

Mexico Program To Follow June 1971 Dallas A.L.A. Convention

ALL LIBRARIANS from the *North Carolina Library Association* are invited to take part in a Mexico program from June 26 to July 4, 1971, being planned by The Haley Corporation Travel Service of San Francisco to appeal especially to members of our profession.

The time will be divided into five nights in Mexico City with such "must see" sights as the Folklorico Ballet, the floating gardens of Xochimilco, the bullfights, Chapultepec Park, the Pyramids of Teotihuacan, shrine of Guadalupe, the 16th century Monastery of Acolman, the Museum of Anthropology, and the University of Mexico. The group will visit Cuernavaca, resort city since Toltec times, and still have time to browse the silver shops of colonial Taxco, where the night is spent. Then on to the "riviera of the Pacific" — Acapulco — for two sun- and fun-filled days of just relaxing before returning home.

In addition to the "tourist" side of the program, round-table discussions and informal social gatherings with Mexican librarians will be arranged to give an insight into our profession South of the Border. There will also be special visits to such libraries as the National Archives, University of Mexico Library, Library of Anthropology and History, the National Library of Mexico, and perhaps the famous collection of the Library of Don Isidro Fabela.

The group will stay at first class hotels in twin bedded rooms with

private bath; ten meals are included, some in outstanding restaurants of Mexico City; all sightseeing, entrance fees, English speaking guides are included, as well as air-conditioned motorcoach transportation between Mexico City and Acapulco. Flights from your hometown to Dallas, thence on to Mexico City and return from Acapulco to home again can be arranged by The Haley Corporation and the least expensive fare possible quoted.

The cost of the program from arrival in Mexico City on June 26 until departure from Acapulco on July 4 will be \$235.00 per person. For additional information and a colorful descriptive brochure, please contact the Group Dept., The Haley Corporation, 500 Sansome Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94111.

National Reading Council Organized

Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Elliot L. Richardson has announced appointment of the initial members of a National Reading Council to focus and coordinate the Nation's effort in reading.

President Nixon has named Walter W. Straley, Vice President of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, to serve as Chairman of the Council. Mrs. Nixon has consented to serve as Honorary Chairman.

"In his message to Congress on education reform last March, the President proposed that we take new steps to achieve the Right to Read for every young American, and earmarked additional funds to be directed to this effort," Secretary Richardson said. "Today, Acting Education Commissioner Terrel H. Bell and I are taking a very important step toward this objective by naming, at the President's request, distinguished citizens from many fields to serve on a National Reading Council."

The Council will have members from education, business and industry, government, labor, the arts, entertainment, sports, communications, science, and other fields. It

will work closely with public and private organizations as well as professional educators and others to strengthen reading programs and foster innovation in this field.

In order to link its work most directly to Federal activities in this field, the National Reading Council will report through the Secretary of HEW to the President.

"The Office of Education looks forward to working closely with the Council on this project," Acting Commissioner Bell said. "The Council will lead in the formation of a new partnership of public and private interests to achieve reading success in the United States. We seek

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REPORT FROM SELA CONVENTION

by Alva Stewart

Tar Heel librarians were well represented at the preconference and the general and special sessions of the 24th biennial conference of the Southeastern Library Association held at the Marriott Motel in Atlanta November 4-7, 1970.

At the final business session of the conference Miss Elaine von Oesen, assistant state librarian, SELA president during the 1968-70 biennium, turned the gavel over to her successor Porter Kellam, director of libraries, University of Georgia.

Other Tar Heel librarians who participated in conference sessions were: Dr. Doralyn J. Hickey, School of Library Science, UNC-Chapel Hill, who led a panel discussion on "Libraries and the New Technology;" Neal Austin, High Point Public Library, who presided at a meeting of the Intellectual Freedom Committee; Miss Louise Hall, UNC-Chapel Hill Library, who presented a paper on bibliographic control of microforms; and William S. Powell, UNC-CH Library, who spoke on his experience in compiling a state gazetteer.

Participants in a pre-conference institute on library education included Miss Myrl Ebert, librarian, Division of Health Affairs, UNC-CH; Mrs. Mary Frances Johnson, School of Education, UNC-Greensboro; and Leonard Johnson, director of libraries, Greensboro Public Schools.

Alva Stewart, librarian, N. C. Wesleyan College, attended a meeting of state chairmen of committees promoting membership in A.L.A. and SELA.

Total registration at the conference was 1,575, a record attendance at a SELA conference. North Carolina ranks second among states in SELA membership, with Georgia leading the way.

NORTH CAROLINA UNION CATALOG

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Although the North Carolina Union Catalog is by no means complete, it is one of the most valuable bibliographical resources in our part of the country. Without it, the extensive interlibrary loan services furnished by the University of North Carolina Library and the North Carolina State Library in Raleigh, would be severely curtailed. From July 1968 to June 1969, the library received requests from other libraries for 13,010 temporary loans. These titles were first searched in the library catalog, and the Center was able to fill from the UNC collections 7,684 of these requests. The remainder of the titles were then searched in the union catalog. Many of the requests are referred directly to other libraries in the state shown by the catalog to hold the needed materials. The requesting library is then notified of the referral.

What does the future hold for the North Carolina Union Catalog? Certainly, its holdings will continue to expand as the rapid growth of participating libraries continues. Currently, consideration is being given to the establishment of a single bibliographical center⁴ and the use of computers in recording and locating holdings. A recent preliminary report⁵ on the feasibility of a North Carolina Libraries Services Network recommended increased emphasis on involving additional state agencies and libraries in the project and the planning and development of its expanded services.

The usefulness of the union catalog, of course, is in direct proportion to the active participation of a maximum number of libraries throughout the state. Accordingly, libraries are encouraged to contribute cards to the holdings of the union catalog. In the past six months, there has been an encouraging response from member libraries of the Piedmont University Center, and it is hoped that this same type of response can be elicited from the Coastal and Southeastern sections of our state. Interested libraries may obtain information on how to join the project by writing to:

Mrs. Cindy Knight, Head
Interlibrary Service Center
Wilson Library
Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514.

In summary, it may be said that from a small cooperative program begun in 1935 between Duke and the University of North Carolina, the union catalog has grown slowly, but steadily, to become the useful, indispensable bibliographical tool it is today, serving libraries not only in the state of North Carolina, but also in many other states and foreign countries. Its continued

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NATIONAL READING COUNCIL

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the combined resources of every organization and every individual who can help cure this Nation's reading deficiencies.

"Universal reading competence is

one of the most important educational goals this country has. The major task of the National Reading Council will be to create national recognition of the gravity of the problem of reading deficiency and to work through every conceivable agency until illiteracy in this country has been eradicated."