



Photo by Sam Boone

MRS. MABEL WOLFE WHEATON RECEIVES LIBRARIANS AT THE
THOMAS WOLFE HOUSE

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

The following reports of the Twenty-eighth Biennial Conference in Asheville have been adapted from minutes of the Association and Section secretaries. They are not official.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE

The twenty-eighth biennial meeting of the North Carolina Library Association was held in Asheville, at the George Vanderbilt Hotel and the Battery Park Hotel, October 22, 23, and 24, 1953. It was, in a sense, a semicentennial celebration, as the Association was founded in 1904 and the next meeting will not be held until 1955.

Registration began at 9:30 Thursday morning, October 22. During the conference a total of 345 were registered. At 10:30 the exhibits were formally opened by Miss Margaret Ligon, Chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee, who cut the ribbon barring the door to the East Ballroom of the Vanderbilt Hotel where the exhibitors had arranged many helpful displays.

During the early afternoon many Association members went on several tours arranged by the Conference planners. The tours included trips to Biltmore House, the Thomas Wolfe Home (where Mrs. Mabel Wolfe Wheaton received the visitors), and the Asheville libraries. The Pack Memorial Library had a new Annex to display, and an attractive new branch, the Haywood Road Branch, in West Asheville.

From four to six o'clock the librarians of Asheville and the Vanderbilt Hotel were hosts at a reception in the West Ballroom of the Vanderbilt. The reception was well attended and set the friendly, informal atmosphere maintained throughout the conference.

*Photo by Sam Boone*

MISS BEUST RECOMMENDS BOOKS FOR CHILDREN TO EARLY RISERS

On Friday, October 23, at 4:00 p.m. in the Pack Memorial Library's Exhibition Room, Paul Ballance showed slides and talked about the new building of the Public Library of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. At the same time other librarians attended a reception and tour of the Veterans Hospital Library at Oteen where Miss Della Shapleigh and Miss Nita Gahagan welcomed hospital and medical librarians and others interested in this type of library service.

The Association dinner, held Friday evening at 6:30 in the West Ballroom of the Vanderbilt Hotel was conceded to be the "high spot" of an altogether memorable conference. Miss Wilson presided; Dr. T. H. Spence, Jr., gave the invocation; and Mr. J. Wilson Weir, the city manager of Asheville, extended a welcome. After the introduction of officers and special guests, Miss Margaret Ligon presented the speaker, Carl Sandburg, poet, biographer, guitarist and ballad singer. Mr. Sandburg's subject was "Poetry, Biography, and Contemplation—Why Not?" He delighted his listeners by his astute comments on contemporary communication, particularly television. An appreciative audience gave undivided attention to his reading of some of his unpublished poems and to his singing of ballads. The poet maintained that he is a North Carolinian by adoption and proved his assertion to everyone's satisfaction by his rendition of "The Old North State." Gifts of the products of North Carolina, donated by producers, were distributed in a drawing conducted by Elaine von Oesen. The gifts included fruit and vegetables, clothing, pottery, flower bulbs, and furniture.

BREAKFAST WITH MISS BEUST

At a breakfast assembly on Friday morning, October 23, Miss Nora E. Beust, Specialist for School and Children's Libraries, Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, spoke to a capacity audience of one hundred and twenty-five librarians. Her topic was "Children's Books, 1953." Miss Beust reviewed a collection of outstanding picture books of the year and commented upon the exceptional quantity of good picture books published in 1953. She also reviewed selected informational books of principal interest to children up to twelve years of age.

On Saturday morning, October 24, Miss Beust spoke again to a capacity audience introducing stories for children of eight to twelve years of age, and teen-age stories. She emphasized the obligation of librarians to help our young people develop standards of book selection pointing out that, unless we do so, we are merely, "spoon-feeding" them. Miss Beust also stressed the desirability of book discussions by groups of young people and their families.

—CELESTE JOHNSTON AND
MARY FRANCES KENNON

FIRST GENERAL SESSION

The first General Session was called to order by Miss Jane B. Wilson, President, Thursday night in the West Ballroom of the Vanderbilt Hotel. Dr. Asa J. Ferry, of Asheville, gave the invocation and the Honorable Earl W. Eller, Mayor of Asheville, welcomed the delegates. The First Vice-President, Miss Mildred Herring, read a letter from Dr. Louis R. Wilson, one of the organizers of the Association, who commented that this year the North Carolina Library Association is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. It was founded November 11, 1904. Other letters and telegrams read by Miss Herring included invitations from Winston-Salem for the next biennial conference.



Photo by Sam Boone

DAVID C. MEARNS

The speaker of the evening was Mr. David Chambers Mearns, Assistant Librarian of the Library of Congress. Mr. Mearns' paper was entitled "In the Presence of the Schollars," a phrase quoted from the contract of a nineteenth century North Carolina school teacher. The speaker challenged his hearers to reacquaint themselves with the books with which they work, and to "become again a part of the noble company of the lettered." Frequent laughter and thunderous applause attested to the success of the speaker.

Miss Wilson introduced the exhibitors and thanked them for the important contribution they were making to the conference. Mrs. Marcia Carroll of the Macmillan Company responded. The officers and the officers-elect of the Association and the special guests of the Conference were also introduced. The program was concluded with the showing of the film, *THE IMPRESSIONABLE YEARS*.

SECOND GENERAL SESSION*

The second General Session convened Friday morning at 9:30 in the Ballroom of the Battery Park Hotel. Miss Wilson, the president, presided and presented a panel to speak about "Libraries Here and There." Robert B. Downs talked about librarianship in the United States stressing the importance of a high level of professional library training. Mrs. Alice L. Hicks reminisced delightfully about her visit to the (British) Library Association conference in Edinburgh in 1952. Louis S. Shores told some of his experiences with English librarians and libraries and compared the British method of examination of candidates by the Library Association with the American Library Association's accredita-



Photo by Sam Boone

THE PRESIDENT WELCOMES GUESTS AT THE BANQUET

tion of Library Schools which grant degrees. Jack Dalton spoke on German libraries and explained the rigid educational standards necessary for university librarians in that country. Mrs. Frances Neal Cheney talked about her experiences in the training of Japanese librarians.

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS SESSIONS

After the program at the second General Session, Friday morning, October 23, the president asked Mr. Harlan Brown to present the names of persons recommended for honorary membership. The following were recommended and unanimously accepted: the Honorable Graham Barden, of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress; Dr. Frank Porter Graham, special representative of the United Nations; William R. Polk, Associate Editor of the Greensboro Daily News; and Joseph Ruzicka, founder of the Joseph Ruzicka Company.

Mr. C. Merle Bachtell, chairman of the Memorial Fund Committee, reported that the BENTLEY-CHRIST-RUZICKA MEMORIAL FUND totalled \$870.00 to date. Outstanding contributions include \$127.00 from the Greensboro Library Club and \$500.00 from Mrs. Marie Gross Ruzicka. Mr. Carlton P. West conducted a brief memorial service for the late Miss Annie Graham Moore, George Bentley, Robert W. Christ, and J. Vernon Ruzicka.

The business of the Association was continued at the fourth General Session, on Saturday morning, October 24. Miss Wilson presided and Charles E. Rush acted as parliamentarian.

Mrs. Lilian B. Buchanan, chairman of the newly created Committee on Intellectual Freedom, made a brief speech stressing the fact that not only intellectual but any other freedom might be attacked at any time. She stated that the members of the committee want the members of the Association to feel free to request any investigation that it considers necessary or to give the committee any information which is considered relevant. She said that the committee is trying to guard against becoming so zealous that it might overstep the line and attack the very thing that it is trying to defend.

**For the business conducted at this session, see Minutes of the Business Sessions,*



Photo by Sam Boone

SANDBURG SINGS

The report of the Committee for the Study of *North Carolina Libraries* was given by the chairman, Carlton P. West. The committee made the following recommendations: (1) that the Association continue to publish *North Carolina Libraries*; (2) that the publication continue in a format similar to its present format; (3) that advertising be solicited and accepted; (4) that the content be determined by the Editorial Board of the journal; and (5) that the Editorial Board of *North Carolina Libraries*, in conjunction with the North Carolina Library Commission, determine a policy of exchange of publications with state library associations and library agencies of other states.

A motion to accept the report was made and carried.

The president announced that the Joseph Ruzicka Company had offered to underwrite *North Carolina Libraries* for as long as the Association wished it to do so.

Miss Antoinette Earle, chairman of the Merger Committee, reported on the results of the balloting in April, 1952, on the question of a proposed merger of the North Carolina Library Association and the North Carolina Negro Library Association. The report stated that 465 ballots were mailed and 157 were not returned. Of the 308 ballots returned, 120 were in favor of the merger, 184 were opposed to it, and 4 were unmarked. All ballots are in the Association files and may be examined by any member.

The president presented the applications of three Negro librarians for membership in the North Carolina Library Association. The motion was made, seconded and carried that the question be tabled until after the discussion of the proposed new constitution which included a section on membership.

A questionnaire on a proposed new section of the Association, for college library assistants, was passed over to the incoming president and executive board for appropriate action.

The president's report, a condensation of the minutes of the previous conference, and all other reports (which had been given to the registrants in mimeographed form)* were accepted unanimously by the Association.

Speaking for Dr. Benjamin E. Powell, chairman of the Federal Relations Committee, Mr. Harlan C. Brown gave a report which dealt with the status of the Library Services

*See *Outline of Reports*, page 36



Photo by Sam Boone

NEW OFFICERS OF NCLA

The new officers and directors of NCLA are: (left to right) Mrs. Hallie S. Bacelli, secretary; Dr. Benjamin E. Powell, director; Mrs. Marion M. Johnson, first vice-president; Miss Marianna Long, treasurer; Miss Katharine McDiarmid, director; Miss Charlessanna Fox, president; and Miss Elizabeth Williams, second vice-president.

Bill and with the newly created Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. The Commission is to study all Federal programs involving grants-in-aid, and it is unlikely that further progress on the Library Services Bill will be made until the Commission has reported. Senator Clyde R. Hoey is a member of the Commission; and the chairman stated that the implications of the bill for North Carolina should be kept before the Senator.

Mrs. Alice L. Hicks, chairman of the Constitution Committee presented a proposed constitution which had been approved by the Executive Board. The constitution was read item by item, discussed and voted upon. The most discussed parts were: in the Constitution, Article III; and in the By-laws, Article II, paragraph 2; and Article III, paragraphs 10 and 11. (A copy of the adopted constitution is printed beginning on page 40 of this issue.) A motion was made, seconded and carried that the Constitution as revised and voted upon item by item by the membership be adopted.

The tabled question of the application of three Negro librarians for membership was reopened. A motion was made and seconded that in view of the policies of the North Carolina Library Association and of the North Carolina Negro Library Association that the applicants be notified of the policies, traditions, and procedures under which the North Carolina Library Association operates. A standing vote carried the motion.

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Another motion was then made, under Article III, section 11 of the newly-passed By-laws, that the members of the Association be polled by mail ballot on the question of admitting Negro librarians to membership. This motion received a second and was carried by a standing vote.

The new officers* were installed, and the meeting was adjourned.

—from the Minutes of the Secretary,
ESTHER EVANS

OUTLINE OF REPORTS

Each registrant at the Conference was given a sheaf of mimeographed reports. Some of these were given orally during the Conference and are mentioned elsewhere in this issue. Other reports included are briefly outlined below.

The President's Report summarized the activities and decisions of the Executive Board during the biennium; and noted workshops, institutes, and publications sponsored by the Association and various sections thereof.

The Treasurer's Report included the following information:

Balance, July 1, 1951	\$420.71
Receipts to September 30, 1953	2,947.20
Total	\$3,367.91
Total Disbursements to September 30, 1953	1,847.52
Balance	\$1,520.39
Investments	2,646.45
Total Resources, September 30, 1953	\$4,166.84

The Nominating Committee reported that 465 ballots were mailed to the members and 274 were returned on time. The names of the officers and directors elected are printed on the inside back cover of this issue.

The Scholarship-Loan Committee reported that two loans have been made from the fund, one of which has been repaid. It was regretted that both people who used the fund were employed outside of North Carolina. The fund now totals \$871.44.

The Recruitment Committee reported that the committee has been working on the plan outlined in the March, 1953, issue of *North Carolina Libraries* (Vol XI, p.51), and that the \$250 voted by the Executive Board was being used to implement the plan.

The Legislative Committee reported that it had worked with the State Legislative Council of which NCLA is a member; that it participated in the State Aid to Public Libraries request to the 1953 General Assembly; and that the chairman of the Committee met with the chairman of the School and Children's Librarians Section to discuss legislation of interest to that section.

SECTION MEETINGS

Catalog Section

Thursday, October 22, 2:30 p.m., Roof Lounge, Battery Park Hotel.

Presiding: Mrs. Mary Duncan Ring, Chairman.

After a coffee hour the meeting was called to order, the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, and the treasurer's report was heard. Mrs. Ring then introduced Robert Bingham Downs, Director of the University of Illinois Library and Library School, who spoke on "Trends in Cataloging and Classification." He discussed

*Officers and Committees are listed inside the back cover.

the increasing number of non-book materials which are now included in library resources and stated a need for a manual of cataloging material in each new form. Subject cataloging was selected by the speaker as the weakest link in the effort to make library material useful, and the variety of subject heading list was cited as a barrier to effective use. Mr. Downs stated that no system of cataloging and classification is perfect, and all are costly. The cost of the card catalog, he continued, causes one to look into the catalog in book form. Printed bibliographies and the microfilm now actually serve as a supplement to the card catalog.

At the conclusion of the talk Miss Frances Yocum presented the report of the Nominating Committee which was accepted. Miss Sophronia Cooper of the Granville County Library was elected Chairman; and Miss Mary Huff of the Appalachian State Teachers College was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

—SOPHRONIA COOPER, *Secretary*

College and Universities Section

Friday, October 23, 2:30 p.m., Vanderbilt Room, Vanderbilt Hotel.

Presiding: William L. Eury, Chairman.

After the reading and approval of the minutes the Glee Club of Appalachian State Teachers College sang five numbers under the direction of Hoyt Safrut.

The speaker was Dr. William FitzGerald, Director of the George Peabody Library School, whose topic was "Book Burning, Censorship or Selection." Dr. FitzGerald discussed certain authors whose books have fared ill at the hands of censors and pressure groups over the years. Emphasizing the fact that censorship and book burning have never been known to destroy the ideas in a book, or even all of the copies of the book, the speaker suggested that librarians take a calm view of the current situation, avoiding emotional hysteria.

The Nominating Committee presented the names of Charles M. Adams, Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, for Chairman; and Miss Virginia Barnes, Greensboro College, for Secretary. The slate was unanimously accepted.

Dr. Benjamin Powell made a brief statement about A.C.R.L. urging all A.L.A. members to join the section and asking for suggestions as to ways in which the A.C.R.L. might better serve its membership.

—FLORENCE BLAKELEY, *Secretary*

Junior College Librarians Section

Thursday, October 22, 2:30 p.m., Tropical Room, Vanderbilt Hotel.

Presiding: Miss Alice Welch Jones, Chairman.

A group of Junior College librarians gathered to discuss the question of forming a new section of the Association. A petition to the Executive Board asking for section status was written at this session. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Harlan C. Brown, St. Mary's School and Junior College, Chairman; Miss Daisy L. Anderson, Mars Hill College, Secretary.

—MRS. HARLAN C. BROWN, *Official Hostess*

Junior Members Roundtable

Saturday, October 24, 8:00 a.m., Vanderbilt Room, Vanderbilt Hotel.

Presiding: Miss Florence Blakeley, Chairman.

Following breakfast and around the table introductions, the chairman introduced the speaker of the day, Mrs. Hallie Sykes Bacelli, Director of School Libraries in Guilford County, who spoke on "The Purpose and Organization of Junior Members." Mrs. Bacelli reviewed delightfully the history of Junior Members of the American Library Association, the Southeastern Library Association, and the North Carolina Library Association, concluding with the observation that the social aspects of the JMRT make it worth while, regardless of its other accomplishments.

The Nominating Committee presented the names of Neal Austin, High Point Public Library, for chairman; Dr. William R. Pullen, University of North Carolina Library, for vice-chairman; and Miss Betty McReynolds, Concord Public Library, for secretary-treasurer. These officers were elected unanimously. After a brief account of the affairs of the Roundtable during the past biennium by the chairman the meeting was turned over to Neal Austin, incoming chairman.

Mr. Austin introduced Mrs. Mary D. Grant, chairman of the Association Recruiting Committee, who outlined her committee's plan for a statewide recruitment campaign. After some discussion a motion was made and accepted to adopt as a project for the biennium the operation of a speakers' bureau in connection with the statewide plan. The executive committee was instructed to investigate other possible projects and to explore the possibility of an off-year meeting of juniors.

—FLORENCE BLAKELEY, Chairman

Public Libraries, Bookmobile, and Trustees Sections Luncheon

Friday, October 23, 12:30 p.m., Rhododendron Room, Battery Park Hotel.
Presiding: Mrs. Dorothy Thomas, Chairman, Bookmobile Section.

Adult Education was the theme of the program after luncheon had been enjoyed by the members of the three sections. The room had been beautifully decorated by trustees of the Pack Memorial Library. Officers of the sections, Miss Marjorie Beal, Miss Annie Westall, Mrs. J. Wall Anderson, Miss Elizabeth House and the speaker, Dr. Nicholas P. Mitchell, were seated at the Speakers Table and were introduced by the presiding officer. One hundred and forty-six persons attended the luncheon.

Dr. Mitchell's address was entitled: *Adult Education: What Are The Opportunities?* He first pointed out the place of librarians in the field of Adult Education and then challenged the group as librarians and citizens to meet the opportunities, especially in the Southeast, with courage and vision, and with the skill which comes from knowledge of the field. He stated that the purpose of "Adult Education" is to help man rise above those limitations which the humdrum activities of a prosaic existence place upon him. Librarians as Adult Educators should realize the wealth of materials they may offer individuals for their growth politically, socially, economically and spiritually. With wit, enthusiasm and forcefulness Dr. Mitchell emphasized the role of adults in the development of a better world and appealed to librarians to recognize the importance of their work with adult groups.

—CHARLESANNA FOX

Public Libraries Section

Friday, October 23, 2:30 p.m., Rhododendron Room, Battery Park Hotel.
Presiding: Miss Charlesanna Fox, Chairman.

Following a joint luncheon with the Trustees Section the business meeting of the Public Libraries Section was opened by the Chairman. The minutes of the 1951 meeting were read by Gladys Johnson, Acting Secretary, and were approved.

Mrs. Dorothy B. Thomas, Chairman of the Bookmobile Section reported that the poll of public librarians in July 1953 showed a three to one preference for disbanding the Bookmobile Section because of the duplication in membership with the Public Libraries Section. As a result of this vote the Bookmobile Section was disbanded and a report to the Executive Board of the Association was authorized.

Summaries of ten committee reports were given by chairmen of the committees and copies of these reports were presented to each member at the meeting. The recommendations of the committees were approved.

The Chairman gave a brief report of the three (Section) Executive Board meetings held during the biennium. She pointed out the need for a brief constitution and by-laws for the Section. With the Vice-Chairman, Alice Bryan, in the chair, the Section voted to approve the appointment of a Constitution Committee. A free will collection was taken to help defray the expenses of the Section for the Conference and activities during the past biennium.

The slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee was elected. The new officers are: Chairman, George Linder, Catawba County Library, Newton; Vice-Chairman, Jeannette Trotter, Public Library of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County; Secretary, Phyllis Snyder, Nantahala Regional Library, Murphy.

After a brief skit had been presented, the new officers were installed and the meeting was adjourned.

GLADYS JOHNSON, Acting Secretary

School and Children's Libraries Section

Friday, October 23, 2:00 p.m., Ballroom, Battery Park Hotel.

Presiding: Miss Margaret McIntyre, Chairman.

The Chairman recognized the two groups in attendance: the school and the children's librarians; after which Miss Mildred Herring, hostess, introduced special guests and those attending the section for the first time.

Miss Cora Paul Bomar introduced the speaker, Mrs. Rachel De Angelo, Executive Secretary, American Association of School Librarians, who spoke on "Visibility Unlimited." Showing that just as poor visibility in the air may result in physical losses and injuries, lack of vision in a library may cause wasted time, broken spirits, and frustrated lives, Mrs. De Angelo challenged librarians to visualize their role as follows: first, themselves as guides and counselors of individual boys and girls; second, their purpose in promoting not just good reading but reading good for something in the lives of readers; third, the groups with which they work and to take these groups into the planning of activities and exhibits; fourth, the numerous ways in which to work; and last, the unlimited possibilities of achievement. In concluding, Mrs. De Angelo explained the purpose and the organization of the American Association of School Librarians.

Following the reading and approval of the minutes the members discussed at some length the problems connected with a proposed affiliation of the North Carolina High School Library Association with the North Carolina Library Association. Action was deferred until after the spring (1954) meeting of the high school group.

The Nominating Committee reported the following slate which was elected: Miss Mildred Mullis, Morganton City Schools, Chairman; and Mrs. Mildred S. Councill, Eastover School, Charlotte, Secretary. After an acceptance speech by the new Chairman, the meeting was adjourned.

—BEATRICE HOLBROOK, Secretary

Special Libraries Section

Thursday, October 22, 12:30 p.m., Assembly Inn, Montreat, N. C.

Presiding: Dr. T. H. Spence, Jr., Chairman.

Thirty-one members and visitors were luncheon guests of the Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches. Following the meal the meeting was called to order by the chairman and the minutes of the 1951 meeting read and approved.

Miss Myrl Ebert, Chief Librarian, Division of Health Affairs, University of North Carolina was elected Chairman; and Mrs. Louise M. Farr, Librarian, Buncombe County Medical Library, Asheville, was elected Secretary for the next two years.

The group visited the present quarters of the Historical Foundation in the Assembly Inn and the new building erected for the use of the Foundation on Assembly Drive.

—THOMAS H. SPENCE, JR., Chairman

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Trustees Section

Friday, October 23, 2:30 p.m., Roof Lounge, Battery Park Hotel.

Presiding: W. Clary Holt, Chairman.

After a joint luncheon with the Public Libraries Section the Trustees held a business meeting, the first closed meeting of Trustees. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for the coming biennium:

For Chairman—Mr. William Medford of Waynesville.

For Secretary—Mrs. Henry C. Bourne of Tarboro.

These officers were elected by unanimous vote.

The retiring chairman made a brief report on the activities of the Trustees Section during the term of his office. This included the preparation of a Manual for Trustees containing a summary of laws pertaining to libraries, and material relating to the operation and functioning of libraries from the Trustee's viewpoint. It was suggested that certain statements regarding the political relationship of the library to its county or municipality be clarified, and that promotional material which would be helpful in conducting successful tax elections be included. The chairman stated that his Manual Committee would welcome all suggestions and asked that comments be forwarded to (the editor) George Esser, Institute of Government, Chapel Hill. Methods of financing the publication of the Manual were then discussed.

—ANTHONY LORD, Acting Secretary