

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

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AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

I helped ration sugar and gas recently, and the "pursuit of happiness" that is part of what we are fighting to extend became, disproportionately perhaps for me, linked with the opening of a door to the people whose century peace is supposed to inaugurate—the opening of a library door. "You'll have to sign my name," they said, wanting sugar and gas. "I can't read or write." They touched the pen, and I wrote "His Mark." Over and over white and colored said it, sometimes half impishly, sometimes bravely, often without expression, and they left with sugar and gas ration books, that kind of book. The signatures scrawled painstakingly and illegibly—on the wrong line, once the registrar turned her eyes from the starkness—were as stark as His Mark.

The literate illegible, nowadays obviously purposefully illegible, handwriting dashed carelessly upon right lines and these illiterate illegible signatures and His Mark symbolize in a limited sense a difference in the happiness that made the past less than a "people's century."

Library privileges, a matter of course increasingly among a large segment of the public, are still too rare and precious in our State. An aging colored washwoman with negligible education and a hunger to read comes to me periodically to borrow a book. She has my latest Willa Cather now. I don't know where to tell Aunt Lucy to go for her books.

Book lovers and those to whom reading as they will is an important item in the pursuit of happiness are vigilant and alert these days to the pricelessness of the reading privilege, now that it is being threatened by forces that would regiment life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And this impulse may be the leavening that will help to extend happiness in respect to reading to those who have not yet even the tools of pursuit and to those who with the tools have not the means.

—BERNICE KELLY HARRIS

It was extraordinary fortune for North Carolina when Bernice Kelly Harris took to putting her thoughts on paper. For those who know her plays, short stories, and particularly her novel Purslane, the announcement that Doubleday-Doran will publish her new novel Sweet Beulah Land shortly after Christmas is enough to start the line forming.—Eds. note.

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LIBRARY COOPERATION IN NORTH CAROLINA: A PRELIMINARY REPORT

The following preliminary report on library cooperation in North Carolina, prepared by the Chairman of the Library Extension Committee at the request of the Editors, highlights cooperative library effort in the State with special emphasis on public libraries. It was prepared from interviews, questionnaires, and annual reports. It is admittedly incomplete. You can render a professional service to your Association by communicating directly with Miss Mullen, Roanoke Rapids, if you know of other forms of library cooperation within the State.

Library cooperation has long existed in North Carolina, stemming from the fine work of the North Carolina Library Commission and of the University of North Carolina Library, two State agencies equipped to nurture such work. The decade of the 1930's witnessed an expansion of various forms of cooperation with Duke and the University of North Carolina

libraries taking the lead in putting into practice ideas which have since been widely adopted in other states. The Duke-Carolina program has three main points: (1) Joint library privileges and inter-library loan service, (2) Exchange of current main entry cards to maintain duplicate catalogs, and (3) Cooperative agreements in library acquisitions. The details of the program have been so recently and so ably set forth in a joint mimeographed statement* by the directors of the two libraries that further explanation is not necessary in this abbreviated report.

COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL LIBRARY AGENCIES

Many libraries reported use of booklists and bulletins distributed by the Library Service Division of the U. S. Office of Education. A few public libraries reported loans from the Library of Congress and use of L. C. catalog cards. The Nantahala Regional Library is the only example of cooperation with the T. V. A. Service is provided through a three way contract between the Regional Library Board (with members from Clay, Cherokee, and Graham counties), the T. V. A., and the North Carolina Library Commission. Resources are pooled and service is directed from Murphy by Dora Ruth Parks, Regional Librarian.

Working in close cooperation with its two sponsoring agencies, the North Carolina Library Commission and the State Department of Public Instruction, the state-wide WPA Library Project has supplied personnel, book collections, bookmobiles, mending service, and a coordinated poster service to innumerable school and public libraries in the State. Now several of the supervisory personnel have volunteered advisory service to county libraries in Perquimans, Washington, and Wilkes counties in order to allow them to participate in State Aid funds.

COOPERATION WITH STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES

Since the report of the first six months of State Aid in North Carolina†, the North Carolina Library Commission has fostered county library development in Anson County through a contract for advisory service from the Stanly County Library. It has secured the coordination of several small local libraries into county schemes in Pitt, Johnston, Wayne, Randolph, and Halifax counties; it has secured local trained supervision for several county libraries otherwise meeting the minimum requirements for State Aid, namely: college librarians who have volunteered in Harnett, Franklin, Watauga, Hertford, and Jackson counties to supervise the book fund expenditure and the organization of libraries in their respective counties; a high school librarian in Tyrrell County; the WPA supervisory personnel noted above for three other counties; and librarians who are at home, supervising the organization in Halifax, Northampton, Bladen, and Iredell counties. In a few other counties the North Carolina Library Commission has worked out forms whereby it

can supervise the book fund expenditure and administration until the libraries are able to provide part-time or full-time librarians.

COOPERATION AMONG LOCAL LIBRARIES

Twenty-three county and eight public libraries reported book service to schools, especially county-wide school service through bookmobiles. The Tillery school library, when a WPA project, remained open as a public library in the summer. Centralized cataloging is reported by the Charlotte Public Library which catalogs all books purchased for city and county schools in Mecklenburg County, and by the Greensboro schools which have a centralized acquisition and cataloging unit for white and colored schools which was organized in 1941. Orders are initiated in individual schools but are purchased through the central office. The books are cataloged, processed, and distributed to the schools with shelf-list and catalog cards for each school. The central office has a union shelf-list and author catalog.

The Edgecombe Public Library in Tarboro, the H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library in Henderson, and the Hoke County Library in Raeford reported some attempts at cooperative book buying with schools. Cooperative book buying is being developed among all local libraries participating in State Aid Funds. The Nantahala Regional Library has a union shelf-list and Johnston and Halifax County Libraries plan one each.

All public and college libraries in the same locality reported the exchange of library privileges and the Rowan Public Library in Salisbury stressed the value of the telephone in cooperating with Catawba College Library.

A feeling for cooperation has undoubtedly been behind the formation of library clubs in Fayetteville, Charlotte, Greensboro and Winston-Salem and they have a wonderful opportunity for putting cooperative ideas into practice in their communities. District and regional library conferences such as one in Wilson in April, sponsored by the North Carolina Library Commission, are helping to make librarians, trustees, and commissioners conscious of the common purpose of libraries and the advantages of cooperation in action, but the ideas need further action.

EVELYN DAY MULLEN,
GREENSBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWS ITEMS

GREENSBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY SURVEY

A survey of the Greensboro Public Library was made in July by Harold F. Brigham, recently appointed librarian of the Indiana State Library and former librarian of the Louisville (Ky.) Public Library. Mr. Brigham was invited to make the survey by the local library board of trustees, Robert H. Frazier, chairman, upon the recommendation of the American Library Association.

BOOK POSTAL RATES

The new book postal rates, which went into effect July 1, provide a 3c a pound rate for all zones in the United States replacing the former 1½c rate. Rates governing inter-library loans remain unchanged and provide that "books mailed as a service to other libraries, or as a loan to readers, or when returned by the latter libraries or readers are subject to the special rate of 3c for the first pound and 1c for each extra pound or fraction thereof when addressed to any point within the first, second or third zone, or within the state in which mailed."

PERSONNEL NEWS

Mrs. Dorcas W. Reid, Field Worker and Cataloger for the North Carolina Library Commission, resigned August 15, 1942, in order to accompany her husband to Latin America. She is succeeded by Miss Julius Amis, formerly state-wide Supervisor of WPA Library Projects.

YOUR OPINION SOLICITED

Miss Sidney Holmes, Secretary of the North Carolina Library Association, would like to have an expression of opinion from each of our readers regarding the advisability of holding the next biennial meeting, as planned, in the fall of 1943. Address her at Administration Building, Public Schools, Greensboro. Charlotte has been mentioned as a possible meeting place.

Although the joint Southeastern and Southwestern meeting, scheduled for next month at New Orleans, has been cancelled on account of the war, A. L. A. is tentatively planning to hold its mid-winter and annual meetings and has emphasized the importance of state meetings at a time when extensive travelling must necessarily be curtailed. Tennessee and New York have cancelled their state meetings.

BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF MEN IN SERVICE

The Rockingham County Library (Marianne R. Martin, Librarian) is keeping a complete biographical record of the men in service in the county—an idea which other libraries may wish to adopt. The information is secured through the courtesy of the local newspaper which runs a questionnaire blank in its pages for the families of men in service to fill out and return to the Library.

PERSONNEL

If so prosaic a thing as a library bulletin could aspire to a "dedication," this September issue would honor itself as dedicated to Dr. Louis R. Wilson who retires this year as dean of the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago and returns to his home in Chapel Hill. Dr. Wilson will teach in the Library School at Carolina where he formerly served as librarian, 1901-32, and during 1931-32 as director of the Library School. The official accomplishments of the Dean have already received just recognition by those competent to judge in the special July 1942 number of the Library Quarterly, which, incidentally, includes a lengthy and scholarly bibliography of Dr. Wilson's writings by Mary Lindsay Thornton, curator of the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina Library.

NORTH CAROLINA ON HONOR ROLL

The Wilson Publicity Honor Roll for 1942, listing 67 institutions throughout the country, includes three North Carolina names, the Charlotte Public Library, the North Carolina Library Association, and the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina Library. Miss Marjorie Beal, director of the North Carolina Library Commission, in attendance at the conference in Milwaukee, accepted the award for the Association whose bulletin, North Carolina Libraries, merited its inclusion on the Honor Roll.

A BRIEF SURVEY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES

My purpose in this short survey is to show from a study of statistics the conditions of white public school libraries in this State. I feel it advisable that a separate survey be made of the negro school libraries in the State. These statistics do not cover the analysis of the

personnel which has been treated in the last issue of North Carolina Libraries. There are 869 elementary schools in North Carolina with seven or more teachers that have a library book collection. A seven teacher school is the basis for an accredited school in this State. There are 216 elementary schools with less than seven teachers that have a book collection. 749 high schools have a library book collection. 315 high schools have a personnel employed by the schools. This does not include the Federal library workers. Of the 315 high schools, 71 have full-time librarians and 244 part time. In the elementary schools there are 157 with library personnel but there are only 9 with full-time librarians.

BOOK STOCK

During the past five years concerted effort has been made to clear school libraries of undesirable and out-dated materials, replacing them with up-to-date books in more attractive formats. This has not been entirely accomplished. A school library collection must be a live collection rather than a research collection as in a college. Most additions during the past five years have been selected from The Children's Catalog, The Standard Catalog for High School Libraries, and State Book List as a basis for the book collection. The State Standards at the present time are an average of two books per pupil in the elementary schools with recommendations for an average of five books per pupil. In the high schools the average is three books per pupil with recommendations for a medium of eight books per pupil. The Southern Association requirements are five books per pupil.

TABLE I: Book Stock and Acquisitions (1940-41)

Number of Books in School Libraries: 1,932,654

- Elementary: 1,029,861
- High: 902,793

Number of Books Per Pupil: 3.27

- Elementary: 2.47
- High: 5.19

Number of Books Added: 228,802

- Elementary: 148,487
- High: 80,315

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Studies indicate that an annual appropriation of \$1.00 per pupil will take care of needed replacements, additions and magazines for an average size school library. Financial statements for school libraries do not include funds for housing, heat, light, and janitorial service. Physical equipment such as shelving, chairs, and tables are taken care of in the capital outlay budget for the school system. School librarians' salaries are included as a part of the budget for the teaching personnel. Therefore, expenditures for school libraries are for books, magazines, vertical file materials, mending and cataloging supplies, and other incidental expenses.

TABLE II: Library Expenditures (1940-41)

Library Expenditures: \$271,134.38

- Elementary: \$140,117.86
- High: \$131,016.52

Library Expenditures Per Pupil: \$0.46

- Elementary: \$0.34
- High: \$0.75

Amount Spent for Books and Magazines: \$225,625.51

- Elementary: \$120,336.20
- High: \$105,289.31

Amount Spent for Books and Magazines Per Pupil: \$0.38

- Elementary: \$0.29
- High: \$0.60

The per capita expenditures for books and magazines for school libraries is only 38 percent of the dollar per capita which is recommended nationally for this purpose. Of the total amount expended approximately \$50,000 is from the maintenance appropriation for school libraries in the State Fund. The remainder is from local budgets and funds raised in local schools.

USE OF BOOKS

For the number of books available and for the personnel provision of library service the use of books in North Carolina schools is high. There was a total circulation of 8,345,429 books

for 1940-41, with 5,287,703 in the elementary schools and 3,057,726 in high schools. This is an average circulation of 14.11 per pupil, or about one and three-fourths books per pupil per school month.

SUMMARY

These statistics do not cover the entire State situation but apply only to those schools that filed reports with the State Department of Public Instruction for 1940-41. They represent the situation in schools attended by about 80 per cent of the school population. The average book collection is high because of the large collections in certain schools that appropriate funds constantly. It does not mean that every school in the State has an adequate book collection. Increased appropriations from the State and local school systems will naturally correct weakness in the book collections and should result in an increase in circulation. Realizing the important part school libraries play in the life of a child and the effect on his future relationships with college and public libraries, the schools in North Carolina are becoming more and more conscious of the importance of the library as a central factor in the program of instruction.

TABLE III: Summary of Statistics (1940-41)

- Number of Schools with Libraries: 1,834
- Number of Pupils Enrolled: 591,472
- Number of Schools with Library Rooms: 1,424
- Number of Full-time Librarians with Some Library Training: 80
- Number of Part-time Librarians with Some Library Training: 392
- Number of Volumes in Libraries: 1,932,654
- Number of Books Added: 228,802
- Total Circulation: 8,345,429
- Total Expenditures: \$271,134.38

CORA FULLER COLLIER,
Librarian, Goldsboro High School Library

STATE AID: A PROGRESS REPORT

This summary of library progress through State Aid in North Carolina covers, in abbreviated form, the main points in Miss Marjorie Beal's address at the Milwaukee conference of the American Library Association.

1. Seventy-six of the one hundred counties in North Carolina shared in the State Aid fund during the first year, 1941-42. All one hundred counties should share in the second year.
2. One-third of the population, or more than a million people, who in 1940 did not have access to public libraries before State Aid became a reality, now have library service. There are as yet almost half a million people in North Carolina who should be served.
3. Public libraries have been augmented and enriched by means of additional books, trained personnel, and bookmobiles. The availability of books and the state-wide publicity of book service have resulted in wider reading.
4. The number of trained public librarians has been increased by 25%. This increase affects the entire State, from east to west.
5. In a rural state the transportation of books is of major importance. Of the thirty-three county-owned bookmobiles, twelve were purchased since July 1, 1941. Ten WPA bookmobiles are being used for demonstration.
6. Two examples of service to Negroes are: a new bookmobile in Durham serves both urban and rural Negroes; in Wake County, where the Negro population is one-third of the total, the county-owned bookmobile is used one-third of the time to serve Negroes.
7. County and city appropriations have been increased to improve public library service. All applications for State Aid for 1942-43 received before June 15 showed definite increases ranging from \$300 to \$11,979. This indicates a 33 1/3% increase of local funds for the present year.
8. Library hours have been lengthened and services expanded to meet new demands as a result of the war.
9. The city and county commissioners have been more thoughtful in making library trustee appointments. Trustees, themselves, have realized that knowledge and time are required in order to carry the responsibilities and to make the most of opportunities. Library trusteeship is no longer an empty honor but a working task.

10. Local government agencies are awakening to library service, costs, and budgets. In many counties the librarian meets with the commissioners to give verbal reports of library progress; statistical reports are also presented for the official files.

Each senator and representative to the General Assembly should understand from the people in his county how important the State Aid appropriation is, that it be continued, and that it be increased in order to extend and improve library service. Librarians, trustees, and friends of libraries, wherever you are—yours is the responsibility of acquainting the legislators and other influential persons with these facts in order to insure unanimous support of the request for State Aid to Libraries (for the 1943-45 biennium) which is now in the hands of the Budget Bureau.

FINAL NOTES

At an Executive Committee meeting of the N. C. L. A. held in Greensboro on August 22, Guy R. Lyle, president of the Association, submitted his resignation. Hoyt R. Galvin of Charlotte was chosen to fill the vacancy and has accepted the presidency. Mr. Lyle will be on leave from Woman's College from September 1 through May to teach in the University of Illinois Library School and work toward his doctorate.

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Footnotes

* University of North Carolina and Duke University program of library cooperation. May 1, 1942, 8pp. mimeog.

† North Carolina Libraries vol. 1, pp. 4-5, Feb. 1942.