

Three Public Hangings in Chapel Hill

October 12, 1972 was an historic day in the new Library School quarters at Chapel Hill. On that date which was in fact University Day, representatives of the school's approximately 1600 alumni formally honored the three former Deans of the School with a presentation of portraits which have since been hung in the

library of the School. Gary Barefoot, representing the Alumni Association made presentation remarks. Dr. Ed Holley, Dean of the School presented a response. *North Carolina Libraries* is pleased to print the remarks of each of these gentlemen along with a photograph of the occasion.

PRESENTATION REMARKS BY GARY F. BAREFOOT, LIBRARIAN, MT. OLIVE COLLEGE

Some few years ago, when plans were being made to move the School of Library Science to new quarters in Manning Hall, a suggestion was made, and quite appropriately so, that the new quarters should display portraits of former deans. Prompted by the suggestion, the School of Library Science Alumni Association began a fund that would provide such portraits as tributes to the service, leadership, and contribution made by these our distinguished former deans.

Today we regard this occasion with both privilege and honor in having the first two deans of the School of Library Science with us. Dr. Louis Round Wilson was director from 1931, the beginning of

the School, to 1932. Dr. Susan Akers served as dean from 1932 to 1954. Mrs. Lucile Kelling Henderson, who was unable to attend the ceremonies today, served the School as dean from 1954 to 1960. Each, not only gave dedicated service and capable leadership during his or her tenure as dean, but are librarians of the highest order.

It is my distinct pleasure on behalf of some 1600 alumni of the Library School on this University Day, October 12, 1972, to honor formally Dr. Louis Round Wilson, Dr. Susan Grey Akers, and Mrs. Lucile Kelling Henderson by presenting these portraits to the School of Library Science and to the University.



Left to right: Gary Barefoot, representing the Alumni Association; Dean Susan Grey Akers; Mrs. Norma Royal, Alumni Association President; Dean Louis Round Wilson; and Dean Edward G. Holley.

ACCEPTANCE REMARKS BY DR. EDWARD G. HOLLEY DEAN OF THE UNC SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

When any school can boast three administrators as distinguished as the individuals we honor today, it is fortunate indeed. When, after forty-one years, the first two can still be with us to celebrate the occasion, then we are doubly fortunate. I welcome Dean Wilson and Dean Akers, especially, as I welcome all our guests, to this official "hanging of the deans." Modern deans, for whom sometimes that phrase has a double meaning, can certainly take courage from their example. And so, in this age of the anti-hero, we meet here to honor the contributions of our predecessors and to congratulate ourselves that at the beginning of the School of Library Science at Carolina we had leaders who were nationally recognized both professionally and for their scholarship.

Dr. Wilson, of course, after seeing us suitably launched with a \$100,000 grant from the Carnegie Foundation, went on to the University of Chicago, where for ten years he made the Graduate Library School the most significant research institution in our field. His alumni occupy major positions in all types of libraries across the country. Upon his retirement from Chicago, Dean Wilson returned to Chapel Hill, where he had previously served as librarian from 1901-1932, and served as a Professor in the School of Library Science from 1942-47 and 1951-59. His interest in library education at Carolina has never flagged and all of us appreciate his counsel over many, many years.

Dean Susan Grey Akers succeeded Dr. Wilson after that first year, first as Acting Director, and subsequently as Director and

Dean. She had received her Ph.D. from Chicago that same year, 1932, and became the second woman in the country to receive the doctoral degree in library science. By the time she came to Carolina Dr. Akers had already served as a school librarian, as a public librarian with the Louisville Public, as a college librarian at Wellesley and the University of North Dakota, and as a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin. Subsequently she was to hold many visiting lecturerships in this country and abroad, and serve as consultant to a variety of libraries and governmental agencies. After her retirement in 1954 she lectured at the University of Tehran and received the Margaret Mann Citation of the American Library Association. Always active in professional matters Dean Akers saw her fifth edition of *Simple Library Cataloging* through the press in 1969, a book which has been translated into Korean, Japanese, and Spanish.

Before leaving Chapel Hill for Chicago Dean Wilson had offered the position of Assistant Professor to Lucile Kelling and Dean Akers completed the arrangements for her appointment in September, 1932. Dean Kelling, later Mrs. Archibald Henderson, had served in public libraries in Washington State and New Jersey, as Acting Reference Librarian at Mills College, and as a teacher at the Los Angeles Public Library and Columbia University before her appointment at Carolina. She was made an Associate Professor in 1939, a full Professor in 1946, and Dean in 1954 upon Miss Akers' retirement. She served on numerous professional committees, wrote a number of bulletins for the UNC Extension Division, and co-authored *Index Verborum Iuvenalis* with A. I. Suskin. We regret that Dean Henderson could not be

with us today, for she is the third in this trio of deans whom we honor today.

When I became dean in January of this year, I was already aware of the fact that this School of Library Science has a distinguished history. Since that time, in wandering around the state, seeing libraries, and talking with librarians, I am aware of how much genuine interest there is in the School, and of the real affection of the alumni for my predecessors. Our alumni have gone out of their way to mention the excellent preparation they received at Chapel Hill and the personal interest each dean took in their subsequent careers. In an age when interpersonal relations have been very much on the decline, it seems all the more important that we give "honor to whom honor is due," in the Biblical phrase, and that we recognize these three individuals whose professional competence and personal interest did so much to advance the cause of libraries and librarianship in this state. On behalf of the current faculty and student body I express appreciation to the Alumni Association for this splendid contribution to the School and to assure you that we shall work equally hard as heirs to their noble tradition.

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