



By Nellie M. Sanders
Director

THIRD CENTURY—By the time this column appears in print, the fourth of July which marks the beginning of this nation's third century will have come and gone. It is not within my power to predict what lies ahead - I don't even know how the holiday weekend will be spent in the area served by the Pettigrew Regional Library (Chowan, Tyrrell and Washington Counties). My own plans, ever subject to sudden changes, were to stay at home until I received an invitation to spend a few days in the mountains.

Many great minds have struggled with the idea of the future. Some look with alarm on every change and mourn over the past which is always better in their memories than it probably was in reality. Others take a more philosophical view: "everything happens for the best, in the long run". I guess I belong to the latter group since I am essentially an optimist. Still, it is interesting to dream about the future and necessary to plan for it.

On a small scale, that is my job at the moment. Our fiscal year ended on June 30th and an important part of the year's report to the State Library is a "Plan of Service" for the coming year as well as a projection for the next five years. For the twenty-one years that the Pettigrew Regional Library has been in existence, it has waged an up-hill struggle to meet minimum standards of library service. A comparison to the national standards shows that we still have a long way to go but our position is an enviable one in comparison to most of the other library systems in the state.

In terms of adequate staff (both quantity and quality) we are superior. Our hours of service are less than optimum but more than average. The size of our book collection is respectable though it is far from complete in many subject areas. The variety of services offered is limited

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only by the funds available but it is growing all the time, thanks to the energy, creativity and enthusiasm of the staff. In other words, there is plenty of room for improvement but we can all be proud of the progress to date.

SCREECHES ADOPTING THE BUDGET—The budget for the operating funds of the Pettigrew Regional Library will be the main subject of discussion at the quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees on July 12th. Since the income comes from several sources, it is necessary for us to wait until the county budgets are adopted before we can finalize the library's budget. The hard-working budget committee, composed of Treasurer Harry Gurkin, Mrs. George Barden of Plymouth, Mrs. W. A. Basnight of Columbia, Mrs. Marguerite Burch of Edenton plus Board Chairman Thomas Shepard, helped me hammer out a budget based on our requests to the local funding sources in the three counties plus our expected revenues from State Aid. After revising this in terms of actual amounts voted by the various governmental bodies (Plymouth and Washington County cut our requests by a small amount) the budget will be presented to the full nine member board of trustees. Since we can expect no more State Aid this year than we received last year, the increased local funds are sorely needed.

Weintraub Enlists In Air Force Under DEP Program

NORFOLK, Va.—Ronald H. Weintraub, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Weintraub of Route 2, Box 340, Edenton, enlisted in the Air Force Delayed Enlistment Program (DEP) recently according to Air Force Technical Sergeant Clark Sessoms of the Norfolk recruiting office.

The John Holmes High School graduate is already accruing time in the Air Force for pay purposes although he will not report for active duty until September 16, 1976.

On that date, he will board a jet airliner for Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where he will undergo six weeks basic training prior to receiving specialized training in the Mechanical Career Field.



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