Message from Miss Mary E. Frayser, Chairman, State Library Board

The launching of this library news letter is a source of gratification to me in common with another who believes that the public should be made increasingly aware of what libraries are doing and of the larger service that libraries will give if adequately supported. Relatively few visualize the library as an instrument to create thinking and discussion of every problem needing solution. The pressure of the disturbing issues of the day calls for study, planning and action. We are in agreement with the A.L.A. Bulletin of November last. "Library programs must be keyed to create thinking and discussion of these problems."

As one who has for thirty years watched the development of reading service in South Carolina, I am hoping that librarians will, with each passing year, accept an obligation for a greater part in guiding community thinking and planning, in order that the community may have the advantage of the librarian's ability to put members of it in touch with the knowledge and resources of libraries. This layman asks, "Would it be possible to be as good a librarian in library hours as librarians now are and, in addition, have interest and energy for more personal participation in the worthwhile activities of the community and through such participation wield an even larger influence than at present?" The librarian's work is onerous as well as interesting. Would participation in community activities make such inroads on time and strength that the work of the library or the health of the librarian would suffer? My admiration for the ability which leads the librarian to locate any book called for is unbounded and I agree that the suggestions of the layman must meet the acid test of librarian's judgment.

Our libraries are inadequately staffed. I long to see an expanded library service in South Carolina, which in all libraries shall include adult readers advisers, specialized service for children, vocational guidance, audio-visual aids and a service ready to help discharged service men and displaced war workers to make economic, personal, psychological and social adjustments.

No one watches what is being done through the libraries with keener interest or greater confidence than this one of many who will welcome this bulletin as a medium of contact between members of the library association and the friends of libraries. The Charlotte Observer of February 4th tells of the movement being made to finance a half-million dollar library for Charlotte. The City Council, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners and the Library Board of Trustees secured the services of the American Library Association in 1944 to survey the Charlotte Library and report on its adequacy. The conclusions resulting from this survey are included in a brochure which is being put into the hands of many of Charlotte's citizens. It is entitled "A Public Library—An Investment in Economic, Educational and Cultural Progress." Has the Charlotte survey suggestions for South Carolina? Can these columns be used to acquaint the citizens of this state with South Carolina's library service, her library needs, and how to meet them?

Greetings from Miss Helen Hagan, President South Carolina Library Association

Several years ago Althea H. Warren, in an address printed in the American Library Association Bulletin, told the story of a young captain of a destroyer who was coming back into port after days of peril in the stormy North Sea. As the light of a new day began to show, he gave the order for "A salute to the dawn". Miss Warren told this story as an example of what American Library Association members needed at that time. It is repeated here as it seems to apply so aptly to the South Carolina Library Association. We, too, are seeing the beginning of a new day for libraries in South Carolina.

A very concrete evidence of this is the publication of this, the first issue of the Bulletin. Through this bulletin we have the opportunity of becoming a more united and a better informed group of people interested in a common cause.

Another indication of the widening of our horizon is the fact that for the first time we now have an executive secretary of the State Library Board, doing a splendid job of extending library service to the people of South Carolina.

For the first time the South Carolina Library Association is affiliated with the American Library Association as a member and will have a representative at National Council Meetings to voice opinions and help in formulating policies. This will inevitably give us a broader view of our place in the larger pattern of the work we are attempting.

Our membership is constantly growing and for the first time has been opened for institutional members. We now have thirty-four such memberships.

Having the president of the American Library Association, Mr. Carl Vitz, as our guest speaker for our Annual Association Meeting was not only an honor but his messages of opportunities for libraries in the post-war world presented a challenge to all of us.
In facing the future, we cannot stop with “a salute to the dawn”. More than a third of the population of South Carolina is still without library service. The return of our service men and women will prompt an increasing urgency for libraries to become more forceful educational institutions. There is much yet to be done. As we turn our eyes toward the high noon, we might well take as our goal “Adequate library service and opportunities for all the people of South Carolina.”

College and University Section

Helen Hagan, Correspondent

What are you doing? Today when librarians are working harder than ever to meet increasing demands and, at the same time, thinking and planning in terms of the future, it is hoped that this section, devoted to college and university libraries, will fill a real need, not only as a means of keeping informed of the “happenings” in the college and university libraries of South Carolina, but also as a medium of expressing opinions and exchanging ideas. Since the streamlining of our annual meeting for the past several years and the discontinuance of sectional meetings, we have missed the contacts that such meetings afforded. We hope that these can, in part, be renewed through this column. Please let us have your contribution.

University of South Carolina Library

Miss Sallie B. Anderson reports the following news from the University Library:

A highly satisfying acquisition has been the Library of Congress Depository Catalog consisting of bound volumes of entries up to 1942 and supplemented by cards for current entries.

There have been three notable gifts to the library recently: a collection from the late Reed Smith’s library, particularly strong in folklore; a collection from the library of Edwin G. Seibels, particularly strong in French literature, history and description and travel; a collection from the late Dr. McKissick’s library which has not been cataloged.

The rental collection of popular books, begun as a student activity and now kept up by the library, has provided recreational reading heretofore neglected.

Members of the Armed Forces are welcomed to the library. They not only use the library as a place to lounge and read, but they may have loan privileges.

Library of the Medical College of the State of South Carolina

Miss Annabelle W. Furman, librarian, tells of some of the interesting things being done in the library of the Medical College.

“One of the most mentionable things which the library has undertaken within the past year has been the new bulletin published by the Medical College and the Alumni Association. This bulletin started, but as an organ for the dissemination of news about the library and the departments of the Medical College. After the first couple of issues the Alumni Association thought it would like to use the bulletin as a means of communicating with, and cementing the ties among the alumni and two special Alumni numbers were published. Later, the Dean decided to make it a publication for the entire medical college and this germ of an idea which first showed itself in a small mimeographed four-page effort was now a flourishing 16 to 20 page printed pamphlet. We hope to build each issue around a central theme and publish it four to six times a year.

“Since the Medical College is on a full-year basis with our ASTP unit, the library, naturally, is open full-time the year round. Our services are offered to, and used by, the doctors of the Armed Forces at Stark General Hospital, the Port of Embarkation, the Navy Yard, Fort Moultrie and the Coast Guard. Thus, we have our hands full trying to supply information and material to these visitors as well as our students, full-time departmental men and the physicians in the city. It is stimulating, though, and gives us a feeling that we are doing our part in the all-out war effort. Because of the increased work, we have added another full-time assistant to the library within the last few months.

“Last May we acquired a new coat of apple green on the library walls, which helps us a fresh, clean appearance. Now we have only to put up our venetian blinds (when they come!) and the picture will be complete.”

County and Regional Libraries Section

Mary S. Cox, Correspondent

We are happy to welcome this new project in the library field. The South Carolina Library Bulletin is a most worthwhile undertaking and one which will be the means of tying library work in our state closer together. It will be our informational center for the duration.

In this, our first issue, we want to urge all county and regional libraries to send in news of their activities and plans. Also, problems are major in these “duration days” and so we shall welcome any discussions of them.

We, in the County Department of the Greenville Public Library, have been experiencing a busy year. Our department serves approximately 80,000 persons through branches, adult stations, direct book truck service and rural school deposits.

The branches, which are located in the larger communities, serve the schools as well as the adults. There is a branch librarian who visits each branch twice a week. The adult stations, which are placed in smaller communities are in homes, stores or filling stations
of the custodians and are visited every 8 weeks. The book trucks, which give direct service, visit the mill schools and communities every two weeks. The rural schools are served by the rural school librarian every eight weeks. The Negro rural schools are served by the Negro Branch Librarian. The Materials Bureau which is a new phase of the school work supplies supplementary materials to the schools.

School Libraries Section
Miss Carrie Moore, Correspondent

There are only 20 school librarians on our mailing list. If your name is not on it, or if you know any other school librarians whose names do not appear, please let us hear from you. We want to know the news from all school libraries.

Here is one of the activities of the Anderson Junior High School:
The seventh grade teachers meet once a month in the school library to study children’s literature. Teachers from other schools are invited to be present. Mr. T. H. Ulmer, Principal, and Miss Carrie Moore, Librarian, meet with the group.

Use is made of all sorts of printed materials: story books, clippings, pamphlets, pictures, maps and magazines. Much emphasis is placed on reading for pleasure and recreation. Miss Lena Moore, Reading Advisor from the State Department is invited to discuss remedial phases of reading for those pupils who have not yet mastered the mechanics of reading. At one meeting Miss Moore told of instances where groups of teachers were meeting to study and discuss books they wished their pupils to read.

School officials are quite interested in this program. The High School Forum program committee has invited the librarian, Miss Carrie Moore, and three seventh grade teachers to discuss this project at the February meeting of the forum.

Twenty-third Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Library Association

The twenty-third annual meeting of the South Carolina Library Association was held in Columbia, November 24-25, 1944 at the Columbia Hotel with Lewis Branscomb, president, presiding.

At the opening meeting Mr. Branscomb announced that the South Carolina Association, having met the requirements, had been voted in as a Chapter of the American Library Association. He reported on the Council meeting which he had attended in October as an official representative of the South Carolina Library Association. It was voted to change Article VII, A.L.A. MEMBERSHIP, of the constitution to take care of this affiliation and to provide for the election of a Councillor.

The main speaker of the meeting was Carl Vitz, President of the American Library Association, who addressed the group at the annual dinner meeting. He used as his subject the theme of the meeting, The Library’s Part in Demobilization and Readjustment. Mr. Vitz stressed the importance of seeing the problem in its large scope and not as something just in the future but as something that we have with us now as we consider not only the veteran but his family and war workers of all kinds. He pointed out that no army has provided books for its men as this war has done, that boys who have never had access to books now have it for the first time, that many of them will come back, not as problems, but as men with a broader vision and a greater determination of purpose demanding the resources that will help them in re-orienting their lives. The fact that libraries must be willing to "deemphasize" and reorganize to meet these needs was very forcefully brought out as we were reminded anew that the purpose of the library is to circulate ideas and not books and that when ideas come packaged in some other form we must not be caught short in being able to meet the demands for newer types of materials. Mr. Vitz closed his address with the accusation that librarians were the poorest users of libraries. He warned that we must educate ourselves for we lose our own souls if we do not use our own books.

During the morning session of November 25th, Mr. Vitz talked informally about the work of the American Library Association, particularly of the proposed plan for salvaging, after the war, the books now being used by the Armed Forces to be used for library extension to rural communities over the country.

The remainder of the morning session was given over to reports and routine business.

A committee was appointed to study the matter of a compilation of a list of State Author Headings for South Carolina.

The Association went on record as endorsing the work of the Library Division of the South Carolina Education Association in regard to the status of school librarians in relation to Teacher Certification Laws of South Carolina and a committee was appointed to follow up this work.

It was voted that the Association would cooperate with the State Library Board in the publication of a state library bulletin and that the new officers of the Association would serve as the editors of the columns devoted to the various types of libraries.


Postage on Library Books

The rate on library books (parcels weighing over 8 ounces) weighing up to fifty pounds is four cents per pound plus one cent for each additional pound. Starting with fifty pounds the rate increases slightly. This rate applies to library books for delivery within the State or in the first, second or third zones. The package must be marked "Library Books." This rule comes under Section 572, Postal Laws and Regulations, paragraphs one to four, a copy of which is available at post offices.
Report on Chicago Conference

Miss Nancy Blair, Executive Secretary of the S. C. State Library Board, attended a conference called by the American Library Association for January 19-20 in Chicago. Executive secretaries of state library agencies and representatives of state library associations from 32 states and the District of Columbia were present to discuss details of a campaign to secure funds for maintaining a representative of libraries in Washington. Mr. Carl Vitz, President of the A.L.A. presided.

The campaign is to raise funds with which:

1. To maintain a representative of libraries in Washington under the direction of the A.L.A.:
   (a) To help secure Army camp library books and equipment primarily for rural library service, when this property is no longer needed by the Army.
   (b) To help make other appropriate federally owned surplus property, including books, available to college and university libraries, school libraries, public libraries, state library extension agencies and other publicly supported or tax exempt libraries.
   (c) To provide federal agencies with information concerning the nation's needs for improved and extended library service.

2. To enable the American Library Association to carry on a national public relations program directly or indirectly in support of the above and related objectives.

According to Mr. Vitz: "It is proposed that the books be allotted to the states by the U. S. Office of Education in proportion to each state's rural population; that they be allotted to counties and groups of counties within the states by the official state library extension agencies; that some funds be appropriated by the Federal Government to assist in making the books immediately available to the people through organized libraries; and that there be no federal control of libraries within the states."

Mr. Paul Howard, Chairman of the Federal Relations Committee, reported that in the near future a U. S. Senator plans to introduce a bill whereby federal funds will be made available to the states to insure the distribution of surplus books in rural areas. It is estimated that there will be 60,000 books for 100,000 rural population, and the bill provides that money be distributed on a basis of $1.00 per volume for the first year and 50 cents per volume for each of four succeeding years. These funds will be administered by the U. S. Commissioner of Education and reports of expenditures, etc. will be submitted to his office.

In order to maintain a Washington office with a competent staff for four years it will be necessary to raise $105,000.00. South Carolina's share will be $972.00. It was suggested that librarians and library boards contribute the major portion of the assessed amount. A contribution of 4% of a month's salary was suggested.

Complete details will be available before the campaign begins in March or April.

Book Loans to Libraries

Any library in the State is eligible to borrow books from the State Library Board. If you will refer requests for books you do not have to the State Library Board, every effort will be made to arrange an inter-library loan. Books owned by the State Library Board may be kept one month from date of receipt, but if the books are obtained from another library the loan period will depend on the policy of the library lending the book.

Town Libraries Section

The Executive Council of the S.C.L.A. does not include a representative of town libraries in its numbers. For the present this column will be prepared in the office of the State Library Board from material sent to us. Won't you please let us know what's happening in your library?

Anyway, for our first column let's count noses. Twenty-one town or school district libraries sent in statistics last year and are included in the Directory compiled by the State Library Board.

The libraries range in size from almost 16,000 volumes to 2,000 volumes, and in income from $10,000 to $300. This column will give you an opportunity to pass on things that you're doing and a chance to discuss your problems. In addition, why not send us some interesting facts about your library so that all of us may become acquainted with the libraries in the State?

The MULLINS PUBLIC LIBRARY was much in the news recently, its lawn being the setting for the inauguration of Governor Ransome J. Williams. Mrs. Williams is a friend of libraries and has been serving on the Mullins Library Board.

Personals

MR. LEWIS C. BRANSCOMB, librarian of the University of South Carolina for the past three years, left December 1st to become Assistant Librarian in Charge of Public Relations at the University of Illinois. Mr. Branscomb served as the very efficient president of the South Carolina Library Association last year. His departure is a distinct loss to the state.

DR. JOHN VanMALE, now librarian at Madison College, Harrisonburg, Virginia, has been appointed by the Board of Trustees of the University to succeed Mr. Branscomb. He will assume his new duties March 1st.

MISS JEAN COCHRAN became librarian of the Carnegie Library, Sumter, which serves Sumter County, on January 1st. Miss Cochran is a graduate of the University of North Carolina Library School and held positions in the Davidson County Library at Lexington, N. C. and the University of Georgia Library.

MISS SARAH SHIRLEY, librarian of the Anderson Boys' High School, has obtained a leave of absence and is studying for her library degree at the University of North Carolina.