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A Message from the O. L. A. President

If you were at the Stillwater meeting, April 30 - May 1, 1954, I know that you will agree with me that this was one of the best meetings of the Oklahoma Library Association. The stimulating and creative thinking on our library problems which took place at that meeting can be the forerunner of a year of productive activity for libraries in Oklahoma. Were you conscious, as I was, of the feeling of cooperation, the earnest desire to work together to make Oklahoma's libraries better? If we carry that feeling and desire throughout this coming year, we should certainly not fail in our plans.

The stock taking which preceded the group discussion meetings gave us a picture of the library situation. As a result of the group discussions and recommendations returned to the general meeting Friday afternoon, I believe that we are started on an excellent working program. The Select Committee on State Planning has been appointed and is working on tentative plans for a library plan which will, we expect, be ready to present to the Association in October. It has been suggested that a one-day meeting be held in the fall to discuss the plan worked out by this committee.

In the meantime, each of us can be thinking and planning for our own libraries. How can we improve our own library services? Do we need better equipment, a larger staff, a bookmobile—or perhaps, more readers? Are we reaching all the citizens in our community? Do we need more money to finance better service? Are the citizens in our library area aware of the needs of our library? What sort of service do we want for our readers? In answering these questions for our own libraries, we have already begun a plan for better service.

Remember, planning is not confined to public libraries. All of us will profit by better library service. And all of us will want to have a share in making this service better. No one can do as good a job of improving our own library as we can. Any satisfactory and lasting improvement must be largely a result of local efforts and planning. Let us be ready to offer suggestions for a plan for improvement for our own libraries whether they be college, university, public, school or special.

The announcement of the Publications Committee that they would undertake to publish THE OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN quarterly instead of twice a year was a welcome bit of news. All of us will be glad to have news about libraries more frequently. This will certainly be more work for this Committee, and we all appreciate their willingness.

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the friendly and encouraging letters I have received since the Stillwater meeting, as well as the efforts of assistance that many of you gave me at that meeting. The strength of any association depends on the participation of its membership in the projects and activities of the group. The progress in the library program that may be made this year will be the direct result of your advice and aid in the work undertaken by the Association.
Library Development — The Human Element

Editor’s Note: Talk given before the Oklahoma Library Association at Stillwater, April 30-May 1, 1954.

“All fine plans for library extension and nationwide library service of superior quality will avail nothing unless the human element is robust, imaginative, and capable.”

Nothing could be more appropriate than that we let a quotation from Gretchen Schenk’s recent book County and Regional Library Development set the scene for these comments on the human element that we encounter day by day as we go about the thrilling and exciting business of bringing books to people for the first time. That her spirit should set the tone for this meeting is doubly appropriate in that she herself was originally meant to have this visit with you. With characteristic lack of concern for her own affairs, and like the old fire horse who hears the gong in the night, she stayed in Alabama this week-end to discharge duties nearer home. She suggested, when she found that she could not attend, to your program committee that I might come. For you I am sorry that she was unable to come, but for myself I am delighted at being here that I find it a serious strain on my conscience to be as regretful as I know I ought to be.

Let us first settle one matter definitely. I am a disciple of Mrs Schenk’s. John the Baptist described the relationship accurately when he said “... the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.” No one who works in the field of library development has kneaded more of the human ingredient into the dough of library service than Mrs Schenk. And we could do no better than to pause for these few minutes to give earnest consideration and careful analysis to her statement: “All fine plans will avail nothing unless the human element is robust, imaginative, and capable.”

For the long journey from here to the mythical place known as Complete Library Coverage and which, to face reality, practically exists for any of us in this room in dreams only, there are many impediments. There is, first of all, a burning desire to get there. I name that even above a road map, or a plan, for getting there.

Throughout the years librarians have transformed their concept of function into a dynamic faith. This faith has sustained men and women who have built and operated American public libraries... “It consists of a belief in the virtue of the printed word, especially the book, the reading of which is held to be good within itself or from its reading flows that which is good. A belief into the power of books to transform attitudes, to combat evils, or to raise the cultural level... the tradition that books possess precious ameliorative qualities continue to provide the public librarian with a sense of significance in his daily work.” Thus has Dr. Leigh said it better than any one else has ever been able to say it. Armed with this dynamic faith, the librarian will get there, or he will be found trying.

Once this need to get there is established and this dynamic faith is converted into a desire for works, then the second piece of baggage must be a plan. It certainly makes no sense to start out without a map to chart the course. No matter how good my intentions, for example, might have been to get to Oklahoma from Mississippi it was certainly elementary that I secure a road map and follow it in so far as there were sufficient exits on the new turnpike. Already this morning in your first session you have presented a plan. And further on in this meeting you have programs scheduled that will work on the details involved in implementing this plan. We want to reach Complete Library Coverage, we have a road map, or a plan, to tell us where to go and how to get there. What next?

This is the exact point at which Miss Mephs found herself some five years ago. She had the desire to give library service to the state; she had a carefully and painstakingly worked out plan. With singleminded purpose she has been working at all levels to reach the goal of library service for all her people. Have we reached it yet? Heaven no! In fact, as I sat in the meeting this morning and listened to the discouraging, awesome library figures I said: “Now I know why I am here—those ghastly statistics! It’s simply a case where misery loves company.” In the short distance that we have come, and in the progress, however much or however little, that we have made, we have had many experiences, some of which may be helpful to you as you start new along the same journey.

Library development is people. What people? There are two groups of people that concern us...
the people we work with and the people we work on.

Who are the people we are working with? They, like all Gaul, find themselves divided into three parts—for analytical purposes. They are state agency workers, practicing librarians, and trustees. I said, you will note, that they are divided for analytical purposes. If they are divided in any other respect we might as well abandon the whole idea of library development and devote our time to something really useful like—well, like a Senate investigation of the Army.

State agency people, practicing librarians and boards of trustees. It is perfectly evident that there is enough human material among any one of the three to keep us here all afternoon. Not because they are unimportant, but because time is as limited as it is, we will consider the first two groups, leaving the trustees to another day.

I am afraid that I am not far enough away from home to risk telling you how highly respected and appreciated is the state agency in Mississippi. To get a completely unbiased opinion on that I had better refer you to the librarians who work with us. However, my memory is long and the years have not dimmed the recollection of the terrific contrasts involved in working as a librarian where there was the poorest excuse for a state agency that ever disgraced the name and where, on the other hand, there was one that in its strength and vision and practical assistance had no peers. You can certainly taste the difference.

While I hope not to strike a negative note in every measure I do feel pretty strongly about one pitfall that we as state agency people are so likely to fall into. I refer to the pressure of things undone and calls that cannot be filled which force agencies into a policy of expanding all of their energies with those who NEED help without time to work with those who can GIVE help. I have actually heard head librarians of large city units, where fortune and budget have smiled more sweetly, say: "But the state library is for the smaller libraries without leadership, or budget, or staff, or something—or anything." It isn't so. If Oklahoma—or Mississippi—or any other state is ever to have a dynamic and meaningful library program it will have to come through ALL of the libraries working together. They will have to be a chiefs of staff representing the combined talent, energies, fortune, and luck of all the book dispensers in the state. It will take Jim Gourley and Clarence Paine and all their skillfully trained staffs; it will take Arthur McAnally and Edmen Low and their cohorts; it will take Ralph Hudson and his crew; and it will take the small unit leaders like Willa Grace Hardy and Gertrude Sterba; and it will take the last small clerk-librarian in the tiniest clubroom collection in the state. All of these and then there will be plenty positions left over on the team.

When the administrator of a large municipal library pulls his professional robes about him and draws away into his protective coverting of building and budget and says: "We will not go to this meeting or that one; we will not sit in this planning session or that one; our situation is different". Then you are lost. Nobody's situation is any different from anybody else's. This library has a bunch of books over here, a bunch of people over here. It's got to get them together. That's all there is to it and basically, it is no different.

The second group of people we work with are practicing librarians. It is most certainly a waste of time to talk about the importance of librarians at a library meeting. Then let's tackle ourselves—the librarians—from another angle.

Our experience with us—because that's exactly who we are—you and you and me—has been that there are 3 kinds of practicing librarians working at this business of library development. First, there are those who measure up to all that's expected and more. Their imaginations are unlimited; their energies unbelievable. There's nothing too hard for them to tackle, nothing too big for them to comprehend; and as a recent foreign visitor to our state said "There's not enough money to pay for librarians like these. This kind of work comes from the heart."

When we have skimmed off the cream that leaves two types of librarians; there are the ones who could if they would, but they won't; then, there are the ones who would if they could, but they can't.

Let's meet a few who could if they would, but they won't.

One of the most serious errors I made as a young field worker (young in field work, that is) was to assume that all librarians, particularly those who had the advantages of professional training, could see that larger units of service were the only answer and were willing to work toward that end. Now, after five intensive years of having had my ears pinned back—locally and nationally—I wonder that I could ever have been so naive. After a few very practical lessons in how wrong you can be in assuming that your point of view is a universal one the shock still remains to discover that unified administration, specialized staff positions, wider geographical

(Continued on Page 21)
What We Need and the Proposed Oklahoma Plan

The per capita income of Oklahoma reported in the Survey of Current Business, August 1953, is $1,285. This is an increase of $98.00 since 1941.

Our per capita tax rate is $82.86 as reported in the Compendium of State Government Finance in 1952.

You are acquainted with the fact that the ceiling on the Oklahoma ad valorem tax is 15 mills on the dollar and the state receives none of this income. This 15 mill levy may be exceeded for one purpose, and that is for the support of the public schools. In order to do this it is necessary for the citizens of a school district to vote on the matter. If the additional levy is approved, it has no effect on the amount received by the schools from the 15 mill levy. All revenues from ad valorem sources are for the use of local governmental units: counties, schools, and cities. The bulk of the tax is usually allocated to the counties and schools by the county excuse boards. There are cities and towns in Oklahoma that receive nothing from the ad valorem tax income. The result is that many of our cities are pressed to perform the duties for the protection of life and health of their citizens, such services as fire and police protection and sewage disposal. This in turn means that the public libraries of these municipalities receive an inadequate appropriation to meet any reasonable standards of service.

We have libraries in Oklahoma receiving as little as 45 or 50 dollars per year income. No library, not even in a community of 250 people, can be expected to do more than exist on this amount (if it can be called existence) much less function in an effective manner.

The first consideration of a library plan for Oklahoma must be one of finances. In 1947 I spoke very briefly to you on this subject. As many of you recall, I spent only some five to ten minutes giving you the source of library income for local public libraries and I stated that it was a "short and sad subject" and that for that reason a few minutes sufficed. To repeat the facts, 65 O.S. 1951 § 61 authorizes a county excise board to make a levy for county library purposes, but this is simply an authorization, not a mandatory directive. 68 O.S. 1951 § 71 states that a city governing body shall include an item in its budget for an amount equal to the proceeds from a levy of one-half to two mills for the maintenance of a library. This may appear
mandatory but there are legal decisions which plainly state that the Legislature may not require a county excise board to allocate a portion of the ad valorem levy in a certain manner. This often results in no budgetary item being included for a municipal library. I mention this in order to inform you that there has been no change. I say this regretfully, because all of us had hoped that six years would see an improvement in the local library situation.

On two occasions the O.L.A. has attempted to secure legislation that would allow the people of this state to vote to amend Article X (Taxation and Revenue) of the Constitution. The first one (1949) was passed by the House of Representatives and amended beyond all reasonable identification by the Senate, which then passed it. As amended it was on a totally different subject than when it was introduced. The House of Representatives refused to accept the amended resolution. The second resolution (1951) was introduced by a good friend of libraries. The Senate passed it, but rescinded its action on the following day and the resolution was dead. The O.L.A. did not try to secure this legislation in 1953.

The effect of the legislation, had it been enacted by the Legislature and adopted by the people as a Constitutional amendment, would have been to allow the inhabitants of a county to vote to exceed the 15 mill ad valorem limit by not more than one mill, the proceeds to be used for library purposes. It was a permissive amendment not a mandatory one. The counties could do as they wished. Their citizens might or might not vote on the proposal, and if they did vote on it, they naturally could either adopt or reject the tax. A petition containing the names of at least 20 per cent of the voters of a county was required to bring the matter to a vote. Incidentally, one mill would produce an inadequate amount of revenue to operate a library properly. The intent was for this to be an additional source of library income.

One of the regrettable facts that became apparent in the course of these legislative ventures was the apathy of too many librarians. The O.L.A. officers sent telegrams, letters and requests for help. The number of instances in which there was no response was too large. This lack of expression was disheartening to the O.L.A. officers, and led one member of the Legislature, who incidentally is greatly interested in libraries to remark, "Aren't librarians interested in libraries?" Perhaps the officers did not circulate the membership enough, or perhaps a series of district meetings would have been a better means of informing the members. Of course the officers were very conscious of the costs necessary to carry on a good information program and this caused them to be modest in their expenditures of O.L.A. funds for this purpose.

Miss Whaley has informed you of our present circumstances. She had the unfortunate assignment of reporting on our paucity of library services, the number of our citizens without adequate libraries and the wide gap between the income received by our public libraries and any reasonable standards of income for adequate library service. My job is to inform you of our needs and to make a suggestion for meeting these requirements.

Let us take up our needs at this point. The American Library Association, after much study and consideration, has set a minimum income for adequate library service at $1.50 per capita. Reasonable service requires $2.00 per capita and good service is $3.00 per capita. However, this base of revenue is further qualified by the fact that the total income (no matter what the per capita amount may be) necessary for a library to give essential services is $25,000 annually and this is further qualified by density of population, trading areas and other conditions. The above sum is for current operating expenses only and includes nothing for capital expenditures. The A.L.A. considers that the minimum book stock for a library regardless of the population it serves is 6,000 volumes. The A.L.A. requirement for a population of 6,000 to 10,000 people is three volumes per capita and for 35,000 to 100,000 people, two volumes per capita.

The foregoing brief outline of our tax income per capita income, population, distribution of population, and standards of library income and book collections is given as a background for a suggested plan of library organization and operation in Oklahoma. Here I wish to state emphatically that this proposal is presented for the sole purpose of giving you something to discuss, to work on, with the aim of your preparing a plan that suits and fits our needs. No one who had a hand in preparing this tentative proposal is going to have his feelings wounded at anything you might do with it. Amend, revise, rewrite or do with it what you will. But please put your best effort into it, please state your wishes, and please give the state a plan, and one that embodies the ideas and wishes of the O.L.A. membership, and do give your support to its adoption and to its execution if adopted.

In the past five years there have been a number of surveys on library service in several states. All of them stressed the necessity of larger units.

(Continued on Page 17)
Report of the 48th Annual Meeting of the O.L.A.

The 48th Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Library Association convened on the campus of the A & M College at Stillwater, Oklahoma, April 30 and May 1, 1954 with approximately 230 in attendance.

The theme for the meeting was "WIDER HORIZONS FOR OKLAHOMA LIBRARIES." Miss Virginia LaGrave, president of the state organization, called the meeting to order in the college library. A symposium on the Oklahoma Library Situation followed. The meeting was geared to a high pitch by the three speeches on "What We Have" by Hazel Whaley of Ada Public Library; "What We Need," by Ralph Hudson, State Librarian, Oklahoma City; and "Requirements for Achieving Your Aims," given by John C. Monk, former legislator.

In Miss Whaley's talk, she pointed out that nearly 53,000,000 persons in the U.S. have no access to public libraries. A basic factor in the voluntary education of adults, one of the best weapons in the arsenal of democracy, the public library, has been neglected by local units and state agencies. The library service bill should prove a tremendous help in the general advancement of all educational programs.

Oklahoma has 14 counties with no library service. Seven counties have only clubs furnishing service. A.L.A. recommends $1.50 per person for library service. Oklahoma has only 25c per citizen for library service.

Mr. Hudson, State Librarian, spoke in behalf of "What We Need" and gave the "Proposed Plan for Oklahoma Libraries." He gave the statistics on Oklahoma's tax income, per capita income, population distribution and standards of library financing and standards of book collections as a background for a suggested plan for organization and operation of library service. He pointed out that the most feasible plan for Oklahoma is one of multi-county library units where appropriations could be pooled.

The state library would not supplant local libraries but would bolster and help them. The "Oklahoma Plan" includes provisions for central buying and cataloging of books, more book-mobile routes and an expanded inter-library loan service.

The third speech on the symposium, "Requirements for Achieving Your Aims," made by Mr. John C. Monk was a plea for members of O.L.A. to realize the importance of lobbying. Most of our problems could be solved with sufficient finances. Because many officials run for office on the platform of severe economy, progress has been hindered.

He emphasized lobbying, acquaintance with legislators and follow-up of requests by going to the governor. It is possible that a bill for library legislation should be attached to the educational program because of its efficient method of lobbying.

The meeting adjourned to the Union for lunch. Miss Marian Dierdorf, secretary presided at the luncheon meeting which followed. The highlight of the conference was the message, "Library Development — The Human Element," by Mrs. Lura Gibbons Currier, Field Representative from the Mississippi Library Commission.

Mrs. Currier continued along the same theme as was presented in the morning symposium with the addition of how some things can be done. She encouraged the expansion of library service by means of multi-county units and mentioned that pressure must be brought to bear on commissioners and civic leaders to finance an adequate program of library service. She quoted from a recent publication, "County and Regional Library Development," by Gretchen Schenk, in which Miss Schenk gives plans for carrying out these units.

The afternoon session was divided into five unit groups for discussion of Mr. Hudson's "Oklahoma Plan." All groups except one approved the unit plan. These groups commissioned Mr. James Gourley of Tulsa Public Library to move that the Executive Board appoint a committee to work out a plan for statewide library service and report by September 15 to the Executive Board. The motion was approved.

The Annual Dinner was held in the Ballroom of the Student Union. Edmon Low, librarian of A & M College presided. Following the introduction of guests, Mr. Low introduced Miss Huntington, the National President of A.L.A. who spoke on "The Individual Member and the A.L.A." She emphasized the importance of the individual member as adding strength to the organization. Our common interest of our belief in the diffusion of knowledge draws us close together.

There are seven divisions of A.L.A. where members may participate and work. There are many committees open for enthusiastic members.
Every member can find a niche if he wishes to work.

A.L.A., the national organization, can help with statistics for regional groups, with planning guides and standards, promotion of bills in Congress which are pertinent to library service. A.L.A. is becoming instrumental in the appointment of the Librarian for the Library of Congress.

She mentioned that the theme of the June Conference in Minneapolis is to be "Knowledge, A Free People's Surest Strength." She closed with the statement that acknowledgment of ignorance is the beginning of learning.

The nominating committee, with Miss Elizabeth Cooper as chairman, reported that since the award for Distinguished Service was so coveted the committee and the Executive Board felt that there was no one qualified for the presentation this year.

Seven sections of the O.L.A. met in separate groups on Saturday morning in the college library.

CATALOGING AND REFERENCE

The Cataloging and Reference Section with its chairman, Mrs. Mary Hays Marable, met and discussed the problems of large and small libraries and suggested that they divide into two groups. Miss Edith Scott directed the large libraries' group and suggested that affiliation with the A.L.A. Division of Cataloging and Classification would benefit the group immeasurably.

It was suggested that a regional group be organized for the purpose of (1) exchanging of ideas, (2) discussing problems in cataloging and classification, and (3) keeping informed of current development in the fields of these two.

Mrs. Marable met with the small libraries group. No report.

CHILDREN'S SECTION

Beth Welch, chairman, presided. The following recommendations for next year's program were made:

1. Separate meeting for Children's Section
2. Possibilities of obtaining an outside speaker.
3. The section meet at some other time than the public library section.

Officers elected were Mrs. Richard Horton, chairman, and Mrs. Shirley Marshall, secretary.

The film, "The Impressionable Years" was shown.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Frances Kennedy, chairman, presided. The subject of the new organization of Oklahoma State Colleges and Universities was introduced.

Two meetings a year have been planned by this group; a fall meeting at Oklahoma Education Association meeting and a spring meeting on a college campus.

Union lists of serials was discussed. A motion carried to appoint a committee to plan for some cooperative projects for the organization.

Officers elected were Mrs. Mable Murphy, chairman, and Mrs. Lula K. Pratt, secretary.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION

Robert D. Wood, chairman, presided. Among the topics discussed in this group were types of mechanical book charging machines, discarding of library materials, story hours for children in competition with radio, television and picture shows.

Mr. Clarence Paine discussed the Oklahoma Municipal League in connection with the obtaining of more funds for operation of public libraries.

Officers elected were Mr. Robert Wood, chairman and Miss Mariam Craddock, secretary.

SCHOOL LIBRARY SECTION

Mrs. Teresa Roberts, chairman, presided. Mr. Richard Chapin announced tentative plans for a proposed workshop for student assistants on the campus at O.U. next fall.

A symposium on Student Library Assistants was presented. Lists of valuable source materials were presented by four librarians. A proposed constitution was presented to the group for approval. This constitution will be presented to the Executive Board of O.L.A. for approval and acceptance or rejection.

Officers elected were Mrs. Teresa Roberts, chairman; Miss Mary Leach, first vice-chairman; Mrs. Ruth Kiser, second vice-chairman; and Miss Alma Garten, secretary-treasurer.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES

The meeting of the Special Libraries Section was called to order by Miss Mary Frances Dreese who made a few opening remarks about the Heart-of-America Chapter of the Special Libraries Association and introduced Mr. Joseph C. Shipman, Librarian, Linda Hall Library, Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. Shipman spoke of the growth and need of special collections. He pointed out the rapid growth of technical libraries and the importance of such libraries as the Linda Hall Library as resource centers to alleviate the necessity for each library making specialized collections. Through inter-library loan, these resource centers can make their material available to any library anywhere. Mr. Shipman closed his remarks with a description of Linda Hall.

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Select Committee for State Planning Appointed

Following the instructions of the membership at the Stillwater meeting, the Select Committee for State Planning has been appointed by the retiring president of O.L.A. and has met for organization. The Association has long been aware of the pressing needs for expansion of library service in Oklahoma and the motion to create this committee came from the study of these needs at the last annual meeting.

The Committee has been charged with the responsibility of presenting a plan of action to the Association by September 15, 1954, and is to function until the next annual meeting.

A cross-section of library interests in the state was considered before appointment of members, who when chosen accepted the responsibility with alacrity. The first meeting was held June 6th in connection with the meeting of the newly-elected O.L.A. executive board. James E. Gourley, librarian of the Tulsa Public Library was elected chairman and Mrs. Louise Townsend, librarian, Pryor Public Library was elected secretary.

Other members of the Select Committee for State Planning are: Miss Nora Brumbaugh, state home demonstration agent, Stillwater; Mrs. D. C. Howard, trustee, Pawhuska Public Library; Stanley McElderry, assistant director, University of Oklahoma Library; John Monk, attorney and former legislator, currently secretary Mid-Continent Life Insurance Co., Oklahoma City; Mortimer Schwartz, law librarian, University of Oklahoma; Hugh Warren, trustee, Ada Public Library; Robert Wood, librarian, Enid Public Library.

Report of the O.L.A. Resolutions Committee

I. Whereas we the members of the Oklahoma Library Association believe that libraries are an essential agency for providing access to information contributing directly to the prosperity, vitality, and efficient conduct of our society.

Whereas libraries are the major public institution which endeavor to provide complete, reliable, and free access to information to all persons at all times for the promotion of understanding.

Whereas the requirements for adequate library service necessitates more resources than can be provided by most communities individually.

Whereas the organization and support of libraries through regional cooperation with the aid and support of federal and state agencies provide the only available means of establishing and maintaining adequate library service, therefore be it,

Resolved that the members of the Oklahoma Library Association endorse and seek the enactment of the Library Services Bill now pending before the 83rd Congress as a practical and necessary means of providing adequate library service on a national basis.

Be it further resolved that the members of the Oklahoma Library Association give their immediate and concerted attention to the formulation of a plan for the extension and increased support of library service in Oklahoma.

Be it further resolved that the Oklahoma Library Association undertake a critical, self-appraisal to develop a strong, cohesive organization which can exert maximum leadership and influence in fostering, maintaining and improving library development.

II. Whereas the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Library Association convened in Stillwater, Oklahoma the 30th of April, 1954 has provided an informative and inspirational experience and has reaffirmed our faith in libraries and strengthened our determination to improve and extend library service in Oklahoma, therefore be it,

Resolved that the Association express their gratitude and appreciation to the officers of the Association and participants in the conference for their stimulating program; the city of Stillwater, the Stillwater Public Libraries, officials of Oklahoma A & M College, and the local arrangements committee for their gracious hospitality and efficient conduct of the festivities, and the American Library Association for its active and enlightened participation in the conference.

Respectively submitted,
ESTHER McRER
ESTHER MAE HENKE
STANLEY McElderry

JULY, 1954
Clarence Paine

The New Oklahoma City Public Library

Within a period of three years, 1951-54, Oklahoma City has completed and in operation two new library buildings, representing a total of 82,500 square feet of modern design and construction. The building program was financed by two bond issues: one in the amount of $500,000, passed by the city in 1945, and the other in the amount of $822,000, passed in 1950.

Capitol Hill Branch, approximately 17,000 square feet and serving Capitol Hill or the south Oklahoma City area, was opened in November of 1951. Cost of this air-conditioned building, without furniture, was approximately $13.20 per square foot.

The main library building in downtown Oklahoma City was opened on July 6, 1953, in a partially furnished condition on the site of the old Carnegie Library building, erected in 1909. Furnishing of this building was completed by the end of 1953. This building, except for furniture, was constructed at a cost of approximately $9.50 per square foot. The building comprises five stories, and occupying a ground floor space of approximately 95' x 135' for a total of 65,500 square feet.

The building is of reinforced concrete skeleton frame with exterior walls of fabricated stone (Harter marblecrete) having the appearance of Indiana limestone. The exterior stone finish is backed with expanded shale blocks. The base of the exterior is faced with black granite. The ceilings are of the highest quality acoustical tile. Floor coverings are rubber tile throughout the building, except on the basement level where asphalt tile has been used, and in the general office area which features cork tile.

The architectural and structural features of the building are notable for complete simplicity and harmony of conservative, modern, modular design, a complete absence of interior support-

General Reference Reading Room in the New Oklahoma City Library
ing walls, and a minimum use of interior non-supporting walls.

Space is saved throughout the building by a minimum of corridor and non-service lobbies, ceilings of a maximum height of ten feet, except in the auditorium, and the use of compact-type storage stacks. The use of modular type office furniture with portable partitions compensates for the absence of interior walls in certain offices and work areas. The boiler room housing all mechanical equipment is located in a roof penthouse.

Service Features

The convenience of the library patron has been foremost in the planning of the building, from the sidewalk level entrance, and the general circulation desk inside the single public entrance, which serves as a point of traffic control, to the two elevators for passengers and freight. The "auto library" drive-up service window and the "auto-page" book return have proved popular with patrons who wish to pick up or return books without leaving their cars. There are fifteen open individual carrels and eight locked cubicles, the latter with telephone service which provide adequate space for patrons doing business, technical and professional research.

The library auditorium seats 280 persons and the workshop area featuring the use of modernfold doors which can be opened into a single area seats approximately 250 or can be divided into from two to four smaller meeting rooms.

Comfort Features

The physical comfort of patrons and staff has not been overlooked as the building has complete summer and winter air-conditioning with humidity control. Flash-type fluorescent fixtures have been installed. Outside light is visible from almost all public and office areas. In no public service area, however, is natural light or its control utilized as working light. Generous public and staff lounge areas, small, but well distributed, staff and public washrooms and lavatories, an emergency first aid room and infirmary, and coin operated typewriters will add to the comfort of the building.

A built-in public address system features its own radio receiver, record player and automatic emergency alarm.

In planning the building, modern in every respect, all ties with the past have not been forgotten. The marble in the entrance of the main floor and forming the window seats throughout the building was taken from the lobby and stairways of the old Carnegie building. The local history room, the Charles F. France Memorial Room, is furnished in the best Victorian tradition of the period of Oklahoma's beginning.

It is hoped that this brief description will serve as a tantalizing invitation to visit the library and observe its operation. The welcome mat is always out and the staff is jubilantly happy to have an opportunity to show visitors through the new library.

Central Oklahoma Librarians Organize

Organization of librarians in central Oklahoma was completed at a dinner meeting held on the campus of Oklahoma City University on June 4, 1954. Sixty-three librarians within a radius of sixty miles of Oklahoma City adopted plans for the coming year and elected officers as follows: Mariam Craddock, Oklahoma City Public Library, chairman; and Rollis Harvey, State Library, secretary-treasurer. Bi-monthly meeting will be held from September to May with the several libraries in the area serving as hosts. Membership in this regional group is open to all staff members and interested laymen. Programs will be arranged by a planning committee appointed by the chairman.

The group remained inactive. Dr. Arthur McGeary of the University of Oklahoma library school revived interest in such an organization when they were hosts to librarians in this area on April 22, 1954. Frances Kennedy, librarian of O.C.U., was elected temporary chairman with instructions to appoint a committee to redraft an organization and present plans at the June meeting. These were adopted on June 4.

Notice of future meeting will be sent to all librarians within a sixty-mile radius of Oklahoma City, but others outside this area are especially invited to attend whenever possible.

Miss Ruth Warnock of Grady Baptist Miss. Library of Kent County Library and a 1953 ALA known adult education leader was named Director of the American Library Association's American Heritage Project, a program of community discussions in public libraries. It was announced by David H. Cotts, A.L.A. Executive Secretary at A.L.A. Headquarters in Chicago.
O. L. A. Protests Cut In Library of Congress Funds

The following note of protest was sent to each member of Congress following word from Julia Bennett, A.L.A. Washington representative, that a bill drastically reducing funds for the operation of the Library of Congress had been introduced:

"The Executive Board of the Oklahoma Library Association opposes the drastic cut, or any cut, in the appropriations and functions of the Library of Congress as proposed by the House Appropriations Committee. The present appropriations are actually insufficient for the Library's effective operation. The Library of Congress is our national library, regardless of its name, and any diminishing of its national importance and position is contrary to our beliefs and desires."—Virginia Z. LaGrave, President

The Oklahoma Librarian Expands

To better serve the membership it has been decided to publish the Oklahoma Librarian on a quarterly basis, instead of biennially, beginning with the present issue. The page size has also been enlarged slightly to conform with other national and state periodicals of the same type.

Frances Kennedy, librarian of Oklahoma City University, who has been news editor for the past two years, after serving as editor in the summer of 1954, again assumes the post of editor with the October issue. Raymond Piller, assistant librarian, Southeastern State College Library, Durant, joins the editorial staff and Ralph Hudson, state librarian, has been named circulation manager.

The Newbery-Caldecott bookmarks listing this year's award winners as well as all the winners from previous years can be obtained from the Children's Book Council. They are printed on stiff paper, 9½ x 2½" and are decorated with the Newbery and Caldecott seals. Available in two attractive colors, turquoise or yellow, one color or a combination may be selected. Prices are as follows: 100 for $1.00, 500 for $4.00, 1,000 for $7.50. Send requests to the Children's Book Council, 50 West 53rd Street, New York 19. Please do not send stamps.

Oklahoma Librarian
DURANT, Southeastern State College Library—Raymond A. Piller, Assistant-Librarian, has established a prize to be awarded annually to the best student assistant. Decision of the winner is made on the basis of votes by other student assistants, faculty members, librarians, and student patrons.

The library will undergo extensive remodeling and redecorating during the spring and summer of 1954. A new lighting system, air conditioning for the main floor, new stacks, and painting of the interior of the building are planned. A large reading room in the basement will be established for periodicals and government publications.

Boule, the student service organization, is presenting books to the library. Faculty members may request the club to buy books which cannot be purchased immediately through regular library allotments.

The Museum, under the direction of Dr. James D. Morrison, and specializing in Chickasaw and Chickasaw items, will be opened to the public this year. New museum cases and other equipment have been purchased.

Willard A. Lockwood, Art editor of the University of Oklahoma Press, has designed a new book plate for the library. The design features a magnolia blossom with leaves surrounded by the name of the college in a circle.

EL RENO. Carnegie Library—Mrs. Richard Horton, Children's Librarian, reports much interest in the pre-school story hour held every Wednesday afternoon throughout the year. The "Once-Upon-A-Time Hour" features a good story which Mrs. Horton has contributed. A little girl was late for the story hour, and when asked by her mother if she had missed much of the program, replied, "No only the commercial."

ENID. Public Library—The late Mrs. A. K. Goodman, a library patron for many years, bequeathed $500 to the library for the purchase of books in the fields of art, science, and religion.

NORMAN. University of Oklahoma Libraries—Medicine in the early days was the theme of a pictorial display at the annual convention of the Oklahoma State Medical Association in May. The exhibit was developed by Dr. Gaston Litton and J. M. Babcock of the OU Archives, which is cooperating in collecting materials on the history of medicine in the state. The OU archivist seeks leads to pioneer physicians, survivors of early day doctors, and others who may have archival material on medicine in their attics and trunks.

At its last meeting in May the Library Staff Association elected the following officers for the coming year: Warren Wickliffe, President; Miss Bobbie Hopkins, Vice-President; and Mrs. Esther Witcher, Secretary-Treasurer. The Association will resume its meetings in the fall.

OKLAHOMA CITY. Oklahoma City University Library—Kappa Tau Delta sorority has presented to the library a sixteen inch Rand McNally floor globe, hand mounted and set in a blond mahogany base.

The North Oklahoma City Rotary Club has adopted the OCU library as its project, and its "A Book or a Book" campaign has resulted in an initial check for $200 and approximately 200 books from members' libraries. The fund will be used to purchase books on American literature. An attractive book plate especially designed for this collection will be placed in books purchased from this fund.

Frances Kennedy, librarian, was awarded first prize in the recent Library Binding Institute essay contest. Miss Kennedy received an all expense trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the convention of the Joint Committee of the A.L.A. and L.B.L. and a check for $250.

OKLAHOMA CITY. Oklahoma State Libraries—The Library has undertaken an active publications program. Oklahoma Libraries has been revived under the editorship of Miss Bobbie Haney. It is a monthly publication carrying articles of interest to librarians and laymen, booklists, and news of the State Library. Miss Esther Horne edits the Newsletter of the Library Extension Division, a single column graphed sheet appearing weekly with short, newsy items. Librarians are invited to send in news of general interest for inclusion in either of these publications. Copies are mailed free of charge to libraries, legislative board members, home demonstration agents.
club presidents, and others. Any library not receiving these publications is urged to notify the State Library.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Tinker Air Force Library—Air conditioning has recently been installed in the Recreational Library which serves the military personnel and their families on the base.

FONCA CITY, Attucks High School Library—An interesting exhibit with the slogan "Prom Trotters" was displayed during May. Book jackets representing books on music were displayed with a music staff. Eight students received library reading certificates for reading books on a selected list.

FONCA CITY, Public Library—The fifteenth anniversary of the opening of the Museum Room was observed with special ceremonies. Indian dances, and the serving of “squaw bread” and coffee. Over 400 visitors visited the Museum which houses Indian and pioneer relics.

SEMINOLE, Public Library—Mrs. R. C. Bruner, Librarian, reports that the library has recently been redecorated with turquoise blue walls and Italian tile red flooring. New oak shelving has been installed in the adult reading room, and plans are being formulated to air condition the library.

The Sunday edition of the Seminole Producer carries a list of new books added to the library, and a review of a current book contributed by the librarian.

STILLWATER, Oklahoma A & M College Library—On May 19 John B. Stratton, Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Marguerite Howard, Documents Librarian, and Alton P. Juhlin, Reference Librarian, were initiated into the Nu Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, honorary history fraternity.

Alton P. Juhlin spent ten days in Washington, D. C. during April, on a “working tour” of the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library. The College is serving, by contract, as one of five cooperating libraries for the Department, which, in effect, makes the College a branch library for Department of Agriculture field men in the five surrounding states.

TULSA, University of Tulsa—On May 27 the Chamber of Commerce honored Mr. John Rogers and the School of Law at a Public Affairs Forum luncheon. A portrait of Mr. Rogers, Dean of the School of Law, was presented to the University and will be hung in the campus library. Within the past two years Mr. Rogers has given to the Law Library over $11,000 worth of books, resulting in outstanding collections on oil and gas law, constitutional law, Americana, and government.

TULSA, Public Library—Negotiations are under way to secure the old County Court House building for the Tulsa Public Library. Advantageously located in the heart of the business section, architect’s estimates show that the building can be completely renovated and air-conditioned for a fraction of the cost of a new building. Copies of the attractive brochure describing the proposed plans, “How Tulsans Can Save a Million Dollars,” may be obtained by writing the Tulsa Public Library.

WAYNOKA, Public Library—Formal opening of the Library was held on May 15, according to Mrs. Ben Kelin, president of the board. The library is housed in the City Hall, and the duties of librarian are rotated among board members. Present hours are from 2 to 5 on Saturdays, and from 5 to 7 on Wednesday evenings.

State Librarian Will Collect Library Statistics

Forms for reporting library statistics will soon be mailed from the office of the state librarian, Ralph Hudson. Mr. Hudson asks the cooperation of every library in returning completed statistics as quickly as possible. The information assembled will assist the Select Committee on State Planning in its work and will enable the State Library to fill the many requests for statistics on Oklahoma libraries.

The 1955 Annual Meeting

The annual O.L.A. spring meeting will convene in Oklahoma City March 31-April 2, 1955 with headquarters at the Biltmore Hotel.

Speakers will include Mrs. Lura Gibbons Currier, who is returning by popular request, and Mrs. Merlin Moore, Arkansas trustee who has just received the A.L.A. Distinguished Service Award.

At the suggestion of many members a longer meeting, two full days, is being considered with more free time to visit together, inspect exhibits and tour the libraries of Oklahoma City. It was felt by the executive board that a meeting in Oklahoma City while the legislature is in session would be appropriate in view of plans for library legislation.

Mark your calendar. Plan now to be on hand.
DURANT, Southeastern State College Library—Dr. John R. Willingham, Librarian, has received word that his article on the American poet, Hart Crane, has been accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of *American Literature*.

NORMAN, University of Oklahoma Library—Mrs. Irma R. Tomberlin, formerly Art Librarian, has been appointed Assistant Reference Librarian, replacing Miss Doris Probst. Miss Probst has accepted a position in the reference department of the University of Illinois.

James M. Babcock, assistant archivist, was awarded the M.A. degree in history at the June commencement.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Capitol Hill Branch Library—Jack J. Delaney, Reference Librarian, is literary editor of the Capitol Hill Beacon, contributing a weekly column of book reviews and literary criticism.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma City University Library—Mrs. J. C. Best was appointed circulation librarian in February, 1954. Mrs. Best received a B.A. degree from Trinity College, a library science degree from Texas State College for Women, and a M.A. from Stephen A. Austin College.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma State Library—Mrs. Leah H. Law, became Individual Loan Librarian in the Extension Division in September 1953. Mrs. Law received her library degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1953, and prior to that was teacher-librarian in the Carnegie, Oklahoma school system for ten years.

Don W. Der was appointed Staff Archivist in September 1953. Mr. Der was formerly Production Librarian of the Oklahoma City Libraries, and received his training as archivist at the University of Oklahoma.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Southeast Secondary School—Pat V. Dickenson has just acquired The Music Box, a record, sheet music, and record player shop located at 30th and May. The shop is open from noon to 9 p.m.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Tinker Air Force Library—Lucy A. Squyres, a recent graduate of the O.U. Library School, became Mrs. Paul Cline in April. She will continue her work in the library.

PERRY, Carnegie Public Library—Mrs. R. E. Treeman, a member of the Library Board for the past twenty five years, and chairman during the past four years, has recently resigned. Mrs. Robert Coyle has been appointed by the mayor to replace Mrs. Treeman. Miss Ethel Knox, secretary of the board for the past three years, has been elected chairman.

PUTNAM CITY, High School Library—Miss Ruby Martz is on the summer faculty of the library school of Texas State College for Women, Denton. Miss Martz has been named Membership Chairman of Region IV of the American Association of School Librarians.

Mrs. Alice Zweicher has been appointed high school librarian for the coming year.

STILLWATER, Oklahoma A & M College Library—Edmon Low, Librarian, is teaching at the University of Michigan Library School this summer, and Mrs. Alice Pattee, Head Cataloguer, is teaching at the OU Library School for the summer session.

Dr. Helen J. Poulton has returned to her position as Social Sciences Librarian. Dr. Poulton was Head of the Reference Department, Washington University Library, St. Louis, from November 1953 to June 1954.

TULSA, Public Library—Jane deMichelle has joined the staff of the Technical Department. She graduated from the O.U. Library School in 1953 and has had previous library experience in the Wewoka Public Library and the Wichita Public Library where she worked in the Children's Department and on the bookmobile.

Lee C. Erhard has been elected chairman of the library board succeeding L. C. Clark. Mr. Erhard has been a member of the library board since 1949. He has been vice-chairman of the board during this time.

Two new members of the Library Board are Mrs. J. Donald McInerney and Mrs. Roger V. Devlin. They replace Mr. L. C. Clark, who was recently elected mayor of Tulsa, and Mrs. Paul Reed, who had been a member of the Library Board for thirty-one years.
Dissenting Opinion

Editor's Note: The following reply is in answer to Jack Delaney's article in the last issue of the Oklahoma Librarian, "Seven Ways to Meet Television Competition."

I hope Jack Delaney's article on ways to meet television competition in the last issue of the Oklahoma Librarian is a minority report. I doubt seriously that we are in competition with television. I think as television matures we will find much that is good, much that will help us promote books and reading, and even more important, knowledge and understanding.

I found his patron classification system disturbing. I have nothing against salesmen, insurance or otherwise, except I'm a little afraid of them—not having much sales resistance. But nice people though they are, they are not librarians, nor are librarians salesmen. Librarians are educators, professional people dedicated to service, not sales. When physicians decide to pick their cases among people with interesting or rewarding ailments, when teachers abandon the slow or uninterested student then librarians can think about classifying their patrons. Granted that this time comes I fear I will be at a loss. For after ten years of library work in a variety of situations I can not put people in classifications and make them stay there. The housewife who comes in to get the answer to a radio quiz may be the program chairman next year for the PTA. I once had a patron who read about ten mysteries a week for several months. Suddenly she abandoned them for more scholarly reading. We discovered she was a lecturer who had been recovering from a serious illness. She was a good friend of the library sending us new patrons regularly. The bum who comes in to get warm and take a bath in the men's room is probably not reading Plato but he might be. I have been fooled just as often on the other side. I shall never forget the patron who had an entire library system, plus the nearest University looking for the Gaelic equivalent for some English words. After the mission was accomplished we found that she used the words to name her dog.

The public library as an educational institution serving all people has a unique place in the community. Television can be used to promote this service. Let's use it—Beth Welch.

Report of the 48th Annual Meeting of the O.L.A.

(Continued from Page 8)

Hall's new library building which is being built.

TRUSTEE SECTION

Mrs. Will H. Willis, temporary chairman, presided. Mrs. Currier, and Mr. Cliff spoke on the work and function of the Trustee Division.

The members of the group recommended that the trustees be furnished with a handbook. It was further recommended that a member of this division be appointed to serve on the committee which would endeavor to organize and carry out the new Oklahoma Library Plan. It was recommended that an annual report of library statistics be sent at least to every board's chairman.

Other important matters discussed were: all trustees become members of O.L.A. and AILA; regional meetings of trustees before the next O.L.A. meeting, the goal of 100% trustees present and 100% O.L.A. membership.

Officers elected were Mr. Walter Bowman, chairman and Miss Esther Henke, volunteer secretary.

A questionnaire was filled out by each member present.

The final business session was opened by Miss Lague with the acting treasurer's report of a balance of $1,660.23 and a membership of 230. Mr. Stanley McElroy, chairman of the Resolutions Committee reported as follows: Libraries are an important agency for information and that more resources are necessary from federal and state agencies. It was further resolved that O.L.A. endorse and seek enactment of the Library Service Bill pending in Congress. Another resolution proposed concerted attention to long range planning for extension and improvement of library service throughout the state.

At the final luncheon meeting presided over by president elect Mrs. Leta Dover the following officers were reported as elected:

1st Vice President Mrs. Allie Beth Martin
2nd Vice President Miss Willa Grace Hardy Secretary Miss Ruth Cox Treasurer Miss Hazel Whaley
Mr. Cliff, Executive Secretary from the National Office of AILA reported on the business of the Executive Office. Miss Julia Bennett reported on the activities of the Washington Office, the only branch office of AILA.

The meeting adjourned on a note of enthusiasm and hope for better library service for this state in the near future.
What We Need and the Proposed Oklahoma Plan

(Continued from Page 6)

of service, multi-county libraries, to be exact, with branches, deposit stations and bookmobile routes. Gretchen K. Schenk in her County and Regional Library Development, published early this year by the A.L.A., discusses this form of library service at length.

In view of the factors mentioned earlier it appears that the most feasible plan for Oklahoma is one of multi-county library units based on the larger trading centers, with regard to density of population, topography, highways and similar matters. This system would be both more economical and more effective. Above all it would permit an adequate income because all library appropriations could be pooled. Attention would need to be given to the factors in the New York plan as reported by Mrs. Schenk. Modified to fit our circumstances they are:

1. Total population should be sufficiently large to enable a district library to serve the area with reasonable economy.
2. Distance of travel should be a minimum consistent with obtaining the population required for the best service.
3. District libraries ought to be located in the natural trading community.
4. Districts should include communities having common interests.
5. No district boundaries should be different from the outlying boundaries of the counties composing the district.

Mrs. Schenk also states the aims of multi-county libraries in New York. These goals include the points listed below:

1. Citizens should be able to get books and other library materials they require with ease.
2. They should be able to secure replies to reasonable information requests submitted to the local library.
3. Children, whether in school or out of school, should have access to well selected library materials.
4. Citizens should have the services of professionally trained librarians in as far as possible, and always, where library duties and responsibilities require such personnel.
5. The state and its agencies for library service should supplement, strengthen, and bolster that compete or supplant district or local service already in existence. The state agency for library service should also encourage and assist

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The U. S. Bureau of the Census has prepared a map of our State Economic Areas, based on the 1950 Census. The map shows nine areas and two metropolitan areas. In 1948 the Bureau of Business Research, College of Business Administration, University of Oklahoma, published Retail-Trade Areas of Oklahoma, by R. R. Cole. This study contains a map of these areas. It lists 34 trade areas, including three secondary ones, in the state. A combination of these two maps might be used in planning a system of multi-county libraries or district libraries. You may prefer to call them regional libraries, although that term to me implies an area larger than a number of counties and I do not use it.

To carry out the idea of the imaginary district library, let us see how it might operate. The district library would be located in the natural trade center of the area. Other libraries in the area would retain their identity, but would also become branches of the district library. The district board of trustees might consist of one member of the board of trustees from each of the regularly organized public libraries within the district. If it appears reasonable, the public library that serves as the district library might be allowed two members on the district board of trustees. Naturally, the terms of office would be on a staggered basis.

Later on I will mention the services that a district library would give in its area of operation.

I realize that there will be many objections to some, if not all, of any combinations that might be made. I am not unaware of local pride and I have no quarrel with it. But the question is, do we want all areas to have good library service and if we do, are we willing to forego some of our feelings for our locality and work together to that end? Only you and the other citizens of this state can decide. Nor should anyone else make the decision for you.

The proposed program also anticipates sufficient state aid to equalize the income for those districts that are unable to secure sufficient funds from the two to five mill levy adequate to finance the district library. Standards of necessary income for good library service should be established and the difference between these standards and the sum of the district levy would be made up by state aid. These standards would be based on those resulting from studies carried on by the A.L.A. and library survey groups.

In order for the district to be formed it would be necessary to amend the constitution to permit the formation of multi-county library units, and the constitution would also require amending in order to allow the two to five mill tax levy to be voted by the residents of the area. This procedure would require action by all our membership, library trustees, patrons, and organizations interested in library service. State aid can be secured by legislative appropriation, and this too would require support from all individuals and groups interested in good library service. State aid would also be granted for the purpose of assisting in the establishment of a district library. Let me warn you that opposition will be encountered from certain groups in amending the constitution to permit a vote on the additional levy for library purposes, and in securing state aid.

The role of the state agency in this plan would be one of support, technical assistance, demonstration, consultation, planning and advice. The state agency would also supplement the collections of the district libraries on a plan of rotating collections of books. It would carry on inter-library loan service, contain scarce resource materials, prepare bibliographies, prepare book lists and in general act to aid district and local libraries in any feasible manner. It would also provide microfilming or other photoduplication service and would continue to give service to the blind and bedfast persons. It is also our intention to expand and better maintain the bibliographical center for the state.

The plan presupposes an integrated state agency for library service, sufficiently supported to carry on its duties and discharge its responsibilities, well staffed and able to respond quickly, comprehensively and effectively to the needs of the government and our citizens. This brief statement on the role of the state agency in the plan must suffice at this time if a reasonable outline of the entire plan is to be given without exceeding the time allowed for that purpose.

The questions naturally asked is what services will the district library perform? Here are its duties in brief form:

1. Maintain deposit collections of books received from the state agency for distribution to local libraries.
2. Provide "special request" materials. If not available in the district library these will go to the state agency.
3. Organize and service a system of branch libraries, deposit stations and bookmobile routes. This is to be carried on in cooperation with the state agency.
4. Purchase, catalog and process books requisitioned or purchased by local libraries.
5. Serve as a district clearing house (in con-
connection with the state agency) for library information.

6. Maintain a uniform catalog of holdings in the district, especially for rare or important items.

I would like to remind you again that the legislation and constitutional amendments, if enacted and adopted would be permissive in nature. No one is to be forced into a system, and no one, least of all those of us who make these suggestions (I repeat and emphasize the word, "suggestions") wants any person, library, city, or county forced into any kind of an arrangement. However, if we are to have good libraries for all our people, if we are to discharge our responsibilities as librarians to our fellow citizens, if we are to make available the sources of knowledge to our people, then we must devise some plan that will give good library service to everyone in Oklahoma, and that will do so as economically and efficaciously as possible. In view of the size of our population and distribution, our per capita income, the size of our state and the cost of good library service, we can see no better means than a library system on a district or regional (if you prefer that word) basis. If there is a better means, let us adopt and follow it, but in any case, let us do something—and not just something, but something with distinction and intelligence. Oklahoma has pioneered in many fields. We hope our pioneering spirit is not dead. The frontiers of the mind are always present and they wait for us to advance them.

We respectfully ask you to give the people and librarians of this state a plan and one of boldness and excellence. The one now proposed is for you to handle as you see fit, as I mentioned earlier.

The program of this meeting bears the words, "Wider Horizons for Oklahoma Libraries," and that means for all libraries in our state. Come let us widen the horizons, carry out our ideals, live our beliefs for superior library service and achieve our aims. And let us be able to say honestly and humbly in this we had a part, we helped to plan and create a fine library system for our state, and we are discharging our duties to our citizens, our state and our profession.

On Freedom of Thought—(Samuel Adams): Freedom of thought and the right of private judgment in matters of conscience, driven from every other corner of the earth, direct their course to this happy country as their last asylum.
LURA GIBBONS CURRIER is Field Representative of the Mississippi State Library Commission. Mrs. Currier is a graduate of Mississippi Southern College, and received her library degree from Texas State College for Women. She has been quite active in A.L.A. committee work, and was awarded the John Cotton Dana Award two years in two successive libraries: Shoshoni County, and Mount Vernon, Washington.

VIRGINIA LagRAVE, librarian of Tinker Air Force Base, is retiring president of the Oklahoma Library Association. During her term of office the Association has concluded one of its most successful years, not only in number of memberships but in activities initiated and completed. Trustee and special library sections met for first organizational meetings and school librarians completed plans for formal organization. Following a most successful annual meeting the recommendations for further activities were put into action immediately.

RALPH HUDSON has been state librarian since 1936. He is A.L.A. councilor representing the Oklahoma Library Association and a member of the A.L.A. committee on the Study of State Library Agencies. He has served as acting treasurer of the Oklahoma Library Association since the resignation of Joe Templeton.

MARIAN DIERDORFF is librarian of the John Marshall school in Oklahoma City. She had extensive teaching experience before earning a degree in library science from the University of Illinois in 1950. She has taught children's literature and in addition to her school library and teaching experience has worked in the King County Public Library, Seattle, Wash. She is retiring secretary of O.L.A.

CLARENCE S. PAINE is Director of Oklahoma City Libraries since 1947. He is a native of Nebraska, trained in Illinois and came to Oklahoma via Beloit College Wisconsin, Rockefeller Foundation and the Mississippi Valley. He is author of Comedy of Manners (1941) the Black Hills (with others) 1952 and editor of Review Index 1941-45 besides he has contributed articles to professional and learned journals.

O.L.A. Treasurer's Report

As of June 8th, O.L.A. had a balance in the treasury of $1,711.39. Membership in the Association totalled 259. This substantial balance is due to diligence on the part of many members who have worked to place the Association on a firm financial basis.

These funds will help promote a stronger organization serving the individual member more effectively. Activities of the Select Committee on State Planning, a more extensive annual spring meeting, a one day fall meeting on State Planning, an expanded Oklahoma Librarian are among the activities planned for the year ahead.

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Library Development — The Human Element

(Continued from Page 4)

reaches, do not always find favor with — of all things — my own profession. I am prepared to make the dogmatic statement and the serious condemnation that the worst handicap we have in library development is librarians. And if you think they are all stuck in Sullivan's Hollow, Miss., or Any Old Place, Oklahoma, that just shows how misplaced can be your professional knowledge.

When we returned home from the New York meeting of ALA in 1952 a librarian asked us what I had learned. Our reply was, "We went all the way to New York to find out that you couldn't do what we had already done in Mississippi." We learned there in New York that larger units were desirable; that, of course, they were more economical, gave better service; that they were unquestionably the answer to adequate book collections and good staffs but people won't work together. "At that meeting I turned to one of the state workers from Georgia and said: "We had better hurry back home to see if what we left there is still there." It was. And is.

It is not enough to say that this group I have been speaking of could if they would, but they won't. There must be some reasons why they won't. Several factors seem to be evident.

1. Many of the librarians working today have been through upheavals and periods of adjustments and growth and simply cannot muster the necessary strength to face another. For example, there is only one completely independent municipal library left in Mississippi. All of the others have extended their services to cover the whole county (in theory, at least), have negotiated a city-county combination in political and trustee structure, and have secured some sort of joint support. While it takes me ten seconds to say that you can imagine how many years of hard work it took to negotiate that. The statement has been made "Every librarian has one pioneering experience in her blood. Once that has been expended no transition can ever induce another." Maybe that's it. If we are going to regard the human element in this library development job we can ill afford to ignore plain and simple weariness.

2. People in general, and some librarians in particular, are congenitally defeated by geography. Apparently their mothers were frightened by a road map before they were born. All of the people who are hemmed in by restrictions of place do not live, unfortunately, east of the Hudson. There are some people who are not quite sure that they can negotiate the distance between the Arkansas and the Red Rivers, or between the Mississippi and the Tallahatchie. They are able to accept without question that the Cleveland Public Library might have a branch of its system so located that it takes 45 minutes to an hour to get to it, through city traffic, from administrative headquarters. They would see immediately the folly of setting up a separate administration for the Capitol Hill Branch in Oklahoma City. But they would curl up and die at the horrible suggestion that the next town 45 miles away that can certainly be reached on an open highway in an hour's time should be part of the same system. If California can operate a successful library system in one county containing half the number of square miles in the whole state of Mississippi and one third the number in the whole state of Oklahoma, then I see no reason why we should be frightened out of our wits at the idea of having three or four meagery little counties with about 400 square miles each working together in one unit. We may find out we are wrong in the long run and have to eat our words, but 1, for one, am certainly not willing to start out on the theory that California can do anything that we can't do.

Are you?

3. Many excellent librarians, I have discovered to my amazement, do not really know how to work with absent collections. Completely fluid book collections upon which the whole success of larger units of service is built defeats them both in comprehension and in practice. In the original manuscript that I prepared for this visit I devoted a great deal of space to specific instances of this problem. Since they border more on the technical phase of library development than on the human element, and since you did not ask me to speak all afternoon, I have omitted them. If at any time during the remainder of this conference anyone can take any more of the life and hard times of a regional library organizer I shall be glad to describe our experiences in actually setting the machinery of these larger units into operation so that people and books get together.

For the moment now shall we leave these librarians who could if they would in back and in the warm pleasure of their vanity that we have seen and turn to the group who would if they could but they can't. Here is the size in the hole. Here is the group upon which larger units of library service will ultimately be built. The one with enough vision and imagination to
know that they need help, with the thorough conviction that only in "union there is strength."

I sat in a recent meeting of the Public Libraries Division and heard one of the highest officers in it declare: "There is not one shred of scientific evidence to prove that little libraries are any better off working in larger units." Scientific evidence, indeed! I am not sure that I know what he means by scientific evidence: I am not even sure that I have enough sense to understand it if he explained it to me. But I do know that wherever the larger units have been developed—Washington State, California, New York, Georgia, Wisconsin, Missouri, Mississippi (there are no exceptions)—there are books to read, specialized programs going on, highly trained people working closely with inadequately trained ones who have labored into old age with insecurity, without knowing what they were doing, with no know-how to lean on. Now they have confidence, security, materials, tools to work with. How I wish that a Mississippi library cus- toman whom I know could be here to tell you this story instead of me. She is not the exception; she is the general rule. She had never received much salary; had no book budget to speak of. In the room behind the room behind the courtroom she hovered over a dirty, ragged collection of books,.unloved and unread. She lived in constant dread of losing the job she had to have to sustain life. Of course she did not know what she was doing, but she knew enough to know that she did not know (and what an accomplishment that is). Now she has a raise in salary, a safe job. To her amazement she found the "big" librarians (that's what she calls us—I wonder if she is really referring to professional stature) were just as understanding of her need for a job as the city fathers who had kept her on out of pity. She prefers to be working in the dignity of doing something useful rather than being an object of charity. Now she looks her patrons squarely in the eye and tells them with pride and confidence; "If we do not have the book you want here, we can get it for you immediately from headquarters." When she attended her first state library meeting (which was a very tangible gain she made under a larger unit) she threw her arms around me and said: "O, Mrs. Currier, if it hadn't been for that wonderful regional library I would never have gotten to see all of these real librarians." To a visitor in her library from ALA (the honor of that visit was quite a bit for her to take in) she put it quite simply: "Now I have all the books I want; they help me with everything. If I need anything I just call them and here they are." Scientific evidence—maybe not. The only evidence we have is more readers, better books, higher type service, happier patrons and librarians—to say nothing of financial support multiplied many times over. I'll take these and leave the statisticians to their figures and graphs. (That isn't really as nonchalant as it sounds because I happen to know where the disgruntled gentleman's case for the struggling little library is going to be when the boys with the slide rules get through with them.)

The next big segment of people we meet in library development are those that we work on. Now these are really my favorite subjects. I do wish there was time to discuss with you the exciting ramifications of the political aspects of this business. However, I do want you to meet a few of my political friends and see if you don't like them, too.

Here are the politicians who have not died from shock when we asked them for enough money (relatively speaking) to do a half way decent job. They understand big money (please remember that big money for libraries in Mississippi and big money in New York state is, alas, not the same amount of hard cash!) and are not frightened by it. But do they always give it to us? Heavens no! The point I am making is that we have not lost a Supervisor yet. One of them said to me once: "Why don't we have as good a library as they have in Lee County? "Well," I replied, "Lee County spends $1400 for a library; you spend $1500. Figure it out for yourself." "Gosh, I never thought of that." P.S. He now spends $15,000. Another one looked me in the eye and said: "Young lady, can you honestly tell me that spending $3000 for that county library (he was referring to his own) is not a waste of money?" Did I surprise him when I said, "I agree with you that it is. Now if you would spend $10,000 and join it with the city library you would all have your money's worth." He did. One librarian came up to me and said, whiningly: "Will you go to the Board of Supervisors and ask them for a $100 so that we can have a county library? " I certainly will not. I cannot insult their intelligence to that extent. If they are no smarter than to think they can have a county library for a $100 then we had better leave them be and hope for a miracle come next election." Then you must not miss my two favorite ones: the one whose formal education was absolutely nil. He could neither read nor write. When I stopped the bookmobile in front of his house one day to ask him about launching plans to run it over three other counties, he looked at it and said, with heavy emotions in his voice: "Every time I see that bookmobile I get all choked up. I am so glad.
that I got into a position where I could give the
boys and girls in my county what I never had." And the other one representing a completely rural section who, when we were talking about a big regional library, said: "Now where is this library you're talking about goin' be?" I assured him that it would not be any place specifically; that it would be all over the place. He didn't sound very convinced. Further conversation revealed that all he really wanted to make sure of was that the kids in his community got some books (it had not yet occurred to him that adults might read, too). I said to him then: "As long as your kids get them out where you live, does it make any difference to you WHERE we paste the pockets and cards in them, where we haul them from?" He considered that a long, studied moment and then came up with my most priceless piece of propaganda for larger units of library service: "No, I reckon it don't, long as we get 'em. All them books come from New York anyway, don't they?"

See what I mean—wonderful job, this.

And there is one more point I would make in speaking of the people we have to work on. Again let me repeat—and I regret the necessity to say it—it is easier to sell larger units of library service to the layman than it is to the librarian. If our four years' experience in implementing a plan similar to yours has any significance for you I believe that it will be on this point.

Once the head of a state extension agency said to me: "I would like to see regional libraries—meaning multi-county ones—of course, but the people in my state don't want regional libraries." Nonsense! The people in her state, the people in my state, and the people in your state don't know what kind of libraries they want: some of them don't even want libraries at all. If they really wanted them, they would already have them. And even the ones who want them do not know what kind of libraries they want. They want what you tell them to want. If we are going to the taxpayers and ask for a decent professional salary, then we are obliged to tell people what they should have that will be the most for the money. We have no right to demand a salary for knowing what we are doing and then crawl around on our professional bellies meekly saying to the people: "You don't want a regional library, do you?" People were not born preferring a larger unit of library operation to a smaller one; indeed I am not sure that they were born wanting libraries. If they were, any number of them have been entirely successful in overcoming their inheritance. But I do believe that they instinctively prefer cleanliness, efficiency, and know-how, or else the wonderful example set by private enterprise in America has bred that preference in them.

As professional leaders we have a responsibility to lead people toward the BEST type of library service. We can serve our own ultimate ends only in so far as we do that. We had better not let our own fears, our misgivings, our complacency, our incapacity to stretch our minds and bodies out to encompass large areas keep us from leading the people right. You can't fool all of them all of the time, you know. Sooner or later they catch on. Already it has occurred to some business men that there must be some reason that books are not readily available. Everything else is—why not books? The librarian who hides—whether she knows that is what she is doing or not—behind public opinion as her defense is not facing facts. For every one doubt and fear that a layman has expressed to me librarians have expressed dozens.

Never once in five years has a business man said to me: "Suppose you lose a book." Nor has one ever wrung his hands and said: "What will happen to my little library?" Nothing will happen to it, it has been right there for a hundred years, sometimes, and nothing has. Anything that would happen to it would be an im-

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provement. And obviously the business man doesn't care what will happen to it; nothing, as far as he is concerned, happens in it so why should he have any concern about what happens to it. The Chamber of Commerce understands embracing a trading area. Borrow a good Chamber of Commerce speech, erase the word Chamber every time and substitute library and you have a swell campaign talk already made. The Rotary Club speaks the same language that you do when you are talking about cutting down overhead, paying better salaries for specialized work, lowering unit costs by higher production. It doesn't strike the local hardware dealer as fantastic that you could get a book from Muskogee to Tulsa for someone to read; he can pick up the telephone and have a big piece of equipment to a customer in three days from his plant or jobber in Chicago. It even makes sense to him to fly a piece of goods to a customer if he needs it. He doesn't go into a breakdown every time a customer comes into his store and asks for something that he doesn't have. If it's in his line, he gets it. If it's not, he refers the customer to the exact place where he can get it, even volunteers to go after it if he is a really up and coming hardware dealer.

There have been some holes we have fallen into in our efforts back home. Some of them we have gotten out of; some of them we are still in and are trying to crawl out of now back into the sunlight of unimpeded progress. There is not time to list all of them. They too are in the remaining undelivered pages of this rambling—whatever it has been.

We have four regional libraries in Mississippi and the others already into countywide units, and in other states they have many more and much better ones. Why? Because there was a great upsurge of public opinion clamoring for them? Certainly not. People are no more pros-trating themselves in the dust beside the read begging for books to read in Mississippi, Georgia, Washington State than they are in Oklahoma. We have these larger units of service because we ourselves believe in them. Not just on the outside, but way down inside. We all believe in them so much that our staffs, our librarians, our trustees really work at it. It does not frighten us. It need not frighten you.

It does not frighten General Motors that they make automobiles in Detroit and sell them at every cross roads in the world. Where would they be today if they had quaked in their boots because all of their staff couldn't get together every Monday morning? America did not become great because it was populated by people afraid to think big to act big and to work hard for a common good. Nor would she have become great had she lost the human touch or the high concentration on the rights and wishes of the individual owner, user, buyer, or operator. There is no reason that America's libraries cannot match the genius of her economic development. Indeed, in some places they have. But the libraries in Oklahoma and Mississippi—and any place else—will never be any bigger than you and I, and the handful like us who believe in their worth, plan for their future, know what we are doing, and then do it, and have faith in ourselves and in our ability to fulfill our responsibilities to the people we ask to support us.

Some bookmobiles in our state are not able to supply a book to each child. They have to divide up, choose partners, and use various means of making the collection go around. One librarian felt she should limit the service, in lieu of enough books, to the children from the third grade up. The bookmobile was on the school ground. The eager children were gathered around. The librarian felt a tug on her skirt and heard a deep sob. She turned around to find a small child huddled up against her in tears. "What is the matter, honey?" "They won't let me have a book." "What grade are you in?" "I am in the second grade." "You will be able to get a book when you are in the third grade. You will have to wait until next year." Her tears fell faster. "That is too long to wait."

Too long to wait. Mississippi came into the Union in 1817; that was 137 years ago. Oklahoma came into the Union in 1907; that was 47 years ago. Between us we have the unbelievable record of 3,000,000 people without books to read. How much longer will they have to wait?

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Since 1935, when the "Mid-Century" line was established, many purchasers have found it possible to buy the very finest scientific library furniture without having to pay exorbitant prices. You, too, may find it profitable to inspect the "Mid-Century" line, and the Oklahoma City Public Library installation, before making your purchase.

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