

THE GRAY
Over
SAYS

By **NELLIE M. SANDERS**
Director, Pettigrew Regional Library

COLONIAL STORES

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HOOTS
SEEKING SUPPORT — A critical issue for public libraries is currently being considered by an important sub-committee on Appropriations of the North Carolina General Assembly. House Bill Number 1004 was reported favorably by the sub-sub-committee on Public Libraries, recommending substantial increases in State Aid to Public Libraries. Before it becomes law, as part of the 1977-79 budget, it needs a favorable report from the joint (Senate & House) Appropriations Committee on General Government and Transportation.

Every public librarian, every library trustee, every friend-of-the-library, every County Commissioner is being urged to back this bill which is needed to provide increased direct support to public library systems in every county in the state.

According to the Stick Report which was issued some years ago by a Legislative Study Commission headed by David Stick of Dare County, the state should provide at least half of the funds for operating public libraries. In order to achieve this, a schedule for increased appropriations was outlined but the state budgets for the last few years have fallen short of these recommendations. An effort to rectify this situation prompted the Libraries Committee to submit a special bill (House Bill 1004) which calls for additional funds.

It is important to let the legislators know that public libraries deserve their support. The North Carolina Library Association (NCLA) has a legislative committee and the chairman, Wake County Public Librarian Bill O'Shea, does a great job of keeping the legislators and the librarians informed of each other's activities and needs. But he cannot do it alone. At the Planning Council meeting held in Raleigh last week for officers and committee chairmen of the NCLA Public Libraries Section, he urged that everyone contact their Senators and Representatives — preferably in person or else by phone or letter. Even more effective than librarians (who have a vested interest in the bill) would be for patrons of the libraries to encourage the legislators' support.

SCREECHES
GETTING IN TOUCH — Because of the hectic schedule for legislators during the "home stretch" — the last few weeks of the session which traditionally is reserved for final action on the budget and other "money bills" — it is difficult to get in touch with our Representatives and Senators. As luck would have it, while the librarians were meeting in Raleigh, County Commissioners from all over the state were also meeting for a briefing on current legislation. Thanks to Lester Simpson, Chairman of the Perquimans County Commissioners, I was invited to the reception for legislators and commissioners held at The Hilton Inn and then to dinner with the First District delegation.

Although the occasion was a social one, I managed to talk to many legislators about the Public Libraries bill and received a favorable reception. Our Senator Melvin Daniels of Elizabeth City is Chairman of the Appropriations sub-committee and he assured me that he gives public libraries a high priority. A similar assurance came from Representative Stanford White who is a member of the same subcommittee. But they need to hear from more constituents.

My courtesy calls at the Legislative Building the next day netted me an opportunity to visit several pretty secretaries and to observe the legislators from the gallery while they deliberated a highway bill — they were too busy for consultations. However, I saw many of them again that night since Representative Vernon James very graciously invited me, my daughter Cyndy and her, husband Jet Barker, to join him at the Spring Fling pig-picking given by Luther Hodges, Jr.

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FRESH CRISP ICEBERG LETTUCE 3 HEADS **\$1**

SWEET YELLOW CORN 5 EARS **59¢**

RED RIPE TOMATOES 1 lb. **39¢**

CRISP GREEN CABBAGE LB. **12¢**

RED RIPE WATERMELONS HALF **89¢**

Marching Unit Positions Open

It is not too late to join the Perquimans County Marching Unit for 1977-78. There will be a practice of the unit on Monday, May 30 at 3 p.m. for old and new members. The practice session will be held at Perquimans County High School. Mrs. LaClaire Rogerson, instructor, invites interested girls who will be in grades nine through twelve next year to contact her before Monday or to come to the school.

Earn Degrees

The following is a list of Perquimans County students that received degrees in graduation exercises held recently at Elizabeth City State University: Brenda Winslow, Valerie F. Knight, Carolyn Barcliff, Nathan Felton, William Bowser, James Modlin, Cynthia Norman, Oliver Felton, and Reginald Jennings.

Demo Convention

The Democratic Party of Perquimans County will meet for the annual county convention at the Perquimans County Courthouse on Saturday, June 18 at 2 p.m. County party chairperson, Mrs. Estelle Felton, is encouraging all interested Democrats in the county to be in attendance at this important meeting.

BPW Club Hosts Special Dinner

A membership drive being sponsored by the Hertford Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Club was highlighted by a dinner for prospective members held May 19 at the First United Methodist Church in Hertford. Bonnie White, BPW President, welcomed those attending and introduced the club members and special guests attending. Following a dinner prepared by club members and served by PCHS Health Careers Club members, the program was presented by Mrs. Essie Babbage. Mrs. Babbage informed the guests of the history of the club highlighting some traditional and new projects

being sponsored. As membership chairman, she also extended a special invitation to all interested to join the local ranks of BPW. Mrs. Lydie Perry and Mrs. Kay Winslow, dinner chairpersons, led the group in singing and later drew for door prizes which were made and donated by club members. The dinner meeting closed with the club collect.

DISH TEST
To test dishes for microwave use, place them in the oven with a glass of water for one minute of oven operation. If the dish gets hot, it shouldn't be used for cooking.