Berry Explores Conventional Wisdom

- by Barbara Conroy

John N. Berry III, Editor-in-Chief of the Library Journal, addressed the New Mexico Library Association's opening general session on Thursday, April 18, in Santa Fe. His keynote speech explored libraries and "conventional wisdom" within a political and social context.

Citing John Galbraith's The Affluent Society, Berry identified characteristics of conventional wisdom: it must be familiar, convenient, self-serving, conventional, and it must elevate one's self respect. Wisdom's familiar ideas become acceptable and predictable—and emerge as prevailing current themes. Today's conventional wisdom is typically in danger of becoming obsolete and replaced by new themes.

Berry indicated that wisdom is important to libraries in many ways. For example, the prevailing themes of taxation and appropriate government roles affect libraries. He used the current political conservatism, particularly the "test of the marketplace", as an example of conventional wisdom making an impact on libraries. Libraries, Berry said, "...have needs that will not and cannot be met in the marketplace." Nor should they be, for the marketplace is not an accurate measure of the value of libraries and of information.

Conventional wisdom tells libraries as a "common good", yet libraries, in good times and bad, receive a steady 1.2% of total municipal budgets. Libraries are seen as important for an informed, citizenry, yet librarians value their service less than its actual economic worth. Now, lack of funding for education and libraries has made "a nation at risk".

Berry charged that government pressures shifting the availability of public information to the private marketplace reduce the amount of information, such as research material, educational media, and statistical data, to which the public has access. The public, having first paid taxes to do the research and collect the data, now must pay a second time to have access to it. Regarding information as a commodity in the marketplace is an unwise practice.

Conventional wisdom is held by librarians about their own field as well. Librarians represent a public profession. Degrees and library schools purport to prepare librarians for their work. Though most librarians work at public expense and need knowledge of the workings of government and how to present the library story effectively, these subjects are not usually offered in library schools.

According to Berry, librarians set professionally to help others get information, yet they often refuse to assume professional responsibilities outside libraries in the political and social arenas even when decisions are made that affect the availability of information. Here, he cited the problems of curtailing information flow by distortion, censorship, and security.

Librarians also must be aware and prepared for the opportunities and dangers presented by new forms of information dissemination such as computer technology. For example, online information is even more subject to manipulation and inaccuracy than print materials.

Bringing these concepts to practical application, Berry refutes librarians who merely wait for the political pendulum to swing the other way. He charges this is a "reality bubble" and "often our excuse for inaction." The unreality of this position is shown by librarians who value their information as a commodity in the marketplace is an unwise practice. Conventional wisdom within librarianship and society should not block librarians from actively finding ways to link information with the search for freedom and truth.
Needs Assessment Proposes Ideas for Future

Gayla Kraetsch-Hartsough shares Needs Assessment information at NMLA Conference.

Steps for statewide planning and implementation of networks as well as other cooperative library ventures were suggested in an Executive Summary developed for the New Mexico State Library and NMLA by the consulting firm of Cresap, McCormick and Paget (CMP). Gayla Kraetsch-Hartsough, member of the firm, presented survey results during a special workshop at the New Mexico Library Association conference in April.

CMP commissioned the firm to determine policy issues that need to be addressed to meet the needs of library clientele through the year 2000. After conducting interviews, distributing surveys, and talking with community opinion leaders, results were analyzed and key findings indicated.

Library clientele in New Mexico are primarily elementary and secondary school students, followed by the general public. Among library users, most felt that the quality of library services had improved in the last three years, but many cited distance as a reason for not using a library they would like to use. The Inter-Library Loan system was cited as an important mechanism for obtaining desired books from other libraries.

Library opinion leaders are aware of the disparities in library resources in the state. CMP's Executive Summary indicates that lack of a focal point for library governance limits the ability to develop a statewide planning process. The State Library is the logical focal point for statewide planning of cooperative library activities, but its current mission and organizational placement in state government impede assumption of this role.

Funding is a primary concern among opinion leaders and citizens, and is considered a major obstacle to statewide library cooperation. Suggestions for specific funding channels, but all agreed that the costs for a statewide automation system are too great to be covered solely by the local libraries. Many people are surprised to librarians that they are viewing as being more accepting of cutbacks and relatively passive in making their needs known.

Future steps recommended in the CMP report include improve- ment and coordination of the Inter-Library Loan program, collection development, and reference services through a multi-type state- wide resource-sharing network. Additional tasks to be accomplished in the future are:

1. Analysis of the governance options available for planning and implementation of network and other cooperative activities.

2. Establishment of the mission, expectations, and priorities for a multi-type statewide resource sharing network.

3. Review of the technological options for implementing the network.

4. Establishment of statewide standards for development of compatible systems.

5. Development of a statewide bibliographic database through AMIGOS.

6. Definition of products and services of common concern to be accommodated by the network.

As a result of the needs assessment and to begin the implementation process, a Request for Proposal is being published at the end of May for consultants to design and conduct planning activities. Karen Watkins, Librarian for Administration at the State Library, indicates that a consultant or consulting firm should be hired by September 30. Planning retreats and a series of area meetings to take information and develop it into plans for action for statewide library cooperation are scheduled to be held in early spring 1986.

Copies of the Executive Summary and the Request for Proposal will soon be available at the State Library, Contact Karen Watkins at 827-3802 for further information.

Well, the 1985 NMLA Conference is over, but all the paying of a few outstanding bills and the writing of a few thank-you notes. From what I hear, most of you seem to feel that it was a good Conference. The programs went smoothly, the weather was nice, and there were very few hitches to contend with. The program planners (generally the Vice-chairs of the Divisions and Round Tables) did their work well, and serendipity did its part to provide quite a diverse selection for the Conference attendees. The Conference Arrangements Committee, led by Kathryn Lopez, did such a professional job that most of us were unaware any effort was involved; we just knew things went the way they were supposed to. From my vantage point, the 1985 Conference can be declared a success.

My vantage point may not be the best one for overall evaluation, though. Most people would be reluctant to tell me if they had any major criticisms or suggestions that we do things differently in the future. That is why I have included an evaluation form in this issue of the Newsletter. I hope you will all make sure the evaluation is compiled and passed on to the right people so that the 1986 Conference will be even better than 1985's was.

Although I seem to be focusing on evaluation and planning right now, what I really appreciate about the Conference has almost nothing to do with the program. Sure, a good program is important, but the real value of the Conference for me is that it puts me into contact with "library people" from all around the state, from all types of libraries, with all kinds of personal and professional experiences to share. I leave every annual Conference revitalized, proud to be a part of the wonderful group of people who support New Mexico's libraries. I am as impressed by the volunteer who runs a one-man deposit collection in a grocery store as I am by the cataloger of government documents, and vice versa. We have the entire gamut in this state, from the most sophisticated and specialized librarians to the ones that run their libraries on good will and a shoestring. And, because there aren't too many of us, we meet each other and talk with one another during the Conference.

So, while I encourage you to complete and return the enclosed evaluation form, more than that, I encourage you to attend the 1986 Conference. Cherrell Whitlow and the Vice Chairs of the Divisions and Round Tables will plan a very good program, I'm sure of that. But it won't be the same without you!
NMLA's Newest Round Table
—by Zu Zu Blachly
Del Norte High School Librarian

Bill Richmond, New Mexico State Library media specialist, and Zu Zu Blachly, Del Norte High School librarian, Albuquerque, were elected chairperson and vice-chairperson respectively of NMLA's newest round table, Nonprint Round Table. The name the group adopted during an organizational meeting on Friday, April 19, at Sweeney Center. At the same time, bylaws were accepted as follows:

A. To promote the awareness of nonprint library materials—their availability and their existence in present library collections—as useful sources of information to New Mexico libraries.

B. To provide instruction, training, and consultation for New Mexico librarians in the acquisition, mediagraphic control, and use of nonprint materials.

C. To serve as a liaison between librarians and other groups interested in nonprint materials.

D. To serve as a liaison between librarians and private or commercial agencies regarding the publication and distribution of nonprint materials.

E. To provide a forum for the discussion of problems relating to nonprint materials and other issues of concern to those involved.

Chairperson Bill Richmond announced that the work program this year would emphasize gaining the membership needed to hold round table status. A secretary for the group will be appointed.

One of the group's first activities was to prepare a flyer for this newsletter; a program is being planned for the next NMLA Conference in Albuquerque.

Divided We Fall:
NMLA Nonprint Round Table
—by J. Johnstone
Director, NICEM (National Information Center for Educational Media)

Why did thirty NMLA members petition to establish an audiovisual round table of NMLA? I can't speak for them, except to say that after my tenure as president of the New Mexico Media Association, I suggested to the NMMA executive board that NMMA should consider joining with NMLA as a way to achieve the goals of the organization more effectively.

I suggested exploring a merger because of my experience with the two organizations. Particularly as a past president of the smaller of the two, it seems to me that the advantages of scale outweigh the disadvantages of loss of autonomy

for NMMA.

Consider autonomy: NMMA publishes a newsletter and a directory, conducts workshops, and has at least one luncheon a year where someone gives a talk. These activities require volunteer labor, coordination with other groups (especially NMLA), and cash. Without a certain minimum critical mass of members, the economies of scale begin to work against a small organization. This is especially true for publications, publicity, and political action. Nationally, the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) performs these tasks well. AECT has many New Mexican members, several of whom choose not to belong to NMMA or NMLA.

New Mexico, however, does have an interest in educational technology which can be addressed at the state level. Professional and continuing education, resource sharing, and standards are all issues which concern both librarians and audiovisual personnel.

Distance learning, for instance, is an issue which has audiovisual implications in a state which has no ALA-accredited school of librarianship or an advanced degree program in educational technology. Telecourses, teleconferences, and telecommunications networks in general are of potential value to a state with geographically dispersed population clusters.

Interlibrary loan, consortium purchases, and other networking opportunities such as electronic mail are also areas of common interest to members of both associations.

Technical standards, materials evaluation, and professional standards also need attention by both associations. The recent needs assessment by the State Library indicated such a need. The consortium purchase of videocassette instruction by the New Mexico Media Network is a good example of group effort yielding affordable quality materials for participating institutions.

Consider membership in NMLA, which is six times as large as NMMA. The newsletter, lobbyist, and conference arrangements are supported by a group large enough to take advantage of division of labor and a set of operational procedures that concentrate intelectual and physical resources effectively.

NMLA round tables have voting membership on the executive board. If their membership exceeds 19% of the association's membership, the choice for NMMA members amounts to increasing dues to go it alone or to join NMLA, as members of the Nonprint Round Table. Many NMMA members already belong to NMLA. Round table dues are less than present NMMA dues.

Would the NMLA Nonprint Round Table qualify as the New Mexico affiliate of AECT? The answer is a qualified yes, depending upon how many members of each of the three associations belong to both AECT and the state organization. Would loss of AECT affiliation negatively affect audiovisual service to New Mexicans, anyway? Examine Jim Loya's report from the Anaheim AECT conference for insight into the value of AECT (NMMA Spring Newsletter, 1985).

I believe that the best arrangement for New Mexico would be for the NMLA Nonprint Round Table to achieve voting status on the executive committee. As it stands, it is up to sixty members, which is about half of NMMA's present membership. This would bring to bear on audiovisual issues the resources and networking opportunities of a state organization much larger than NMMA. Furthermore, the NMMA executive board should present to the NMLA membership the options and procedures surrounding AECT affiliation, and perhaps bring to a vote of the membership the question of continuing NMMA as an autonomous organization.

Finally, it should be noted that the measure of an organization is the changes it effects—the quality of its accomplishments, not the outward symbols of its existence.

Form should not be confused with substance.
Mathews Suggests Aggression

— by Bill Foege

Virginia Mathews, chairwoman of ALA's ad hoc committee on Realities and the Alliance for Excellence, served on a panel of excellent speakers at this year's NMLA conference.

Ms. Mathews served as the Native American Round Table's keynote speaker on a panel including Tom Horan, NMLA lobbyist; State Senator Tim Jennings (Chaves County); and Joan Murphy, a representative from Senator Pete Domenici's Santa Fe office. Panelists spoke on "Building Public Support for Libraries", and discussion centered on issues of library funding in an era of budgetary belt tightening by the public sector. Recommendations were made as to what libraries and librarians need to do to make their budgetary needs known to the communities they serve as well as to legislative decision makers at all political levels.

In her address, Ms. Mathews noted that librarians have not aggressively approached the tasks of organizing their constituents in their communities and lobbying legislators on library funding and development issues. She suggested that New Mexico librarians be trained in the techniques of community organization and lobbying through NMLA or its state library. As a start, Ms. Mathews emphasized the strategy of making contact with organizations having constituent interests in libraries. She noted that building coalitions of organizations around library issues and then lobbying decision makers as a group of concerned citizens organizations is an effective tactic that librarians could implement on all political levels.

Mathews stressed that if librarians do not get involved in aggressively asking for the funding and resources needed to provide quality library services in our communities, then we can likely look forward to a smaller piece of a shrinking budgetary pie with which to operate our libraries.

As a person who has been active for many years on issues involving library services to Native Americans, Mathews, along with other panelists, provided inspiration for librarians. She lauded the groundwork for the LSCA Title IV funding to Indian Libraries, and in her current position is charged with the task of formulating responses to the U.S. Department of Education's "Nation at Risk" report.

The United States Newspaper Project in New Mexico

— by Ruth Krug

UNM

The University of New Mexico General Library is nearing completion of the first stage of what is locally being called the New Mexico Newspaper Project. This first phase of a three-phase project has been supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The primary purpose of this part of the project has been to organize institutions and individuals in the state who are concerned with collections of New Mexico newspapers. Toward this end, a conference was recently held in Albuquerque (see related article)

Secondary goals of this project phase have been twofold; first, to inventory all newspapers ever published in the state, using Pearce Grove's New Mexico Newspapers as a foundation, concentrating on the identification of recent discoveries not included in Grove's guide; and second, to plan for cataloging, including the development of cost estimates, of all titles according to CONSER standards for eventual entry into the OCLC database.

Future phases of the project call for cataloging (Phase II) and microfilming (Phase III) of all New Mexico newspapers.

The New Mexico Newspaper Project is only a small part of the United States Newspaper Project, a national program based on individual state projects, whose earliest beginnings date back to 1973. It was not until 1982-83, however, that the USNP assumed its present form and NEH awarded its first grants to participants. As of this writing, one other state is working on Phase I of the project, and ten states have begun work on Phase II.

Publicity Swap 'N Share

Fifty people attended the Swap 'N Share of publicity materials at the 1985 NMLA Conference. An ALA Library Clip Art Book was awarded as a prize in a drawing of names of those who contributed publicity samples to the Swap 'N Share. Ben Wakenshige of Albuquerque was the lucky winner.

Theresa Connaughton is pleased to announce that $1,097 was netted during the Silent Auction held at the conference. Thanks to everyone who bid or donated items to be auctioned.

We are searching for some true horror stories concerning banned books for the August issue of the NMLA Newsletter. Banned Books Week is September 7-14, and we would like to celebrate it by exchanging censorship occurrences within New Mexico. Your articles can deal with books that have been challenged in your library or solutions you found to questions raised about "problem titles". The materials are, they are better.

Please send articles, typed or neatly handwritten and double spaced, to:
Daryl Black
New Mexico State Library
325 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, NM 87503

or
Chuck Baldenhuber
Librarian
Albuquerque T-VI
325 Buena Vista SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Any items of interest would be appreciated.

Bookmobile Service Unhampered by Wall Collapse

On March 19, a wall at the State Library Rural Bookmobile East headquarters in Tucumcari collapsed, totally destroying a state vehicle and damaging one bookmobile. Approximately 2800 volumes out of the 25,000 volume collection were also destroyed, along with the card catalogue and some furnishings. It has been determined that the wall collapsed due to "hidden decay" (an insurance term) furthered by heavy rains in the area at the time. Vida Gibson, director of the Rural Bookmobiles program at the State Library, said that damages were estimated to be $42,000. The insurance claim has not yet been settled. Gibson said, "We hope to have work on a final settlement in the near future."

In the interim, Dan Monreal and his staff at the Rural Bookmobile East have rented other office space in Tucumcari. Because the bookmobile from the former headquarters in Lovington was available, normal bookmobile service was uninterrupted and continues on schedule.
A Route to Regional Books

—by Eileen Schroeder-Tirman Library, UNM

The SLCYASD of the New Mexico Library Association formed a Book Review Committee in 1980 to emphasize books on New Mexico and the Southwest in professional reviews written by school and public librarians around the state. Each year the booklet has grown, starting with 12 reviews in 1980, and expanding to 53 reviews and a list of New Mexico publishers in 1985.

The first four booklets were done by a small group of dedicated committee members and reviewers and distributed at the State Library convention. These publications contained many little-known titles, and reached between 50 and 100 librarians each year.

In 1984 it was decided to find out what the constituency thought of the effort to enlist a wider group of reviewers. The booklet, along with a letter, a questionnaire, and a volunteer card, was sent to every school and library in the state. This in itself was a major project because there is no central directory of librarians who deal with children's and young adult materials. In all, about 600 were mailed, many to schools where no librarian's name was given on the State Library's list. In such a diverse state as New Mexico, it is entirely possible that these schools do not carry titles published by local librarians. As our goal was to omit no one, we did a very broad mailing. A notice was also sent to the State Library's newsletter announcing the effort.

This mailing accomplished several things. First, it generated 38 volunteer reviewers for the 1985 booklet. Second, 120 questionnaires were returned from a wide range of libraries (73.3% school, 18.1% public, 4.3% other) containing much valuable data and insights. The questionnaire included requests for copies from numerous other libraries were received by the committee chairperson. The desired bibliographic information, and gathering of librarians' opinions were achieved. Almost a third of the respondents had never seen a copy of the booklet.

Basically, the questionnaire told the Division two things—continue the booklet (82.5% said continue, 9.2% said continue with changes, 5.8% did not respond, and only 2.5% said to stop) and distribute it again through volunteer committees (85.5% said not get the 1984 booklet at the convention). Several changes were suggested, including adding the current price and grade level, concentrating on new publications (although 63.5% agreed that it might be useful to review some older titles), including all types of materials on the Southwest, especially materials for younger students and A.V. materials (87.3% said the booklet should continue to concentrate on the Southwest largely because little else does this for children; 54.1% suggested covering other materials, unnecessary and would weaken the publication), making some format changes, and changing the publisher list, including only new publishers each year, listing what each small press publishes, or arranging them by area (84% agreed the list as at least moderately useful and 62% recommended continuing it). When asked about the opinion of the booklet, 84.5% moderately agreed or agreed that there were titles new to them included; 79.6% thought there might be something they would purchase. The comment often came up that the booklet is especially good for new librarians and newcomers to the state. Over 85% found the reviews useful, and several mentioned appreciating the personal comments by local librarians in the reviews.

In addition to soliciting volunteers, the questionnaire asked for suggested titles to review and other similar reviewing sources. Only 14.2% could suggest any titles or even subjects to review—many of these were older titles—and 22.5% suggested other reviewing sources, mainly Book Talk from the New Mexico Book League, Books on the Southwest, from the University of Arizona, and ALA's The Southwest. The first two occasionally mention a juvenile title, and the last one is good for older titles. Several people did mention individuals who have a good knowledge of publishing on the state. The local newspapers were also mentioned as possible sources for titles.

Most useful were the comments added to the questionnaire. Many expressed appreciation for bringing the titles together in one place (and including works from small presses not found in major journals). They saw its use by both staff and patrons. Some appreciated the chance to get involved in the state organization, a real challenge in such a large state.

Of course, not all comments were positive. Some felt the publisher list was not useful. One mentioned the need to try harder to involve all the cultures of the state—Indian, Hispanic, and Anglo. One felt an annual publication was not current enough for ordering.

For New Mexico, this is probably a valuable effort. It does require time by dedicated individuals to contact small press publishers, scan catalogs and other sources for new titles, contact possible reviewers, write reviews, and put the whole thing together. The payoff comes when a librarian finds a book he/she did not know about and can acquire it, or when a child looking for another book on the Southwest can find it. It is a possible project for other state organizations who want to help their members in their day-to-day jobs.

Town of Bernalillo Celebrates Twenty Years of Library Service

—by Joe Sabatini

Albuquerque Public Library

On February 16, over a hundred citizens gathered at the Bernalillo Public Library to commemorate twenty years of community efforts to bring effective library service to Bernalillo and other Sandoval County residents. At a ceremony in the Town Council chambers, librarian Martha Liebert gave recognition to many dedicated volunteers who gave time, labor, books, and resources to build and stock the library. In turn, Mrs. Liebert was honored for her role in the creation and growth of the library when Mayor Mike Foster declared the day to be "Martha Liebert Day."

The Bernalillo Library was founded in 1965 by a group of friends who collected the books, incorporated a non profit organization, obtained advice from neighboring librarians and from the State Library, and got the use of a room in the old Town Hall. The library moved three times before ample quarters were provided in a new Town Hall built in 1978. The library qualified for state aid beginning in 1974, and is now a part of the town government.

Throughout much of its history, the library was staffed by volunteers and paid county government workers, under the guidance of a volunteer board, with the town government assisting with utilities and book money. Mrs. Liebert, one of the founders, has been involved as a board member or librarian through the entire twenty years. She has been very active in making the library a focal point for a wide variety of cultural activities for children and adults in the community. A large collection of historical photographs of the area, assembled through a New Mexico Humanities Council grant, is a featured attraction.

In addition to having the day named in her honor, Martha Liebert also received recognition for her efforts as one of seven New Mexicans to receive a 1985 Jefferson Award given by television station KOAT to recognize significant community achievement. A feature story on the library appeared in the Albuquerque Journal on Sunday, February 10, describing the library's friendly atmosphere and wide range of activities.

Information from the Federal Government on subjects ranging from agriculture to zoology is available at Depository Libraries across the nation. You can visit these libraries and use the Depository collections without charge.

To find one in your area, contact your local library or write: Federal Depository Library Program, Office of the Public Printer, Washington, DC 20401.
By Joe Sabatini

(continued from the March, 1985 issue of the Newsletter on the history of the certification law in New Mexico, there is an error in the sequence of events portrayed, as well as errors in the transcription of some of the final paragraphs, which need to be corrected. The article is intended to give the reader a basic background to revise the 1947 Certification Act when Miss Evelyn Shuler of Raton wrote a letter to Governor Mechem in 1952 expressing the hope that Miss Shuler was the public library director in Raton at that time. In fact, Miss Shuler retired as librarian in 1952. She wrote a letter to Governor Mechem as a private citizen on September 20, 1961, long after N.M.L.A. had begun the study of the certification law. Since these events are central to the establishment of the certification program, this is the corrected version of the second half of the article. My thanks to Betty Lloyd and Thelma Nord for Raton for their assistance.)

As New Mexico grew during the 1950's, increasing numbers of municipalities became library directors in Raton at that time. In fact, Miss Shuler of the State Library was the public library director in Raton. At that time, Miss Shuler retired as librarian in 1952. She wrote a letter to Governor Mechem as a private citizen on September 20, 1961, long after N.M.L.A. had begun the study of the certification law. Since these events are central to the establishment of the certification program, this is the corrected version of the second half of the article. My thanks to Betty Lloyd and Thelma Nord for Raton for their assistance.

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RESOLUTION

Presented at the New Mexico Newspaper Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 16, 1985

Whereas New Mexico’s newspapers are an invaluable record of the state’s heritage; And whereas, the University of New Mexico has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to coordinate the New Mexico contribution to the United States Newspaper Project; And whereas, New Mexico’s contribution to the national effort is dependent on the cooperation of individuals, organizations, and institutions in order to locate, catalog, and preserve these newspapers; And whereas, it is in the interest of New Mexico and its citizens to succeed in this project; And whereas, those gathered at this New Mexico Newspaper Conference represent the scholarly, journalistic, literary, and other general interests, Be it resolved that we pledge our support for the New Mexico Newspaper Project and ask that others join us in seeking the funding and the cooperation needed to complete this project successfully; Be it further resolved that this message be brought to the attention of the scholarly, journalistic, and library communities, as well as officials in our legislative and executive branches, and that they be asked for their support and cooperation.

Dr. Neveda Wallis Thomason—A Memorial

—by Ben Wadadsehe University of Albuquerque

We would like to note the passing away on April 9, 1985 of one of our friends and colleagues, Dr. Neveda Wallis Thomason. Neveda Thomason was born and raised in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. She received a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Henderson State University (Arkansas), Master of Science in Library Science degree from East Texas State University, and Doctor of Education degree from University of Colorado (Boulder). Neveda’s twenty-six years of librarianship included service as a librarian at a variety of educational levels: junior high school, high school, community college, and university. Neveda’s last six years were spent as the library educator instructor (with the rank of Associate Professor) at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

Neveda was active with a number of professional library organizations—American Library Association, Association of Educational Communication and Technology, New Mexico Library Association, and the New Mexico Media Association, of which she served as president from 1981 to 1982.

Her publication credits are numerous. They include the publication of three books: The Library Media Specialist in Curricular Development (Scarecrow Press, 1981); Circulation Systems for School Media Centers: Manual for Microcomputers (Librarians Unlimited, 1983); Microcomputer Information for School Media Centers (Scarecrow Press, 1983).

As an educator, she was a freelance individual, accepting in the classroom teaching ideas beyond the traditional. Computer and telecommunication technologies allowed her to provide her students access to information in new and exciting ways.

We will indeed miss Neveda—her enthusiasm for her work and life, her adventurous spirit, the encouragement which she cheerfully shared and, most of all, her friendship.

Author of The Desert is Theirs to Visit New Mexico

She has been described as a poet of feelings, a storyteller who has the unique ability to involve people of all ages in her tales. Born in San Antonio, Texas and raised in the deserts of Arizona and Mexico, Byrd Baylor is intimately familiar with the Southwest, its people, animals, and ecology. On July 24-26, she will be in New Mexico to unravel the secrets of the desert with audiences across the state.

An author of books predominately for children (although many adults would argue that point), including Hawk, You Are My Brother; When Clay Sings; If You Are a Hunter of Fossils; Amigo; and The Best Town in the World, Baylor says, “I feel at home with cliffs and mesas and rocks and open skies...all my books are...full of places and people I know. I think of them as my own kind of private love songs to my own part of the world.” Ms. Baylor has recently written a movie production by the state of Arizona on wildlife adaptation to the extremes found in the desert Southwest.

Farmington Public Library will be the first stop on the tour where Baylor will appear at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 24. Her next talk will be at the Gallup Public Library at 3:00 that afternoon. On the 25th, three appearances will be made, the first at 10:30 a.m. at the Estrella Memorial Library in Rio Rancho, followed by an afternoon visit to the "Bernalillo Public Library" at 2:00 p.m. That evening, at 6:30 p.m., she will be at the Albuquerque Public Library downtown. Ms. Baylor’s first stop on Friday, July 26, will be at the Socorro Public Library at 10:00 a.m., and the final appearance of the tour is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. at the Bernalillo Public Library. The public is invited to attend any of Baylor’s appearances free of charge. The tour is made possible by a grant from the New Mexico State Library, a division of the State of New Mexico Office of Cultural Affairs.

No problems of censorship or of threatened intellectual freedom within New Mexico have been brought to the attention of the Committee during the year. We continue to receive and gather information of all kinds from very various sources regarding problems of censorship, and a packet of information on the subject, including suggested sender appropriate sending and dealing with possible problems of censorship, has now been put together. It is available to librarians through the chairperson of the Legislation Committee.

Legislation Committee Keeps Track of Current Issues

—by James Benefiel

St. John’s College

Committee activities during the fall and winter centered largely upon several bills of proposed legislation introduced to the 1985 state legislature. The Public Records Inspection bill, HB 456, was one for which Committee members, as well as other members of our Association, campaigned vigorously through personal contact with legislators. The bill passed both houses, but has been vetoed by Governor Anaya, who explained that the bill would not sufficiently have safeguarded the right of the public to information which should be available to it.

HB 102, Minor’s Access bill, passed the legislature and has been signed into law by the Governor. Concern had been expressed in some quarters of the state that this law would manifest a form of censorship. The Association, however, decided not to make any intervention with regard to HB 102. Committee members did not read the bill any real problem appeared there seemed in the bill to be no implication of problems for libraries.

Sen. SB 122 was introduced by Mr. Timothy Jennings. This measure had been signed into law, would have secured for library development: $1.00 of tax money per capita from state revenues. SB 122 was passed by the Senate, but was not taken up by the House. Further, our Committee contacted members of the House Finance Committee to urge passage of the bill. But alas, the thing never got to the floor of the House and expired in committee.

No legislation was introduced to this legislature with regard to any change of the state law concerning certification of librarians. The subject will be studied by our Association during the coming year.

New Board Member Orientation

All members of NMLA are invited to attend an orientation session for new members of the NMLA Executive Board on Friday, June 14, at 9:00 a.m. at the library on the campus of the New Mexico State University, Agriculture, and Technology in Socorro. Current and past members of the Board will review all aspects of the Board’s responsibilities including structure, finances, the Conference, communications, and procedures. The meeting is being conducted by the Library Development Committee and the Bylaws and Procedures Committee, and is held annually.
BLAZING NEW TRAILS
LIBRARY ISSUES IN 85 AND BEYOND
"PARTING SHOTS"

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