



Owl Hoots and Screeches . .

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SCREECHES

CONFLICTION SCHEDULES—Despite the number of miles that I travel, I still have not learned how to be in two places at once. Thus, I was torn between several obligations last week. Two of my special interests are continuing education and Bicentennial planning, both of which were the subject of statewide meetings at the same time. In addition, I am in the midst of working on a special multi-media presentation to be given at the library convention at the end of this month.

HOOTS
HIGH MEADOWS—Of all the places that the Development Committee has chosen as sites for their meetings over the years that I have been a member, last week's was the most inspiring. Situated on the top of a mountain near the town of Roaring Gap, High Meadows Inn is located in the territory served by the Northwestern Regional Library so we were invited to hold our deliberations in the convention facilities there. The timing was almost perfect - the leaves were beginning to turn, there was a crispness in the air, the scenery was magnificent, the golf course was in great shape (naturally I managed to slip in a couple of good rounds between meetings) and even the gentle rain caused no problems.

There was almost two dozen of us in attendance, including the state librarian, Phil Ogilvie; the assistant state librarian who heads their Development section, Elaine von Oesen; and her two general consultants, Frances Reid and Susan Barclay. Large library systems were well represented by members from Charlotte, Durham, Winston-Salem and Raleigh. There were six regional librarians present. Smaller county systems furnished the balance of the group so we had a fairly representative assortment. Since the main function of this committee is to act as an advisory board for the State Library's Development section, this is very important.

Representation at the Adult Education meeting proved to be no real problem: Louise Darby, the Chowan County librarian, was able to provide that for the Pettigrew Regional Library. The problem arose when I tried to assemble the cast for the skit I'm writing. There are just three of us but the other two reneged on our scheduled "rehearsal" in favor of the larger meetings. So I confined my efforts to working with the very capable audiovisual technician at the Smithfield library, Ken Boyette, and later on the script itself.

Since my daughter Vicki and I spent the weekend in Roanoke, Virginia with my friends the Garretsons, I was able to get some expert help on my maiden effort at writing conversation. Betty Garretson is the director of the Gilbert and Sullivan production of THE GONDOLIERS which we enjoyed seeing twice (once backstage and once from the second row). And George has had much experience in the theater, so I felt fortunate to be able to call on them.

Reading Program Efforts Awarded

The Stanly County Public Library awards a silver tray to the Extension Homemakers Club that has the largest percentage of reading awards for three years.

The first place winner in 1974, the Oakwood Park Extension Homemakers, became the first club to have its name on the tray. But their name must appear twice more before the tray becomes property of the club, says Elizabeth Watson, extension home economics agent.


Margaret Johnston, county librarian, and her staff have worked closely with Extension Homemakers in helping promote good reading throughout the county since 1940, Miss Watson notes.


In the past, there has been a certain amount of friction connected with these meetings, a feeling of competition between the various sizes of library systems over the distribution of available funds. Maybe it was the locale, more likely it was the good work of the able chairman (my golfing buddy, Dave Larson), undoubtedly it was the cooperation of everyone involved, but this was a most amicable gathering. There was a spirit of pulling together for the common good. It seems so obvious yet it is easy to forget that the best way to ensure good library service for everyone in the state is to work for all libraries, not just for your own.




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