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Official Journal of the Oklahoma Library Association
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY
Mailing Address: Frances Kennedy, Editor, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City 6, Oklahoma
Volume 5 July 1955 Number 3

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A Message from the O. L. A. President

The outlook for the Oklahoma Library Association is bright indeed; a new year has already begun with successful legislative activity, culminating in the passage of the Multi-County Library law in the closing days of the legislature. Even more important than the passage of this badly needed piece of legislation is a heartening fact which has been forcefully demonstrated during recent weeks.

The enthusiasm with which OLA members from every corner of the state and from every type of library worked to secure passage of the measure gave assurance that this group, working together, can accomplish ever more in the years ahead to advance Oklahoma libraries.

The question most frequently heard now is, "What is the next step?"

Feeling seems to be unanimous that we must begin now to plan legislation to be presented two years hence, implementing the law just passed. Leta Dover, whose untiring efforts were in great measure responsible for passage of Senate Bill No. 283, has agreed to serve as chairman of a new legislative committee. Ralph Hudson, whose knowledge of the intricacies of legislative procedures was invaluable in work on the bill, has been asked to serve again as committee consultant.

A carefully planned publicity program to acquaint not only librarians but the citizens of the state with the needs of Oklahoma libraries is being worked out. Through more district meetings, through work with other statewide organizations, through news releases to local papers, it is hoped that much of the groundwork for future action can be laid during this year.

Of utmost importance at this time is continued support of the Library Services Bill, currently before Congress. Now is the time for every member of OLA to write to his representatives in Congress—and to get others to write, too—urging support of the measure when it comes to a vote.

Other Association committees will be working to enlarge the membership and to interest promising young people in the profession through recruitment activities.

Preliminary arrangements for the 1956 annual meeting in Pawhuska, April 19-21, promise an unusual convention which will be rewarding professionally and will be an enjoyable highlight in a year filled with activity. More of this later—but now to work! This is no time to rest on our laurels!
FOR SALE-APPLY WITHIN

(Text of a speech made at the luncheon meeting, April 2, 1955, during the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Library Association.)

I trust the heart of you to realize that today is very special for me. The first time, a year ago when I was invited to speak to your Association, I came as a substitute. My coming was neither your idea nor your fault. To have been invited back this year is something else again. You knew this time. And it is the highest honor that anyone has ever paid me. Under the light-hearted banter, know that I am humbly grateful for your friendship, your confidence, and your invitation to share in this occasion.

Libraries are in a predicament. That is something that we have in common with everything else. In this something less than perfect universe everything and everybody falls somewhat short of perfection. Libraries, or at least the kind that you and I work in, alas, are no exception. We are in a predicament. And some of those predicaments in which we find ourselves today are pretty serious.

Perhaps there is no more familiar phrase in this organized confusion that is known as American society than this question: "Is there any unfinished business?" May we ask this question now, using the same manuscript that we used last April as the minutes of the last meeting. Is there any unfinished business? And if so, as any well-inoculated club president would say, we shall dispose of that first.

Unfinished business. I'm not sure but what I have occasionally stumbled onto a prize description of this work, or this profession, or this joy, or this job, or this dedication, or however it happens to strike you business of developing libraries.

And now it's inventory time again. "Between us—Oklahoma and Mississippi—we have the unenviable record of three million people without books to read." That was the appalling thought I left with you a year ago. I wish that today I could report proudly and happily to you that in Mississippi, in the meantime, we have eliminated our fifty percent of those three million people without books, but alas, it is not so.

People without books. People still without them. The perpetrators of hate have been hard at work in our land. A resume of the steps some of us have taken backward in the past year, in the democratic ideals of freedom and human dignity, is alarming indeed. The little frightened people have not let the hardships, the lack of money, the fear that someone else will get the credit for what they have done, deter them in their relentless drive toward the conquest of men's minds and their emotions.

But what about us? Is there any unfinished business? Last night, Mrs. Moore, (Mrs. Merlin Moore, chairman of the Arkansas State Library,) spoke some basic and moving truths about the relationships between the librarians and their trustees, about the use that librarians need to make of the human resources that are at their disposal, about the use they need to make of the people whose library it really is. I feel as strongly as Mrs. Moore on that aspect of library development, and I would like to say a loud "Amen" to the charges that she has made against you and me. Now in order to get all sides of this, to take up where Mrs. Moore left off, to avoid saying the same thing in the same way, I would like to direct my remarks to us librarians and to our part in selling a library program.

For Sale—Apply Within. Outside the door there hangs this sign. The people want to buy something. They can find the information about the thing that they want to buy inside, inside of you and me, as representatives of the profession we follow. The presentation of a forward-looking library program in Oklahoma depends upon you. It is your responsibility.

And over and over again, as often as any of you have heard me speak, you have always heard me say that the trouble with libraries is librarians. The condition of your library and the condition of mine, its lack of financial support, its run-down-at-the-heels appearance, that case of dead air that has sealed it up—it's your fault. If your library is dead, it is you who is at rest! And you say to me, "Oh, but Mrs. Currier, you don't understand." Oh, how well I understand! I have officiated at as many funerals as any of you. Do you know what I have actually heard, not in Oklahoma, of course, and certainly not in Mississippi if that tape recorder is turned on, but somewhere else. Just pick out another state, any state. I have actually heard librarians say, "I do not want a telephone in a public library because some-
body will always be calling up wanting something. I have heard librarians say, "I don't want a larger unit of library service because something may happen to my library." Oh, I can assure you that nothing is likely to happen to it. Nothing ever has and probably nothing ever will. You are no doubt safe. Do you know what else I have heard librarians say? "I am tired of this talk about adult education." What you mean is you're just tired! If you're tired of the education of adults, you'd better set them up in the other alley, because you're in the wrong profession. You know, the three insurance agents who were trying to sell insurance and they were outbidding each other. And one of them said, "Oh, I've got the best insurance policy you ever saw. My insurance will take care of you all your life." The other one said, "Oh, I've got a better insurance policy than that. It will take care of you from the cradle to the grave." Now that left the third man in quite a quandry, and he said after some thought, "Oh, I have the good one. My insurance policy will take care of you from inception to resurrection." And let me tell you, this business of education is important from inception to resurrection. And if we, as librarians, are tired of adult education, we probably haven't had enough of it ourselves to be on real speaking terms.

I had a thrilling and exciting experience after I left your Association meeting last year that I want to tell you about. I've had more fun in Oklahoma than many Oklahomans have had, because I've had the joy and pleasure of visiting your Nowata experiment. I went there deliberately, went there critically, went there with my eyes open, and believe it or not, with my mouth shut. I listened to every one of those women who are taking books to people for the first time report with enthusiasm. I said to them, "What do you expect this to grow into?" I asked this when the people who took me there were not looking. As I asked that question they looked at me astonished, and said, "Why, we expect this to be a real county library someday." Oh, how far ahead of some of us the people are who see books for the first time.

There is no pleasure in our profession like the joy of seeing those women in Nowata County. One of them came up with this earth-shaking discovery. She said, "You know, Mrs. Currier, what we found out? Before you can give these books to somebody to read, you ought to know what's in them." What a remarkable instructor in library science she would make!

Now you, as an Association, are confronted with the question of selling a library program. You're going to be in the predicament of the little boy who wrote the theme on Socrates. He said, "Socrates was a great man. He went around telling people what to do, and they poisoned him." We called together a group of people in Mississippi not long ago, representatives of a large number of state agencies, and one of the cynics said, "This is the third statewide meeting that I've been to where somebody was going to put us under the same umbrella." Under what umbrella will we try to bring the people together? Like Socrates, if we go around telling others what to do, we may get poisoned. But we can know that it is our responsibility to represent and to portray the finest type of library service that there is available to the people. You are being paid a salary, however small or however large it may be, by the taxpayers of Oklahoma to present good library service. When I go to the doctor I pay him a substantial fee; and I expect him to tell me what's wrong with me. I don't always take his medicine. Sometimes I put it in the cabinet and never touch it again. But he has a solemn responsibility to look me squarely in the face and tell me what ails me, because that's the duty of his profession. Don't you go crawling to your library board on an unmentionable part of your anatomy and say, "You don't want larger units of service, do you?" No, they don't. Evidently they don't want any library service at all! Not up to now. Let me assure you that you can't bring all of the people under one umbrella, but you can get lots of umbrellas. There will be times when your people will not fit into any one program. Then you'll have to change the program.

You can always use the same technique that we used with one of our branch librarians. (And I use the word "librarian" loosely.) She and I struggled a long time with the alphabet, and I was finally confronted with the necessity of changing either her or the alphabet. I abandoned the alphabet. The last time I had occasion to check, it was doing very well and she was doing wonderfully. She was looking proudly and happily into the faces of all those who came in the library and saying, "We don't have it, but we can get it for you."

Now you're going to run into a great many obstacles as you start on this development program. I want to tell you the story of Miss

(Continued on Page 60)
District Library Meetings: A Review

During the 1954 meeting of the Oklahoma Library Association, district library meetings were discussed at some length. The Executive Board of OLA voted to ask libraries in various sections of the state to act as hosts in arranging such meetings. The librarians and trustees of the areas chosen responded with enthusiasm, and the ensuing meetings referred to in this report owe their success to the interest, support, and guidance of the host libraries, as well as that of the State Library and the University of Oklahoma.

Several district meetings had been held in the Tulsa and Oklahoma City areas prior to the 1954 OLA meeting. On May 11, 1954, a committee appointed by Frances Kennedy, temporary chairman, met to draw up plans for the Central Oklahoma Librarians Association, representing staff members in libraries within a sixty mile radius of Oklahoma City. Marian Craddock was elected chairman at the June 4 meeting. Dinner meetings have been held bi-monthly during the past year, with the host library making the program arrangements. The purpose of this group, as was stated in the organizational meeting, is "to improve ourselves and our libraries." By the way, this is one organization that prides itself in the fact that there are no dues!

The called meeting of the OLA membership, held in Norman on October 14, 1954, should be included in this report of district library meetings. It was at this meeting that the "Oklahoma Plan," a plan for the development of multi-county library systems that would give the citizens of Oklahoma adequate library service, was first presented. It was after this meeting that plans could be made to hold district meetings with a purpose.

District meetings after this date had a two-fold purpose—to enable librarians to become better acquainted, and to discuss the "Oklahoma Plan." There was really no unified thought in the planning of these meetings. Opinion was divided on whether to limit the meetings to librarians and trustees, or to invite civic leaders, and city and county officials. Consequently, the series of meetings held during the past fiscal year differed mainly in representation.

In the following discussion the Central Oklahoma Librarians Association is not included—not because its meetings were unimportant but because the program did not include the "Okla-

![Area map of the state showing the location of district meetings. Cities and towns represented at each meeting are so indicated.](#)
homa Plan" as such.

Of the eight district meetings held during the year, all but two followed somewhat the same pattern. Either Esther Mae Henike, Field Librarian of the Oklahoma State Library, or Dr. Richard Chapin, Assistant Director of the University of Oklahoma Library School, or both, presented the library picture in Oklahoma, problems facing libraries, and possible solutions. The film, "Our Common Heritage," was shown at these six meetings. After the film and problems were presented, the groups discussed the proposed solutions and their possible affect on library service in their areas.

The discussions as a whole were very good. The questions asked proved that the people were interested in better library service. In Ponca City, to the above programs were added three section meetings—for high school librarians, public librarians, and trustees.

Since the 1955 OLA meeting and the passage of SB 283, the Multi-County Library Act, planning for district library meetings will be much easier. The activities of librarians, trustees and friends of libraries since April 2 has shown that these district meetings can now be used to sell better library service to the people of the State because we are now working together for a specific purpose—better library service for Oklahoma. We need not limit the attendance of future meetings to librarians and trustees, but we must insist that civic leaders, city and county officials and other influential people attend. At the meetings where civic leaders have attended they have contributed much to discussions and have taken "the word" back to their groups.

As you can see by the map and chart, we have just begun to cover the State. No area should be left untouched. Every librarian and trustee should see that the "Oklahoma Plan" is presented in their community. As in the past year, OLA will help with plans for district meetings in any area in the State, as will the Oklahoma

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Library Education in Oklahoma Senior Colleges

In the January, 1955 issue of the Oklahoma Librarian, Dr. Richard E. Chapin and Dr. Arthur M. McAnally of the University of Oklahoma Library School presented "A Proposed Plan for Coordination of Library Education in Oklahoma." This appears to be an excellent plan for students who plan graduate work in library science. In fact, it is so plausible that one is tempted to agree readily that all senior colleges in Oklahoma offering library science should adopt the plan. It certainly would enable a student to fit into the library science graduate program at any college or university offering a library degree on at least five years of college work.

However, after a careful examination of the students who have taken library courses here at Southwestern State College, I have concluded that it might be wise not to follow the plan as outlined by Doctors Chapin and McAnally. The students who enrolled in library courses at the senior colleges can be divided into the following five groups:

1. Those who take a course to fulfill the requirement for an elementary education major.
2. Those who want to become teacher-librarians in secondary schools.
3. Those who take the courses as electives on an English major.
4. Those who want some library science as a part-time employment or a possible occupation after retirement.
5. Those who want to take graduate work in library science and become professional librarians.

Beginning with the library class in the spring of 1953 and including those now enrolled, I have classified the ninety-five students who have taken library science courses at Southwestern State College. They can be divided into the following groups: sixty-three took a course to fulfill requirements for elementary education major; fourteen wanted to become teacher-librarians, one wanted to take graduate work in library science: nine took a course as an elective on English major; and eight took the course for part-time employment as a possible occupation after retirement.

Those who enrolled in the course to fulfill the requirement for an elementary major took the course only because it was required. They did not want to become librarians and, since there are almost no elementary libraries in this part of Oklahoma, they have little chance of becoming librarians. Any of the four undergraduate courses offered at the University of Oklahoma would be of almost no use to this group. They need a specially designed course in library science unlike any other library course now offered in the state.

Those who enrolled in library courses to become teacher-librarians in secondary schools need only six hours to fulfill state and North Central requirements for small secondary schools. Again, these students need special courses. They need to know how to administer a library as effectively as possible with only six hours training, 850 or less for library services, and only one hour devoted to the library each day, the other hours being taken up by teaching. Certainly none of the four undergraduate courses at the University of Oklahoma can fill the need of these students.

Those taking library science as an elective on English major have no intentions of becoming professional librarians; hence, the graduate courses offered at the University of Oklahoma do not satisfy their needs.

Those taking library science for part-time employment or a possible occupation after retirement are usually older women who have no aspirations for graduate work in library science. If they go into library work it will usually be in a small public library or in a secondary school library. Here again, the courses needed are not the kind offered at the University.

However, those intending to become professional librarians will need the undergraduate work offered at the state university. On the other hand, should the senior colleges offer this program to satisfy the needs of such a small percentage of their students? Certainly not. Students in any of the senior colleges desiring professional library training should at the end of their sophomore year transfer to an institution offering such work. Many other professional schools recommend this plan.

The four undergraduate courses offered at the University of Oklahoma are excellent for students who want to become professional librarians. The faculty there should continue their

(Continued on Page 65)
Library Education in Oklahoma: A Reply

Richard F. Chapin

Editor's Note: On page 16, this issue, Ernest A. Thomas, Librarian at Southwestern State College, presents a different view on "Library Education in Oklahoma," as proposed by Dr. Richard E. Chapin and Dr. Arthur M. McAnally in the January issue of the Oklahoma Librarian. Some additional comments by Dr. Chapin follow.

Mr. Thomas, in his remarks on library education in the State in this issue of the Oklahoma Librarian, arrives at the conclusion that the plan for coordination of library courses, submitted by the Library Education Committee of the Council of State College librarians, might not be a wise one for the state colleges to follow. This is in spite of the fact that Mr. Thomas was chairman of the Council when the plan was originally proposed, and also later when the plan was accepted by the Council without a dissenting vote. Now, however, Mr. Thomas doubts that the plan will serve the interests of the state colleges.

In his article there is an interesting breakdown of the enrollment in the library science courses at Southwestern State College. It is noted that there are five different groups who take the courses. Of these groups, the largest by far is the one composed of those students who take a course to fulfill the requirements for an elementary teacher's certificate. Mr. Thomas says that these people "need a specially designed course in library science unlike any other library science course now offered in the State." May I suggest that there probably isn't a course more appropriate for this group than one in books and materials for children? I suspect that most schools in the State currently teach such a course.

The original plan for coordinated library education in the State did not intend to suggest that the State colleges should offer no courses in library science other than those outlined. It was the understanding of the committee that some schools would want to offer additional courses—especially one in books and materials for children. The School of Library Science at the University of Oklahoma offers such a course on the graduate level. However, the School is prohibited by the regulations of the Graduate College and the American Library Association from accepting such an undergraduate level course for transfer credit at the graduate level. A student probably would not want to take both courses; if he took this course at one of the State colleges, then entered the library school, he would just omit this course from his program of studies and substitute some other.

The second group consists of teacher-librarians. Mr. Thomas states that these people "need only six hours to fulfill State and North Central requirements for small secondary schools. According to State regulations, there is no certificate for teacher-librarians. The regulations for the public school librarian certificate is "a minimum of twenty-four semester hours of college credit in library science." No other certificate for librarian or teacher-librarian is awarded by the State with the exception of the temporary and provisional certificates which require a minimum of 16 hours of library science.

Mr. Thomas' statement that six hours of library science is sufficient to meet North Central Association requirements for small schools is true, as of this time. A vote currently before the members of the Association, however, indicates that the Association wants to change this provision by adding a clause which states that progress must be shown toward attaining a minimum of 18 hours in library science. This additional clause was recommended by a subcommittee on School-Library Study. The subcommittee recommends that the library science courses be in the following areas: a. content, selection, and use of school library materials; b. organization of school library materials for use, including cataloging; C. principles, purposes, and philosophy of school librarianship; and d. administration, observation, practice, and field work. It is in these four areas that the core curriculum, as recommended by the Council of State College Librarians, is the strongest.

Before leaving the North Central requirements, one more word should be said regarding Mr. Thomas' article. He states the present

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Leta S. Dover

Oklahoma Multi-County Library Law

We did it! The OLA Multi-County Library Act was signed by Governor Raymond Gary on June 3, 1955, at 4:20 p.m. As members and friends of the Oklahoma Library Association we can congratulate ourselves on carrying this project to a successful conclusion.

During this past year the members of the Association have worked together with enthusiasm to secure favorable action on this bill which will mean better library service for the state. Enthusiasm and cooperation were evident each step of the way—the OLA annual conference in Stillwater in April, 1954, when the Association recommended the appointment of the Select Committee on State Planning—the called meeting of the Association in Norman, on October 14, 1954, to discuss that committee’s report—the OLA annual conference in Oklahoma City this spring, when the Association responded with such eagerness to the suggestions that would secure favorable action on our bill—and the district meetings where the “Oklahoma Plan” was discussed by librarians, trustees, and civic leaders.

It is a tribute to your tenacity and enthusiasm that this legislation was passed so quickly. The credit belongs to all of you who worked so diligently in carrying out our plans. This has been a memorable year for OLA, and we can look forward with enthusiasm to our next step in library progress for Oklahoma.

Note: The text of this bill appeared in the Oklahoma Librarian for April. The bill was introduced on March 30, passed by the Senate on April 15, and by the House of Representatives on May 23. Our legislators now know that there are librarians in their districts. Let’s continue to keep them informed!

Present at the signing of Oklahoma’s newest library law were (left to right): Leta S. Dover, immediate past president of OLA; Allie Beth Martin, OLA President; Governor Raymond Gary; Esther Mae Henke, Field Librarian of the Oklahoma State Library; and James E. Gourley, Chairman of the Planning Committee during the past year.

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Oklahoma Librarian
Oklahoma City University has received the John Cotton Dana Publicity Award for college libraries, and the Post Library, Fort Sill, was selected one of four winners in the Army library group. Announcement of the winning scrapbooks was made on July 4 at the first general session of the 74th annual conference of the American Library Association in Philadelphia. Presentation of the framed citations was made by Howard Haycraft, president of the H. W. Wilson Company, on July 6 at a tea given by the Wilson Library Bulletin.

The John Cotton Dana Publicity Awards, established in 1943, are given by the Wilson Library Bulletin, in a contest sponsored jointly with the American Library Association Public Relations Committee, for outstanding library publicity, based on scrapbooks submitted to show a cross-section of the year's publicity in various types of libraries. O.C.U. Library received the award for college libraries "for well organized presentation of library services and activities with special emphasis on its new library building and 50th anniversary, showing the library to be closely coordinated with the university as a whole." The citation presented to the Post Library, Fort Sill, was "for its efforts toward coordination, through the library, of other activities on the Army post."

Other award winners were as follows: in public libraries with population up to 25,000, Owatonna, Minnesota, Free Public Library; in public libraries between 25,000 and 100,000 population, Racine, Wisconsin, Public Library; in county libraries between 25,000 and 100,000 population, Boonslick Regional Library, Sedalia, Missouri; in public and county libraries between 100,000 and 200,000 population, Glendale, California, Public Library; in public and county libraries between 200,000 and 500,000 population, Miami, Florida, Public Library; in public libraries with population over 500,000, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland; in school libraries, Roseville, California, Union High School; and in Air Force libraries, Reese Air Force Base Library, Lubbock, Texas. A number of honorable mentions and special awards were also given.

Winning scrapbooks, which were on display during the conference, become the property of ALA. They are available for circulation to libraries and other interested groups or individual libraries who wish to borrow them through the Headquarters Library, 50 East Huron, Chicago, with the borrowing library paying the cost of transportation.

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**O.L.A. Treasurer's Report**

*July 12, 1954—April 27, 1955*

**RECEIPTS:**

- Balance received $1,698.30

**Receipts:**

- Membership dues $498.40
- Oklahoma Librarian, Advertising, Subscriptions 451.16
- Annual Conference, 1955 1,969.10

**Total Receipts** 4,616.96

**EXPENDITURES:**

- Executive Board 247.02
- Legislative Program 380.22
- Nomination Committee 19.11
- Oklahoma Librarian 802.20
- Conference Expenses, 1955 2,029.40
- Southwestern Library Association Mailing 17.62
- Annual Conference, 1954 50.00

**Total Expenditures** 3,545.57

**CASH BALANCE, APRIL 27, 1955** $1,071.39

Hazel Whaley Jackson, Treasurer

July 12, 1954—January 3, 1955

Ruth Cox, Acting Treasurer

January 3, 1955—April 27, 1955

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**Study Course for Trustees**

*How to Be a Good Library Board Member* is the title of a new correspondence course for library board members. The course is offered by the Home Study Department of the University of Chicago, in cooperation with the Trustees Section, Public Libraries Division, American Library Association.

The syllabus has been prepared by Helen Ridgway, formerly Executive Secretary of the Public Libraries Division, now Chief of Library Bureau, State Department of Education, Connecticut.

Further information may be obtained by writing to the Home Study Department, University of Chicago, 1375 East 60 Street, Chicago 37, Illinois.
O.L.A. MEMBERS:

Aber, Jeanne M. .... Northern Oklahoma Jr. College, Tonkawa
Adair, Mrs. Lena .......... Ada HS
Ahlum, Marjorie .......... Tulsa PL
Alcoek, Betty .......... Tulsa PL
Amstutz, John .......... 1500 Leavy, Pawhuska
Atkins, Hannah .......... Oklahoma City PL
Babcock, D. R. .......... Oklahoma City PL
Babcock, J. M. .......... University of Oklahoma, Norman
Babcock, Lucy Ann .......... Oklahoma State Library, Oklahoma City
Bailey, Barbara .......... Edgemere School, Oklahoma City
Balsam, David .......... Oklahoma City PL
Barnett, Goldie .......... Norman, PL
Barton, W. E. .......... U. S. Southwest Reformatory Library, El Reno
Bass, Marquerite .......... Muskogee PL
Beattie, Frances .......... Oklahoma City PL
Bell, Mary R. .......... Oklahoma College for Women, Chickasha
Bell, Sarah Jane .......... Douglass HS, Oklahoma City
Berriman, Sister M. .......... Monte Cassino HS, Tulsa
Berry, Mrs. R. R. .......... University of Oklahoma, Norman
Berrns, Russell R. .......... Oklahoma State Library, Oklahoma City
Best, Lucile .......... 406 SW 2, Oklahoma City
Birdseye, Harriette .......... Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co., Oklahoma City
Blanc, Edna .......... Phillips Petroleum Co., Bartlesville
Blythe, Retha .......... Pawhuska HS
Bowes, Jewel .......... Ada PL
Bowman, Walter V .......... Woodward PL
Bragg, S. J. .......... Continental Oil Co, Ponca City
Brady, Florence L .......... Tulsa PL
Brumlett, Margie .......... Poteau HS
Brent, Mrs. Ruth .......... Wright Branch, Oklahoma City
Brookfield, Mrs. Grace, Booker T. Washington Library, Tulsa
Broder, Mrs. L. A .......... Duncan PL
Burger, Mrs. R. C .......... Seminole PL
Buckner, Alice H .......... University of Tulsa
Bynum, Mrs. Grover L .......... Henryetta PL
Carleton, Pauline A .......... University of Oklahoma, Norman
Carman, Mary .......... Oklahoma State Library, Oklahoma City
Carr, Opal .......... University of Oklahoma, Norman
Chapin, Richard .......... University of Oklahoma, Norman
Chapman, Ladonna .......... 1447 NW 33, Oklahoma City
Chesnutt, Eva .......... Central HS, Oklahoma City
Clark, Joyce .......... University of Tulsa
Clark, Mrs. Mayme B .......... Sapulpa PL
Clason, Barbara E .......... Broken Arrow HS
Clements, Myrtle .......... Ponca City PL
Chine, Mrs. Lucy A .......... Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City
Cobb, Mrs. Walter H .......... 129 E. Barker Street, El Reno
Cockrum, Evonne M .......... Northwest Classen HS, Oklahoma City

This directory was compiled from the OLA Treasurer’s records as of June 15, 1955. Librarians whose memberships have lapsed, or others wishing to become members, may send their dues to Mrs. Ida Smith, 1625 East Louisiana Street, Norman.

1955 DIRECTORY

Collier, Mrs. James L. .......... Okmulgee PL
Colvert, Lewis .......... Ada PL
Cooper, Elizabeth .......... Naval Air Technical Training Center, Norman
Cobin, Mrs. W. T. .......... Chickasha PL
Covey, Richard .......... Muskogee PL
Cox, Ruth .......... Oklahoma City University
Craddock, Marlan .......... Oklahoma City PL
Craig, Ruth .......... Oklahoma City PL
Crouch, Mrs. Elizabeth .......... Cushing HS
Crumpler, Mrs. Lilian .......... Midwest City PL
Currier, Laura G. .......... 403 State Office Bldg., Jackson, Mississippi
Curtis, Elva .......... Ponca City HS
Dahl, Carl .......... Oklahoma City PL
Darnell, Mrs. Albert E .......... Clinton PL
Daughtery, Mrs. Ila Mae .......... Stemolin Oil & Gas Co., Tulsa
Davis, Blanche .......... 2529 NW 14, Oklahoma City
DeLeay, Bethel .......... Central HS, Tulsa
Denbo, Bobbie Jean .......... Claremore HS
Der, Don W. .......... Oklahoma State Library, Oklahoma City
Dickey, Jack W. .......... Oklahoma A & M College, Stillwater
Dickinson, Mrs. Pat V .......... Southeast HS, Oklahoma City
Dierdorf, Marian E .......... John Marshall HS, Oklahoma City
Dillon, Ethel .......... Putnam Heights School, Oklahoma City
Dobler, Mrs. Ray J. .......... Elk City PL
Donaldson, Mildred L .......... Taft HS, Oklahoma City
Donart, Helen .......... Stillwater PL
Doughty, Mrs. Alma .......... Central HS, Muskogee
Douglas, Mrs. Frances .......... Weatherford School Library
Douglas, Irma .......... Curriculum Library, Oklahoma City
Dover, Leta S. .......... Bacone College, Muskogee
Duffer, Casper .......... East Central State College, Ada
Duncan, Noel .......... 3236 NW 68, Oklahoma City
DuVall, Frances .......... Northwestern State College, Alva
Edwards, Zona M .......... Oklahoma A & M College, Stillwater
Ervin, Virginia .......... University of Oklahoma, Norman
Evangelia, Sister M .......... Sisters of Divine Providence, Enid
Fesler, Virginia .......... Chickasha
Fisher, Daisy .......... Ardmore PL
Fleet, Dorothy C .......... McAlester HS
Fleming, Hazel C .......... Chickasha HS
Fletcher, Edna .......... Oklahoma Publishing Co., Oklahoma City
Foster, Mrs. Mildred .......... Northeastern State College, Tableegah
France, Clarice .......... Oklahoma City PL
Franks, Arda E .......... Cameron College, Lawton
Friedman, Mrs. Bess .......... Blackwell PL
Garten, Alma .......... 1201 School, Oklahoma City
Gates, Mrs. C. N .......... El Reno PL
Geis, Elizabeth .......... Emerson Junior HS, Enid
George, Esther E .......... Oklahoma A & M College, Okmulgee
George, Mrs. Jacquelyn .......... Oklahoma City PL
Gibson, Louise .......... University of Oklahoma, Norman
Gileason, Mrs. H. B. .......... Route 2, Box 102, Guthrie
Gorman, Edith .......... Northwestern State College, Alva

Oklahoma Librarian
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution/University</th>
<th>City</th>
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<td>Oklahoma A &amp; M College</td>
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<td>Hughes, Mrs. Richard</td>
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<td>1523 Leavy, Pawhuska</td>
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<td>Poultin, Helen J</td>
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Powell, Maxine.............Shawnee Junior HS
Pratt, Mrs. Lula K........Connors College, Warner
Price, Helen Louise........Veterans Administration
Hospital, Oklahoma City
Purdin, Josephine........Oklahoma City PL
Riley, Mr. T. W.............Community Library, Ponca City
Regis, Sister Mary........Catholic HS, Oklahoma City
Richardson, Helen........Ponca City PL
Rickett, Mrs. F. Phil........Geary PL
Rinsland, Mrs. Martha...434 East Keith, Norman
Roberts, Mrs. Louise........Bristow Junior HS
Roberts, Mrs. Teresa........Pauls Valley HS
Russell, Hollis.............426 NW 10 Street, Oklahoma City
Sawyer, Felicia.............McAlester PL
Schafer, Mrs. Leonard.....Alva PL
Schmid, Bob.................Oklahoma City PL
Scott, Edith, University of Oklahoma, Norman
Selby, Mrs. E..............Norman Junior HS
Shirley, Mrs. Audrey.........Harding Junior HS, Oklahoma City
Smith, Ella................Claremore PL
Smith, Mrs. Geraldine......Oklahoma State Library, Oklahoma City
Smith, Louise..............Oklahoma City PL
Smith, Peggy..............Ponca City PL
Smith, Samuel P...........Tulsa PL
Smyth, Mrs. Ethel..........Okemah PL
Snelson, Mrs. Evyline D.....Curriculum Library, Oklahoma City
Spalding, Ruth.............University of Oklahoma, Norman
Speck, Mrs. Jessie Marie...Perry PL
Spencer, Cordia Mae........Oklahoma City PL
Spencer, Lee B...............Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee
Sterba, Gertrude K.........Ponca City PL
Stewart, Bess...............Oklahoma City PL
Stewart, Margaret..........Guthrie HS
Stratton, John..............Oklahoma A & M College, Stillwater
Stuart, Mrs. Carl...........938 NE 17, Oklahoma City
Sullivan, Mrs. I. D.........Phillips University, Enid
Sullivan, Mrs. John.......Oklahoma City PL
Summont, George A..........University of Oklahoma, Norman
Sutton, Mrs. Ann R........Oklahoma State Library, Oklahoma City
Thacker, Grace Constance...Lexington PL
Thomas, Elizabeth L........Oklahoma A & M College, Stillwater
Thomas, Ernest A.........Southwestern State College, Weatherford
Thomas, Dr. James........Ada PL
Thornton, Sue B............Northeastern State College, Tahlequah
Tingle, Gladys.............East Central State College, Ada
Tolberlin, Irma...........University of Oklahoma, Norman
Toner, Helen..............University of Oklahoma, Norman
Townes, Mrs. Willa Mae....Seminole HS
Townsend, Louise..........Pryor PL
Trelease, R. J............Remington Rand, Inc., Kansas City, Mo
Troxel, Mrs. Imogene....Moore HS
Unferth, Eufal............Jackson Junior HS, Oklahoma City
Walker, Maxine............Wewoka HS
Wall, Stella..............Guymon PL
Walter, Lois G.............University of Oklahoma, Norman
Ware, Helen G.............Tulsa PL
Warner, Mrs. W. E.........Hooker PL
Warren, Hugh...............Ada PL
Wein, Etta Gray.............City-County PL, Cherokee
Watson, Johnetta.........Donbar HS, Shawnee
Watson, Willard...........Oklahoma State Library, Oklahoma City
Webb, Mary E..............University of Oklahoma, Norman
Welch, Beth..............Oklahoma City PL
Wentroth, Mary Ann.......Oklahoma City PL
Wenzlaff, Grace..........Bristow HS
Whitley, Editha............Hominy HS
Williams, Rev. W. Franklin..Pawhusa PL
Willis, Elizabeth.........Bethany Peniel College, Bethany
Willis, Violet.............Box 687, Pawhusa
Wilson, Mildred...........Bristow HS, Tulsa
Winn, Herbert E............Bristowville PL
Winn, Sarah..............Bristoleville PL
Wood, Joe..................16th & Revard, Pawhusa
Wood, Robert..............Enid PL
Woolery, Helen............Wesley Hospital, Oklahoma City
Xavier, Sister M..........Marquette HS, Tulsa
Yeakel, Marjorie.........Oklahoma State Library, Oklahoma City
Zoeller, Mary Ann........University of Oklahoma, Norman

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

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Perry Public Library
Cherokee City-County Public Library
Duncan Public Library
Hennessy Public Library
Muskogee Public Library
Oklahoma A & M College Library, Stillwater
Oklahoma City Public Library
Oklahoma State Library, Oklahoma City
Pawhusa Public Library
Tulsa Public Library
Tulsa Elementary Library Group
Whittier School Library, Oklahoma City

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OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN
BARTLESVILLE, Central Christian College Library—The Central Christian College Book Club, organized two months ago, has a present membership of 55. The Club is composed of women who desire to help build a better library by contributing either books or funds to foster the library’s holdings. The first list of new books has already been ordered, contributions.

FORT SILL, Fort Sill Post Library—A $500 first prize has been awarded to Mary Mathis, Librarian, in the publicity contest sponsored by the Department of the Army.

HOMINY, Public Library—The sixth annual Summer Reading Club, entitled, “By Flying Saucer to Adventure,” was begun in June. Students from the first through the eighth grades are eligible to participate.

A new section of shelving for books about Oklahoma and by Oklahomans has been added to the library.

KINGFISHER, Public Library—A donation of 30 books and files of the National Geographic Magazine from 1946 through 1953 was made by Rev. and Mrs. Roy Autry. Other recent contributors have been Mrs. H. R. Gilbert and Kenneth Clason.

The library-sponsored vacation reading program began June 1 and will extend through August 15.

LAWTON, Carnegie Public Library—Plans for a summer reading project in the Children’s Department are being completed. Once a week a tally will be taken of the number of books borrowed and a chart will be kept to show the number of books read by each reader.

Portraits of Geronimo and Quanah Parker were recently hung in the Children’s Department.

NORMAN, University of Oklahoma Libraries—Installation of air conditioning in the reading rooms and book stacks in the Bizzell Library building was completed on June 1.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma City Libraries—Mr. Clarence S. Paine, Director, has announced that the script for the “Book Style Show,” presented in the library during the recent OLA meeting, is available upon request.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma City University Library—A recently completed portrait of Dr. C. Q. Smith, President, by Larry Pendleton, was dedicated in May and placed in the foyer of the library.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Tinker Air Force Library—The publicity scrapbook prepared by Virginia LaGrave, Librarian, placed second in the publicity contest sponsored by the Air Materiel Command. The $75 prize will be used to purchase equipment for the library.

PONCA CITY, Ponca City Library—The library has recently been air conditioned.

Hall of Fame Names Litton

Dr. Gaston Litton, Archivist of the University of Oklahoma, was elected to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame on April 15, 1955, and will be inducted on November 16, Statehood Day. Election to this honor requires the unanimous vote of board members of the Oklahoma Memorial Association, and Dr. Litton was selected on the basis of “his outstanding pioneering work in the preservation and discovery of records reflecting the history and contemporary life of Oklahoma, and for the services which he has given to his country as a library specialist in Central and South America.”

Others to be so honored in November are Mrs. Annetta A. Childs, widow of W. O. Childs, Tulsa oilman and philanthropist; Ross Rizley, Guymon, former Congressman, now Chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board; F. Hiner Dale, Guymon, pioneer state judge and civic leader; Paul Harvey, noted American Broadcasting Company news analyst, formerly of Tulsa; and J. C. Penney, founder of the department store chain.

Dr. Litton is a former president of OLA, and has long been active in Association affairs.
ALVA, Northwestern State College Library—Edith German, Reference Librarian, will attend Peabody College this summer to begin work on an M.S. in Library Science.

BARTLESVILLE, Public Library—Herbert Winn, Librarian, has received the honor of being named Key Man of the Junior Chamber of Commerce for 1954-55.

DUNCAN—Public Library—Mrs. L. A. Browder resigned as librarian on July 1. Her successor has not yet been named.

ELK CITY, Carnegie Library—Mrs. C. W. Turnbull and Mrs. A. A. Huntley have been re-elected to the Library Board. Mrs. Huntley is beginning her 32nd consecutive year of service on the Board.

KINGFISHER, Public Library—Mrs. Eldon Glass and Mrs. Fred Lankard were recently re-appointed to the Library Board for an additional three year period.

NORMAN, University of Oklahoma Libraries—Stanley McElderry, Assistant Director of Public Services, has resigned to resume work on a doctoral dissertation at the University of Chicago. He will teach at the University of Texas Graduate School of Library Science this summer before going to Chicago in the fall.

PERRY, Carnegie Public Library—Mrs. Jessie M. Speck, Librarian, has resigned effective July 1. Mrs. Speck has been Librarian for the past ten years. Irene Mason, formerly junior high school librarian at Guthrie, has been named to succeed Mrs. Speck.

STILLWATER, Oklahoma A & M College Library—Edmon Low, Librarian, is teaching during the summer term at the University of Michigan Library School, Ann Arbor.

A.C.R.L. Issues Monographs

The Association of College and Reference Libraries (A.C.R.L.) has recently announced the publication of three new titles in the series:


These Monographs are original contributions covering all aspects of collegiate and research librarianship. In general, they consist of items too lengthy for publication in College and Research Libraries. The fourteen numbers published to date are priced separately to be sold at cost. Frequency of issue is irregular, and individual numbers vary greatly in size and price. Orders should be sent to A.C.R.L. Monographs, c/o American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.
MEET THE AUTHORS

· BRIEF NOTES ON OUR CONTRIBUTORS

RICHARD E CHAPIN is assistant director of the O. U. School of Library Science, and a previous contributor to this journal. He is presently editor of the SWLA Newsletter, and was recently elected chairman of the Central Oklahoma Librarians Organization.

LURA G. CURRIER has had the unusual honor of being guest speaker at two successive OLA annual meetings. She is Director of the Mississippi Library Commission and a frequent contributor to professional journals. She is also a member of OLA!

LETA S. DOVER, Librarian of Bacone College, has just completed a most successful year as president of OLA, and during the coming year will serve as chairman of the Association’s Legislative Committee. She needs no further introduction to OLA members!

ESTHER HENKE has served as Field Librarian of the Oklahoma State Library since 1953. As such she has covered most of the state and has attended all of the district meetings about which she writes.

ERNEST A. THOMAS has been librarian of Southwestern State College, Weatherford, since 1947. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in library science from George Peabody College for Teachers, and has done graduate work at the University of Minnesota. During the past year he served as chairman of the Council of State College Librarians.

Muskogee Wants Librarian

Librarian for large senior high school, Muskogee Central High School. Permanent position to be filled by August 1, 1955. Applicants should have 15 hours of library science and some previous experience in school libraries. Salary $4,000 with differentials according to qualifications. Teacher’s retirement; 30 day sick leave; 10½ to 11½ months per year. Apply to Mr. Harry D. Simmons, Superintendent of Schools, 201 North 15th Street, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Library Education In Oklahoma Senior Colleges

(Continued from Page 56) good work in the preparation of these librarians. The senior colleges in Oklahoma should realize that a very small percentage of their students want to take graduate work. Therefore, they must gear their courses to meet the needs of their students, and should realize that they have an opportunity to promote libraries by training teachers to be library minded—a task most easily accomplished by courses designed to meet their needs

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Continued from Page 53

Reba. Now Miss Reba is a personification of something that you may have in Oklahoma. Miss Reba is old. It matters not how long she has lived, she is just old. (There is no relation between age and the years we’ve been here. Anybody knows that.) Miss Reba is old and Miss Reba is confused—especially confused about laws and about libraries. Miss Reba doesn’t have much of a library. She sits there in the dust and dirt and watches both accumulate. Without benefit of classification she knows where all the books are because they’re never moved. But there’s more to say about Miss Reba than that. To the member of the Legislature she is a librarian. When we had an important piece of legislation going before the House of Representatives, do you know what her legislator said? “I’ll go home and ask Miss Reba what she thinks about it.” And so before he got the last two words out of his mouth, we had the station wagon running and we were sitting on Miss Reba’s doorstep at 6 a.m. telling Miss Reba what she thought about the legislation. Let me tell you, Miss Reba’s important. We visited her town with our new $9,000 bookmobile. To Miss Reba it wasn’t quite clear to whom it belonged, where it was going, or where it came from. But that didn’t make any difference. She called up her senator and said, “Have you ever seen this bookmobile?” He said, “No, I haven’t.” Well, get yourself down here. These girls with the library are here and you know they have a heavy schedule to meet and they’ve got to get on to the next town.” He replied, “Well, Miss Reba. I have clients in my office; I’m busy.” She said, “Oh, the clients can come back tomorrow. Get yourself down here.” And he came. Now who else, I ask you, in the state of Mississippi would have had that nerve? Not I! The Miss Rebas have done more to sell library service to the boys back home than the director or the head of the state agency. The legislator does not know the difference between Miss Reba and a librarian; and I’m not sure that I do either. Miss Reba doesn’t do things the same way I do them, but she does the same things. She doesn’t do as many of them, but her people have never seen them. Don’t you discount anyone who’s handing out books over the desk, because in the minds of the powers that be, that is the librarian. And whether we like it or whether we don’t, whether we approve of it or whether we don’t, we can’t sell a good library program without the support of the people who are running the poor ones we have. Some of the librarians are never going to get with you, and if you wait until they do, you’ll never get off the ground. If your librarian is not interested in developing libraries (and alas, many of them are not!) then just leave her to heaven, and try on the others. But adopt abandonment as a last resort. She may be a Miss Reba who can summon the members of the appropriation committee by royal decree.

All during this conference we have been discussing your current legislation. I would like to emphasize some of its aspects. First, I congratulate you on the spirit that has made it. I commend you for the countless hours you have worked over it. You have come up with a simple law, and one that has a phrase in it that you can go out and sell anywhere; well, almost anywhere. It says “they will be joined together by a contract to which they all agree.” I remember an attorney in Mississippi asking, regarding our similar phrase, “How in the world did you ever get such a law as that passed. Don’t you realize that that gives you room to do anything?” And so thus lies a good law, “the terms of a contract to which they all agree.” Now bear down on that when you talk about this legislation. And the saving grace of its giving autonomy to a local board. The experience of all of you working together will be invaluable, whether your bill passes or whether it fails. If you don’t like it, go work for it anyway. It’ll do you good. You will have a first legislative experience for most of you, and you’ll never be the same again. I promise you that.

You will have an opportunity as you work for this piece of harmless legislation (harmless in that it has no money attached to it) to discover anew the appalling lack of information about libraries.

One of the objections that you will hear to this is (and I’ve heard one librarian say this since I’ve been here), “My Board doesn’t want so and so.” Now if your Board of Trustees at this point has an irrevocable conviction on the question of larger units of library service, then the fault is yours. You will hear people say, “We are never going to join with any other county.” It is your painful duty to remind them that never is an awful long time.

And then this brings us to the most important question of all—the agonizing need that we have
in our profession these days for leadership. Someone said to me not long ago, “Will you come and speak to us on the need for leadership at the state level today?” And I said to one of my friends in the legislature: “If you were going to make a speech in these trying times on the need for state leadership, where would you start?” He asked: “Where are you going to make the speech?” and I said, “Jackson.” He replied: “In that case, I’d start in Memphis.” “And, from there, which direction would you go?” “I think I’d try St. Louis.”

Now, at the risk of being misunderstood, I want to make a few comments about grass roots. I am in favor of grass roots. Everybody is. And I have some scars on me to prove it. I sat all day long one election day in 104° temperature on a nail keg (the anatomical adjustment of that got very difficult before the day wore on) in a country store that was a combination of everything, including voting booths, twenty miles from the county seat in the poorest county in the poorest state in the union. That’s grass roots—to sell a regional library to the president of the board of supervisors by way of his constituents. And I would be somewhat less than honest if I did not say that there are times when I am sorely tempted to try to develop Mississippi’s library program from its multi-million dollar air conditioned state office building, at the desk with the unknown top. Sometimes I think it might be easier there. But it can’t be done there. And it’s not going to be done there in Oklahoma, either. But back to my warning about the grass roots. In favor of them as I am, and cognizant as I am of the emotional and political appeal and the oratorical possibilities of grass roots, that heart-warming phrase, let me warn you about grass and its roots: roots will not grow unless they are deep in a soil that is universal, unless it is warmed by a single sun whose rays come from very very far away and shines on us all alike, grass will not grow. The oxygen that nourishes life is from somewhere else. The oxygen, the sunlight, the minerals, the soil, are parts of a pretty smart piece of planning of Somebody else’s part. The Creator who made us did not design us individually and alone, but even the grass roots. And if your grass roots library program is not deep in that common soil, if it is not nourished by universal oxygen, and warmed by the faraway rays of the sun, the nit is likely to end up as a clod by the side of the road. There is a need for leadership, and we have solemn
responsibility to provide these universal elements by your leadership. Only an all-over leadership can make your grass roots library program a green pasture instead of a dry ditch.

Your program committee and I have talked long and earnestly about what this last part of your Association program should consist of. They and I, working together, have decided that if it is at all possible, we might spend the last moments of this Conference in analyzing and talking—almost personally as if to each other over a cup of coffee—about what really makes a state library program—about the leavening agent that raises it from flat dough to a bulging loaf. So shall we then just look for a few minutes at what makes the difference, talk of what one feels but cannot see.

I can remember the story of the visitor from a state agency going into a library in Mississippi years ago, and the librarian's saying: "I'm sorry, we don't belong." We don't belong to what? They all belong now. Something infinitely fine and wonderful has been created there in the last ten years. It's that unified something, that all-together-we-work, that espirit de corps that money can't buy, that a wise administration created and that is our present inheritance. It's in Arkansas, too. You've felt it from Arkansas' contributions to your own group. And that same wonderful spirit is here in Oklahoma. The most priceless ingredient for a good state program you already have—the electricity of action, of confidence, of cooperation that literally charges the atmosphere.

We've seen now what builds a state program—and we're certain that it's here. And we know who builds it. That brings us to the question: how?

I recall I walked into a library five years ago and the woman said: "I don't think there's anything in my library you want to see. I'm not a professional librarian."

If you've got the word "professional" in your vocabulary, take it out. If the difference between you as a professional librarian, and this person who is working in a library is not obvious, then you'd better not mention it. I said to her, "Now, look, if you and I work side by side for a day and it is not obvious at the end of the day that I've had the advantage of technical training that you have not, and if it were not equally obvious to the people who come in the library that you know them and their needs, then you'd better keep still and so had I." If you can't tell the peanuts from the ball-players without a program, then don't go to the ball-game. You won't enjoy it.

How? Without worrying about being "professional." Just be professional: don't tell us; let us guess.

How else? Together. May I illustrate by relating a professional experience that we had not long after I came to Mississippi. The director of the Mississippi Library Commission said, "We're going to have a meeting." (That sounded familiar.) And we had one. The public librarians came from all over Mississippi. They sat around a big long table. The director of the Mississippi Library Commission said: "We're getting ready to go before the legislature for a budget. What do you want, and what do you want and what do you want?" Each person spoke up and said: "This is what I would like for the state agency to do for me and for my library." Out of that, they decided what they wanted and how much it would cost. The Mississippi librarians themselves made the budget for the state agency—who made yours? It turned out to be two and a half times as much as we've ever had. "Oh, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp," or what's a legislature for. That's the time the appropriation was doubled. Who went to the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives to ask for the State Agency's budget? Not my budget, nor Mrs. Eley's, nor Essae Mae Culver's, nor Ralph Hudson's, nor Lolita Fyans's, but Mississippi's. Louisiana's, Oklahoma's, Michigan's. Who went for their budget? The president of the Mississippi Manufacturers' Association and a country school teacher. (Oh, I wish you could have heard what she said to the legislature about what the Library Commission meant to her. I have some moving comments about what the Library Commission means to me. It means my salary, among other things. And don't think for a minute that the legislature doesn't know that. Too. But, ah, to this woman it meant books for my kids to read. They have more appeal, thank goodness, than my salary has—and there are considerably more of them.)

What do you know about your state library's budget? What size is it? If you were to have an IQ test on your state agency today, what would your rating be? What do you really know about it? How much is the budget? What is the size of the staff? What is the organizational structure of the state agency? Every librarian in the state of Oklahoma has
a solemn responsibility to know what the organizational structure of the state agency is. The 5th day of February, every librarian on the Library Commission staff, except one of us who stayed home to answer the telephone, got in the station wagon and started on a long and arduous trip to every library in the state of Mississippi. Oh, but you say, "We couldn't do that in our state because we don't have enough staff." You couldn't be much smaller than we, but we went anyway. Of course, we got behind on the eternal solitude that we play with the circulation cards, but we weren't going to win anyway. (Steadily, without ceasing since June 1, 1940, I've been playing with book cards and I've never won a time, have you?)

What matters is that the reference librarian for eight years had been answering questions for people she's never seen, working with libraries whose circumstances she does not know first hand. Of course, I know that if we were New York State Library we couldn't do that because it's too big. But as long as you are going to be so small and so insignificant, we might as well enjoy it. We have advantages in being small and we need to allow for them, but that has its bright side, too. The smallness of our association gives us an opportunity to know each other and to enjoy each other.

Now I realize full well that this is the last time that I will ever be able to say what I would do if I were somewhere. Because now I'm there. I am aware that it is easier to drive a truck than to get the wherewithal to buy the truck and the gasoline to run it. What would I do if I were a member of the Oklahoma Library Association? If I were a practicing librarian in Oklahoma and a member of OLA. I'd see that somehow, somewhere, by some means we got a bookmobile in Oklahoma. I don't know whether I'd get it from some petroleum company, or from the State Legislature, or from pennies collected in a tin cup. I'd get the finest one that I could. I'd put a field worker on it and if the State Library didn't have one, I'd see that they got one. I'd roll it on every road in this state. I would say to the members of the legislature, and to little Johnnie: "You see, this is what we mean." You never saw an enterprising salesman without his sample kit. And you can't sell libraries to people who never saw them.

When I took the bookmobile to a group of rural children last week for the very first time, one little boy said, "Oh, when are we going to have one of these in our county?" And I said,

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"Son, when you get big enough to be on the board of supervisors." Long term planning? Yes. We've lost out on five generations since 1817, and we'll now start with his. He's now ten years old; he'll be eligible for the board of supervisors when he's 21. Not long to wait. We've got to start somewhere and that's where I'd begin.

And if I were practicing librarian in Oklahoma, I would contact every state agency and I'd try to get on somebody else's program. We spend so much of our time talking to each other when we ought to be talking to the people in the bleachers. I'd go to the state Jaycees, for example, and say to them, "Look, this many people in Oklahoma haven't got a book to read." Thence to Parents Teachers Association and say to them, "Let us get on your program." I'd pick out the best looking person in the Oklahoma Library Association and that would be a hard job and say "Now look, we've got somebody that looks good, and she can decorate your program, besides being able to say something." Maybe they'd let you; you never can tell. People are always looking for free programs. I would say "Library" to them again and again and again. You say, "Oh, but we haven't got the facilities." Yes, you have; you have a state agency. "But," you say, "they're too busy." Too busy to develop libraries? Well—

Now when you set out to sell your library program you're going to make mistakes. You have heard me say before, but I cannot resist the temptation to repeat it for these poor people who haven't been through this before, the only man who lives in no danger of falling off the bed is the one that sleeps on the floor. How Mrs. Porter's heart must have been touched yesterday as she went into the fine Oklahoma City Library. Suppose, in the early days she and her generation never wanted to change anything, where would the Oklahoma City Library have been today? Are we afraid? Are we waiting for perfection? Perfection of course, is like Heaven—everybody talking about it ain't going there. Do you know that we are working hard to set up what we consider the most forward looking library program that Mississippi can have, but how horrible it will be if, 25 years later, at a library meeting, someone doesn't say, "Good gracious alive, what stupid people they had back then! Why didn't they have more vision than that?" No, we have no more vision than that. And somebody coming after us is going to say, "They made horrible mistakes." And we are making horrible mistakes, but we're doing the best we can, with what we have, within the range of our limited vision. I got some good advice from a speaker at a Distribution Clinic, associated with a big corporation. He said, "Let me tell you something—if you do anything you're going to get your foot in it; but when you do, don't wiggle it, just hold it still.$

What can you go home and do? You can go home and work for this piece of legislation. Write a newspaper article and organize two or three people who can talk about both sides of it; don't be afraid to air the other side of it. You can get a radio forum on the subject. And then, of course, you go see your representative. And then if you are not successful this time, try again. You remember what W. C. Fields used to say, "If at first you don't succeed, quit." Well, I'll admit that he got somewhere with that philosophy, but I can't recommend it for librarians. In all seriousness, it is you whose responsibility it is, first and last, to build the library program.

And don't give up; you may be far nearer success than you think. And with this I leave you. There was a man who was interested very much in making some money by developing a new soft drink. He said, "You know there's no use for one beverage to have a monopoly; I think I can make another drink." So he made one. When he put it on the market, he called it 3-up. He tried to sell it but nobody ever bought it. It wasn't a success at all. "There's something the matter with this drink," he admitted very realistically, "I'll have to try something else." So he made a new flavor. He put it on the market again; this time he called it 4-up and nobody bought it. "Well, now there is still something wrong with this. He didn't sit down like we do and say, "Oh! it can't be done." So he tried again. He said, "I think it's lack of advertising that is my trouble." So he bought local advertising and he called it 5-up. Nobody bought it. He lost money. Time went on and he grew more serious about this. He kept trying, harder and harder and harder. This time he said, "I'm going all out." So he mortgaged everything that he had, borrowed all the money he could, and set up a nation-wide campaign. He bought full double pages in slick magazines. It was on the market again and this time he called it 6-up. Still nobody bought it. He lost everything he had, went bankrupt, and died of a broken heart without ever knowing how really close he came.
Library Education in Oklahoma: A Reply

(Continued from Page 57)

requirement for training, but then ignores the standards when library expenditures are mentioned. Mr. Thomas states that most high school libraries in his area will have "$50 or less for library service." The minimum expenditure for North Central is $200.3 Clearly any high school which spends $50 or less a year for books just cannot be said to maintain a library.

The third group mentioned by Mr. Thomas is composed of the English majors who are taking library science as an elective. I would assume that these are people working for the language-arts teaching certificate. The state regulations for this certificate include 24 hours in English and "eight semester hours from one or more of the following: (1) speech, (2) journalism, (3) dramatics, and (4) library science." It does not take too much imagination to realize that these elective fields are chosen because the English teacher is quite often called upon to sponsor the class play or the school paper. Likewise, she is quite often called upon to be the librarian. It seems to follow, therefore, that the library science courses for these students should be much the same as those offered to the future school librarians.

Those people taking courses for possible occupation in a library after retirement certainly do not need any specially designed courses. The core courses would prepare these people better for sub-professional positions than any other courses which could be offered.

Once again it should be stressed that the core courses outlined in the January issue of this journal are not intended to be a standard curriculum to be forced on the other schools. Rather, they are an attempt to coordinate and standardize the entire undergraduate library science programs within the State. If this can be done, the caliber of library training in the State of Oklahoma will be vastly improved. The content and quality of these courses offered in State colleges is obviously important. It has a major bearing on the quality of high school libraries in the State, since many high school teacher-librarians never go on to complete the professional degree, as well as upon the willingness of A.L.A. to allow O.U. to count these courses for undergraduate requirements for a professional degree later.

In closing, let me point out that there are essential operations for any successful library. These are the acquisition of materials, the organization of these materials, and the interpretation of the materials to the user. Call these skills, techniques or whatever; nevertheless, they are necessary if the library is to fulfill its function in its community. The basis for carrying out these operations is contained in three of the suggested core courses. The fourth course, Libraries in the Social Order, gives the student the philosophical and theoretical approach to librarianship which is essential if we are to have a true profession in Oklahoma. It is on the basis of these four basic courses that the Council of State College Librarians hopes to establish library education on a high level in the State.


District Library Meetings

(Continued from Page 55)

State Library through its Extension Division. Representatives from both agencies can be called upon to participate in the meetings.

Librarians who sponsored the first district library meetings in Oklahoma should be commended for their "pioneer spirit." They have shown that such meetings are successful and are needed if library service is to progress in Oklahoma.

Continued, from Page 55

Central Oklahoma Librarians Association
April 23, 1954—O. U. Libraries, Norman
June 4, 1954—O.C.U. Library
Sept. 23, 1954—Oklahoma City Public Library
Nov. 12, 1954—University Hospital, Oklahoma City

JULY, 1955

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Virginia Ervin

County and Regional Library Service Bibliography

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS


New York Library Association. *Toward Better...

Miss Ervin, Librarian of the O.U. School of Library Science, has compiled a bibliography on the Oklahoma Library Plan. The editor has selected these references for their pertinence to the Multi-County Library Act. A few copies of the Oklahoma Library Plan are still available from the editor.

Pawhuska Dedication Soon

The new Pawhuska Public Library will be formally dedicated on July 31, 1955. The building is a gift to the city from H. G. Benson, a resident of Pawhuska since 1930. Funds to purchase furnishings and equipment were given by the city and several local clubs and organizations.

The Executive Board of OLA has announced that the 1956 meeting will be held in Pawhuska next April. Now is the time to get a preview of the city and its new library.

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