs. Lillian B. Griggs**

Mrs. Griggs was the seventh and fourteenth president of NCLA, serving in that capacity from 1918 to 1919, and 1931 to 1933. She served as treasurer of the Association from 1913 to 1917. Mrs. Griggs was librarian of the Durham Public Library from 1911 to 1923; Secretary and Director of the North Carolina Library Commission from 1924 to 1930; and librarian of the Woman's College of Duke University from 1930 until 1949. She was elected an honorary member of NCLA in 1951.

### **Miss Marjorie Beal**

Marjorie Beal and State Aid for Public Libraries in North Carolina are almost synonymous. As Secretary and Director of the North Carolina Library Commission from 1930 to 1950, Miss Beal crusaded with untiring energy and unwavering faith for more county libraries to serve the rural people of the state. The population of the state with access to a library tripled during her administration. Largely through her vision in a period of national depression North Carolina had more federally paid workers in the library field than any other state in the union. Honorary membership in NCLA was awarded Miss Beal in 1951. She sends the following message from Waynesville where she now lives:

*I am honored to be an Honorary Member of the North Carolina Library Association. To me it means the happy co-operation of all the North Carolina librarians and a continuation of never-to-be-forgotten friendships and understanding.*

*To look back numerous occasions stand out, some appalling, some gladsome but always the friends of library progress stand foremost. What would North Carolina have done without Dr. Louis R. Wilson, Dr. Frank P. Graham, William T. Polk, Charles Whedbee and hundreds of others who helped convince the people that books and reading were essential to the betterment of their State?*

### **The Honorable Graham Arthur Barden**

Mr. Barden, United States Congressman from North Carolina, was made an honorary member of NCLA in 1953. During his many years of public service Mr. Barden has supported legislation to promote better library service and sought the support of others in The Congress. He has

been active in the fight to keep the postal rate for books low, and to secure Federal Aid for public libraries.

### **Dr. Frank Porter Graham**

Dr. Graham has been a consistent friend of libraries. It was his challenge to the NCLA at the meeting in Charlotte in 1927 which set off the Citizens' Library Movement in North Carolina. As President of the University of North Carolina he was influential in gaining support for public libraries of the state. He and members of the faculty of the University were members of the speakers bureau which gained support of individuals and groups to the Movement. Dr. Graham was elected to honorary membership in 1953. From his present post as a mediator for the United Nations Dr. Graham sends the following telegram:

#### ***Dr. Frank Porter Graham's Telegram to NCLA on its Fiftieth Anniversary:***

Congratulations to the North Carolina Library Association on its Fiftieth Birthday and to the people of the State on the services of the Association for its constructive part: in increasing the reading and circulation of books among the people; the founding of many libraries; the establishment of the North Carolina Library Commission; founding and promotional work of the Citizens' Library Movement; the establishment and winning state support of the countywide public libraries; cooperation with the public schools and the State Department of Education and for the championship of the expert training, high standards, professional morale and public service of librarians in North Carolina. These and many other achievements and values are a part of memorable work of the Association which is now a vital part of fifty years of the life of a grateful people. May the commemoration of this Fiftieth Anniversary become a rededication of the Association to the reading and circulation of books with all their personal, civic, economic, cultural and spiritual value to the people of North Carolina.

### **Mr. William T. Polk**

Mr. Polk is a warrior for library development. His sword is his pen which he has used generously. As Chairman of the Citizens' Library Movement Mr. Polk was responsible for much of the success of that organization whose activities are described elsewhere in this issue. Through editorials in the

*Greensboro Daily News* of which paper Mr. Polk is Associate Editor the public is kept aware of the progress of libraries and the need for increasing support. Mr. Polk was elected to honorary membership in 1953. His greeting and challenge follows:

*Salutations and congratulations to the North Carolina Library Association on its first 50 years, which I am sure will be the hardest ones.*

*The story of the steady movement toward better library service for more and more Tar Heels over the last half century—and especially the past 30 years—is a significant and inspiring one.*

*Three decades ago this state was on rock bottom among the list of states in library service to its people. Today, thanks largely to the NCLA, nearly all citizens of this state have access to some public library. This coverage may be thin and leave much to be desired in many places, but it has had a tremendous and gratifying expansion.*

*Nobody knows what may come of it when a boy or a girl, a man or a woman, takes a book out of a library, because the opportunities for increased information, education, recreation, wisdom and joy are infinite.*

*A community which has no public library is, as Gilbert Highet put it, "only half alive." The NCLA has done a magnificent work in bringing life in rich abundance to all parts of this state.*

*Many happy returns—we are just getting started.*

## **Mr. Joseph Ruzicka**

Mr. Ruzicka is head of a bookbinding firm which has done much for libraries in general and North Carolina libraries in particular. For him the craft of binding, fine workmanship and service to libraries have come before business profits. He has been honored by the American Bookbinders' Institute for his contributions to the high standards now demanded in Class A binding. He and his son, the late J. Vernon Ruzicka, agreed to underwrite

*North Carolina Libraries* when the Association was financially unable to carry this expense, and his grandson, Joseph V. Ruzicka, Jr., is continuing this generous action. As a recognition of his service and that of his family and firm, Mr. Joseph Ruzicka was elected to honorary membership in 1953. From Baltimore Mr. Ruzicka writes:

*An Anniversary should be a celebration of a period of achievement and a Golden Anniversary is usually a climax of hopes fulfilled. Certainly this is true of the North Carolina Library Association.*

*The pioneers back there in 1904 had a germ of an idea—a desire for substantial libraries, a dream which soon became a need. This need produced more ideas, and dreams grew into realities, nurtured as they were by that unbeatable combination of serious thought and hard work. The North Carolina Library Association can claim much of the credit for the great progress made in library service, personnel and architecture; and North Carolina can well be proud of the example that has been set for many other states to follow.*

*May the growth of libraries in North Carolina continue and may all those responsible for the spread of knowledge, culture and reading pleasure through library faculties, continue to derive great satisfaction from their inestimable public service.*

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## **Southeastern Honors Dr. Wilson**

*The Southeastern Library Association unanimously elected Dr. Louis R. Wilson to honorary membership at the Sixteenth Biennial Conference in Atlanta, September 29 to October 2, 1954.*

*We are proud to print the citation of Dr. Wilson in this special Anniversary issue.*

Louis Round Wilson, distinguished librarian, writer and teacher. President of the American Library Association (1935–36); a founder of the Southeastern Library Association and its president from 1924–26; a founder and three times president of the North Carolina Library Association; long-time Librarian of the University of North Carolina; founder and first director of the University's Library School, and Dean of the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago. In these and other capacities he has for more than fifty years contributed to the progress of librarianship at the local, regional, national and international levels.

As Librarian of the University of North Carolina from 1901 to 1932, Dr. Wilson laid in Chapel Hill the foundation of a great research collection and planned the physical plant necessary to its successful use. But his contribution to his university has extended far beyond the Library. He served on the President's Advisory Committee, Board of Governors of the Institute of Research and Social Science, Board of Governors of the University Press, member of the Committee on Consolidation of the University, on the administrative boards of the various schools, and in a variety of other important advisory positions. He organized the Extension Division and became the first director of this agency whose influence reaches the far corners of the state.

Dr. Wilson promoted the establishment of the North Carolina Library Commission and became the first chairman of that organization which has placed books within the reach of almost every North Carolinian.

As member of important divisions of the Southern Educational Association and the National Education Association, he was influential in securing the adoption of higher standards for school libraries. As Dean of the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago he made the school a place of influence and a center of research in all areas of librarianship.

His sound judgment, far reaching outlook and his devotion to education and librarianship have contributed heavily to improved professional status for librarians in the South and throughout the nation, and the profession of the librarian enjoys wider respect and greater prestige, and exerts more influence upon contemporary society in part because of Dr. Wilson's dedication to his chosen work.

Last week the Chapel Hill Weekly described him as the University of North Carolina's elder statesman. He has long been an elder statesman of the Southeastern Library Association, and he honors this Association by accepting the special membership which has just been conferred upon him.

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## **Presidents of the North Carolina Library Association, 1904–1954**

Mrs. Annie Smith Ross, 1904–1908  
Miss Anne Petty, 1909; 1913–1915  
Dr. Louis R. Wilson, 1910; 1921–1923; 1929–1931  
Mr. J. P. Breedlove, 1911–1913  
Miss Mary B. Palmer, 1915–1916  
Mrs. Lillian B. Griggs, 1917–1918; 1931–1933  
Mrs. Ethel Taylor Crittenden, 1919–1921  
Mr. Charles B. Shaw, 1923–1925  
Miss Nellie Rowe, 1925–1927  
Miss Anne Pierce, 1927–1929  
Mr. Charles H. Stone, 1933–1935  
Miss Nora Beust, 1935–1937  
Miss Mary Louise McDearman, 1937–1938  
Mrs. Nell G. Battle, 1938–1939  
Mrs. Mary Peacock Douglas, 1939–1941  
Mr. Guy R. Lyle, 1941–1942  
Mr. Hoyt R. Galvin, 1942–1943

Dr. Susan Grey Akers, 1943–1946

Miss Eloise Camp, 1946–1947

Miss Margaret Ligon, 1947–1949

Mr. Harlan C. Brown, 1949–1951

Miss Jane B. Wilson, 1951–1953

Miss Charlesanna Fox, 1953–

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## Citizens' Library Movement in North Carolina

*By William S. Powell\**

While the flappers and their beaux of the "Roaring Twenties" were dancing the Charleston and painting Mickey Mouse, "Oh You Kid" and "23-Skiddoo" on yellow slickers, a more serious element of the population was becoming more and more aware of North Carolina's poor showing, culture wise, in national statistics. Orlando Stone, a graduate student at the University of North Carolina who did some work under the supervision of L. R. Wilson, submitted a master's thesis to the Department of Sociology in 1925 on the reading habits of North Carolinians. Stone's findings indicated that only one-third of the families in North Carolina took a daily newspaper. Considering newspaper and magazine reading together, he found that North Carolina stood in 43rd place among the states. In number of volumes per inhabitant in its public libraries, North Carolina was absolutely on the bottom of the list—48th among the states. Massachusetts, by way of illustration, had two volumes per person while North Carolina had eleven persons per volume. And this was at a time when Tar Heels were boasting that they had enough automobiles in the state to take all the people to ride at one time.

The following year, under the auspices of the American Library Association, a study of the conditions and needs of public libraries in the United States was published. It revealed that 68% of the citizens of North Carolina did not have access to a public library and that the income of the existing libraries averaged only four cents per capita. They owned only six books for every one hundred people. Out of 72 libraries serving the public in North Carolina only 30 were tax supported and there were 46 counties with no public library service of any kind.

During the course of the 1927 session of the North Carolina Library Association this subject was mentioned and it was generally agreed that North Carolina "needs a new awakening of social accounting." Until the final day, however, nothing of importance was proposed concerning the situation. On November 3 the closing session of the last day of the meeting was devoted to a speech by Professor Frank P. Graham of the University of North Carolina. He put the problem clearly before the members of the North Carolina Library Association and urged them "to organize, to press the fight, and put libraries" in those counties which did not have them. Reaction to the challenge was spontaneous. A resolution was immediately introduced and unanimously passed "That the North Carolina Library Association declare for a library campaign for education and promotion of library growth in North Carolina and that committees be appointed to plan the campaign."

The December issue of the *North Carolina Library Bulletin* presented an earnest plea from Anne Pierce, newly elected president of the North Carolina Library Association, for equal book privileges in North Carolina for town and country. "With every librarian, every trustee, and every individual interested in a better and finer North Carolina," she proclaimed, "it can be done. Sell the Public Library idea to North Carolina! Won't you send in ideas, plans, and suggestions for putting over this campaign? One person cannot do it but there is magic in the word 'together' and with North Carolina interested as she now is, may we not count on your support and active

interest in making these two years memorable ones in the development of library service in North Carolina?"

While the North Carolina Library Association was working out details of the campaign it was to sponsor, Dr. Graham set out to conduct a one-man drive whenever opportunity arose. Before the spring of 1928 he had occasion to speak on the subject in several Tar Heel towns. Under his direction University of North Carolina alumni groups adopted resolutions pledging support to local libraries to the end that North Carolina's "cultural development . . . might be comparable with its material development."

Basic plans for a state-wide campaign were developed during the early months of 1928. A committee was appointed by the North Carolina Library Association to initiate action and a few weeks later the committee, with additional members, met in Chapel Hill. Each member brought the names of people who might be interested. A chairman was elected, a publicity chairman appointed, and plans laid for the campaign. One thousand letters were next sent out to North Carolinians all over the state and, as replies came in, a file by place and a file by name was kept for future use of those who indicated interest in the cause of better library service.

On November 13, 1928, in Charlotte, where the idea had first been proposed the year before, the Citizens' Library Movement, as it was now called, was officially launched. For this first meeting some 200 representatives were present from the district composed of Lincoln, Gaston, Union, Cabarrus, and Mecklenburg counties. It was reported that the campaign had been developing quietly for several months and that all of the civic organizations in the state as well as about 200 individual "library enthusiasts" had pledged their support. Colonel Frank P. Hobgood, a Greensboro attorney and local library trustee, was chosen state chairman of the Movement. For the campaign the state was divided into a number of districts each with a chairman and committee to assist Hobgood, who was to have general supervision of the entire campaign.

The Citizens' Library Movement, while largely originating with Librarians, was to be conducted by and for the citizens of the state. It was not a fund-raising campaign but an educational campaign. Today in one sense, we might also consider supporters of the Movement as forming a "pressure group" since they came to exert influence on members of the General Assembly in favor of certain legislation introduced to promote public library service in the state.

A

*Handbook of the Citizens' Library Movement*, prepared by the North Carolina Library Commission and published by the North Carolina Library Association, appeared in 1928. Members of the various committees were listed as well as those citizens who had, up to the time of publication, joined the Movement. It contained concise arguments for better library service and cited cases both at home and outside the state where real progress had been made. The existing public library law was quoted in full.

The president of the North Carolina Library Association announced that winter meetings of a number of state organizations had scheduled sessions on the need for improved library service in North Carolina. Among these were the Parent-Teacher Association, the Parental Institute, and the Conference for Social Service. In addition to this evidence of increased interest in the problem, the growing number of requests for information and assistance directed to the Library Commission was cited.

A progress report on the Citizens' Library Movement in the June, 1929, issue of the *North Carolina Library Bulletin* bore convincing evidence of the importance of the project. Events ranged from a "stirring address" in Winston-Salem to a contest in Union County on "Why Union County Needs a Public Library." President Chase of the University of North Carolina announced in this issue the gift of \$100,000 for the establishment of a library school in Chapel

Hill. The Weil family in Goldsboro gave a building and \$5,000 for a library there and Harper D. Shepherd, Pitt County native, gave \$50,000 for a library building and permanent equipment in Greenville. Perhaps more typical of the results expected from the Citizens' Library Movement, however, was the mass meeting in Nash County following preliminary planning by the local Citizens' Library Movement committee. County commissioners, members of the board of education and other county officers, members of all civic clubs, and such groups as the D.A.R. and U.D.C., home demonstration clubs, principals and teachers, and the public in general were invited. The topic of the day was public library service for Nash County.

The central committee which had laid the plans was enlarged and divided into sub-committees, each with definite assignments for the summer. Full reports were due at a meeting scheduled for the fall and, as a final result, a county library was established.

By September still further progress was reported. Sixteen high schools in the state reported full time librarians, the Library Commission had organized 35 school libraries, Winston-Salem and Wilmington were giving courses in the use of the library to students, a special tax levy now supported libraries in Black Mountain, Weldon, Hickory, and Washington, Union County was engaged in an active library campaign, the Stanly County library reported that its county patrons had increased to 24% as contrasted with 19% the year before, the seven largest libraries in the state reported an increase of more than 400,000 in circulation while in Charlotte the public library circulation was up 30%. More than 1,200,000 books were read by the children in the standard elementary schools of the state during 1928–1929. There now were 279,000 volumes in these schools, whereas five years previously, except in some of the cities, very few elementary schools had even small libraries.

Governor O. Max Gardner was guest of honor at a session of the North Carolina Library Association in October, 1929. In an address on the Citizens' Library Movement he pledged his administration to support improved library service. He regarded the Movement as one of the most profoundly significant undertakings in the state since the compulsory school law—a people's declaration of war against appalling conditions. "I see in this Citizens' Library Movement," he said, "a profoundly significant step in the direction of supplying the higher cultural and spiritual needs of our people."

A group of large taxpayers appeared before the governing body of Charlotte to insist that funds be appropriated for library service to meet the conditions of a Rosenwald grant even though it meant increasing municipal taxes. "One of the most encouraging results of the Citizens' Library Movement," we read in the December, 1929,

*North Carolina Library Bulletin*, "is the growing realization that library service costs money, and that a library cannot be run on nothing by just anybody."

Unfortunately, however, that realization came at a most inopportune time. The near-disastrous results of the October, 1929, Crash and the following Depression seem to have all but wiped out the good foundation for library progress laid by the Citizens' Library Movement.

The biennial report of the Library Commission issued in 1930 indicates that the use of tax money for public libraries was not entirely out of the question, however. The Wilson County Library reported an appropriation of \$300 from the Board of County Commissioners, the City of Greenville took over the local public library from the Woman's Club, and the public library in Statesville became tax-supported in 1929. How much credit for this trend can be assigned to the Citizens' Library Movement might be debated, but the Movement was a great state-wide influence and undoubtedly played a large part in the growth of more adequate support from public sources. The Commission's report noted that active library campaigns were under way in several counties, notably Union, Surry, and Caldwell, and concluded that "it is only a question of time when the governing bodies of these counties will make the necessary appropriations."

Reports from various sources for the next few years, deep Depression years, contain little evidence of tangible progress in the library field. The Citizens' Library Movement continued its educational drive, nevertheless. In April, 1930, around one hundred persons had attended a breakfast session of the State Conference of Social Service at which Francis Clarkson of Charlotte presided. The program consisted of a discussion of various library projects over the state.

Towards the end of the year R. B. House of the University of North Carolina pointed out the economic problems of the South in their effect on the drive for more and better libraries. He noted the stock reply of both public and private sources of funds when approached with the problem. "It will cost money and this is no time to ask for money." "In my opinion," House wrote, "we can meet the economic problem better by indirect than by direct means. Let us begin to enrich the quality of living first and I firmly believe that we will then create more economic riches. For, after all, wealth must be created by intelligence; it is not something already created and simply waiting to be gathered. And intelligence is a quality of the spirit, not a commodity in the open market. . . . I don't believe increased expenditure in business will ever give us better brains. But I do believe increased expenditure on brains will give us better business. But, business or no business, I believe more expenditure on brains will deepen and enrich the quality of life in the South. And if we get this we can forego wealth.

*"If the South can turn itself to this task of enriching the quality of life rather than to the hopeless task of equalling the rest of the county in money—gained at all costs," he concluded, "it will do two things: It will renew the one tradition that has given this section distinction—the tradition of humane culture. And it will gain leadership in America."*

The Depression at first seems not to have dampened the enthusiasm of the supporters of the Citizens' Library Movement, but rather instead to have presented a challenge and to have served as a horrible example of national situations and conditions to be avoided in the future through a better informed citizenry. North Carolina's example in setting up the first Citizens' Library Movement did not go unnoticed outside the Tar Heel state. Kansas, in January, 1930, set up a Citizens' Library Committee and was followed in the same year by South Carolina, Illinois, and Michigan. Late in 1932 similar movements existed in Louisiana, New York, Ohio, and Texas.

In 1934 the Citizens' Library Movement, through the generosity of a friend, was able to publish the second booklet of the campaign. Entitled

*Books and the Minds of Men*, it was prepared by William T. Polk who, in the spring of that year, had succeeded Col. Hobgood as chairman of the Movement. This was a re-statement of the aims of the Citizens' Library Movement and again pictured the lowly position of North Carolina in the field of library service. A forthright statement of causes and remedies was clear enough to be grasped by all. Lack of money and lack of realization of the value of a public library were causes; remedies were more county libraries ("since North Carolina is a rural state and the county is the main unit of society") and more book trucks and book deposit stations to take the books directly to the people who need them most.

*"It is not such a difficult thing to start a public library," the reader is assured, "which is merely a collection of books efficiently circulated. All that is needed is a small group of people sufficiently interested and energetic to get it started. Once established it should if properly maintained increase in size and usefulness as the people realize that it is a cooperative enterprise which gives them good reading for far less than they could buy it individually."*

The objective of the Citizens' Library Movement at that time was a system of libraries which would serve every man, woman, boy, and girl in North Carolina and which would provide

opportunity and encouragement to educate themselves continuously, to improve their ability to participate as useful citizens in activities in which they were involved, to keep abreast of progress in science and other fields of knowledge, and to make such use of leisure time as would promote personal happiness and social well-being.

The speaking campaign throughout the state continued in full force. R. B. House and George Coffin Taylor of the University of North Carolina joined Frank Graham in the drive. A number of prominent newspaper editors took to the road to spread the word. Chairman Polk was a frequent guest at various civic gatherings to present the case for improved library service. None of these people were librarians and could not be accused of selfish motives—they were outstanding citizens of the state interested only in better informed Tar Heels. Inside the profession, of course, librarians were active. Each meeting of the North Carolina Library Association had at least one session devoted to the Citizens' Library Movement and Marjorie Beal and other members of the Library Commission were busy organizing and encouraging whenever the slightest interest was shown.

In an attempt to breathe new life into the Citizens' Library Movement, Chairman Polk very clearly laid the whole issue before the public. "The time has come," he said, "for the State to decide whether it wants an intelligent, well educated and cultured citizenship. If so it can find no better means to that end than a good county library in every county in the state. It is giving its young people in its schools and colleges the beginnings of an education. If it fails to give them the means of satisfying those intellectual and spiritual desires it has rightly stimulated—and the public library is the best practical means of doing so—then the State and its leaders—business men, school men, newspaper men, statesmen—will deserve and receive the disappointed contempt of their children and their children's children."

But for the most part this dire threat must have fallen on deaf ears. There was no immediate response and the laborious process of awakening the people to their own needs continued to be the aim of the Citizens' Library Movement for more than half a dozen years.

One recurring theme throughout the addresses on the subject was the importance of the county or a group of counties as the unit best able to provide adequate library service for all the people. Heretofore, the idea of a town or city public library was fairly well understood and the work of the Woman's Clubs throughout the state in providing the first local library service was thoroughly appreciated. This new concept of a broader field of service required constant repetition to make it understood. By 1933 the idea was incorporated in an amendment to the state's library law when the General Assembly gave counties permission to combine for library service. At that time twenty-one counties were making at least token appropriations for county-wide library service. Now it would be possible for one library to serve two or more counties by means of branch libraries, library stations, and book trucks.

Having won this point the Citizens' Library Movement was soon drawing up plans for the next step. Chairman Polk called together members of the Movement from all sections of the state for a one-day meeting to consider proposals for the extension and enlargement of state library service. A number of leaders from different fields spoke and it was concluded that "no one thing would so greatly benefit the State as a library program that will so work as to bring to all the citizens the values inherent in public libraries."

Frank Graham, the originator of the Citizens' Library Movement, again came to the fore. "In order to have real democracy in America," he stated, "we must take account of unequal library opportunity in the town and on the farm, and the consequent need for county-wide library service." In advocating "a great federal-state-county library set-up" he pointed out that "children are children wherever they are born and a true philosophy of democracy, a real democratic policy, would be to tax wealth where it is to furnish books and libraries for children where they are. We will not have democracy in America until we have some such nation-wide mutual aid,

some such nation-wide cooperation of federal, state, and county governments in this great job, this great democratic responsibility of making libraries locally accessible not only to the privileged millions, but to the 45,000,000, mainly on the farm, without local access to a public library."

It was in 1936 that the Citizens' Library Movement was first reported as advocating and promoting a request for state aid for libraries from the 1937 General Assembly. A four-page folder on the subject of state aid for libraries presented the matter briefly but graphically. A map of North Carolina was included indicating, county by county, the extent of library service available. Subsequently a bill was introduced into the General Assembly providing for the appropriation of \$150,000 annually to be used "for promoting, aiding and equalizing public library service in North Carolina." When the bill was finally passed in March, 1937, however, the section appropriating funds had been deleted. It did, nevertheless, authorize the Library Commission to accept and administer any money appropriated or granted to it, separate from the general Library Commission fund, for providing and equalizing public library service in the state by the Federal government or from other sources. Whether or not the lawmakers had an idea that the Citizens' Library Movement might become a fund-raising organization and thus supply the missing money, we do not know.

Governor Clyde R. Hoey spoke at a meeting of the Citizens' Library Movement in Charlotte early in 1938 and expressed regret that the 1937 General Assembly had not seen fit to make an appropriation to equalize library service throughout the state. The Governor voiced his approval of the aims of the Movement and pledged his support in securing funds to carry out the current program for state aid.

In the interim between sessions of the legislature the educational campaign continued. It must have been at this point that pressure was brought to bear from local sources on local representatives. A ten-page pamphlet of questions and answers on the subject of state aid for public libraries issued by the Citizens' Library Movement at this time concluded with a series of "what you can do" suggestions which included letters to the governor, personal contact with legislators, and local publicity.

Educational leaders were called into the struggle. Dean House of the University called attention to the fact that reading matter in public places, particularly on the newsstands, was improving. Edgar Knight said "it is senseless to make it possible for people to read without giving them something to read. Adult education, the greatest movement in the Southeast, is being recognized and libraries are the movement's greatest ally." Superintendent of Public Instruction Clyde A. Erwin announced a program for supplementary reading in the schools in addition to textbook reading. He cited the public library as necessary for intelligent citizenship and as significant in the development of adult education.

When the 1939 General Assembly met the Citizens' Library Movement joined forces with the North Carolina Library Association and the Library Commission in requesting \$300,000 for each year in the coming biennium to be used in improving library service throughout the state. Both the Budget Commission and the Joint Appropriations Committee heard the request but made no recommendation.

A bill to appropriate \$50,000 a year out of surplus funds, if there were any, in the state treasury, for library demonstrations in various parts of the state, was passed by the Senate but failed to pass the House.

Undaunted by this rebuff, the Citizens' Library Movement again took up the struggle. Their aims were given wide publicity. State aid for libraries, they announced, would result in the equalization of library service to reach all the people, improved and enlarged book collections, especially books of information, better reference service, bookmobiles to distribute books to all rural sections, trained librarians in charge to direct and implement the service, good magazines

to help people keep informed and up-to-date, and books for institutions, hospitals, and prison camps.

The theme for the 1939 session of the North Carolina Library Association was "More and Better Libraries for North Carolina." A dinner meeting sponsored by the Citizens' Library Movement opened the session and guest speakers include Marion S. Wright, chairman of South Carolina's Citizens' Library Movement, and J. M. Broughton who was destined to be the next governor.

To pave the way for the 1941 session of the General Assembly Charles Whedbee of Hertford, Legislative Chairman of the North Carolina Library Association, visited every legislator to discuss in person the need for state aid and constantly guided progress in each county.

Success came at last. The 1941 General Assembly passed the bill for state aid for public libraries and appropriated \$100,000 for each year of the biennium, 1941–1943. One important sentence in this important bill reads: "The fund shall be used to improve, stimulate, increase and equalize public library service to the people of the whole state."

By September 1941, 45 counties had received state aid checks, eight more had added libraries, and nineteen others were almost ready for state aid checks. The meeting of the North Carolina Library Association in Greensboro in October, 1941, was opened with a dinner sponsored by the Citizens' Library Movement—one of the last, if not the last, acts of the Movement.

But the Citizens' Library Movement is not dead. Shortly after its success with the state aid movement its members found their attention diverted by World War II. And in 1942 Chairman Polk moved from Warrenton to Greensboro to join the editorial department of the

*Greensboro Daily News* where he soon became involved with other work. The Movement now is described by its Chairman as "existing but not functioning, static but not moving." At one time he suggested to members of the Library Commission and others who were once active in the Citizens' Library Movement that a new chairman be designated, but no action was taken.

Chairman Polk suggests that the Movement be revived under the sponsorship of either the North Carolina Library Association or the Library Commission. With the approval of state aid only one feature of the many faceted job of improving library service in North Carolina was attained. It should take very little imagination and even less time to suggest perhaps a dozen or more projects which a revived Citizens' Library Movement could pursue to a successful conclusion.

*\*Assistant Librarian, North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina.*

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## Do You Need a Librarian?

*North Carolina Libraries* will list vacancies in libraries which are institutional members of NCLA without charge. In the interest of recruiting librarians to fill vacancies in North Carolina the Editorial Board has decided to insert classified advertisements for member libraries. *North Carolina Libraries* is sent to all accredited library schools in the U.S.

No blind advertisements can be taken. Each must contain the name and address of the person to whom application and inquiries should be made. Please try to limit the ad to fifty words.

Deadlines for insertion are: January issue: November 24; March issue: February 7; May issue: April 4.

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## Recruiting Pamphlet

The ALA Joint Committee on Library Work as a Career has announced its sponsorship of an excellent recruiting pamphlet, PAGING YOUR FUTURE. The folder was adapted from one prepared and first issued by the Oregon Library Association, and NCLA's Recruiting Committee will be hard put to surpass PAGING YOUR FUTURE. Printed in two tones of green, the pamphlet answers the following questions: What does librarianship give—and take? Can you qualify? How do you prepare to become a librarian? Can you expect a job? It is attractive, dignified, and crammed with information. Copies may be obtained from the Publishing Department, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago 11, Illinois. Prices are: 25 for \$2.00; 50 for \$3.00; 100 for \$5.00; 500 for \$15.00 and 1000 for \$28.00.

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## **November Is "Know Your Library Month"**

The Libraries Division of the General Federation of Women's Clubs has launched a two-year program, "Know and Grow" to help clubwomen become more familiar with libraries and library services and stimulate efforts to improve them.

A highlight of the program will be "Know Your Library Month" to be observed in November of 1954 and 1955.

The program was developed by Mrs. Robert F. Herrig of Libby, Montana, newly-appointed Chairman of the GFWC Libraries Division. Mrs. Herrig is Librarian of the Lincoln County Free Public Library in Libby and a past-president of the Montana State Federation of Women's Clubs.

The American Library Association is cooperating in the program which has had the close interest and assistance of Miss S. Janice Kee, Executive Secretary of the ALA Public Libraries Division, and Miss Mildred L. Batchelder, Executive Secretary of the ALA Division of Libraries for Children and Young People.

Miss Kee has advised heads of all State Library Extension Agencies of the GFWC program and emphasis is presently being placed on library participation in "Know Your Library Month" in November. A suggestion sheet of activities has been prepared and distributed by Miss Kee to aid librarians. The suggestions are a round-up of many ideas gained from librarians throughout the country.

Librarians and Library Trustees have been urged to work out activities with the president of the local woman's club and arrange functions which would bring club women to the library. Functions suggested range from an open house to a social occasion where trustees would be hosts and the club women guests. A variety of exhibits have been suggested, including those which show how the library helps club women prepare for their study programs; display of resources directly related to various club projects; demonstrations of how the library acts as a clearing house of information on community events; materials showing what portion of the tax dollar goes to the public library.

Other suggestions include joint radio and TV programs, newspaper releases, film showings and publication of a variety of informational literature.

ALA President L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress, has written to Mrs. Theodore S. Chapman, GFWC President, that the "Know Your Library Month" program demonstrates how both organizations are endeavoring to "make public libraries more useful to a greater number of Americans." Mr. Mumford adds: "Certainly the activities should serve to add enlightenment to many of your members on the problems and opportunities which libraries seek to meet; and librarians will come to know better the resourcefulness and interest of clubwomen."

The total two-year "Know and Grow" libraries program of the GFWC, according to Mrs. Herrig, is divided into three sections: 1. Know and grow through personal and club use of libraries; 2. Know your library and help it grow; 3. Know how to get a good library if you have none.

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## Index to Volumes One Through Ten

Mailed with this issue is a separately paged index to volumes I–X of

*North Carolina Libraries*. Miss Vivian Moose, of the cataloging staff of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina is responsible for this painstaking task. Starting with notes made by many different people Miss Moose has produced an index which will be welcomed by all librarians. We hope to persuade our indexer to continue this work and to publish an index to Volumes XI–XIII at the end of the current volume. After that we hope to print an annual index of each volume so that libraries can bind them in conveniently sized volumes.

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## President's Corner

*Charlesanna Fox, President, NCLA*

### Executive Board Meetings.

The Board met on May 1 in Durham for its only meeting since the one on March 20. It was decided on that day to conduct the membership ballot in September, to accept tentatively the invitation from Winston-Salem to hold the 1955 conference in that city, and to approve all the items on the State Legislative Council program for 1955. The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 9.

### Committees.

*The Scholarship Loan Fund Committee* has forwarded its revision of the Loan Fund regulations and procedures to the Executive Board for approval. Mr. Thomas Simkins has replaced Dr. Akers as Chairman of the Committee. *The Recruiting Committee* has completed a draft of a recruiting folder which will be presented to the Executive Board at its next meeting. *The Membership Committee* has mailed letters to librarians who are prospective members of NCLA, and 67 new members have joined. Mrs. Barbara E. Heafner has succeeded Mary Frances Kennon as Chairman since Miss Kennon has left North Carolina for Baltimore.

### Sections.

The Officers and Committee Chairmen of the *Public Libraries Section* met in Winston-Salem, July 24, to plan for Section activities. The Development Committee of this Section held a meeting in Greensboro August 26 to discuss the 1955 State Aid for Libraries request. *The Trustee Section* is now mailing a quarterly newsletter to all public library trustees in the state. The first issue included a very attractive Trustees Manual. *The Junior Members Round Table* has started an active campaign for recruiting new members by writing to each library to ask that a "census be taken" of eligible staff members and that they be encouraged to join JMRT.

### American Library Association.

The President attended the annual conference in Minneapolis, June 21–26, as your representative. The membership ratified the Chapters Article of the By-Laws and the Executive Board has now received the directions for applying for chapter status. Present geographic chapters remain chapters until the Midwinter Conference of 1956, but they must reapply for

status before that time if they wish to do so. The procedure is as follows: 1. The membership of present chapters must vote as to whether they wish to apply for chapter status; 2. ALA members within the area must vote as to whether they will apply (at least 10% must cast votes); 3. If approval is given by these votes, the constitution of the geographic chapter is sent to the ALA Constitution and By-Laws Committee for study and approval; and 4. The application with the constitution is presented to the ALA Council for acceptance. The Executive Board on October 9 will decide what action should be taken on this question and will notify the Membership as soon as possible.

#### **Miscellaneous.**

The President, writing for the Executive Board, congratulated Mr. Quincy Mumford upon his appointment as Librarian of Congress. A wire was sent to the Alabama Library Association on May 1 expressing good wishes to the Association on its fiftieth anniversary.

#### **Fiftieth Anniversary.**

The Executive Board commends the Editorial Board of *North Carolina Libraries* for its contribution to the celebration of our anniversary through this special issue, as well as the others of the 1954 volume.

**Charlesanna Fox**

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### **North Carolina Library Association Officers**

- **President:** Miss Charlesanna Fox, Librarian, Randolph County Library, Asheboro.
  - **First Vice-President:** Mrs. Marion M. Johnson, Librarian, Stanly County Library, Albemarle.
  - **Second Vice-President:** Miss Elizabeth Williams, Myers Park and Plaza Road Schools, Charlotte.
  - **Recording Secretary:** Mrs. Hallie S. Bacelli, 615 Joyner St., Greensboro.
  - **Corresponding Secretary:** Miss Marjorie Hood, Library, Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.
  - **Treasurer:** Miss Marianna Long, Librarian, Duke University Law Library, Durham.
  - **Director:** Dr. Benjamin E. Powell, Librarian, Duke University, Durham.
  - **Director:** Miss Katharine McDiarmid, Textiles Librarian, N.C. State College, Raleigh.
  - **Past President:** Miss Jane B. Wilson, 822 Third Street, Durham.
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## Representatives from the North Carolina Library Association

- **A.L.A. Council:** The President; Alternate: Charles M. Adams, Librarian, Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.
  - **Joint Committee (with NCETA) of Literature and Bibliography:** Miss Jane B. Wilson, Durham; Miss Mildred Herring, Greensboro; Mr. Carlyle Frarey, Durham; Mr. William S. Powell, Chapel Hill; Miss Mae Tucker, Charlotte; Miss Elaine von Oesen, Raleigh.
  - **N.C. Legislative Council:** The President; Miss Antoinette Earle, Lexington; Miss Katherine Day, Durham; Miss Jane Hinson, Charlotte.
  - **N.C. Library Commission:** Mrs. Ford S. Worthy, Washington; John Harden, Greensboro; Paul Ballance, Winston-Salem; Dr. Roy B. McKnight, Charlotte.
  - **Public Library Certification Board:** The President; Mrs. Elmina Hearne Surratt, Rockwell.
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## Committee Appointments

- **Bentley-Christ-Ruzicka Memorial Fund:** Mr. C. Merle Bachtell, Greensboro, Chairman; Dr. B. E. Powell, Durham; Mrs. Pattie B. McIntyre, Chapel Hill; Miss Jane B. Wilson, Durham.
- **Constitution and Codes:** Miss Frances Yocum, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, Chairman; Miss Cora Paul Bomar, Raleigh; Mrs. Susan G. Gray, Raleigh; Miss Nancy Gray, Wilson; Miss Beatrice Holbrook, Raleigh; Miss Foy Lineberry, Raleigh.
- **Education for Librarianship:** Miss Ila Mae Taylor, Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, Chairman; Miss Kathleen Fletcher, High Point; Mr. Carlyle Frarey, Durham; Miss Sarah Reed, Chapel Hill.
- **Federal Relations:** Mr. Carlton West, Wake Forest College Library, Wake Forest, Chairman; Mrs. Louise M. Plybon, Winston-Salem; Mrs. Elizabeth House Hughey, Raleigh; Mr. Neal Austin, High Point; Miss Elizabeth Copeland, Greenville; Mr. Miles C. Horton, Jr., Greensboro.
- **Intellectual Freedom:** Mrs. Lilian B. Buchanan, Western Carolina College Library, Cullowhee, Chairman; Mr. Charles Adams, Greensboro; Miss Gladys Johnson, Raleigh; Miss Bertha Moore, Asheville.

- **Legislative:** Miss Antoinette Earle, Davidson County Library, Lexington, Chairman; Mr. Wendell Smiley, Greenville; Miss Katherine Day, Durham; Miss Jane Hinson, Charlotte.
  - **Membership:** Mrs. Barbara Heafner, Gastonia Public Library, Gastonia, Chairman; Mr. Forest Palmer, Raleigh; Miss Josephine West, Moyock; Mrs. Guelda von Beckareth, Chapel Hill; Miss Marianna Long, Durham; Miss Mary Louise Patterson, Charlotte.
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