

SIDE LIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE

(Written anonymously by two
who were there)

Secretaries' minutes are important in the archives of any organization, but they are often obliged by the rules of the game to be noted for omitting the more interesting parts of a convention. For example, what secretary's record ever included the shopping expeditions which the women attending always manage to include in their program of activities. We "did" all the dime stores, but we know of others who visited Sosnic's and other high class emporiums of merchandise. We're willing to bet that the minds of, well, let's be conservative and say, ninety percent of the librarians present, dwelt fleetingly on the length of the skirts and the "new look" among the costumes there, before settling to more serious matters. And the tea at Salem—is its atmosphere found among the reports of our officers.

While archives are considered by many, even among librarians, as dull monuments of the past, a number of our delegates accepted the invitation to see the Moravian Archives at Salem and found them well worth the effort.

Some day Hoyt Galvin is not going to be betrayed by circumstances into having to display his pet visual aids

under the worst possible conditions, but if any Irish banshee ever wailed more horribly than the vitaphone at the first general session or any ghost from Macbeth's castle ever proved harder to get into focus, we sympathize with their sponsors. (Do ghosts and banshees have sponsors?)

No conference would be complete without the rush from one meeting to another; but the tongue of one presiding officer suffered a traffic jam when trying to hasten the program along—she introduced the speaker as Mr. W. W. Chairman. That didn't spoil a peppy meeting from whose lively controversy one was loath to leave for the resolutions and reports of the final general session.

Speaking of rushing, we are reminded that the Rush from the University of North Carolina added much to the humor and tempo of the meetings as well as to the fun of the mezzanine gatherings.

The unscheduled events are not to be overlooked as being among the highlights of the convention. Displays and souvenirs such as free notebooks and cigarette lighters (ours are still working too) were not the only offerings of the commercial exhibitors. These extra-curricular gatherings were enjoyed by many who made the rounds. The gab-fests which lasted into the wee sma's did not seem to dull the sparkle of the Junior Members breakfast Saturday morning. Wits and enthusiasm seemed to go full steam ahead and the discussions were quite spirited.

The new organization for High School Pupil assistants got off to a good start. When those youngsters become librarians, there'll not be a "sourpuss" among them, judging from the group we saw at the banquet. Their faces, as they listened to the

High School Glee Club sing "My Hero," were lovely to look upon.

Jane Wilson was also enchanted by the singing. She didn't have that soulful look of the pupil assistants, but her lips were silently forming the words of the song as "her children" sang. You see she was once librarian at Reynolds Hi.

Dick Walser will always be popular with a large number of North Carolina librarians and his compliments to the ladies will not hurt his chances of being voted the most popular speaker. The ladies at the speakers table were easy to look at; so Dick was seasoning his poetry with truth when he appraised the beauty of the female of the profession.

Speaking of beauty, we can't leave Winston-Salem without mentioning the quite incredible beauty of the hills in and surrounding the city. The gold and scarlet, the pale lemon yellow and deep crimson against the dark evergreens, as we drove away that Saturday afternoon, were so eye-filling and soul-satisfying, that they were like a benediction.

We are hide-bound by tradition no doubt but our library looked beautiful as well as functional to us when we got back to it, in spite of the fact that it looks more like a temple than a modern department store; moreover its high ceilings are welcome wells of cool air during these warm Indian summer days.