

Lynda Carlberg, former director of the Calcasieu Parish Library System died tragically November 17, 1997. She had been Director since 1978. During that time she built one of the finest Library Systems in the state, in staff, services, collection and buildings. She was active in state, regional and national Library activities, and many local community activities. She cared deeply about Libraries Southwest. She always found time to help others. She was a friend. Quiet simply, she was the best of the best. When Libraries Southwest lost Lynda, we lost our very heart.

The Directors of Libraries Southwest has established an award in Lynda's memory. It is to be given from time to time when merited, honoring the memory of a special friend, honoring special individuals for their contributions to Libraries.

Tonight, I am honored to present the first LIBRARIES SOUTHWEST LYNDA CARLBERG AWARD to Miss Sallie Farrell, retired La. State Librarian for her untiring support, and contributions to Libraries.

Miss Farrell was born in Brookhaven, Miss. She received her B.A. degree from Mississippi State College for Women, and her B.S. in Library Science, cum laude, from the University of Illinois

She has had a varied career.

Teacher-librarian at Picayune High School, Picayune, Miss.

Assistant, Queens Borough Public Library, Jamaica, NY.

Assistant, Tulane Univ. Library

Reference Librarian, La. State Library

Parish Librarian, Shreve Memorial Library, Shreveport

Librarian in Winn, Rapides and Calcasieu parishes.

Field Representative and Director of Field Services, La. State Library

La. State Librarian, retiring June 30, 1975.

She has served in various offices,

President, La. Library Association

Vice-President of ALA

Member of Council, ALA

and has contributed to professional journals

She has been a member of numerous organizations:

ALA

Southwestern Library Assoc.

National Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs

Public Affairs Research Council Board of Trustees

Delta Kappa Gamma

State honorary member of alpha Delta Kappa

La. Commission of Status of Women

La. Commission of Educational Television

Administrative Board, University United Methodist Church

Constitutional Records Commission, ex-officio member

In 1961, she was one of 7 American librarians selected to tour the Soviet Union as a member of the U.S. Dept. Cultural Exchange Program and in 1971, she received the Essae M. Culver Distinguished Service Award.

Miss Farrell has been a Super Saleswoman of Louisiana Libraries. When she was appointed as the 2nd State Librarian in 1962, she pledged that "...we will go forward, completing the establishment of public libraries in every parish in the State." By 1968, library service had been extended to the remaining 9 parishes in the state. She was directly involved in establishing library service in 44 parishes in the state. One Police Juror once said, she could sell an ice box to an Eskimo. A colleague once said of Miss Farrell, "Something about the way she talks to you makes you feel special, makes you want to do whatever she asks."

She has testified before congressional committees about Federal library legislation. She was among a group asked to testify in congressional committee concerning the

importance of libraries and the need of funds to establish and further a Federal library program. She worked actively for passage for the Federal Library Services Act and testified before congressional committees for legislation on several different occasions.

Over a period of eight years and four sessions of the legislature, she campaigned dauntlessly for a permanent home for the State Library. With the help of the Citizens' Library Movement, for which she was executive secretary, she was successful in gaining support; and the effort culminated in the dedication of a beautiful 2-million dollar state library building in 1958.

Miss Farrell was also instrumental in the establishment of libraries in the state's health and correctional institutions.

You have heard of individuals tell of special events in their lives—an audience with the Pope, attending an event at the White House, or perhaps meeting the Queen of England, or a celebrity. I too have a special memory that ranks up there with the others. When I was just starting out as Librarian of the Leesville State School, I spent two weeks at the State Library helping to get the collection ready for the library and meeting various staff members. The excitement of a new library and all of the wonderful new materials was great, but the most special thing was one day being invited to have tea with Miss Farrell in her office, just the two of us. Now that's an audience! I don't remember what was said, except she made me feel I was the most important person in the world. Being on Cloud 9 comes to mind. There were several of us guys working at institutional libraries at the time. Later on, I was told by a State Library staff member that we were known around the State Library as Miss Farrell's boys. It doesn't get any better than that!

She is the very essence of a southern lady, beautiful, bright, charming, caring, terrific smile, personality plus, and NO ONE can work a room like her.

One of her former staff members said, "She never had an illness, or would never mention it. She was always there."

Another mentioned her handwriting. It has been said that when she went on a trip

and sent a postcard back to the State Library, it took 4 to decipher.

Another staff member said that every Monday morning she would give the staff reference questions that she referred from friends she had encountered the previous weekend. Mondays were always filled with excitement.

One former staff member said that the one thing she remembered most was that Miss Farrell never said an unkind word or criticized people who were trying to do a good job. She has always been supportive of libraries and library programs.

Gretchen Fairbanks, State Library Consultant, says that when she attends national library meetings, someone will always ask, "How is Sallie Farrell?" and then follow in the next breath with a compliment about her. She is well known throughout the country and deeply appreciated.

Miss Farrell is the eternal optimist. She has touched the lives of thousands of adults and children. She has helped improve the living conditions and education of countless thousands through the libraries she has helped establish. She once recalled a farmer who in appealing for a library, said simply, "This is the way I look at it. A library would be a protection for the investment we've made in our schools. The schools get the children started; the library makes it possible for them to continue their education."

Miss Farrell is a living legend.

She has always been there for us. She has supported and encouraged us. She has been there for anniversaries, open houses, dedications, and during our time of deep sorrow, she has shown she cares.

It is with great joy and pride, that I present to Miss Sallie Farrell, on behalf of Libraries Southwest, the first Libraries Southwest Lynda Carlberg award for her outstanding contributions to Libraries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Miss Sallie Farrell.