Little did I think that being President of NMLA would lead to China. In the fall of 1984, I received a letter of invitation to join a three-week library and information science delegation to the People's Republic of China in the spring of 1985. The pool of people invited consisted of representatives from various library associations and chairs of major committees of the American Library Association. After some deliberation, I decided that this was a "chance of a lifetime" and would be worth the expense and use of vacation time! Our delegation was composed of 62 professionals and five accompanying delegates. The delegation had been requested by the China Society of Library Science to help further Chinese knowledge of library automation, cooperation and networking, conservation of materials, library education, and library management. The tour was coordinated by the Citizen Ambassador Program of People to People, a non-political organization which promotes international understanding through technical exchanges between delegates and their professional counterparts in foreign countries. The delegates were from all areas of the United States and represented a wide variety of types of libraries and information-related professions. The group convened on Friday evening, April 12, in Seattle at the Olympic Four Seasons Hotel where we were briefed by People to People staffers. People to People was extremely well organized, and all minuses in travel arrangements were due to the difficulties of making long-range plans in China and the size of the group.

Conditions in China are improving rapidly for tourists, but basically the country is still not prepared to accommodate large numbers of foreign visitors. We departed from Seattle late Saturday afternoon, two hours late, to be exact (the 747 was full!). At any given time during the 9-hour flight there must have been at least 50 million miles around the aisles! Having crossed the International Dateline, we arrived in Japan at 7 p.m. on Sunday. In order to get the entire group into Beijing (Peking) on the same day, the group was split into three smaller groups that traveled on different airlines. My group arrived at our hotel in Beijing at midnight on Monday night...and then we were served "dinner" at 12:30 a.m.!

The entire delegation traveled together in Beijing for five days, then to Xi'an for two days. The group then split into two parts, with the public librarians leaving for Wuhan, Nanjing, and Guangzhou and our group of academic, special, and school librarians continuing on to Chengdu for six days and to Shanghai for two days. At the end of that time, the entire group reconvened in Hong Kong for two days before returning to the United States.

Our trip was cosponsored by CAST (China Association for Science and Technology), and we had four "national guides" (employees of CAST) who traveled with our group until we left the country. They acted as guides, interpreters, and logistical trouble-shooters. In addition, each group picked up two or three local guides in each city we visited. These people generally worked for the local scientific and technical associations. Our guides were young, bright, curious, and articulate. All were college graduates and most had excellent command of the English language.

During the entire trip, we were offered several options for visits each day, so the cumulative experiences of each delegate must vary greatly. I visited several professional groups and facilities including the China Society of Library Science (CSLS), China Academy of Sciences, Beijing National Library, Xi'an Provincial Library, Xi'an Medical College, 4th Military Medicine College (Xi'an), Chengdu Institute of Radio Engineering (CIRE), a large academic librarians' group (in Chengdu), an information science group (Chengdu), Sichuan University Library, Shanghai Public Library, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University Library. Being a special librarian, I was interested in visiting as many Chinese special libraries as possible. The two medical libraries, CIRE, and Jiao Tong would fit into the special libraries category; even though CIRE and Jiao Tong are both academic institutions, their libraries are geared toward technical subjects (Jiao Tong is the largest technical university in China with branches in several other cities throughout the country). It is difficult to know how to summarize three weeks of varied experiences. Pressures of time were constantly with us. Everyone came to China with certain expectations of what they wanted to accomplish; some were able to accomplish their goals, many were not. I was frustrated because I never got to talk to anyone doing online searching. I had been asked to write an article for Online about online searching in China but came back with nothing on which I could base an article! We had each been asked to prepare one or two talks to be delivered in China. The Chinese had been sent biographical information and abstracts in advance, and at some sites they had pre-selected the papers they wanted to hear. At some sites there were no formal papers presented, but merely tours and discussions.

Much time is used in China doing things according to protocol. I thought the most fruitful meetings were the most informal ones where we were simply able to talk to individuals in small groups or one to one. But to the Chinese, the ritual may be as important as the actual information imparted. We had the feeling that many of the Chinese were primarily interested in making personal contacts in the United States; the Chinese truly do treasure their personal contacts. People always said to us, "Well, the next time you come to China..." We also had a chance for one-on-one contact with English-speaking individuals throughout China, and that can certainly have nothing but positive results. We were all surprised at the number of people who understood English, so I am sure that the aires of People to People's Citizen Ambassador Program were well served.

During the course of the three-week visit, we saw a number of Chinese libraries. Despite their different nature, they held many common elements. For example, most Chinese libraries have closed stacks. As honored visitors, we were "treated" to a tour of many of the stack areas which most Chinese never get to see. In some cases, faculty members do have access to the stacks, but in most libraries, patrons must ask for the books they want to see at the request desk. In some instances, patrons are permitted to look at only one or two books at once. All libraries had stated limits on the number of books an individual or group (usually a living group like a collective) could borrow at once. Another very striking aspect that (Continued on page 2)
It's a Long Way to Beijing!

Continued from Page 1

Chinese and U.S. librarians exchange greeting and knowledge at CIRE Library.

go along with the closed stack policy is the necessity for many "reading rooms" for library patrons. Again we were toured through innumerable reading rooms, and in practically every case, they were packed with readers. For example, we were told that one must reserve a seat at the Xi'an Provincial Library (it is the only public library in the province) and that the seat can be reserved for only half a day.

The Chinese libraries generally had separate parts of their card catalog for Chinese books and for foreign language books which often compose a large portion of their collection (as much as 90% in some cases). The Chinese have great difficulty trying to automate their library cataloging records—the main problem is the Chinese language itself. No good scheme has yet been devised for automating the thousands of characters used in the Chinese language. (For example, it takes three characters in Chinese to indicate the western calendar that is easily represented by a pair of letters in English.)

Another interesting visit was to the Shanghai Public Library. It is a unique facility housed in a building that was the clubhouse for the race course (and we think we have to adapt to weird buildings!). The library is open from 8 to 5 every day, and has about 6 million volumes, including about a million Asian threadbound books and 130,000 rare books. They subscribe to about 20,000 periodicals in Chinese. From touring their periodical reading rooms, I felt they had the best collection of English language sci-tech periodicals that I had seen in China. Also, their issues were several months more up to-date, so their service must be faster than the inland cities.

The library has 1300 seats in the reading rooms and is visited by 3,000 to 4,000 people per day. Their circulation is about 8,000 books per day with a staff of 600 (about 1/3 are college graduates). There are 11,000 individual library cards and about 2,000 group cards in use. Shanghai has 12 district libraries plus 133 neighborhood libraries in the city (the main-library and district libraries are part of the government; the neighborhood libraries are independent). This seems to be one of the few major libraries that was not pillaged during the Cultural Revolution. They were closed down for three years and their collection was preserved intact.

During those three years, people still worked in the building, but not on library business. In addition to the professional activities, our schedule was full of as many cultural activities as could be squeezed in. We toured all the major tourist attractions like the Forbidden City, Tian'anmen Square, the Great Wall, and the Terra Cotta Warriors. Our group was fortunate enough to spend a weekend in the countryside of Sichuan Province.

The food in Sichuan Province was something near and dear to a New Mexican's heart—they grow and cook with red chili peppers, although none of the food was as hot as some of Albuquerque's finest. I thoroughly enjoyed the food throughout China. Each region serves somewhat different dishes, although the general style of meals is the same. Some of my fellow delegates kidded me about "eating my way through China", but in spite of that, I somehow managed to lose about five pounds! The Chinese really do know how to grow vegetables, and we had wonderful fresh "veggies" at every meal.

At the end of our mainland China stint, we "time warped" back into the modern world of Hong Kong, a remarkable contrast. The trip back to the states was of the marathon variety—my flights from Hong Kong to Tokyo, Seattle, Los Angeles, and Albuquerque took a total of 24 hours straight through! The combination of jet lag and the bad head cold that I came down with in Hong Kong (everyone else had it in China) combined to keep me wiped out for several weeks after the end of the trip.

There were so many interesting things about the people, the countryside, and the customs that it was a fascinating trip. I don't think I would describe it as a "fun" trip because travel in China is rigorous and some conditions fall somewhat short of our high standard of living. I found the people to be scrupulously honest and extremely gracious, and they all did their best to make our stay as comfortable and interesting as possible. It was a wonderful opportunity to broaden both professional and personal horizons, and I am certainly glad that I was given the opportunity to participate.
Librarianship as an Active Profession

—by Jami Hotspiller
Assistant Librarian
Rodey Law Firm

"I hold every man a debtor to his profession; from the which, as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavor themselves, by way of amends, to be a help and ornament thereto." Bacon’s Tracts.

There's a growing awareness among librarians of the need for activism within our profession. If we're to continue to give the kind of service we've been giving and reap the benefits we justly deserve, we must promote ourselves and our profession through this activism.

American Libraries has introduced a "media" column where we can examine the way the world views us. Not surprisingly, we find that the stereotypical librarian is alive and well. The media continues to portray our professional responsibilities as follows: 1) checking out books, 2) shelving books, and 3) leveling with a "shhh" any patron who dares to speak in our library. The implication given the public is that anyone dull enough to want nothing from a job but to perform the first two tasks, and content enough to do the third, can be a librarian.

Contrary to the stereotype, librarianship is:

1) a dynamic, intellectually challenging profession which should be of great interest to a career to curious, outgoing students;
2) a profession of persons who are capable of fulfilling the sophisticated informational needs of businesses and professional and academic organizations, and
3) a profession of persons with high levels of education and expertise.

We librarians have been remiss in making these qualities known, and the results are damaging to the profession and to the service we provide. It's unfair on our part to bemoan our image but not to take an active part in educating awareness of librarianship to the public and faculty impression of librarians as a source of quality library service. We librarians need to make sure people are aware of the services we actually provide.

"As debtors to this profession," all librarians should recognize an obligation to actively strive to correct the stereotypical misconceptions about us, thereby enhancing the individual librarian's status and the status of librarianship as a whole.

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As profiled in "The Newsleter."
Michael Gorman, Director of General Services, University Library, University of Illinois, will speak at CUS Program on September 27.

CUS Division Plans Programs on Librarian Image

by Jami Hotsinpiller
Chair of CUS Division, NMLA

Michael Gorman and Maureen Pastine will be the featured speakers for the College, University, and Special Libraries Division program, "Professional Values: Expanding Your Sphere of Influence." The day-long program is planned for Friday, September 27, 1985, at the Skirvin Old Town in Albuquerque. This is a follow-up on this year's NMLA Conference theme of Expanding Horizons.

Gorman is the Director of General Services, University Library, University of Illinois. He has been a visiting professor at the University of Chicago Graduate Library School and at University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Illinois, he was employed by the British Library and the British National Bibliography. He has written several books and articles on such varied topics as cataloging, measurement and evaluation of library services, library administration, and library automation. Gorman will speak on the need for cooperation among libraries in New Mexico.

Maureen Pastine is the new Director of Libraries at Washington State University, having recently left San Jose State University where she was also the Director of Libraries. At the University of Illinois she was Undergraduate Librarian, then head of reference. She taught course work in reference and government documents at the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science. She has published articles and papers on several topics including women's role in library science. She is currently working on a monograph on legal and copyright concerns for people working with audiovisual materials. She is the author of "The Role of Audiovisual Librarians" and is currently working on "The Role of Specialists in Audiovisual Libraries." A copy of the resolution, which passed unanimously, is included in this issue.

Members of the Executive Board wish to thank Mary Browder of Socorro Public Library and Betty Reynolds of New Mexico Tech for making local arrangements for the meeting. The board meeting was held in Santa Fe on September 29.

Resolution Adopted by Board

On May 9, 1985, Superintendent A. B. Smith of Socorro Public Schools requested a waiver of the NCA Standard 8.30 (citing budgetary constraints) from the New Mexico North Central Association Committee. The committee approved the request thus allowing the waiver of the Standard 8.30 for one year. The plan states that schools of 1,500 or more students should have at least two full-time library/media specialists or the school may use at least one full-time specialist and one full-time aide.

The Executive Board of the North Central Association of Colleages and Schools has endorsed the change on December 7, 1984, thus enabling Ms. Barna to make her request.

It is hoped that the resolution adopted by the New Mexico Library Association Executive Board on June 14, 1985 and addressed to the New Mexico NCA Committee will effect the change requested.

The resolution follows:

WHEREAS, the North Central Association has lowered its professional staffing requirements for high school library media centers; and

WHEREAS, librarians and library programs are the first to feel budget restraints and have to rely on standards set by professional educational organizations; and

WHEREAS, school librarians are certified teachers with advanced professional development; and

WHEREAS, librarians teach the basic skills necessary to the development of life-long learners; and

WHEREAS, school librarians take positive and active roles in curriculum development and instruction; and

WHEREAS, school librarians participate to the fullest degree as faculty members in on-site development and extra-curricular activities;

Therefore, be it resolved that the New Mexico Library Association Executive Board requests that the New Mexico State Committee of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools review and recall their directive to grant any school district the option of professional staffing in the high school library media center.
New Main Library Will Be for the People

- by Marcy Litsenburg
Director
Santa Fe Public Library

For almost 80 years, the Santa Fe Public Library has been serving the community from the old Main Library on Washington Avenue. Some of the city’s most prominent citizens have visited this well-used building. Artists, writers, scholars, and even politicians count time spent in the Santa Fe Public Library in their fondest memories. Many adult patrons tell us of the happy storytimes they attended as young children or of countless hours spent doing homework here. Maybe the library contributed to the success of those people by enriching their knowledge and broadening their scope. I’d like to think that we could take some of the credit for the outstanding accomplishments of our patrons.

To focus on our prominent patrons and their outstanding achievements, however, would rob us of the real value of this very special institution. It is the service the Santa Fe Public Library provides to the average person that makes us unique. Anyone, regardless of ethnic background or social status, can find the answers to his questions, profound or mundane. The library is the only institution whose products are the only institution whose products are

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On April 12, 1985, a special event took place in Gallup to honor one of New Mexico's public librarians. Dedication of the Octavia Fellin Performing Arts Wing represents the culmination of years of civic work to improve the standard of cultural living in Gallup by Octavia Fellin, director of the Gallup Public Library.

Ms. Fellin is known to anyone in the northwestern part of the state who has anything to do with libraries or the arts. Her interests in the arts were broadened during her graduate studies in Denver and New Mexico. In addition to her career as a librarian, Ms. Fellin plays the piano and violin, and studies the cello. Her contributions to the City of Gallup and to civic and church organizations are immeasurable, and the dedication of the Performing Arts Wing was a way of thanking her for her efforts.

According to Jacque Cattaneo, co-organizer of the project, "There's not a person in this town who doesn't appreciate Octavia. She has always taken an interest in young people's lives, prodded and probed to get the best out of them."

City Manager Dani Frye proclaimed April 12 Octavia Fellin Day in Gallup and noted her accomplishments at the dedication ceremony which was followed by a reception. It was a day for recalling everything that she had done and for pondering possibilities this librarian has for the future.
The Presbyterian Hospital Health Sciences Library and the Albuquerque Public Library are co-sponsoring a series of six presentations on health-related topics. These programs, which are free and open to the public, will take place at the Main Library (501 Copper N.W. downtown) or the Juan Tabo Branch (3407 Juan Tabo N.E.) of the Albuquerque Public Library. Each program will last about 45 minutes with additional time for questions. Printed information will be available to the public at each program.

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<td>Good Grief: Growing Through Losses &amp; Life Changes</td>
<td>Dr. Joan Guntzelman</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Second Season: Menopause Myths, Symptoms &amp; Treatments</td>
<td>Dr. Fred Cohn Gynecologist</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Sneezing &amp; Wheezing? Trends in Allergy Treatment</td>
<td>Dr. R. C. Field Allergist</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Care of Your Skin in the Desert Southwest</td>
<td>Dr. Allan Blaugrund Dermatologist</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Making the Best of Day Care for Children</td>
<td>Dr. Manuel Archuleta Pediatrician</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Medicare Puzzles &amp; Promises: Finances &amp; Hospital Health Care for Seniors</td>
<td>Mr. John Zondlo Asst. Administrator Presbyterian Hospital</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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This project is funded under the Library Services and Construction Act, Title III, Inter-library Cooperative Grant Program, administered by New Mexico State Library.
The Tucumcari Public Library was notified by the ALA "A Nation of Readers Photo Contest" that Paula Segura of Tucumcari has received Honorable Mention for photo "On to Reading". The photo will be included in the traveling exhibit of photos and other projects. More than 1,100 entries from libraries in 49 states were judged. A local contest was held in April in conjunction with National Library Week. The first place photos were sent to Chicago to compete nationally, and the winners were announced on July 11, 1985. CONGRATULATIONS, PAULA!