

From the Editor: Who Will Tell Your Story?

One article in this issue that really got me thinking was Gerald Ward's "[Guardians of Lore](#)," about portrayals of librarians and archivists in works of speculative fiction. Librarians function in these narratives, he says, as trusted protectors of access to cultural memory. Librarians preserve recorded knowledge—our communities' stories about ourselves—stories in which our individual identities collectively create shared cultural identities.

My thinking then "diverged in a yellow wood," as Frost might have said. Whose stories are recorded? How are they then retold? These thoughts were spurred in part by the From the Pages for this issue. Our From the Pages article this time is a reproduction of the first "[From our President](#)" column published in *North Carolina Libraries*. It was written by NCLA President Margaret H. Ligon, who was head librarian at the Pack Memorial Library in Asheville from 1945 to 1965. I knew nothing about her, so tried to learn a little. Ligon supported the creation of the Thomas Wolfe collection at Pack, and was directly involved in a volume celebrating Carl Sandburg (who lived in nearby Flat Rock)—facts that resonated with this former English major.

What other wonderful librarians are among us who deserve their stories to be told? How about

Dr. Annette Lewis Phinazee, the first woman and first Black American woman to obtain a doctorate in Library Science from Columbia University, and who started her library career at the Caswell County Training School in 1939 and finished it as the Dean of North Carolina Central University's School of Library Science. She was the first Black president of NCLA, elected in 1975. Or how about former Navy librarian and Randolph County Librarian Charlesanna Fox, who followed her 1953-1955 NCLA Presidential term by serving as President of the North Carolina Adult Education Association in 1956? Or former Assistant State Librarian John Welch, a longtime musician who served also as past chair of the Transylvania County Library Foundation and to whom books were "a gift in every sense—a doorway, a comfort, a spark."

We can tell their stories—and we **should**—to ensure that their part of our shared cultural identity is passed forward, and in hopes that in the future our stories will continue to be told for the same reason.

"But as long as you remember what you have seen, then nothing is gone. As long as you remember, it is part of this story we have together" —Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*

Letters to the editor should be mailed to:

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