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# NCLA Conference: Reports of Meetings

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## Panel Discussion "Wind, Rain, Fire: Surviving Disaster"

About sixty people heard practical tips as well as general information on what to do when wind, fire or water causes damage at a library. Moderated by Janet Plummer, Forsyth County Schools, the program was designed to give librarians up-to-date information of an immediate and practical nature.

Beth Mullaney, formerly of Davis Library, UNC-CH, spoke on what can be done when smoke, fire and water damage to print materials is first discovered and also what steps need to be taken later after the immediate emergency is over. She, like the following two speakers, emphasized that one needs to stop and think before reacting to the disaster. "Preparation can make disasters manageable."

Dr. Hugh Hagaman, Director of Learning Resources, UNC-G, gave detailed information on what to do when different types of audiovisual equipment and materials suffer from various types of damage. He emphasized that in some areas, such as computer disks and films, little research has been done or at least written up in the professional literature. Hagaman pointed out that, the same as when using disinfectants on paper products damaged by water, one must rely upon a professional to repair major water damage done to audiovisual materials.

Willie Nelms, Director of Sheppard Memorial Library in Greenville, spoke about what happened when heavy rains poured in through an unfinished roof in March 1984. He stressed that taking time to think about priorities and picking the right persons to direct different operations are very important in reacting sensibly to disasters. He had already read NCLA's *Disaster Preparedness: A Guide* and knew the procedures to follow and what outside help to call. Nelms pointed out that almost everyone will at one time or another have to face some type of disaster, perhaps in an emergency setting, in which case clear command decisions and directions are necessary. One must not panic but instead assess the situation and then take whatever steps are necessary.

A particular concern which surfaced during the question and answer period was convincing higher administrators of the persistent if sometimes undramatic damage done by mold. One suggestion from the floor was that NCLA adopt a resolution concerning damages that result from the lack of environmental controls in libraries.

Patrick Valentine

## Clay Animated Films: John Lemmon

Clay animation is becoming one of the most popular animation media in filmmaking. Some of the most popular children's films used in library programming are clay animated. The Will Vinton Studio's *Rip Van Winkle*, *Martin the Cobbler*, and *The Creation* are just some examples. There are even shorts oriented to adult tastes, such as Will Vinton's *Closed Mondays* and Jimmy Pickens' *Jimmy the C* that have been produced in clay.

Charlotte filmmaker, John Lemmon, is active in clay animated films. His work has received its biggest audience in the form of the animated "Food Lion" commercial seen on television. John has completed a short subject film for children titled *The Trontium Tusk*. Several North Carolina libraries have this film in their collections.

The Audio-Visual Committee of the Public Library section decided to take advantage of Mr. Lemmon's availability for a program at the NCLA Conference in Raleigh. Librarians who program clay animated films could learn the art of clay animation, which, as we learned, is a painstaking process.

Mr. Lemmon demonstrated, by film and slides, how the models are fashioned into figures, how sets are made, and how depth perception on the sets is achieved. The process for creating movements of the figures is a fascinating process. Mr. Lemmon's attention to detail is so complete that it took thirty minutes of production time to get a figure to blink an eye. Such movement is barely noticeable in the finished product and took less than a second of the film. Mr. Lemmon explained that a thirty second film of a "Food Lion" commercial takes about six weeks of hard work.

Mr. Lemmon answered questions from the audience. About thirty-five people attended this session. The Audio-Visual Committee considered the program a success.

*Art Weeks*

### The Freedom to Read Push

The Intellectual Freedom Committee was highly visible at the Biennial Conference in Raleigh as they attempted to contact every member attending. They had a distribution table in the lobby of the Civic Center which provided copies of the Library Bill of Rights and all its interpretations for all participants. They encouraged people to frame the Library Bill of Rights and the Statement on Professional Ethics which were printed on high quality paper. A member of the Committee was at the table throughout the conference to answer questions concerning intellectual freedom and to give advice concerning censorship attempts and selection policy rewrites.

They also had continual video showings during the conference with the viewing room running over with people on most viewings. Many persons requested information on how they could obtain copies of the videos for use in their communities. "Censorship or Selection: Choosing Books for Public Schools" is distributed by the Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association,

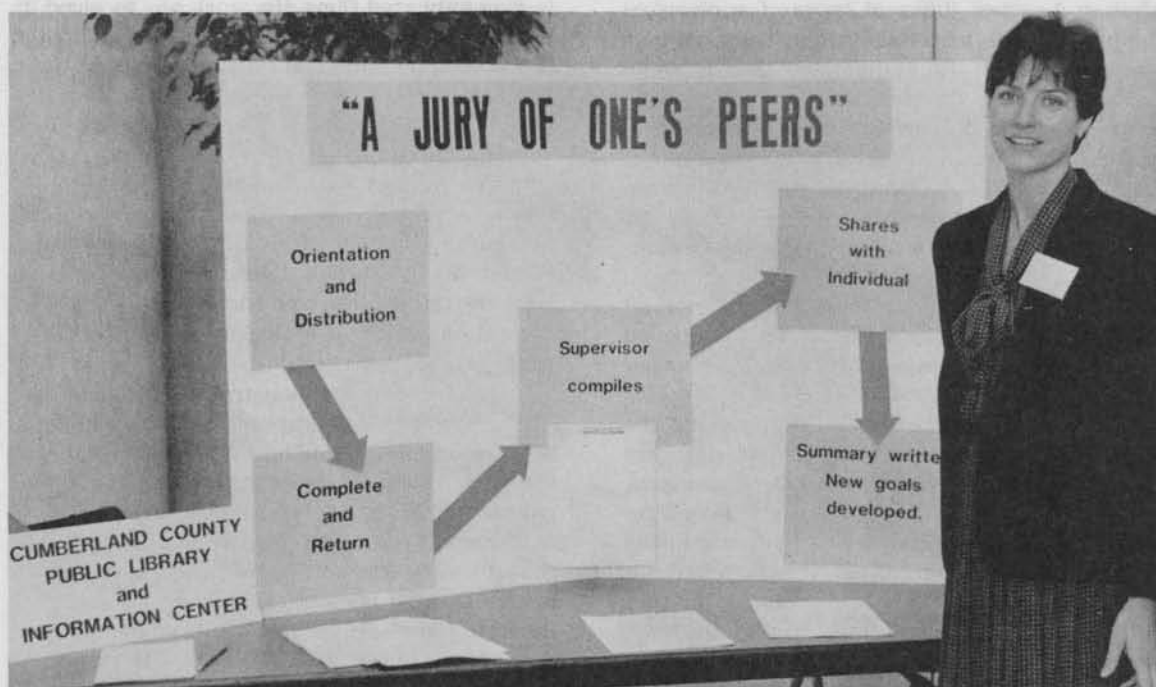
50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611 for \$150. The discussion guide is \$5. PEN American Center, 47 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10003 is the source for "An Evening of Forbidden Books" for \$75. "Life and Liberty" featuring Burt Lancaster was from People for the American Way, Suite 270 Ginkgo Square, 302 Jefferson Street, Raleigh, NC 27605.

SIRS, Inc. provided the Committee with a luncheon on Friday with special guests James B. Hunt, Jr., George Miller, Associate Superintendent Elsie Brumback, President Park and President-Elect Myrick. Elliot and Eleanor Goldstein of SIRS and Representative Miller were honored at the general session following with NCLA Honorary Memberships due to their support of intellectual freedom.

*Gene Lanier*

### Cataloging Problems Solved

The RTSS Cataloging Interest Group program during the NCLA Biennial conference was attended by 95 conference participants. "Cataloging Problems and Solutions" included discussions on audiovisual materials, led by Catherine Leonardi and Nancy Austin; serials, led by Rex Bross; and books, led by April Wreath, Deborah Babel, Barbara Cassell, and Walter High. Catalogers who attended the program expressed strong interest



Cumberland County Public Library and Information Center's poster session featured Ricki Brown expounding on performance appraisal of supervisors by supervisees.

in having future programs similar to the one at NCLA.

Elizabeth Smith

### RTSS Discusses Vendor Services

The joint program of the RTSS Collection Development and Serials Interest Groups entitled "Utilizing Vendor Services In Collection Development" was held Friday morning, October 4th from 9 to 11 a.m. During the two concurrent sessions and the final joint session, over 180 people attended the program.

The program covered three separate topics: "Utilizing Vendor Services in the School Library Environment"; "Utilizing Vendor Services In The Public Library Environment"; and "Utilizing Vendor Services in the Academic Library Environment". An impressive array of organizations were featured during the program. Speakers included representatives from Faxon, EBSCO, Brodart, Bound-To-Stay-Bound, Ingram, Baker & Taylor, Yankee Book Peddler, and Blackwell North American. The speakers each spent approximately 15 minutes discussing the various services, programs, and special features they have to assist libraries in building collections.

Some of the highlights included: Mr. Bob Mall's discussion of Brodart's *Elementary School Library Collection: A Guide to Books and Other*

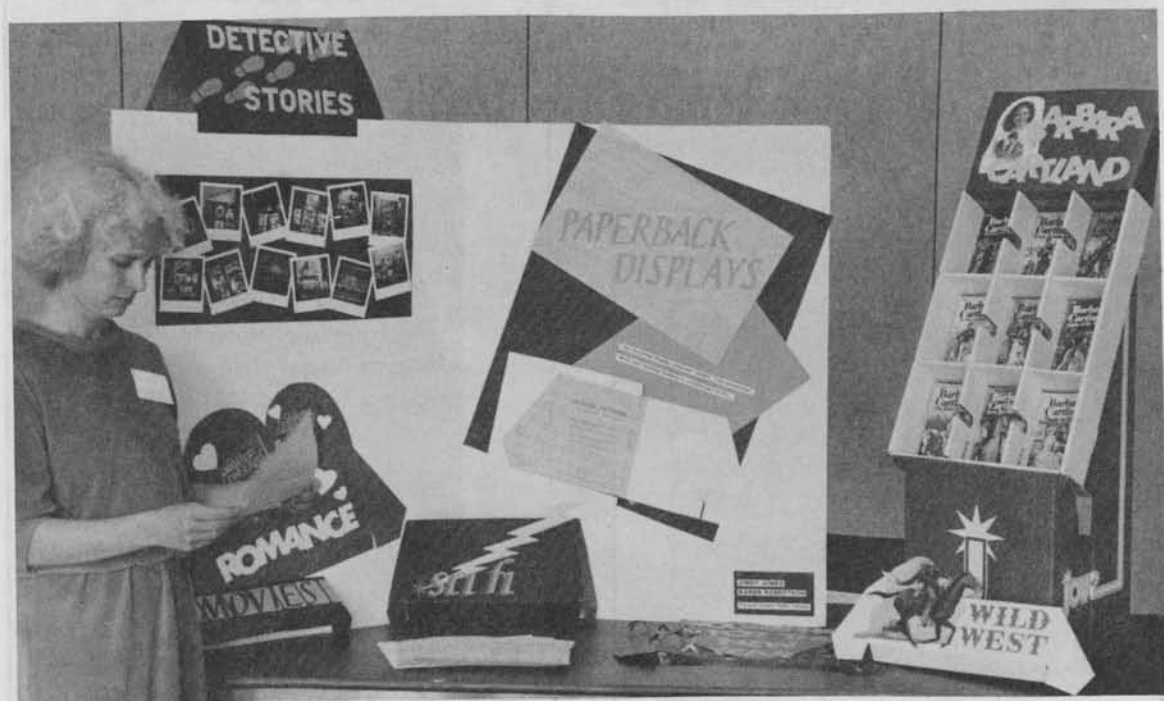
*Media*; Larry Price's comments concerning Ingram's new laser technology and Douglas Duchin's explanation of Yankee Book Peddler's specialized blanket order plans.

At the end of all the sessions, the panelists answered an entire range of questions concerning both specific vendor services as well as general issues facing libraries and vendors today.

Harry Tuchmayer

### Trustees Section Focuses on Literacy

The Trustee Section presented a panel on literacy on Thursday, October 3, at the NCLA Biennial Conference. Panelists included Anne Tindall, president of the North Carolina Literacy Association; Barbara Bail, Hoke Reading and Literacy Council; Catherine (Kitty) Smith, Adult and General Consultant, Division of State Library; and Katherine Y. Armitage, director of the Haywood County Public Library. The Trustees also enjoyed a successful luncheon with the Honorable Patric G. Dorsey, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, as guest speaker. Officers for the next biennium elected at the luncheon were Irene Hairston, vice-chairman/chairman-elect; Dorothy Brower, Cumberland County Public Library board, secretary; Barbara Page, Hyconeechee Regional Library board and John Wooten, Wayne County Public



At this poster session, Cindy Jones sold merchandising the Forsyth County Public Library way.

Library board, directors. In-coming chairman of the Trustees Section is Jake Killian.

*J. A. Killian*

### Documents Section Meets

The speaker for the Documents Section meeting on Oct. 3 was Jim Bryan, a research analyst with the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research. He is a 1981 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with a B.A. degree in American Studies.

Mr. Bryan gave a brief background on the Center. It is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that studies state government and monitors legislation. It has a staff of ten that is divided into two sections, magazine and research.

His topic was "How to Affect Public Policy," and his comments included tips on having input on public policy:

1. Tactfulness—Don't threaten elected officials; it will make them do the opposite of what you want.
2. Specifics—Be as specific as you can in dealing with officials; also be sure to communicate the specifics such as how much money and what for.
3. Point of input—Work at the committee level; start early to get involved with the correct level. (Know who is on the Cultural Resources and Appropriations Committees—cultivate them and present specifics to them.)
4. "Seeing is believing"—Take decision makers to see the problem.
5. Writing—Put position in writing; limit to one page; in paragraph one, tell what you want the official to do; don't use jargon/buzz words; write simply.
6. Fact sheets—Do homework on facts, issues and people involved; don't hide facts—they will see the holes; develop trust; present facts fairly; be concise and complete.
7. Members—Use members in one's group; numbers are impressive and show strength; have as many people call or write decision makers as possible; don't contact just one person on a committee—contact all; also check with opponents and let them know your position—they may not understand your position.

8. Other groups—Get other groups with similar concerns to also contact decision makers and to endorse your resolution.

9. Personal visits—North Carolina's government is open, so go to see decision makers and ask them pointblank but diplomatically if they support your position.

10. Opposition—Call them and also meet with them; try to work for compromise; even if they don't compromise, you will understand their position and can argue effectively against it.

11. Study commissions—If proposal is about to die and there is an option for a study commission, take it; however, this usually means the "graveyard."

12. Thanking somebody—When you get help and get what you want, then thank everyone involved, either verbally or in a letter.

Mr. Bryan then answered questions from the audience. Some additional suggestions that he made were:

Do not lobby on work time; try to get friends to help lobby.

A proposal can be initiated either outside or within state government—it is done both ways.

Get as many people both outside and within state government to promise support beforehand.

When things get moving, call every day to clerks to check floor calendars; call secretaries of committee chairmen very early in the morning to find out the agenda—it is very important to be at committee meetings and be prepared to comment. A lobbyist can be hired to do this if you have the funds. If you can't have volunteers or lobbyists attend meetings, then it is important to cultivate friendships with staff and legislators who will attend (make sure they do appear at the meetings). You must stay on top of everything.

*Cheryl McLean*

## FOREIGN BOOKS and PERIODICALS

*CURRENT OR OUT-OF-PRINT*

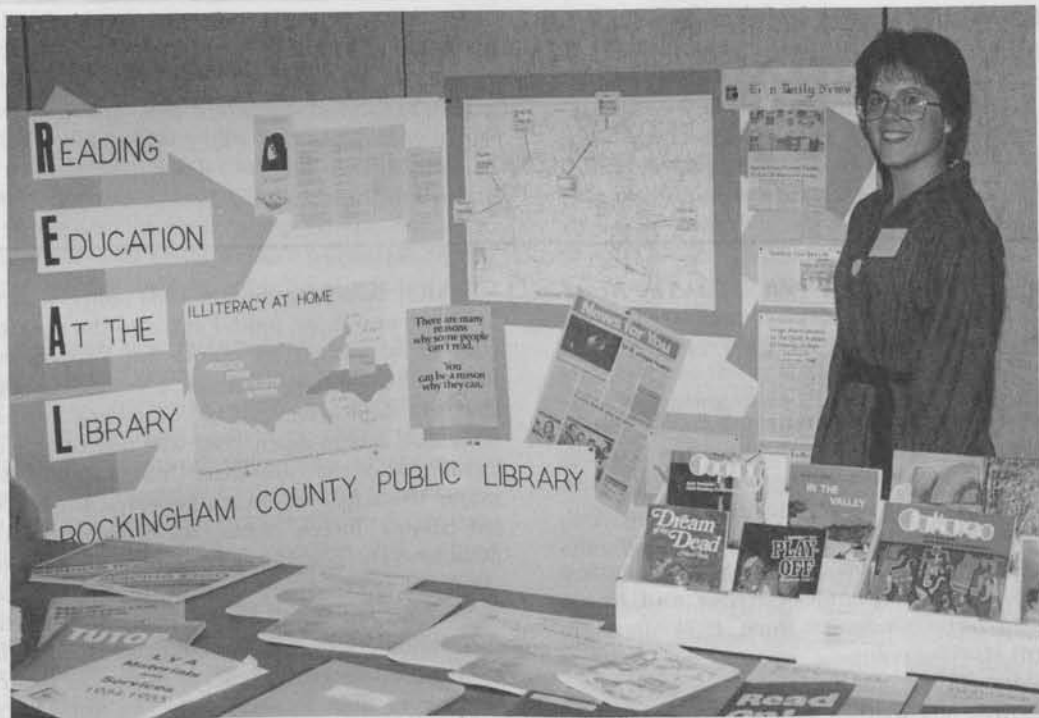
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Laura Davidson told conference-goers about the success of Rockingham County Public Library's literacy project at this poster session.



Outgoing NCLA President Leland Park and incoming President Pauline Myrick beam at close of what many termed the most successful conference ever.