

GUEST SPEAKERS AT CONFERENCE OF SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS



Glen Rounds
Author & Illustrator of Children's Books
(Photos by Sam Boone, UNC)



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CONFERENCE OF SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS

Saturday, September 20, was a great day for school and children's librarians. On this day a state-wide conference sponsored by the School and Children's Librarians Section of the North Carolina Library Association, the State Department of Public Instruction, and the North Carolina Library Commission was held in Chapel Hill with some 250 school librarians, children's librarians, superintendents and supervisors in attendance.

Presiding over the two general sessions was Miss Margaret McIntyre, Chairman of the School and Children's Librarians Section. Mr. Wesley Noble, principal of the Chapel Hill High School, and Mr. George Bentley, Assistant to the Librarian, University of N. C., brought greetings at the opening session held in the Chapel Hill High School.

The morning was devoted to group meetings in which four aspects of libraries for children were discussed. Each group had a chairman, consultant, reporter, and a guest speaker. Group I discussed better use of the Library by the faculty. Participating in this group were Mrs. Mary Peacock Douglas, Supervisor of the Raleigh School Libraries, as chairman; Miss Jessie Baxter, Supervisor of Elementary Schools in Alamance County, as consultant, and Miss Celeste Johnston, Charlotte School Librarian, as reporter. The speaker of the group, Dr. John W. Carr, Jr., Duke University, chose as the topic of his address, "The Cooperation of the Elementary School Librarian with other teachers." The librarian in the elementary school, Dr. Carr stated, has reached a cross roads. To clarify this he said, "The decisions and activities of public school librarians in the next decade might determine whether the position which they occupy shall become one of outstanding professional importance or deteriorate into a skill-type job which can be performed by a clerical worker." Calling for an organization which would be superior to both ordinary library service and the classroom collection, he also pointed out that the new widely-accepted curriculum movements dictate demands for more books and more effective use of all available teaching materials.

In conclusion, Mrs. Douglas stated that if real rapport is established between the faculty and the librarian, the whole difficulty of library use by the faculty is overcome.

The role of the librarian in helping boys and girls solve personal problems was the subject for discussion of Group II. Participating in this group were Miss Eunice Query, Department of Library Science, Appalachian State Teachers College, chairman; Mrs. Bessie W. Ralston, Children's librarian, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville, consultant; Miss Dorothy Dickey, Children's librarian, Olivia Raney Library, Raleigh, Reporter; and Dr. Gelolo McHugh, Duke University, as the guest speaker. Dr. McHugh stated that the home, school, and library have a part in adolescents developing right attitudes. Pointing out that just as all children need protection and care, all adolescents need guidance and help. The speaker further stated that adequately trained parents and teachers of adolescents can make this period of development the satisfying stage of life it should be.

Group III discussed teaching lessons in the use of the library. Participating in the group were Mrs. Hallie Bacelli, Director of Guilford County School Libraries, chairman; Miss Margaret Kalp, School of Library Science, University of N. C. consultant; Miss Elizabeth Williams, Charlotte School Librarian, reporter; and Mrs. Helen Peacock, Librarian of the Chapel Hill High School as the speaker. Mrs. Peacock pointed out that the specific skills to be taught should be clearly defined, and that all teaching must be purposeful, clear, and consistent. Teachers and librarians should work together in library instruction on tools, skills and attitudes. Samples of suggested teaching materials and bibliographies were passed around the room for notation; some of these were to be included in the proceedings.

A report on research of children's preferences in illustration and color was given to the fourth group by Dr. Mabel Rudisell of Duke University. Miss Margaret Ligon, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville, served as chairman, and Miss Harriett Tucker, Lexington High School Librarian, reporter. Dr. Rudisell pointed out that the underlying question of her study was determining the relative importance of color vs realism. Graphs demonstrating quantitative results were displayed. Some conclusions drawn from the study suggest that a child apparently seeks first to recognize its context, and whether it is colored or uncolored is less important than the appearance of realism.

Following the group meetings, many librarians enjoyed a tour of the University of N. C. Library.

Highlighting the conference were guest speakers, Mr. Glen Rounds, author and illustrator, and Miss Nora Beust, Specialist for School and Children's Librarians, U. S. Office of Education.

Mr. Rounds was the luncheon speaker at the Carolina Inn at which time Miss Jane Wilson, President of the North Carolina Library Association, was the toastmistress.

Miss Beust, speaking at the second general session in the Assembly and Exhibition Room of the University Library, pointed out that librarians have an important role in helping children to become world-minded. She displayed and discussed books for developing world understanding.

Displays and exhibits included: Original illustrations of Glen Round's books; a display of "Life Adjustment booklets," set up by Annie Graham Caldwell, Librarian of Reynolds High School, Winston-Salem; and a display of new commercial products suitable for library-use, set up by Mildred Herring, Librarian of Senior High School, Greensboro.

The conference concluded with a coke party. Indeed, it was a great day for school and children's librarians of North Carolina.

—MARGARET MCINTYRE, *Chairman*
School and Children's Librarians Section
North Carolina Library Association

"Proceedings" of this Conference will be published and distributed through the office of the State School Library Advisor and the N. C. Library Commission. Those librarians who paid the \$1.00 registration fee will receive the publication, others may send \$1.00 to the Library Commission, Raleigh, N. C.

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WHY JOIN THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

A year ago the American Association of School Librarians became a separate division of the national professional organization for librarians, the American Library Association. Only with the support of school librarians through membership can this young specialized organization maintain itself.

There is a feeling of pride that goes with being able to say to yourself or to your administrator, your fellow-teachers, or to your friends, "I belong to my state and national library associations."

Get your membership in to AASL soon and be proud to be a part of ALA!

All new members are entitled to membership this year and all of 1953. North Carolina has 51 members as of July, 1952. Let's push North Carolina to the top of the list in membership in AASL in 1953. You can be a professional isolationist, but—it's more fun and more stimulating to join your colleagues and work together for improved library service in the American Association of School Librarians.

—VERNELLE GILLIAM, *N. C. Representative*
American Association of School Librarians
Librarian, Boyden High School, Salisbury



Luncheon honoring guests of the School and Children's Librarians Section of the North Carolina Library Association, Conference at Chapel Hill, September 20, 1952

(Photo by Sam Boone, UNC)