S. C. L. A. TO HOLD SPRING MEETING

For the first time in several years, the South Carolina Library Association will meet in the Spring instead of in the Fall. The meeting will be held at Clemson with the headquarters at the new Clemson House Hotel from May 4th to May 5th. The plans for the program of the meeting are incomplete, but there will be a luncheon and a dinner meeting, as well as the usual breakfast meetings, of college, school, and public librarians.

County librarians are being circularized on the question of holding a pre-conference workshop on county library problems on May 3rd. This workshop would be devoted to practical library problems.

Calling All Hands
Nancy C. Blair, President of S.C.L.A.

Two past presidents of the American Library Association have stressed the importance of state library associations and the need for strengthening them. I should like to see the South Carolina Library Association take stock and develop a definite, positive program to be developed in the coming years. In this period of another crisis it seems more important than ever that we prepare for concerted action.

The first step was suggested by J. Mitchell Reames, past president of the S. C. L. A., when he recommended a revision of the constitution. Preliminary steps in that direction have been taken.

Mr. Reames also urged more active participation in all matters educational. I should like to go further and recommend cooperation with and representation on all boards and agencies whose purposes and interests are related to those of the Association. Other means of strengthening the Association will occur to you. Will you please pass them on to a member of the executive board?

Participation on the part of the entire membership is essential. If each member will contribute a little time and effort the Association will become a more vital agency for the promotion of libraries and library service in South Carolina and, incidentally, for the promotion of librarians.

Let us go forward — TOGETHER!

State Board Gets Three New Members

Governor Thurmond appointed three new members to the State Library Board early in January. They are Mr. James A. Rogers, Editor of the Florence Morning News; Mr. M. G. Patton, Superintendent of Schools at St. George, and Mr. William R. Feaster, newspaper publisher of Union. Mrs. Hagood Bostick was reappointed to the board. Miss Carrie O. Sams and Miss Mary E. Fraser, for many years chairman of the board, were appointed honorary life members.

At the first meeting of the new board on January 24, Mr. James A. Rogers was elected chairman and Mrs. Hagood Bostick secretary of the board.

Student Assistants Association
Madeleine Mosiman, Librarian, Murray Vocational School, Charleston

Last spring under the sponsorship of the Librarian’s Section of the South Carolina Education Association the high school student library assistants were organized on a regional and a state basis. In April over 300 enthusiastic students with their librarians met at Winthrop College to make plans for organizing and perpetuating an association whose prime objective is to vitalize and interpret for the students themselves the library services they perform, so that they may be of greater value to their school, their library and themselves. At this meeting the following officers were elected and have been serving for the current school year: Barbara Helderman, Pauline High School, President; Jeannette Eddy, Rivers High School, Vice-President; Betty Blackwell, W. L. T. High School, Secretary; Bob Williams, Porter Military Academy, Treasurer. Miss Irene Marshall, Rivers High School, was appointed sponsor for the state group.

To better obtain the objective of the Association, a committee of three librarians and three student librarians are studying the services a student may perform. Tommy Wyatt, Spartanburg High School, is chairman.

On April 6 and 7 the annual meeting will again be held at Winthrop College. As the facilities of the College are limited, those attending will be determined by the first 300 to send the preliminary registration blanks. One feature of the program will be a panel book discussion of the book, Hot Rod by Henry Felsen. One of the organized school clubs has agreed to put on this panel.

Library Service for National Defense

Based on a statement by Mrs. Margie S. Malmberg, director of the Washington office of the American Library Association, presented before the Armed Services Committee relative to the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950.

We in the United States have entered a new era for which we are ill-prepared. For the first time our civilian population is threatened with attack. Just as our peace-loving people have been reluctant to believe that some other nations are war-minded so they are now reluctant...
to take seriously the need for an aggressive civil defense program that will mobilize voluntary civilian participation according to a plan where Federal, State, and local responsibilities are clearly defined.

A civil defense program will fail unless both the needs for the program itself and the dissemination of the information are carefully and rapidly channeled to people in all localities. Libraries, already established as a resource and material center for communities, are a logical agency to disseminate the necessary information. Each State has a State Library extension agency which can receive the information from the national sources and distribute it to all the libraries in the State thus forming a network of distribution centers.

During World War II libraries in our larger cities performed an important function as War Information Centers. Even more important were the services of public, college, university, and research libraries, of providing technical help to both the Government and industry. Since these services have been continued in peacetime they need only to be heightened, extended, and applied to civil defense problems to be of help to Government, business, and individuals.

The success of any program depends upon the morale and spirit of the people it affects. The library not only mobilizes technical materials, but is a source of inspiration and comfort. Books bring understanding of current problems.

While we recognize the vital role of the press, the radio, and movies in alerting and informing the community, the library with its books, newspapers, magazines, films, pictures, maps, and recordings forms a reservoir of information for the use of the entire public. The need of access to all kinds of information is obvious.

While we have described what libraries can do, it should be noted that a quarter of the people in the United States are without access to local libraries and it will be necessary to expand library services if all people are to be reached. Surveys of rural areas highlight the lack of reading materials. They show many rural families have only the farm weekly.

The American Library Association requests that these facts be considered in redrafting the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, and that the new sections dealing with research and the dissemination of information include provisions to make full use of the libraries.

The Library's Role in Civilian Defense

A circular outlining the library's potential role in the Civilian Defense Program was prepared by the State Library Board and mailed to the head librarian of every county and municipal library in the State early in January.

Librarians were asked to contact their director of local civil defense and offer the services of their library to his office.

It was pointed out that the library can serve as an information center and morale builder. It can furnish books, pamphlets and periodicals in the technical fields, consumer information and information on the conservation of human and material resources and other subjects pertinent to the emergency.

Many libraries have meeting rooms for class instruction and space for special exhibits and posters. Libraries were asked to watch for material of value to the defense program, to include it in their books orders and to supplement their collections with the inter-library loan service offered by the State Library Board.

White House Conference

Five thousand Americans, invited by the President to attend the five-day Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth in Washington, Dec. 3-7, returned to their homes with new ideas for their national, state, and local organizations to use in developing the youth of their community into happy, responsible citizens.

The conferences included educators, librarians, social workers, parents, farmers, doctors, nurses, county commissioners, state senators, lawyers, ministers, businessmen, scientists, and newspapermen. They met in work groups and general sessions to discuss the various problems which beset children in their relationships with each other, with adults, with the community, with technical forces in the community, state and the nation. Conference goal was: "For Every Child a Healthy Personality."

The American Library Association was one of the 464 national organizations participating in the conference.

Among the official delegates from South Carolina, Estellene Walker, Executive Secretary of the South Carolina State Library Board, represented libraries. South Carolina was one of thirteen states which had a librarian on its official delegation. This is indicative of the recognition of the library as having a part in any South Carolina program dealing with the welfare of children and youth.

Three major resolutions adopted by the Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth during its final session are in part:

That church and state must remain separate, that religious instruction should not be permitted in public schools.

That federal aid be provided to the states for educational services, without federal control, to help equalize educational opportunity: the issue of auxiliary services to be considered on its merits in separate legislation.

That there must be an end to racial and religious segregation.

Following the conference in Washington, the South
Carolina White House Conference Committee held a meeting in Columbia to formulate an action program. The improvement and extension of library service is a definite part of the state program.

Great Books Program

Emily Sanders, Librarian, Charleston Free Library, Charleston

A tri-city training course for Great Books discussion group leaders was conducted in Columbia, Greenville and Charleston last November and December by Gordon Dupee, regional director for the Eastern Region of the Great Books Foundation. Mr. Dupee came to South Carolina for three days at a time for three successive weeks. Monday night of each week he initiated potential leaders in Charleston into the techniques of Great Books discussion-leading; Tuesday night of each week he was in Columbia; and Wednesday night of each week he was in Columbia; and Wednesday night of each week he was in Greenville.

Twenty-nine people attended one or more of the sessions in Charleston, somewhat more than in Greenville or Columbia. The greater interest in Charleston was to be expected because one Great Books discussion group had been started in that city with untrained leaders in January, 1950, and a second in October, 1950. As a result of the training sessions, one additional group began in Charleston on Tuesday night, February 6.

Mr. W. H. Ward, Director of the Extension Division of the University of South Carolina, reports that two Great Books discussion groups were organized at the University on January 23rd and January 25th. One group had a registration of more than thirty. The second group, which is primarily for students, is expected to have an equally large enrollment.

Miss Ellen Perry, Librarian of the Charleston Public Library, and Miss Jane Flener, Librarian of Furman University Library, are sponsoring two groups in Greenville. One of these has a registration of 41.

Great Books leaders are trained to ask questions; they never answer questions or deliver lectures. Participants come prepared to argue with their neighbors about the vital questions raised in the selections read. Among the material read during the first year's session are such selections as "The Republic", by Plato; "The Declaration of Independence"; "The Prince", by Machiavelli; and "The Wealth of Nations", by Adam Smith.

Mrs. Smith Goes to Charleston

Mrs. Ella Sue Smith, librarian of the Anderson Public Library since 1941, has resigned to accept a position as head of the Catalog Department of the Charleston Free Library.

The Anderson Library Association adopted a resolution praising Mrs. Smith's work in Anderson. Mr. Arthur Holman, Jr., President of the Association, pointed out that during the ten years Mrs. Smith had been head of the Anderson Library it had experienced its greatest period of expansion.

Mrs. Smith is South Carolina's membership chairman for A. L. A. She served for two and one-half years as treasurer of the South Carolina Library Association and was for three and one-half years on the Executive Board of the Association.

New Converse College Library

Near Completion

Louisa Carlisle, Librarian, Converse College Library

After years of planning and more than eighteen months of construction, the new Converse College Library should be completed by the first of April. It is conveniently located to the left of the front campus near the main traffic routes of students and faculty. There are no steps to climb to the entrance, nor, once inside, are there any barriers to the books. Modular construction seemed the best method of fulfilling the requirements that the building be modern, simple, flexible, inexpensive, and yet one that should indefinitely serve the needs of the college. The problem of tying this building of contemporary design to the older buildings is met by using brick of the same color, size, and texture as those of the main building; the rectangular shape is softened and almost rooted to the campus by the unusual design of the walled reading garden.

On all three floors the reading and stack areas merge; in fact, the stacks define the areas as there are few permanent partitions. The main entrance is near the north corner and has the advantage of being on the middle floor so there is only one flight of stairs down to the ground floor and one up to the second. The L-shaped circulation desk faces the entrance: to the right is the carpeted main stairway; to the left is the well lighted informal reading area where there are comfortable upholstered chairs, and shelves for new books and current periodicals. Widely spaced ranges of steel shelves separate this area from the reference room where there are tables of various sizes and eleven individual study tables. Between the circulation desk and the stacks are the card catalog, dictionary and the atlas stands, and consultation tables. Back of the desk is the librarian's office and the cataloging room.

The ground floor, devoted largely to music, the literature of music, and all audio-visual materials, adjoins the walled reading garden. On this floor also are a receiving room, a small vault, three listening rooms, and a small auditorium or forum room which will seat about eighty. Surrounding the stack core on the second floor are three seminar rooms, two typing rooms, a staff lounge, a rare book room, exhibit screens, and eighteen individual study desks built in at right angles to the windows.

J. Russell Bailey of Orange, Virginia, is the architect. Fiske-Carter Construction Company is erecting the building at a cost of two hundred thousand dollars. The cost of furnishing will be about thirty thousand dollars.

Chester County Library in New Building

The Chester County Library opened at its new location in the recently completed War Memorial Building in Chester on December 18th.

The library occupies the entire first floor of the modern new building. The largest room is the reading room. It contains the circulation desk, card catalogs, and comfortable chairs and tables. There is a reference room, a stack room and a club room which will be used
for small gatherings. In the rear is the children’s department with an entrance from the side street. The work and storage rooms are in the back and open on a loading platform for the bookmobile.

Open house was held at the library on December 18th from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. All Chester County citizens and many interested friends outside the county were invited to visit and inspect the modern library facilities. There were special displays and seasonal exhibits.

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Work Begun on New Richland County Library

The razing of the old Richland County Library building has begun and construction on the new $274,260 library will start as soon as the ground is cleared.

The library has temporary headquarters on the corner of Senate and Bull Streets in Columbia.

Architects for the building are Lafayette, Lafayette and Fair of Columbia. The Building Committee, headed by A.T. Graydon, Chairman, is composed of Mrs. Christie Benet, James F. Dreher and Mrs. Lucy Hampton Bostick, librarian of the Richland County Library.

J. B. Watts New Sumter County Librarian

Mr. J. B. Watts was elected librarian of the Carnegie Public Library by the Sumter County Library Board last December 1 and began work on January 1.

Mr. Watts succeeds Mrs. Frances Stuart who has served as acting librarian since January 1, 1949. Mrs. Stuart was offered the position of librarian but declined the permanent appointment because of the indefinite duration of her stay in Sumter. Her husband is in the service at Shaw Air Field.

Mr. Watts is a graduate of the Birmingham Southern College at Birmingham, Alabama. He received his Master’s Degree in Library Science at the Peabody Teachers’ College in Nashville, Tennessee.

After completing college, Mr. Watts served three years in the Army Air Force.

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Newbery — Caldecott Awards

NEWBURY AWARD (30th Annual Award)

The Winner

Yates, Elizabeth — Amos Fortune, Free Man

Runners-up

Hunt, Mabel Leigh — Better Known as Johnny Appleseed
Eaton, Jeanette — Gandhi, Fighter without a Sword
Judson, Clara Ingram — Abraham Lincoln
Parrish, Anne — The Story of Appleby Capple

CALDECOTT AWARD (14th Annual Award)

The Winner

Milhous, Katherine — The Egg Tree

Runners-up

Brown, Marcia — Dick Whittington and His Cat
Mordvinoff, Nicholas (Lipkind, Wm., Author) — The Two Reds
Geisel, Theodor (Dr. Seuss) — If I Ran the Zoo
Newberry, Clare T. — T-Bone the Baby Sitter
Stone, Helen (McGinley, Phyllis, Author) — The Most Wonderful Doll in the World

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Driving Toward Better Library Service

A BOOKMOBILE QUIZ ?? ?

1. Do you use every opportunity to publicize library service? By radio. By newspaper. By exhibits. By speaking to groups and organizations.

2. Do you announce your schedule regularly in the newspaper and on the radio?

3. Are your bookmobile stop posters, giving hour and date, kept up to date and clean?

4. Do you emphasize that the service is free?

5. Is the entire bookmobile collection changed periodically?

6. What materials besides books are carried?

7. What reference books are carried?

8. Do you consider each day’s needs and load the truck accordingly?

9. Are bookmobile borrowers registered?

10. Must parents sign for their children?

11. Are overdue notices sent regularly?

12. How are fines handled?

13. What is done about lost books?

14. How many books to a borrower?

15. How are reserves kept?

16. Is your bulletin board a catchall or is it used to point up and stimulate reading interests?

17. Do you work directly with the county schools, teachers and pupils?

18. Are you able to schedule school and community stops long enough to meet the needs of your patrons?

19. What service does the bookmobile give organized groups?

20. Are schedules and routes revised systematically?

21. Are there vacation reading clubs for bookmobile patrons?

22. Do the Negroes have bookmobile service?

23. Are books selected because of positive contribution they can make to individuals?

24. By what standards other than circulation figures can you interpret the development and growth of library services from your bookmobile?

25. Do published lists and book talks stress subjects rather than books of the moment?

26. Does your bookmobile staff have adequate opportunities to grow in knowledge of books and reader’s guidance skills?

(This quiz came out of the Bookmobile Institute in North Carolina.)