

## From the Editor's Desk

During the approximately nine months in which *North Carolina Libraries* has been under new editorship, it has been our privilege to attend a goodly number of meetings of one kind or another around the state. Naturally most of these have been related to the North Carolina Library Association and to its activities. We are seldom privileged to attend a meeting without hearing complaints of some kind about the Association and about its activities or lack of the same. The carping is so bad sometimes that we wonder if there is a place for an association such as ours at all.

It is strange though how one's perception of things is altered by one's vantage point. Some of us who are on the Association's executive board now are fortunate to have been members-at-large for a number of years and to have served also in recent days on the other side of the divide, in the position of an association officer or a subaltern of some nature.

Depending on who you are talking to or where you fit into the Association, your criticism of it varies. If one attempts to divine what is basically wrong with the North Carolina Library Association, he soon finds that there are several things wrong with it and all of them are called people.

For those who sit below the salt, looking up the table, what can be seen is an executive structure that is inactive, politically self-perpetuating, and for the most part lily-white. These would seem to be pretty severe indictments. A few weeks ago we had an opportunity to talk with Elizabeth Copeland, our association's president, about these matters, and the revelations which surfaced in our conversation seem to confirm, we are sad to say, many of the complaints that are being leveled at us.

No organization can function effectively for long unless its duly-appointed officers and their minions fulfill their individual responsibilities. Organizations do, after all, depend on people. Elizabeth Copeland is in a better position than most of us to pinpoint the causes of membership frustration—first because she has a broader overview than any of us of the organization and secondly because her frustrations surprisingly enough are identical to those of the membership.

According to her there are several categories of officers and chairmen in our organization fitting one of several stereotypes. Perhaps each of us whose name appears in the directory located inside the front cover of this organ should compare ourselves to what follows just to see how we measure up.

Type No. 1 is he among us who is the political climber, quite ready to allow his name to be placed on the ballot but when elected does nothing in the way of fulfilling responsibilities of the office.

Type No. 2 is the officer who is never present for a meeting or who can never be bothered to notify anyone that he will not be present at an appointed time.

Type No. 3 is the committeeman who is critical of the committee and yet who refuses to make any contribution to the committee's work.

Type No. 4 is he who never answers a letter or returns a telephone call and must always be reminded about everything.

Type No. 5 is he who makes reservations for meals, lodging, or whatever—then fails to show up without making proper cancellations, then complains about being billed anyway.

Type No. 6 is the general complainer who has a negative opinion about everything, and is never able to see any of the positive aspects of whatever he is looking at.

We could go on ad infinitum, ad nauseam; but yes, it would make us sick.

For those of us who now sit above the salt however, it is to apparent that one of the real monsters to which associations like ours falls prey is the inability to identify and to develop individuals in the membership who are able and willing to work and to make a real contribution to the association and to what it stands for. Nominating committees are continually plagued with the difficulty of finding the right person for the right job. We have been wrong so many times. Obviously the chance for error is quite high, and that is one good reason why executive boards become more or less politically self-perpetuating.

It is to be hoped that when the Association's nominating committee begins its work this year, it will be mindful of

the need for dynamic, hard-working individuals for each of our elected offices. It is to be hoped also that the appointments of new committee and section chairmen will identify for us some bright, new faces with new ideas who can help to make the North Carolina Library Association a truly professional organization of which all of us can be proud.

While we are speaking of pride, our readers will join us, we are certain, in lauding the achievement of one of the former editors of this journal who continues to serve it now as the editor of one of its sections. We are speaking of Bill Powell, our "New North Carolina Books" editor, who edited the journal itself from 1958 through 1959.

Back in December Bill received the 1972 Christopher Crittenden Memorial Award, and we think it quite appropriate to publish as our lead article in this issue the remarks of Dr. H. G. Jones, State Archivist, who made the presentation of the award to him.

## Joseph Ruzicka, Inc.

911 NORTHRIDGE ST.  
P. O. BOX 21568  
GREENSBORO, N. C. 27420

PROUDLY ANNOUNCES . . . .

### TEMPLOK

Our new TEMPLOK storage binder in 10 sizes locks periodicals in and maintains them in an orderly sequence until you decide on binding permanently, placing the material on microfilm, or discarding the material because it is no longer current. The best part is that you can remove material, change the information on the spine label and reuse your TEMPLOK binder. All of this for just a little more than the cost of binding permanently.

Write us for further information.

Dept. TNC