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One hundred twenty-five guests attending the NCLA Banquet to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the American Library Association on National Library Day, October 4.

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES NATIONAL LIBRARY DAY

One hundred and twenty-five librarians, trustees, and friends of libraries from all over the state gathered at the Carolina Inn in Chapel Hill on Thursday, October 4, for a birthday dinner in honor of the 75th anniversary of the American Library Association and in celebration of National Library Day. The party was unanimously acclaimed one of the most pleasant and successful social functions ever sponsored by N.C.L.A.

Miss Jane Wilson, president, presided at the dinner and after a word of greeting to the guests introduced Dr. Louis Round Wilson, a past-president of A.L.A., who delivered the invocation. During the dinner, President Wilson announced that a telegram of greeting had been sent from the Association to the official A.L.A. observance of the same occasion in Philadelphia, birthplace of A.L.A. in 1876. She also read from Governor Scott's message calling on all citizens of North Carolina to give thought on that day to the contributions of the state's libraries and of those who operate them.

After the dinner, Miss Olivia Burwell, chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, introduced another past-president of A.L.A., Dr. Harry Miller Lydenberg, who gave some personal reminiscences of earlier days of A.L.A. Its organization was then simple, the membership was small, and there was no paid executive staff. "But," he reminded his listeners, "there were giants in those days," and spoke particularly of the personalities and contributions of Justin Winsor, Melvil Dewey, John Shaw Billings, and John Cotton Dana. "And there are giants in these days," he concluded, paying tribute to our beloved Louis R. Wilson as one who would surely be so recognized.

Dr. Benjamin E. Powell, librarian of Duke University, closed the program with a brief talk on the A.L.A. of today and its opportunities in the future. He recognized the frequent criticisms of A.L.A. officers and activities, but called this a "satisfactory state of dissatisfaction" so long as it is kept in mind that "we," not "they," are the A.L.A. The Association has been reorganized in the past decade and a half to provide a place for most of the varied interests of its members, and its activities broadened and kept up to date by the creation of many new boards and standing committees. A.L.A. is stronger now than ever, yet this is not the time for complacency. "But we can be hopeful and optimistic about the future, (for there is) a job which all of its members agree is a highly important one—to make our book collections active forces for good in their communities." Librarians must step out of their passive roles, and not only select and collect the proper materials but see that people read widely enough to draw fair conclusions and cooperate fully with other agencies of education and information. "The goal toward which we, as librarians, are striving is preservation of our way of life; it is the most important goal that any of us has had an opportunity to work toward . . . The future of A.L.A. is bright. It is strong in prestige and membership, and everyone of us has an equal opportunity to make a substantial contribution through librarianship to a way of life that we will appreciate more as we work to preserve it."

—Robert W. Christ,
Assistant Librarian,
Duke University, Durham

The School of Library Science of the University of North Carolina is in the process of making an index to the first 10 volumes of *North Carolina Libraries*. When the Index is completed, it will be offered to the North Carolina Library Association for publication. It is hoped that the fourth issue of Volume X can be the Directory and/or Index edition.