

Chapbook... **Volume 41** **Fall 2002**
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North Carolina Library Association

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

R...E.... S.... P.... E.... C...T

By Mel Burton, Children's Information Specialist, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County

The economy has been in a downturn and our local and state representatives have been trying to reduce spending except in the case of education. Libraries are not thought of when considering this category, however. It seems as if we need Aretha Franklin to show up at the statehouse and county commissioners meetings and sing a song she is famous for, Respect. We need just a little bit of respect and recognition that our efforts do influence education.

We can continue to gather anecdotal evidence of our impact, but Jim Rosinia, Youth Services Consultant for the State Library of North Carolina, has developed links to the state library's website that tell of research and studies about the impact of library services on educational levels of young people. The url is <http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us> Go to the site then click on Youth Services and then click on Making the Case for Library Services to Children and Teens. One Colorado study stated that in the highest third of reading test scores the per capita circulation of children's materials was 2.5. For the middle third it was 2.0 and for the lowest third it was 1.8. In a different study entitled "Summer Learning and the Effects of Schooling", a couple conclusions were that the number of books read during the summer

was linked to academic gains and that the public library was a factor in children's intellectual development during the summer. Jim has done a good job of categorizing the studies and making them available to North Carolina librarians. Much more information is available than what I have referred to.

We have been successful recently in holding off further cuts at the state level. Use the information that is available to you so that you can make your case with your local government. Together with the studies that are available, your patrons as your advocates, and your connections to elected representatives, your local governing bodies will not fail to see the impact that you have on education. When this happens, then you will get some satisfaction that you received more than a little respect.



From the Editor:

I think 'gathering anecdotal evidence' of the impact of Children's Services on children is important. It shows not only what we do but why we do it. We diligently search for meaningful ways to present programs, support school curriculums, challenge children to read, and generally fulfill the list of 40 developmental prerequisites needed for child development.

But, **HOW** are we impacting the children? I would like you, as a children's services person, to think of heart-warming mini-stories of the way your work and personal touch has changed a child's life. Some of you work in wretched working conditions among economically challenged people searching for meaning in their lives. I think it is necessary to let others know of the small victories made during a normal working day in children's services. How else will the government officials and other 'powers that be' realize the importance of providing operational funding?

Please send these mini-stories to me. I will print them in the next issue.

...Loretta Talbert, Chapbook Editor

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A few years ago our library system's summer reading program used the slogan "Clue Into Reading" and had a mystery theme. The following reader's theatre was written especially for our summer reading kickoff program and this December is being used for a presentation at senior citizen centers. Have fun going back in time. Sincerely, Mel.



NCO's Radio Mystery Theatre

Performers: Announcer, Andy, Melanie, Mrs. Perry, MC, Sound Effects-(2), Apple Tree Singers- (All except announcer), Bobby, Susie, Mom, Dad, Swing Singers-(All).

Script:

Mistress of Ceremonies: Welcome to North County Regional Library's version of radio mystery theatre. Just as in other dramatic presentations, some of the actors will be playing more than one role. Before television, millions of people listened and pictured actions in their minds as actors read dialog into microphones. Sound effects people created whatever sounds went along with the actions. Let's go back in time as we watch a family enjoy a radio story experience.

(Family-Bobby, Susie, Mom, and Dad) -are seated around a table. Bobby leans over to old timey radio and turns it on.)

Announcer: Tune in next week for another adventure of the Shadow....
"Who knows what evil lurks in the minds of men? The Shadow knows....
(Cackles)."

Mom: Bobby, turn that radio off. You haven't finished your supper yet.

(Bobby turns off radio and Mom leaves table to get saucers)

Bobby: But ma!

Susie: Apple Pie for dessert!

Dad: Anything will wait while we have apple pie.

Mom: Here you are. (*Hands out saucers and family pretend to eat apple pie.*)

Dad: This is good pie. You can tell the apples were just picked from Orchard's orchard.

Susie: Bobby's sure not complaining since he got a bigger piece than me.

Mom: That should be a bigger piece than I, and dessert sure didn't take long to eat. You can turn the radio on now, Bobby.

(*Bobby turns on radio.*)

Announcer: And now, welcome to Radio Mystery Theatre sponsored by Wonder Bread—Builds strong bodies twelve ways, Bazooka Joe Gum—comics with every pack of gum, and Andrew's Library which invites you to clue into reading. We'll be right back with our first installment of tonight's episode, but first this musical interlude.

Song by Apple Tree Singers: Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree With Anyone Else But Me

Announcer: We'll be right back after this commercial announcement:

Jo: Worried about how people look at you when you smile? Remember, "You'll wonder where the yellow went when you brush your teeth with Pepsodent!" Brush with Pepsodent for a clean white smile.

Announcer: And now, listen as we hear tonight's episode called "What's The Rest of the Story?"

Andy: (*reading from book*) The little duck wandered down the road looking for the rest of his family. The road curved and around the bend the duck saw..... Oh, no! The last page has been torn out of this book!

Melanie: You mean we're not going to find out if the duck finds his family?

Andy: It was hardly worth reading this book to miss the ending. We'd better tell the librarian about this when we return the book. By the way do you know how to get down off an elephant?

Melanie: No, how do you get down off an elephant?

Andy: You don't get down off an elephant. You get down off a duck.

Melanie: That gives us another reason for going to the library.

Andy: What's that?

Melanie: To get you some joke books!

Andy: No better time than the present. Let's go!

(Door opening and door closing sounds.)

(Car honking sound.)

Melanie: Andy, you better be more careful. You almost stepped in front of that car.

Andy: Traffic is getting worse. I saw six cars at the same time yesterday. You should always look around to see what you can see on Mulberry Street.

(Sounds of motors and more car honks)

Melanie: Here we are. It didn't take long to get here.

(Sound of walking up steps)

(Sound of big door opening)

Andy: There's the librarian, Mrs. Perry.

(Sounds of book stamping)

Mrs. Perry: Hey Melanie and Andy. How are you doing?

Melanie: We're unhappy with this book we checked out. The last page has been torn out and we don't know how it ends.

Mrs. Perry: You're not the only ones that have been unhappy with their library experience. At least six other people have told me that it's happened to them. If this keeps happening people will stop checking out books from the library.

Andy: We're sorry this is happening, Mrs. Perry. We'll try to think of why this might be going on.

(Five second music transition)

Announcer: Does anyone find the villain behind these evil deeds? Do people stop checking books out of the library? Does Andy find any better jokes? The answers to these questions are revealed in the next installment of tonight's episode, "What's The Rest of the Story?"

(Instrumental music plays during family scene)

Bobby: Do you think we should go check our library books?

Mom: Bobby, it's just a radio show. It's not real.

Bobby: Oh! I forgot.

Susie: You better pay attention, though. Andy has better jokes than you do without using the library books.

Bobby: Very funny, Susie. Someday I'll remember to laugh.

Dad: When this show is over, I have a story to read aloud just as Andy and Melanie were doing. We'll have our own detective story, Freddy the Detective.

Mom: My favorite is Sherlock Holmes.

Announcer: I hope you enjoyed that musical interlude. And now a word from one of our sponsors, Andrew's Library.

Commercial: Are you stumped? Want adventure? Desire to travel? The only nation you can go to is the one you're in? Andrew's Library has books that will take you to the imagination. Your mind is a wonderful thing and books will help you use your mind in all the possible ways. Not only can you go to other places, but you can also go to other times and all through the partnership of words and your mind. Your local public library has all kinds of storytimes. There are programs for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers, and school age children.

What would you expect to pay for a service like this? Twenty dollars a visit? Ten dollars? Five? If you act now all this is available for the one low price of zero. Come to Andrew's Library and Clue Into Reading.

Announcer: Before we return to our mystery episode, we have a special presentation. Our in studio swing singers will perform the Little White Duck and Six Little Ducks medley. I'm sure it will put a ping in your heart.

(instrumental music plays while family talks)

MC: Worried about finding your soap in the bathtub? Get Ivory Soap because it floats. You can't sink Ivory Soap. It doesn't have strange stuff in it like those other soaps. It's 99 and 44 hundreds percent pure. When you're in the store, look for the soap in the blue and white package. Ivory Soap, it floats.

Susie: It's a good thing we weren't singing those songs or everyone would be quacking up!

Bobby: Very funny. I get the yolk.

Mom: Children, let's not go to an egg stream.

Dad: Egg zactly!

Susie: And to think that I started this. Let's let these ducks go wandering. I think it's time for the mystery episode to start again.

Announcer: Let us return now to those days of yesteryear with a hearty hi-yo silver.....oops.....wrong intro....We turn our attention to tonight's mystery, "What's the Rest of the Story?" Andy and Melanie are at home discussing the library tragedy.

Melanie: What do you think is happening with the books at the library?

Andy: Obviously, someone is coming into the library and tearing out the last pages of books, but how.....and why?

Melanie: I don't think it could be during the day while the library is open. Mrs. Perry is too sharp-eyed and sharp-eared to let something like that happen while she's around.

Andy: Do you think someone's getting in while the library is closed?

Melanie: I noticed just how they're probably doing it as we left the library. A latch on a basement window is broken.

Andy: Say, meet me in the hallway after Mom and Dad are asleep.

Melanie: Why?

Andy: We're going to catch a crook.

(five seconds of music, then snoring)
(Both characters whisper)

Melanie: I think they're sound asleep.

Andy: OK, let's go.

(Sound of door opening and closing softly)

Andy: OK, now on to the library.

(sound of twig snapping)

Melanie: Watch where you're stepping.

Andy: I can't watch where I'm stepping. It's dark out.

Melanie: All right. Just do the best you can.

Andy: Once there was a dark, dark wood.

Melanie: Would you stop that? This is creepy enough for me.

(Sound of owl hooting)

Melanie: And that goes for you, too.

Andy: Here are the steps of the library. We have to go past these bushes to get to the basement window.

Melanie: Here it is. I'll lift up the window while you slip into the basement.

Andy: Right! Thanks for letting me go first.

(Creaking sound of window opening, then clumping sound of Andy hitting the floor)

Andy: Here's a stool for you to put your feet on as you come down into the basement. Now give me your hand.

(Banging metal sound)

Melanie: What happened?

Andy: I think I kicked a bucket!

Melanie: Let's get upstairs to where the books are shelved.

(Sounds of stepping on stairs, then door creaking open)

Melanie: It's a lot less scary to be here in the daytime. What do we do now?

Andy: We wait and hope that sometime the criminal shows up tonight.....(instrumental music for six seconds)(*sounds of paper tearing*)

Melanie: Andy did you hear that?

Andy: (*sounding sleepy*) Hear what?

Melanie: Andy, when you said wait I didn't think you meant sleep also. I think I heard someone tearing paper. Listen.

(*sounds of tearing paper again*)

Andy: I think it's happening over in the third aisle of children's fiction.

Melanie: Let's sneak over that way.

(*Sound of a book being dropped*)

Andy: Who turned the lights on?

Melanie: It's Mrs. Perry by the light switch, but who's in the shelving aisles?

Andy and Melanie together: The Radio Announcer!

Mrs. Perry: Yes, the perpetrator has been caught! I had the same idea as you two.

Melanie: But, Mr. Radio Announcer, why?

Announcer: The more people read, the less they listen to me. I want people to listen to me. I've got every last page stored in the files at the radio station.

Mrs. Perry: People need books just as much as radio. If you're nice to the judge, your penalty could be working for the library. I have a good idea what your first job is going to be—taping all the pages back into the books. And since you would be doing the work here, you'll have to be quiet while you're doing it.

(instrumental music for a few seconds)

Family scene:

Mom: OK, Bobby. That's it for this show.

(Bobby turns off radio)

Susie: Wow! I can't wait for next week's mystery.

Bobby: I can't imagine spoiling books for people.

Dad: Here's a book that will always be in style. Listen as we find out about Freddy's First Case in the book, *Freddy the Detective*.

(Starts reading at normal volume and gradually get softer and softer so it fades out) "It was hot. When Alice and Emma, the two white ducks, got tired of diving and swimming in the pond, they climbed out on the bank and looked over toward the house where Mr. Bean, the farmer, lived and "Oh" said Emma, "The house looks....."

(instrumental music plays until MC talks)

MC: I hope you enjoyed North County Regional Library's presentation.

(Announcer reads credits)

MC: *(Commercial):* To read more, try Avi's *Who Was That Masked Man, Anyway?* Or Brooks' *Freddy the Detective* series. Check with your local public library for books on tape, radio mysteries, or hard-boiled detective novels.

And now as Charles Osgood would say, we'll see you on the radio.

The End

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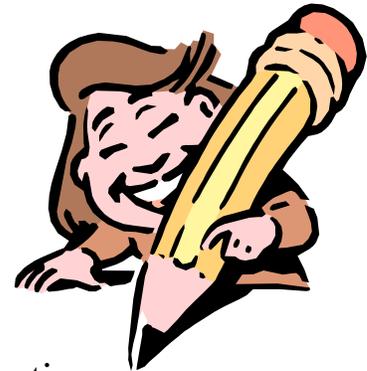
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From the Editor.....

I invite our readership to submit articles to the Chapbook; to share your tried and true special programs, or interesting projects, or upcoming events whereby all may be informed or even motivated to try something new. There is no deadline.

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