Page 2-A

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WINTER VACATION-Building my vaction plans around the meetings of the American Library Association has gotten to be a habit with me. Over the past three summers it has taken me to New York, San Francisco and Chicago. In between the annual summer conventions for the entire membership, which attract 14 to 15 thousand participants, a Mid-Winter meeting is held for members of the many committees which form the backbone of the association. Although I am not a member of a national committee - not yet, anyway - I decided to drop in on the meeting since it was being held in Washington, D. C. which relatively close to home.

First, I arranged for a ticket to the Legislative Breakfast from my friend Bill O'Shea of Raleigh, **Director of the Wake County** Libraries and Chairman of the North Carolina Library Association's Legislative Committee. Then, I called my friend Dora Lachman (a former library assistant who worked with me in Asheville and now lives in Baltimore) to check on the condition of the highways in her area. She gave me the go-ahead and repeated her standing invitation to spend some time with her, which was all the encouragement I needed.

I delayed my departure long enough to detour by way of Goldsboro to attend the formal opening of the new Wayne County Library there. It was a happy occasion

That night, I attended a closing performace by a group called the Hard Times Jazz Band at The Pier. They are dis-banding despite their popularity in Raleigh. It could have been a sad occasion, but they were so brave about it that the audience reacted with admiraton instead of sorrow. It was a memorable evening for another reason -I met Carol Sloane, the jazz singer, who was also in the audience.

The Ballroom of the Shoreham-Americana Hotel wishes to transfer his quota in Washington was jammed with at least a thousand

people at the Legislative Breakfast. There were tables for the librarians and the legislators from each state in the nation. The object, obviously, was to library about talk legislation in an arranged, yet informal, setting. North Carolina was allotted two tables for ten with the guests evenly divided between legislators' aides (only one Representative, L. H. Fountain of Tarboro, came in person!) and librarians. I was in rare company - the State Librarian and a member of his staff, two library School Deans, four University librarians, and

just one other public

librarian (Bill O'Shea). There are so many sights to see in Washington that choosing is a problem. I elected to visit the National Gallery of Art to see the King Tut exhibit and the lines were so long that it took me all afternoon. But it was worth it. The objects on display are incredibly beautiful and the taperecorded descriptions make it easy to learn the facts about each item. There are Egyptian displays in many Art Museums and some of the objects looked alsmost familiar, but this collection from King Tut's tomb is the largest one ever allowed to leave Egypt on loan. Imsive is too small a word to describe it.

SCREECHES

BACK TO SCHOOL-February is the month for me concentrated studies by members of the Pet-tigrew Regional Library Staff. Wayne Henritze, Perquimans County an, will be joint