

Owl Hoots And Screeches

MEETING PEOPLE—Inside a library is an ideal place to meet people and those of us who are privileged to work in the libraries of the Pettigrew Regional Library system (Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library in Edenton, Tyrrell County Public Library in Columbia, and Washington County Library in Plymouth) as well as on the Bookmobile have many opportunities to get acquainted with newcomers to the community who seek us out. It is one of the real fringe benefits of library work. But I have never been content to wait for people to come to me; I find interesting new acquaintances wherever I go. This past week was exceptionally full of such opportunities.

The circumstances under which I met the Governor's appointments secretary make an unusual story, I think. I had spent a most exciting day with Gault Davis of Washington, D. C., consultant for the Bicentennial Barge project, who brought sketches to show the Foundation Directors who are on the planning committee. Secretary Grace Rohrer arranged the use of her conference room in the Department of Cultural Resources and took us to lunch in Raleigh. Dean Robert Hyatt of the School of the Arts in Winston-Salem had joined us as well as State Librarian Phil Ogilvie. We had consulted experts with the Army Corps of Engineers about possible ports of call (it looks like our original list of 40 has to be pared down to about 33). We have conferred with the Department's Business Officer, Mary Cornick, about financial details. And we had finished a busy day with a visit to the Travel and Promotion Office of the Department of Natural and Economic Resources where we met the enthusiastic Jim Hastings who embraced the idea of a

moveable feast of the arts with wholehearted interest. The rain hadn't dampened my spirits one whit until I discovered that my car was no longer in the State parking lot where I left it. In my haste, I had failed to check carefully the partly-erased markings for Visitors Parking slots and my car had been towed from some state employee's stall.

Our efforts to find the Capitol Police led us to the outer offices of the Governor's new quarters in the Administration Building where Phil Ogilvie recognized Lannie Funderburk, the appointments secretary. He generously came to my aid, located my car for me, helped to arrange its release and agreed with me that it would be nice to meet again under happier circumstances.

Later in the week, it was a privilege to meet the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Sandhills Regional Library. The regular quarterly meeting of North Carolina Regional Library Directors met in Southern Pines at the invitation of the Director, Bill Bridgman and we couldn't have asked for a more gracious host. Thanks to Bill and his staff, we were royally entertained but we were all most impressed by the participation and interest shown by this Board member who attended all the business sessions. It is this kind of concern by public-minded citizens which has contributed to the growth of library service.

SCREECHES—The unlikely chance—the odds against two people who knew each other fifteen years ago in Portland, Oregon meeting in a town where neither of them live must be very great. But that is what happened while standing in line in the rain waiting to board the Artrain in Washington, North Carolina on Sunday. And I brought them together quite by chance.

Since I didn't want to go alone, I had suggested to my neighbor Margaret Moore that we take advantage of this remarkable cultural opportunity together. We were taking turns standing in line and I struck up a conversation with the couple behind me who told me they taught in the Music Department at East Carolina University at Greenville. When I told them I lived in Plymouth, they asked "Do you know anyone there from Portland, Oregon?" Imagine our surprise to discover they had been standing next to the very person they were asking about. It really added to our enjoyment of the marvelous sights and sounds on the Artrain to find such interesting companions - we all talked a mile a minute.

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