Kay Smith: Okay, today is October 19th, 2013. This is Kay Smith, I am in Ridgeland Mississippi, with Lynn Fortney, interviewing her for the Oral History Project for Southern Chapter. We’re going to start with the first question: please describe how you became interested in librarianship and give a brief overview of your professional career.

Lynn Fortney: Brief? Brief overview… I became interested in librarianship because in the course of my undergraduate career we had to write many research papers. I spent many long hours in the library. I thought I knew everything there was to know about a library until I got into some of the more advanced topics and had to engage the services of a reference librarian who was the coolest person on the planet and could offer me all kinds of help, had ways of doing this newfangled thing called interlibrary loan, get information that our library didn’t have from other libraries, and as I found out more about what she did, she started counseling me about going into librarianship. She said that when she went to library school at the University of Chicago, it was always the medical librarians that could buy two beers when they went out after class whereas everyone else could only afford one, so she kind of pushed me in that direction. So I applied to very many library schools and eventually selected Emory, and went through the course at Emory, did not have the opportunity to take Miriam Libby’s medical
librarianship class because of the cycle I was on, but in probably an even better
substitution was able to do an internship over at her library, and what she had me do was
sit at the circulation desk, which was right in front of the door and listen to the questions
that the Circ staff were being asked and do an analysis about whether or not they might
need to have a reference librarian at that desk. It was a really interesting project.

So, I got out of library school. It was a terrible job market. It took me four months of
living at home with my mom and dad, until I finally got an out of the blue a contact from
the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Now what I had been doing is just writing
blind letters of inquiry to every library in a specific radius of where I wanted to be. I
either wanted to be sort of in the Southeast or in the Chicago area. I’d gone to school in
the Midwest so I had a lot of friends from my undergraduate years in the Chicago area.
So out of the blue one day somebody from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa
called me. They had started a new med school that was sort of a branch of UAB, the
University of Alabama at Birmingham, and were looking to fill a new reference librarian
position. So they invited me for an interview, and I went, and was appropriately nervous
of course because I was like 23 years old and got the roles of the various people that were
interviewing me confused and confused the associate dean for the dean and vice versa, so
therefore I was much more relaxed with the actual dean than who I thought he was.
Anyway I was offered the job, and I took the job in Tuscaloosa. We were housed within
the academic library, or Gorgas Library for those of you that know the structure of the
system in Tuscaloosa. But I had a dual reporting to the dean of the school of medicine. It
was very, very, very awkward and difficult. After about a year or less the director of the
library, and there only two of us with associated paraprofessionals and clerks, she was, well let’s just say, she was fired. I never knew why. One day she wasn’t there and they said, “Lynn, Nancy’s no longer here, you’re going to be acting director. And, we’ll get the search started and, um we’re going to go on.” So, here I am 24 years old, and they decide that I’m going to be the one that’s interviewing all the candidates. And we interviewed some turkeys! I hope none of you turkeys are watching. And, they were about to make an offer to one of said turkeys. When I was attending a dean’s council meeting as the acting director of the library, and I said, “He doesn’t know anything about budgeting, he has no library experience” -he had a Ph.D. in physiology – “and you know, I think what we need to do is decide what the goals of the library are before we go forward with this.” And the dean looked at the associate dean to whom the library reported, said, “Bobby, can we wait on that letter of offer?” And that afternoon I had a letter of offer from the dean.

So, I was there nine years I believe. We built a new library finally over closer to the hospital which gave me some sort of hospital library experience, which was very different from the academic side. And then the associate director for public services at Lister Hill Library at UAB retired or announced her retirement and I knew that I wanted to advance. So, I applied to Lister Hill Library and became the associate director for public services at Lister Hill Library. And, I was there for two, three years when the director of that library was fired. This has nothing to do with me! And, they made me acting director of that library. This time around I was not successful. I wanted to be the director of that library, but I was not successful. I did not have a happy working
relationship with the person that they selected to be the director, and when EBSCO called me to ask me to do some consultancy about how it was that academic medical libraries or hospital libraries were different than any other kind of library because they knew that they didn’t operate the same, but they couldn’t put their finger on it. That consultancy basically turned into a fulltime job so now I am vice president of EBSCO Information Services and it’s been my goal to make sure that my company understands how medical libraries are different. And I’m sort of the ombudsman or liaison between the medical library profession and the vendor world.

**KS:** Okay, now let’s talk about some of your Southern Chapter activities. Do you remember the first Southern Chapter meeting you attended? And what details can you remember about it?

**LF:** (Laughs) Well, just to compare and contrast, here we are 2013 (holds up 2013 program) and this is our program. It is, (flips through program) well of course it’s not paginated, it’s 16 pages long, lots and lots of different speakers, many vendor supporters, a place for notes which I haven’t taken because (holds up tablet) they’re all here! The first meeting I attended – I’m a librarian, I have all my files – I think I joined Southern Chapter in ’75, and I remember my first MLA meeting was probably ‘74 but I didn’t actually attend a Southern Chapter meeting until 1977 in Columbia, South Carolina. Compare and contrast, this year (holds up 2013 program) – 1977 (holds up 1977 program). See? Isn’t it cute? Four pages! All of the speakers are well-known sages. There are no contributed papers, there are no poster sessions. There’s nobody who’s ‘a nobody’
on the program. It’s all really important people. And the funny thing to me is that we could actually just repeat this program today. Listen to these titles (reads from 1977 program) – “Just a Librarian? Yes, a Librarian!”, “Projecting Yourself!”, “Yourself Projected!”, “How MLA Promotes Your Image,” “Patrons and Administrators Talk about You,” “Oh to See Ourselves as Others See Us!” And then there’s the social hour and the banquet and etc., etc. I was telling Carla Funk, who’s the executive director of MLA right now that I noticed with amusement that they have the menu published from the banquet. (Holds up program.) Well, there ain’t no way today we would be able to afford a melon ball cocktail, a pear half with cream cheese and nuts, a ten-ounce prime rib, baked Idaho potato, sour cream with bacon, asparagus, Hollandaise sauce, assorted rolls, strawberry cheese pie, coffee or tea. I see no mention of wine, unfortunately, but it might have been provided by one of the vendors. No, it was not provided by one of the vendors, because vendors did not start coming to the meeting (consults notes) until quite a bit later. The meeting in 1978 I was pregnant with my daughter who’s now 34, I think, and I can remember having a long conversation with Mayo Drake who was at LSU Shreveport and very important within MLA and I was in awe that I was even being spoken to by him. Irene Graham who was the director of the University of Mississippi Health Sciences Library was the president of the Chapter. Again, it was still the symposium of sages.

We had Jess Martin, Mildred Langner, Scott Adams – Scott Adams was from, had been at the National Library of Medicine and was one of the implementers of the MEDLARS system and had been president of MLA – Bill Postell, Sr., from Tulane, and Lois Ann Colaianni before she was the deputy director or director of operations at NLM, Sarah
Brown. All of these people were big names, no little people on the program. In 1979 and this is the importance of getting involved early, because you know I volunteered for committees, got put on committees, so remember my first – if I joined in 1975 and my first meeting was ’77, in 1978 I’m elected secretary/treasurer. So either they had no one else to turn to or I was too young to say no. But anyway that allowed me the opportunity to actually have Al Brandon as a dinner partner at the banquet, and I was, again, I was just in awe. And it turned out that Al Brandon had been the medical librarian to the man who was now my dean! So there was a connection there that I never knew about, and this now made sense as to why my dean seemed to be so very well informed about medical libraries and what they could do. So that was really pretty cool. Let’s see, first joint meeting I went to was in 1980, and that’s when the South Central Group… Excuse me, the South Central Chapter and the Southern Chapter, they didn’t exist under those names. There was something called the Southern Regional Group, and it encompassed more states to the west of Southern Chapter than we have now, but at that time MLA was mandating a new chapter structure, so every state sort of had to pick what group they wanted to be in. And Louisiana really wanted to have shared custody because they wanted to go with their friends in Texas and Oklahoma and their RML designation, but historically they had always done things with the Southern Chapter, so it was very tough on the people in Louisiana to have to make a decision as to which parent they were going to go live with. They ended up going with South Central. There were for the first time, according to my program at that meeting, concurrent sessions and contributed papers. So by this time people were starting to come up from the ranks. And I noticed that there was a session on “Experiences of a Beginning Librarian.” And one of the panelists, and I
spoke to her last night about this, was Jan Hawkins LaBeause, who said she had just graduated and had just become employed as a hospital librarian and she was on that panel. And I thought, wow! Jan LaBeause turned out to be a force to be reckoned with!

By 1982, I’d started my job as associate director for public services at Lister Hill, and I was on my first panel, which was, “Academic Libraries as Support Units.” One of the meetings amongst the many that we’ve had – I mean, I’ve been to nearly 40 meetings, so they all have their own little memories – there was a vendor rep who worked for Ballen Booksellers, which no longer exists. His name was Jim Boyer, and he was very gregarious, and very well-known and had taken up a passion [for] tap-dancing. So he decided that we were going to do a George M. Cohan revue in two acts as the banquet entertainment. And it was a surprise, this was not necessarily published in the program.

So, as the last of the banquet meal is being served, fourteen of us drift off, change into our costumes which were like flapper-esque, sort of 1920’s costumes, and he had written this whole thing up – in two acts! – and we were all singing and dancing, and we’d had rehearsals, and we had practice tapes that Jim had, he took this thing so seriously, and was a little irritated that some of us were just having fun with it because it was going to be really serious! Ada Seltzer was the star of the show. She had learned to tap dance with Jim Boyer. (Laughs) And so, they did the whole routine, and as the chorus was dancing off the stage going into intermission, I fell off the stage and broke the heel off my shoe, and this was a real crisis because my big number was coming up right after intermission in Act Two! So I had to race back up to my room, get another set of high heels – which did not match my outfit! – And come down and, you know, the show must go on. But that was a lot of fun to do that. Another thing that was a lot of fun for me to participate in
was the five or six years that several of us got together to do these very elaborate
“resolution of thanks,” we called ourselves “The Resolutionaries.” And we would set our
resolution of thanks to music and would have PowerPoints thanking people that had
made the meeting possible and generally making fools of ourselves until we decided that
we needed to turn that over to the younger generation and let them do it instead. (Laughs)
So, Southern Chapter has just been like another family for me, and I come to these
meetings and there are people that I’ve known longer than I know most members of my
family including my husband, so it’s just been great.

KS: That’s great, do you have any other funny events you want to talk about?
LF: Probably, but I would have to go back through my notes and see. (Laughs)
KS: I understand.
LF: Those Puerto Rican meetings – they’re really good! Let me tell you – if you can
save up for Puerto Rico do it.
KS: I plan to! Okay, let’s see. Can you talk about how the Southern Chapter has evolved
through the years? Beyond the programs which you pointed out.
LF: Yeah, beyond the programs… there’ve been several things, you know from this
early meeting, my early exposure in the ‘70’s. There has been an increasing emphasis on
CE, and now we usually have three or four, maybe even five CE class opportunities that
people can sign up for. In the early days there might have been one CE and then probably
somebody from the RML would come back then would do a Medline update or
something like that. But the emphasis on continuing education has probably been the
most significant thing I’ve seen. And a lot of that has come from MLA’s various
credentialing programs, AHIP, whatever you need to take those CE’s to keep up. And it’s
one of the things that I really love about medical librarianship is that we do have an emphasis on new technology and new theory and new services that people can implement. And I’ve always found medical librarians to be like ten years ahead of the curve for the rest of the library profession. It’s really special. The governance of Southern Chapter has gotten more complex and little bit complicated. There are more committees now, which again gives people opportunities to serve and network. Sometimes I think we go overboard with governance just for the sake of governance, but that’s the way the world works sometimes.

KS: In your opinion, what sets the Southern Chapter apart from other professional library associations?

LF: Our smiles. (Laughs) No, Southern Chapter is well-known nationally for having a lot of fun, having very good programs, for taking the profession seriously but not themselves seriously, for being welcoming. I hope. I mean it’s very hard to come in and break into a new group, and we all have our old longtime friends. But Carla Funk again, executive director of MLA, the first time she came to a Southern Chapter meeting and saw how different it is from some of the other chapter that she had attended, she has attended every Southern Chapter meeting for the past twenty years because of that first experience. She just says, “I would not miss Southern Chapter.” And I know that to be true because of being in my position I go to six, sometimes seven different chapter meetings a year, and it sounds strange but each of the chapters has a different personality. So, it’s like a large family where you know all the siblings are related, but they’re all very different. It’s sometimes a little hard to put your finger on it. We like to have a good time,
but I think the South Central Chapter might party even a little harder than we do. But, it’s just a great group of people.

**KS:** You mentioned you were secretary/treasurer pretty early in your career. What other offices did you hold and committees were you on?

**LF:** Committees…the records are lost in perpetuity but I recall, I know I was on the board several times and I know I was on the Membership Committee, I know I was on the CE Committee. I’ve been on several program committees. I was on the Research Committee. There’ve been some ad hoc committees that I was on, we’re not going to take the time to go into what they were. One of the highlights of my career seriously was when I was made chair of the Southern Chapter in… well, because of our calendar year I think I came in in 1999 and I was actually chair in 2000. And 2000 was the year that we did a triple chapter meeting with South Central and with the Mid-Continental Chapter, which is another one of my favorite chapters. The personalities, I know it sounds strange, but the personalities are very similar with those chapters. And that was challenging because we did not see, at that time, we did not see a lot of big joint meetings like that. And having three chapters meeting together was kind of a first. Now you see as many as five chapters meeting at the same time. But each chapter has their own ways that they like to do things, their own times when they want to have their business meeting, their own times for rewards, and that all has to be accommodated. Sometimes it’s political.

**KS:** You mentioned some of the historical figures in librarianship that you’ve had the fortune to work with. Can you tell us anything else, a Chapter-related event of historical significance that you were a part of or witnessed?
LF: Witnessed probably. No, not historical. Well, you know it’s kind of hard to tell as you’re sitting here what’s going to be of historical significance. But no, I don’t really think so. It was when we had to separate from Southern Regional Group that was probably the biggest deal. We had to redo the bylaws, and there were lots of issues with that. One of the things that has changed over the years, there was a period of time…in the early, late 80’s, 90’s where strategic planning in great detail was all the rage. And we had an extremely elaborate and detailed strategic plan developed under the auspices of Linda Garr Markwell. She did a masterful job of this. The problem with strategic plans is that they’re supposed to be updated on a very regular basis. And as things changed and as we decided, well, some of the aspects of this strategic plan should be in the bylaws, some should be in like a procedures manual. The strategic plan unfortunately, I gutted it. I don’t think Linda was very happy with me (laughs), but it needed to be streamlined because it was so detailed it was almost unmanageable. So, I might not have done the Chapter any favors with that, but (shrugs) anyway.

KS: Well, you might have. Let’s see, okay, you mentioned some ways that Southern Chapter has impacted your professional development, can you talk a little more about that?

LF: Oh, just the opportunity to meet people in other libraries undergoing the same experiences, being introduced to people that are more experienced, finding out that almost everyone is so giving of their time and advice – and, that was something I did early on because I had been encouraged to get active, join committees. And the thing about joining committees, yes, the work of the committee is important because that’s why you join it, but in addition to that you meet and perhaps become friends with colleagues
who know where job openings are, or think, “Oh, you know, so-and-so was on that committee with me about three years ago, and she seemed like she was really smart and would be good, and I have this opening coming open.” And a lot of what we do depends a lot on networking. And the community is so tightknit and relatively small that even if you can list three good references, there are going to be a lot of people that can tell your prospective employer, you know, “Oh yeah, she’s really good!” Or, “Oh no, you want to stay away from them.” (Laughs) So, being active, and giving back to the profession gives you in turn access to possibilities you probably hadn’t even thought of.

KS: What are some of the other people that have contributed to your professional development? You mentioned a few…

LF: Yeah almost everyone (Laughs) I’ve ever met. The ones that spring immediately to mind, again Bill Willard, who was the first dean I worked for, was the “Father of Family Medicine.” He had come from Kentucky, where he had really established that as a medical specialty. He’s the one that Al Brandon had worked for, and then he came to this little start-up college in Tuscaloosa strictly to try to create more family physicians in west Alabama. So, he’s the one probably that locked me into medical librarianship. And then I was in Tuscaloosa and kind of looking to the people at Lister Hill Library at UAB for guidance and Nancy Clemmons and Kathy Jones Torrente were two librarians at Lister Hill that really had a big impact on my career. I learned Medline from Kathy Torrente. She was a tough teacher too…yeah. And Nancy Clemmons has just been a really good friend for a long time. The director that was fired at Lister Hill, Dick Frederickson, was somebody that I really admired. He was a very good manager. He developed a really good team. We worked really well together. What I didn’t realize was that he was
completely ineffective outside the library. I never saw him outside the library, and that’s why he was fired. He and the dean…he just was not very good at promoting what the library could do, what the benefit of the library was. And I didn’t learn that until many years after he was gone. Tom Basler, who I adore – I adore you, Tom! – was at the Medical College of Georgia, he was many places before he was at the Medical College of Georgia, and then he moved to the Medical University of South Carolina. And he has always been very gracious to me and wonderful with his advice and his time. When I was going through that difficult spate when I was working for somebody that was kind of hard for me to deal with, Nancy Lorenzi, who was kind of promoted beyond medical librarianship at, I think the University of Cincinnati, I think she’d been president of MLA, I should have paid her psychiatric counseling money because she was great. Tom Lang, who died just this year, was also very special to me. He’d been at the University of South Alabama when I first got to Tuscaloosa, [which] was also a new medical school so we kind of bonded over that, and then he moved on to South Carolina. He actually was, I believe, chair of this first year (Holds up 1977 program) when I went to the meeting. Bill Postell was another one at Tulane – Bill Postell Jr., the boy, the son of Bill Postell, Sr. (Laughs) Just so many, so many. Oh, one significant person that I had better mention is T. Scott Plutchak, my husband of eighteen years? Something like that. Who I married at not this Chapter meeting but our wedding was at the Mid-Continental Chapter meeting in 1995. He has been a great foil for me over the dinner table, and we often say our dinner table conversation would be completely boring to anybody else. (Laughs)

KS: I wondered if you were going to talk about Scott.

LF: Oh him…
KS: Oh him…okay, let’s switch to talk about MLA a little bit. What do you recall about some of the MLA meetings you attended?

LF: Oh! That was another intimidating thing. The first MLA meeting I attended was, I believe, 1974. I am sure that it was in San Antonio. I love San Antonio because of this. The director of my library and I decided that to save money, we would stay at a Holiday Inn, not the conference hotel. We would stay at a Holiday Inn way out. I learned that first year, that was a bad mistake! For a variety of reasons, much of it having to do with transportation and logistics so don’t ever do that. If you can stay at the conference hotel, do that just for the sake of not having to stand in line at the ladies room! Sarah Brown was the president of MLA that year, and Sarah Brown was the director of the Lister Hill Library at the time. So that was quite intimidating. I remember that the keynote speaker – and I don’t know who the keynote speaker was – seemed to have confused us as medical librarians with medical records people and was directing most of his comments toward the wrong profession! (Laughs) We were kind of squirming in our seats. He hadn’t been prepped very well. Again, I’ve been going to MLA longer even, by two years than I’ve been going to Southern Chapter, and I have many good friends there as people have moved in and out of regions, you kind of follow them along. And MLA has had a huge impact, again primarily because of their continuing education programs. When I was designing a library for the emerging College of Community Health Sciences Library in Tuscaloosa to get it out of the Gorgas Library building, the architectural firm that we were working with sent their young architect and me to go to Art Broering’s “Designing Health Sciences Libraries” course. It was great to be able to sit there with my architect
and work on our actual plans as Art is teaching us about things to consider. More CE courses than I can possibly imagine.

KS: Okay, how has the Medical Library Association impacted your professional development throughout the years?

LF: Isn’t that the question you just asked?

KS: No, that was about the meetings.

LF: Oh, it was? Oh, I went in the wrong direction.

KS: We could skip that one.

LF: Well, I could talk more about the meetings. I’m trying to think…boy, how do you even remember all the meetings in all the amazing locations? Chicago and DC and Hawaii and Seattle, San Francisco and Dallas. I don’t think we’ve ever met in Atlanta, how funny is that? Kansas City, Minneapolis, Cleveland Ohio, Detroit – not one of my favorites. But, they’ve been mind-expanding in many ways. And some of the speakers have been fantastic and will be people that I will always remember – Atul Gawande was amazing! And some have been (feigns yawning, laughs). But again, you know, that’s the way it goes.

KS: Okay, this is a biggie – how has the medical library profession changed during your career, and which developments in the field of medical librarianship had the greatest impact on your professional life?

LF: Oh my goodness. Well…where do you start? I came into medical librarianship shortly after the origination of MEDLARS. And we started doing Medline searches for people early on. That was really quite the dramatic change because up until then it was sitting down with the print Index Medicus, copying citations in longhand on what we
called piece slips, 3-by-5 slips, putting them in some sort of order and having the
secretary type out a bibliography. And so the turnaround time, if you were lucky, was a
week. So Medline came along and that was a huge change, and the next, probably the
next biggest game changer was “library automation.” Lister Hill Library implemented the
Georgetown Integrated Library System in 1985, and that was a big change that took a
tremendous amount of effort to educate the library faculty and staff, not to mention the
library users who were accustomed to the card catalog, and looking things up that way.
And, it was a big cultural shift there when the library automated. It was amazing what we
could do with an automated catalog that we’d never been able to do before! It was just
incredible. And then of course the advent of the World Wide Web changed everything.
When Medline became free via PubMed, that changed the way librarians searched,
because up until the time it was free, you were charged by the minute. So, like surgeons
from the 19th century who were prized for their ability to do a quick cut and get out in a
hurry before the person died on the table, searchers were trained to completely construct
their search strategy, think of every possibility, think of every combination, think of
every subheading that you might want to use, and have that written out on paper because
the minute you hit that button to connect (mimics dial-up connection tone), then you had
to get in there and do it just as quickly as you could and get off. So it didn’t cost the
organization an arm and a leg. And now you can get on and do iterative searching. You
try this and that doesn’t seem to work, well let’s try that, oh well let’s take our time and
see what similar articles, how they’re indexed, and you know, go to things other than
Medline. So, that’s changed a lot.
The whole notion of embedded librarians goes way back to even when I was in library school, we talked about the clinical medical librarian, which had not been implemented in too many places. University of Missouri was one place where they had clinical medical librarians. That’s where Don Lindberg came from. And, we tried to get the concept of a librarian going on rounds into the medical school curriculum but there was a whole lot of suspicion. When I was at Lister Hill Library we had liaisons, library liaisons to the different schools but it is nothing like you see today where it is more the norm for a really good academic medical library to have their people out more than they are in their offices. And I think that is hugely beneficial because healthcare providers are busy people. And questions come up, they don’t have time to pursue them. If the librarian is right there they can ask him or her, they can do the research, save the healthcare provider the time, and hence the money and really become more educated and more adept at what the organization is really facing and what the institutional mission is. Embedded librarianship I think is where it’s going to be. So I’m really pleased with that change.

KS: Okay, well what advice would you give to new medical librarians?

LF: Decide what facet of librarianship really excites you. Yes, there’re lots of facets of librarianship – there’s reference, there’s collection development, and separate from collection development there’s the whole business of electronic licensing and negotiating with vendors and things like that. Some people don’t like reference at all, it makes them uncomfortable to be standing or, you know, to be a target of somebody that could come up and ask them a random question! (Laughs) It’s just not what they want to do. Some are not interested in trying to negotiate with vendors. My husband Scott says that I do actually more “librarian-y” kind of work in my job or role at EBSCO than he does as the
director of the library, because he is mostly doing outside work, promoting what the library does. He’s not answering reference questions. He’s not cataloging. He’s not doing collection development. He’s not even dealing with vendors. And the career trajectory for any librarian pretty much starts at a lower level – be it reference or cataloging or whatever – and going up and if you want to reach the pinnacle, a director’s job is what you go for. Not everybody is cut out for that. And I have seen friends and colleagues that have thought that that’s what they wanted to do because that was the top, which was as far as they could go. They really weren’t, they didn’t like it when they got there, and maybe they weren’t that good at it. And maybe they would have been exceptionally wonderful as something else. But really just decide what it is that you want to do. I never in my wildest dreams thought that I would be doing what I do and not following the normal career trajectory that I thought. Because I thought I wanted to be the director of an academic medical library. And whether I would have been good at it or not I don’t know, whether I would have liked it I don’t know. But an opportunity opened for me that was completely off the charts. And I took a chance and I took the job, and I thought, if I hate it I can always maybe go back to “traditional librarianship.” But I’ve been more effective for the profession working for EBSCO and really educating them as to what our differences are - and by “our” I mean medical librarians - what our differences are and what our focus is than I possibly could have been otherwise. So, if an interesting opportunity is dropped in your lap or if you go out digging for an interesting opportunity, good for you! Do it.

KS: Absolutely. Well, do you have any other final comments?
LF: Oh, I'm sure I could make final comments until the cows come home…oh, I wish I’d had like six weeks to do nothing but take notes on things. I’m forgetting more than I can remember at this point. Southern Chapter has been a home for me, and my involvement with MLA has been more rewarding than I can possibly describe. (Smiles)

KS: Thank you very much!