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O. L. A.

July 1956

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Deadline for copy for October, 1956 Issue of The OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN is September 1st. Please support your Editor with news about Oklahoma's librarians.
A Message from the
O. L. A. President

The spirit of good will and purpose within the OLA so evident to all who attended the Pawhuska meeting is very promising for the years ahead. The constructive planning of the last several years is on the verge of flourishing into accomplishment.

The passage of the Library Services Bill provides the long sought for financial stimulus to extend library service in the same areas of our state as those which would be served through the proposed Oklahoma Public Library Development Act. The Federal Assistance program and the State plan can supplement each other.

Near the close of the meeting at Pawhuska one who has been close to the work of the Association expressed his faith that the Association could carry out its plans for improved public library service. Others went on to suggest that the Association also turn its attention towards improving library service in other types of libraries—the school libraries.

This lifting of the sights is in line with the tenor of the statement of Public Library Service to America, A Guide to Evaluation, with minimum standards which suggests a complete cooperating coordinated System of Library Service. I do not know exactly what is meant by a System of Library Service in a state. As far as I do understand it, it means that all types of library services are related to each other. When good library service is given in one type of library, other types are benefited.

Let me take the point of view of a college librarian to illustrate the point. If a student entering college has had the good fortune to use a good school library and a good public library before coming to college, his use of the library during his four to six year pursuit of higher education will be greatly facilitated. It is our hope that before or during college a habit of reading will be formed which will aid him throughout life. We are hopeful that he will be served by an adequate public library wherever he may go after college, be it on the farm, in town, or in the cities. The special librarian knows that a man familiar with good library service from his public, school, or college library will make more effective use of his special library for his business needs.

A System of Library Service for the State of Oklahoma is a goal worth considerable effort. The spelling out of such a program will take thought and time.

As a beginning, the OLA Program Committee, chaired by the First Vice President Irma Tomberlin and composed of the section chairmen, will take over the work of the policy and planning committee in addition to planning the program for the annual meeting. Program, policy making, and planning will be a year around activity.

Mrs. Allie Beth Martin is chairman of the very active Legislation Committee concerned with proposed legislation related to Federal Assistance, the Public Library Development Act, and the School Library law.

Jesse Lee Rader is the new chairman of the Select Golden Anniversary Committee. His rich experience will contribute greatly to the celebration of that occasion. Some but not all other committee chairmen and members have been appointed. The complete appointments will be in the October Oklahoma Librarian.

A busy year is ahead for the Association.
“Developing the Oklahoma Library Plan” was the theme of the 50th annual conference of the Oklahoma Library Association, held at Pawhuska, April 19-21, 1956 with 200 in attendance. Meetings of the Executive Board, and Legislative and Planning Committees were held at 2:30 p.m. on April 19, followed by an informal buffet supper at the First Christian Church.

First General Session
The first general session convened at 9:30 a.m., April 20, at the Fair Grounds Building, with Mrs. Allie Beth Martin, President, presiding. A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last conference was made, seconded, and approved.

Mrs. Martin presented a summary of the year’s accomplishments, and asked the persons most closely associated with each undertaking to give details of individual projects. She presented Miss Norma Brumbaugh, State Home Demonstration Agent, with whom the State Library and OLA have cooperated in the Haskell County rural reading project. Miss Brumbaugh reported that a total of 1,834 borrowers in the area have used 4,377 books since its start last fall, the State Library furnishing a well-balanced collection selected to meet the needs of the area. Miss Brumbaugh feels that this project will have far-reaching effects.

Frances Kennedy, Chairman of the Publications Committee, presented the brochure on the status of libraries in Oklahoma. With Oscar Hammerstein II’s permission, song titles from the musical comedy “Oklahoma” were used to depict the local situation. Cost of printing 10,000 copies of the leaflet was $210. They are available for general distribution to laymen and interested citizens’ groups.

Edmon Low presented the Bookmobile Project, the outcome of an enthusiastic joint meeting of the Planning Committee and the Executive Board. Mr. Low reported that the Association is now incorporated, and has received contributions toward the purchase of a bookmobile. It was the consensus of opinion that such a bookmobile would be invaluable in publicizing the importance and need for improved, state-wide library service. No chairman for this project has as yet been appointed, since it is somewhat dependent upon impending legis-lation, a definite plan of operation, and a source of upkeep.

Mrs. Pauline Leopold, State President of the Congress of Parents and Teachers and a guest at the conference, gave an enthusiastic endorsement of OLA’s plan for the improvement of library service in the state, pledging the support of the PTA organization.

Mr. James Gourley, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the long range plans for 1956-57. Emphasizing that continuous planning is necessary, and that the concerted efforts of the entire membership would be vital to the passage of the Public Library Development Act, Mr. Gourley suggested that the Oklahoma library map, along with the Oklahoma Public Library Development Plan be sent to agencies and organizations who would be interested in promoting library service; that there is a definite need for a state library supervisor for school libraries; that the problems of colleges and universities, and those of special libraries, be studied and that there be closer cooperation between the small and larger libraries.

In presenting the plans of the Legislative Committee, Mrs. Leto Dover, Chairman, outlined a tentative draft of the Public Library Development Act, and moved that the Association endorse the general principles of the act. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. A general discussion of plans for publicizing library needs and legislation followed. The meeting adjourned.

Luncheon Meeting
Mrs. Ida Self, OLA Treasurer, presided at the luncheon meeting in the First Methodist Church on Friday, April 20. Miss Patricia Paylore, Assistant Librarian of the University of Arizona, and President of the Southwestern Library Association, spoke on the subject, “Inside Oklahoma.” Miss Paylore’s address appears in this issue of the Oklahoma Librarian.

Pawhuska Barbecue
The Reverend B. J. Williams, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Pawhuska Public Library, presided at the barbecue in the Fair Grounds Building, Friday evening, April 20. The dinner was served by the Pawhuska Barbecue Club, with Indian girls in tribal costumes assisting. The Pawhuska High School mixed
chorus furnished the music.

Mr. John Joseph Mathews, Osage author, was
guest speaker. He gave a resume of the influence infiltrating peoples and cultures have had
upon the literary expression of the people of
Oklahoma. "Out of this rich and varied back-
ground is still to come the novel of lasting
significance," he declared. Following the bar-
becue, the Presidents' Reception and Open
House were held in the Public Library.

Second General Session

The annual business meeting of the Associa-
tion was held in the Fair Grounds Building at
11 a.m. on April 21, with Mrs. Allie Beth Mar-
tin presiding. The membership approved dis-
pensing with the reading of the minutes. Mrs.
Ida Self, Treasurer, reported a balance on
hand of $1,085.27.

Richard Covey, Chairman of the Nomination
Committee, reported on the first election of
officers by mail ballot, with a return of 62 per
cent of the ballots. The following officers
were elected for the year 1956-1957: John B.
Stratton, President; Irma Tomberlin, First Vice-
President and President-Elect; Mariam Crad-
dock, Second Vice-President; Helen Donart,
Secretary; Ida Self, Treasurer; and Frances
Kennedy, ALA Councilor.

Mariam Craddock, Chairman of the Membership
Committee, reported a total of 237 individual
members, an increase of 97 members; 25 libraries hold institutional memberships.

In the report of the Recruiting Committee,
Arthur McAnally, Chairman, recommended the
following: that each librarian accept the res-
sponsibility for recruiting; that the Committee
requests an expression from the Association as
to the value of a booklet to be used in present-
ing the profession to young people. Consensus
of opinion was that such a pamphlet would be
helpful. A discussion of preparing and financ-
ing such a pamphlet followed, but no action
was taken.

Mr. Ralph Hudson, Chairman of the By-laws
and Constitution Committee, reviewed the con-
stitutional revisions necessary for OLA's re-
designation as a chapter of ALA. Each revision

(Continued on Page 76)
Challenges to Modern Librarianship

(Text of Mr. Richard's speech at the luncheon meeting, April 21, 1956, during the OLA conference.)

It is a privilege to bring you greetings from the American Library Association. There is nothing perfunctory about this message from the national association, I assure you, for ALA has a real appreciation of the part the state and regional associations are playing in the development of libraries and librarianship throughout this country. ALA congratulates Oklahoma on the progress it is making.

I should like to say a word of thanks for inviting me to participate in your meeting at Pawhuska. The opportunity to spend nearly a week in your state has made possible visits to your two large cities as well as to this friendly small town. It has made possible renewed association with old friends in ALA and the acquisition of a whole host of new friends.

Moreover, attendance at this meeting has given me the opportunity to hear Patricia Paylore give one of the finest and wisest talks a librarian ever gave to librarians, justifying the frequent criticism made by the profession that we should more frequently call upon our own membership in place of the "big name" speakers who too often give us empty generalities.

Attendance here has also made possible meeting and listening to your eminent townman, Mr. John Joseph Mathews, who last evening gave us such a memorable interpretation of Oklahoma. Finally, I would thank you for your warm hearted welcome and hospitality. I shall leave Oklahoma with the pleasantest memories of this first visit to your state.

In my inaugural address at Philadelphia I outlined advances which libraries have made in the last half century—the development of strong state and regional associations, the establishment of ALA endowment funds, the growth of adult education activities, the establishment of the Washington Office, the publication of such definitive studies as The National Plan for Public Library Service and The Public Library Inquiry. All these point to a maturing profession and the development of a network of libraries increasingly important in American life. In the thirty-five years that I have been a member of ALA, we have increased our coverage from forty per cent to over eighty per cent of our population. Of course, we must hasten to remind ourselves that twenty-seven million Americans still are without libraries and other millions have very poor service. Thus our progress, which has been appreciable, should not make us complacent, but should give us courage and incentive to continue and to increase our momentum.

What are some of the challenges we face as we take stock of our present position and look toward the future? First, I should like to speak of the challenge of books, or, if you will, the challenge of ideas, for libraries must, by their stock in trade, deal with ideas, and the development of libraries in America has come about within the framework of our traditional freedom of thought and expression. The library's stand against censorship and anti-intellectualism has been fundamental to its very life.

Books, then, and the ideas they contain, are not commodities to be carelessly passed over a counter; rather they are the measure of our humanity and the means by which man in each generation advances a step further in civilization and culture.

From the Freedom to Read Statement you will remember the following: "We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant... Books are the major channels by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down and the principal means of its testing and growth." If we have this awareness of the importance of books and ideas, then we cannot take books for granted. They become a challenge to every librarian—the challenge of getting the right book to the right person at the right time; the challenge of non-readers, some of whom are college graduates; the challenge of breaking through the anti-intellectualism of the moment which belittles the life of the mind; the challenge to see that all our citizens are exposed to ideas so that they may grow in stature and be prepared to take their places in the confused and rapidly changing world in which we find ourselves in this mid part of the twentieth century.

These challenges mean that the librarian must be aware of the dynamic nature of books and use them professionally in somewhat the
same way that a doctor prescribes for his patient. I do not suggest that librarians become expert social workers and perform case work, but that through extensive knowledge of books and an interest in people we can become expert in getting the right book in the hands of a person who has need of it.

For example, may not Alan Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country* be of greater value to an understanding of the racial problem in South Africa than a long list of books by travelers and observers, no matter how competent? Paton's novel is a distillation, the very essence of the tragedy and injustice now taking place. Or take Pearl Buck's recent autobiography, *My Several Worlds,* as a must in understanding China and the Orient. Mrs. Buck is a product of two civilizations and is in the unique position of thoroughly understanding both the East and the West, so that she can serve as a bridge or interpreter between two highly dissimilar ways of life.

Each of you here today can quickly suggest other examples of books which are beacons to understanding. The point I am trying to make is that we librarians must believe in books so profoundly that we can make books important to our patrons, even those who are non-bookish by nature. We should constantly remind ourselves that only about one quarter of the adult population reads actively or purposefully. Certainly this presents a challenge to those of us who believe in books as a chief source of ideas.

We librarians, who deal regularly with books and are on familiar terms with them, must realize that many people who lack this familiarity do not approach books and ideas with assurance and with confidence, and this brings me directly to my second challenge, the challenge of education.

Perhaps the library's tendency to limit its service rigidly to the use of printed materials has contributed to the popular idea that the library is a place for children and for the minority of adults who are especially well educated. In spite of our high rate of literacy and good general education there remains a popular prejudice against scholarly pursuits and the well read man. "Egghead" is one of the more recent terms of disparagement.

In some way librarians must bridge this chasm between books and the everyday world, and there is evidence that the rapidly developing adult education movement may be filling the gap. What we call "adult education" must

(Continued on Page 73)
Inside Oklahoma

(Miss Paylore’s speech to OLA members during the 1956 annual conference.)

Inside Oklahoma for the first time, though I am a southerner by birth and lifelong living, I find that it is both the same as and different from being inside Texas or Arizona, says. Yet I do not intend to adapt John Gunther’s stock pattern of descriptive coverage or assume that in four days I can learn anything which you do not already know about yourselves. It would be an insult to all that has happened in the nearly fifty years that your Association has existed for an Arizonan to try to tell you anything about library development. After all, Arizona, at the bottom of the library heap, still lacks the basic elements of statewide library service on which you have been building since the creation of your Library Commission in 1919. So, although you did ask me here to talk in the mistaken belief that I could contribute something to your theme “Developing the Oklahoma Library Plan,” I am really here under false pretenses—to learn and not to teach. And learn I have since I landed at Oklahoma City’s airport, meeting many new librarians and enjoying the hospitality of their libraries, and taking pleasure in renewing old friendships formed over my years of activity in the Southwestern Library Association.

But being a librarian anywhere presupposes the influence of books upon one’s life, an influence that knows no geographic or historic boundary but rather that may be a common unifying experience. This is such a banal statement that it should not have to be said. Since books, however, have come somehow into disrepute of late among librarians, perhaps it needs to be said, inside-Oklahoma and Kansas and California and all the way around the compass. And this I can do, out of a quarter of a century of librarianship, learning not from library school for I am an uneducated librarian, or from other librarians, but from books.

Everyone by now undoubtedly knows that I never read a book until I was fifteen years old, that I had not only never been inside a library but had never seen the outside of one. And, unfortunately for my story, it was not books which ultimately made a librarian, for better or for worse, of me. It wasn’t association with books from the time I could read, or growing up with books in my home, or the influence of my local public librarian, or the stimulation of a school library that made me a librarian, because none of these factors was present in my situation. To begin with it was just depression economies—and the fact that I had carelessly been graduated from the university without really knowing enough about anything to earn a living. But I could work in the library, they said, where I had worked by the hour for thirty-five cents as a student, and so I did, and have, and here I am, inside Oklahoma, telling you the story of my book life.

From the time I was four years old until I was past fifteen I lived in a desolate Arizona smelter town—Clarkdale, to be exact, down in the Verde Valley below Jerome clinging to its undermined hillside, and just a piece from Oak Creek Canyon where all the best current western movies are made. There wasn’t a tree or bush or a flower or a blade of grass in Clarkdale, because the sulphurous smelter smoke killed everything it reached up and down the Verde. It was a company town, owned by Senator William Andrews Clark of Montana, a copper town, dependent on him for every least thing from the right to live in a company house or camp out because there were no other kinds, to the right to buy your groceries in a company store. Out of the copper hills poured an uncalculated fortune in ore. But it never came back to Clarkdale in any form. All the great mineral wealth that was Arizona’s was gone, forever, but Arizona’s people who mucked the ore from the hills and smelled it in the big black ugly smelter and piled its heavy gleaming refined bars for shipment out over the narrow gauge railroad that snaked its way up the Verde past Sycamore Canyon and over the Mogollon Rim—those people lived their lives out to the end of that wretched town’s company existence without benefit of a single saving social grace or refinement just drab poverty and mean existence.

Oh, I went to school, all right, and I had a roof over my head and I don’t recall being hungry much, and I learned some tough things for which I have been grateful all my life. But I nor anyone else ever read a book or heard good music or saw a painting. All right...
That's how it was. Change the names, and substitute oil for copper, and I daresay the story could have happened here somewhere, inside Oklahoma. I left Clarkdale for good in 1925. And the Clarks sold out when the pickings got poor, and took their Arizona wealth back to Montana—and elsewhere. After I had been gone awhile and I saw how things were outside, it made me a political radical as so many others were in the thirties. It was a phase and I got over it, but for nearly thirty years I carried a grudge against the Clarks.

I said a minute ago that it wasn't books that made a librarian of me. But I think I can say that during those thirty years it was books, a single book in my hand—and I am going to tell you about two—or a hundred thousand of them in a certain library—and I am going to tell you about that, too—that gave me a passion for librarianship that no recruiting committee could ever equal if it recruited me from Chaucer to Harry Truman.

In my twenty-five years of librarianship I have been called upon for many qualities, some of which I had, and some of which, alas, I lack. But always, from the reading which I had begun as a freshman in university, somehow there was an old friend whose influence had seeped into my consciousness, on which I could rely when experience failed me. Much of this was unconscious, so that only after the passage of time is it possible to see how the recollection is summoned up by the need and thus the design is fashioned.

So it was with Lucretius and his De Rerum Natura which I first read in 1930 as a graduate student in philosophy. I had travelled fast and far with books in those five years since I had first walked uncertainly into a university library, and had seen with my little girl's eyes the incredible sight of books en masse. I had read Aristotle and Spingarn, Croce and John Dewey, Zane Grey and D. H. Lawrence, Sir James Jeans and Dorothy Parker, and the Lord knows what else, a great hodge-podge of good and bad, an indiscriminate, unorganized, helter-skelter activity that I sandwiched in between the Charleston and my Bunsen burner, between a preoccupation with clothes and boys. No one paid much attention to my intellectual development, except a senior honors student in physics, of all things, who was strangely attached to me while I was a freshman, mainly I think because he was so amazed by what I didn't know. It was he who got me to read Undset and Galsworthy and Hemingway, for instance, instead of James Oliver Curwood and company. But except for him, I was growing up pretty much by accident and chance.

Suddenly, I was sitting in a seminar, enrolled in Philosophy 230a, with Of the Nature of Things open before me, and I was reading:

Nothing is seen to happen with such speed
As what the mind proposes and begins.

Thus began my real education, as my formal education was coming to an end. There followed several months of slow burning delight with the ceremonious order of the world as Lucretius saw it, his really contemporary materialism, the almost classic Greek sense of form of this ancient Roman poet. His outworn view of the science of atoms could not spoil for me the beautifully conceived idea that the consummation of all principles was possible within the one short view of the universe vouchsafed each of us.

What has all this to do with you? Only this: that Lucretius taught me the first law of good librarianship, the first attribute I look for in a new librarian, or an old one, the primary trait of character and personality that endows a librarian with that which he will need above every other. I mean the courage of intellect and will that frees a man forevermore from fear. Lucretius tried to free mankind for self-security and the happy life, to make it unafraid of death, superstition, religion. He attacked the fear of death, for instance, with a livelier realization of that fear, with a profounder fear and pity of that fear, with a fiercer defiance of that fear than any other poet of the whole world, not excepting Walt Whitman or Robinson Jeffers. And through him, though we no longer need fear the old Roman gods and the superstition of Lucretius' time, we can take heart in facing freely and honestly the common fears of our own peculiar times and profession.

Books can be read without cost. To study is free. If this were not true I might never have learned to sustain a literary and historical investigation. Otherwise I might have spent the same time doing things that could have been bought: travel, entertainment, clothes, a home. But the year was 1932 and I was earning ninety dollars a month in state warrants that could not be cashed. So I thought I would learn a little more about the Territory of New Mexico where I had been born. I read Harvey Ferguson's Rio Grande, just to get the hang of things, and I re-read Willa Cather's Death Comes for (Continued on Page 67)
A.L.A. Conference News

Many Oklahomans made the long trek to Miami Beach, Florida, to attend the 75th annual conference of the American Library Association during the week of June 17, 1956. For the benefit of those who stayed at home to catalog books, answer reference questions, and provide materials for their reading public, a few of the highlights of the week are outlined below.

Oklahoma Breakfast

Twenty-four Oklahoma librarians, former Oklahomans, and friends, met for breakfast on Wednesday, June 20, at the Hotel Sovereign. Breakfast was strictly a social event, with no planned program, but provided an excellent opportunity to renew old friendships and to compare quickly acquired Florida sun tans! Oklahomans and ex-Oklahomans attending the Miami conference included the following: Bill Morse, Eunice Cockrum, Mary Jeanne Hansen, Ethelyn Markley, Addie Smith, Alice Pattee, Ed Pattee and Bob Schmidt. Joe Templeton, Bill Lowry, Maryan E. Reynolds, James Gourley, Mary C. Hammond, Elba Lee Harper, Carma immerman, Arthur McAnally, Mary Ann Wentworth, Jacquelyne George, Louis Smith, Dick Chapin, John Stratton, Joyce Werner, Eunice Trouvant, Esther Mae Henke, Hollis Haney, Clarence Paine, Jean Harrington, Helen Price, Mrs. C. G. Keiger, Mrs. W. Carl Brown, and Frances Kennedy.

Library Services Bill

President Eisenhower signed the Library Services Bill on June 19; and on June 21 the Council of the American Library Association adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Library Services Act has been passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate during the 84th Congress and signed by the President of the United States,

AND WHEREAS: This action represents an unprecedented expression of confidence by the President and members of Congress in the importance of public libraries in a free democracy,

AND WHEREAS: This act authorizes financial assistance for the extension, development and improvement of public library service to the people throughout the United States,

AND WHEREAS: The impact of this legislation is two-fold, presenting both a long-awaited opportunity, and a grave responsibility,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the members of the American Library Association in their 75th Annual Conference assembled at Miami Beach, Florida, June 17-23, 1956, hereby convey their heartfelt thanks to the President and the members of Congress who have worked so earnestly and effectively for this legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the members of the American Library Association accept the challenge of this legislation and express the full extent of their appreciation through action—action that will result in the kind of public library service anticipated by the members of Congress in their support of the Library Services Act.

Esther Mae Henke, ALA-OLAL Federal Relations Coordinator, writes as follows: "This has been an exciting year in the library field . . . For many years librarians have been working for federal aid for rural library service, and now these efforts are about to be realized . . . You are to be congratulated on the work you did . . . Your letters and personal contacts with our Senators and Representatives were responsible for Oklahoma's support of the Bill. If you haven't written your Congressmen, to thank them for their support, do it today!"

John Cotton Dana Award

Oklahoma City Libraries received the coveted John Cotton Dana Award in public libraries between 100,000 and 500,000 population, "for publicity revealing a publicity program which stimulates an awareness of the library's educational role in the community." Twenty additional libraries received citations in this contest sponsored jointly by the Wilson Library Bulletin and the ALA Public Relations Committee. Winning scrapbooks become the property of ALA, and may be borrowed from the Headquarters Library. Congratulations, Oklahoma City Libraries!

(Continued on Page 72)
Toward Greener Pastures

Contrary to a prevalent idea that "Johnny can't read," there is a vast group of children who can and want to read. It is my purpose to concentrate these remarks on this large group who are already readers, rather than on the beginning readers, or those with serious problems. I am referring to those who have passed through successive stages of reading readiness, the mastery of reading mechanics, and are in that stage when they are reading constantly and avidly. These children, too, have reading problems, although they are sometimes not recognized by adults and certainly not by the children themselves. We need to give them direction and guidance so that their reading may be broadened, deepened, and their daily lives enriched by the many values to be found in children's literature today.

A few of the problems that are common to most reading children are: (1) They read in a rut; (2) They read mediocrely; (3) They read too fast and too superficially; and (4) They do not retain what they read. What are some of the factors and techniques that may obviate these minor but rather general weaknesses?

In the first place, all adults concerned with children in their successive stages of development have some obligation to guide their reading: parents, teachers and the librarian. We assume that we know our children, individually and collectively—and we should. But we need also to be well grounded in the extensive and growing body of good children's books available today. Children should be exposed to worthwhile books in all areas of their normal activities. There should be acceptable literature in the homes; a central library should be accessible in the schools in addition to the public library. Teachers should stock their classrooms with changing collections of interesting books and should integrate a variety of literature with classroom work and activities. Children should be motivated to read and should be given ample opportunity to talk about and share their books.

There are many techniques that have proved effective in motivating and strengthening children's reading. Time does not permit a detailed discussion of all of them but here are a few usable ones that are worth stressing. Reading aloud enables us to introduce many worthwhile, interesting books to children which would otherwise be missed. When teachers read to children, this sharing reaches all children in the group, sets up contrasts to their own rather mediocre reading fare, and permits them to participate in a discussion of these books. Similar books can be introduced at the same time to motivate further reading while enthusiasm is high. New titles being added to the library collection can be "reviewed" by children for the purpose of introducing them to other children, since it has been found that enthusiasm on the part of friends and classmates is contagious. If children can be stimulated (but not forced) to keep personal reading records, these are often instrumental in showing them where they are failing to extend their reading. The Texas Readers' Club, which asks children to list the ten best books they have read during the school year, can be helpful in broadening reading interests because each list must include different kinds of fiction, as well as some biography, history and informational—books. This will pinch the "in-a-rut" readers and chase them out of their ruts.

Just because children have the appetite to read is not enough! Left to their own devices, they will bolt their food, limit it to sweets and hot dogs, and ignore the more balanced diet which may be enjoyable, too. This applies equally to their eating and reading. The inexperience of children prevents them from knowing what they are missing. We adults do know and have a responsibility to see that they have many opportunities to savor the good things they would otherwise shun. We can do this best by sharing, nudging ad subtly directing—not by forcing and imposing our authority. If we have a true appreciation for good books and reading, our spontaneous enthusiasm and contagious sharing will be the one most effective avenue to broader, richer and more discerning reading by our children.
SECTION REPORTS

Catalogers

The Catalogers' Section met on Friday, April 20, at 2:30 p.m., in the parlor of the First Christian Church of Pawhuska, with twenty-one members present. Edith Scott, Chairman, presided. During the short business meeting William Lowry, Oklahoma City Libraries, was elected Chairman for the coming year.

The program for the afternoon, Centralized Cataloging in Regional Libraries, followed. Mrs. Orecia Mahoney, Executive Secretary of the ALA Division of Cataloging and Classification, spoke on "Developments and Problems in Other States; and Mortimer Schwartz, University of Oklahoma Law Librarian, concluded with "Some Problems in Planning for Regional Processing in Oklahoma."

Ruth Cox, Secretary

College and University Libraries

The College and University Libraries Section met on April 21 with Casper Duffer presiding as chairman pro tempore. The report of the nominating committee was given by Ruth Cox. The following officers were elected unanimously for the year 1956-57: Chairman, Casper Duffer, East Central State College; Secretary, Mary Long, Oklahoma Baptist University.

Mr. Duffer presented Dr. Angie Debo, author and historian, and former curator of maps and Oklahoma documents at Oklahoma A & M College, who reviewed the early history of Oklahoma libraries from territorial days to the present.

Miss Patricia Paylore, assistant librarian of the University of Arizona, and president of Southwestern Library Association, gave her hearers a keen insight into the profound and personal aspects of inspired librarianship in her address, "With All My Worldly Goods, I Thee Endow."

Thelma M. Gunning, Secretary

Public Libraries

The Public Libraries Section met at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 21, in the Christian Church. Herbert E. Winn, Chairman, presided.

After the introduction of guests and members, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mrs. Ernest Lawson of the Miami Public Library reviewed her experiences in selecting a library building site, and expressed her appreciation for the assistance she received from the ALA and state agencies.

Mr. John S. Richards, Librarian of the Seattle Public Library, and President of ALA, spoke briefly of his experiences as a public library administrator. He stressed the importance of keeping the community aware of the purposes and functions of a modern library building, and the need to keep local opinion-making bodies informed on all aspects of the public library program.

The membership divided into three groups for brief discussions of the following subjects: the problem of justifying the present library status; the problem of advance planning and its importance; ways and means of publicity and public relations.

In the election of officers which followed Mr. Richard J. Covey, Librarian of the Muskogee Public Library, was elected Chairman; and Mrs. Virginia Collier, Librarian of the Okmulgee Public Library, Secretary.

Helen Donart, Secretary

School Libraries

The School Libraries Section met at the Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 21, at 9 a.m. Miss Mary Leach, Chairman, presided.

Mrs. Alice Brooks McGuire, librarian of Oasis Elementary School, Austin, Texas, and editor of the School and Children's Libraries page of the Wilson Library Bulletin, was the guest speaker. A resume of Mrs. McGuire's talk appears in this issue of the Oklahoma Librarian.

During the business session, minor changes in the proposed by-laws of the organization to be known as the "Oklahoma Association of School Librarians" were approved. The committee, composed of Trean Maddox, Chairman; Mrs. Teresa Roberts; and Mrs. Elizabeth Geis was given authority to make such further changes as may be necessary to conform with the constitution of the OLA.

Ralph Hudson, State Librarian, made a brief statement concerning the school library provision in the Oklahoma School Code. In accordance with his request Mrs. Roberts moved that a committee of five be appointed to work with (Continued on Page 65)
<table>
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Abel, Mrs. Marge</td>
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<td>Atkins, Mrs. Hannah D.</td>
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1234 E. 24th St., Tulsa

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Withgott, Irene  Woodward PL
Wood, Joe  18th and Reward, Pawhuska
Woodruff, W. P.  Harmony & Woodruff Printers, Sapulpa
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Z
Zoeller, Mary Ann  University of Oklahoma, Norman
Zweicher, Mrs. Alice  Route 3, Box 369 R, Oklahoma City

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Northeastern Oklahoma A & M College, Miami
Northwestern State College Library, Alva
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OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN
Plans by Librarians To increase Voting

Plans for assisting librarians to participate in the nationwide effort to increase voting in the November elections are being shaped up by the American Library Association, one of more than 100 national groups participating in the 1956 non-partisan “Register, Inform Yourself, and Vote” program. The American Heritage Foundation is coordinating the campaign efforts.

Emphasis is being placed on the “inform yourself” phase of the campaign which is the area in which librarians find their best opportunities, according to Miss S. Janice Kee, Executive Secretary of the ALA Public Libraries Division, who is directing the endeavor. Miss Kee headed similar participation by librarians in 1952, when ALA received one of the top national awards for achievement from the Foundation.

A special poster has been designed for libraries and the Foundation is seeking means to make it available to all librarians wishing to join the campaign. “Use Your Library” is the action line on the poster which urges: “Vote—but don’t vote in the dark: Listen, Read, Look, Talk, Argue, Think!”

Librarians are encouraged to use the resources of their own libraries for the essential information job. Pamphlet materials are also available on inquiry to the American Heritage Foundation, 11 West 42nd Street, New York 36, New York.

The PLD program at the ALA Annual Conference in Miami Beach, June 17-23, will include at least one feature dealing with the campaign. In the Adult Education Workshop scheduled for the morning conference periods, PLD will present a demonstration-type program on planning public library participation in national activities with special reference to the “Register, Inform Yourself, and Vote” campaign.

Further plans will be announced in national and state library publications and by communications through state agencies.

JULY 1956

Section Reports
(Continued from Page 60)

Mr. Hudson to broaden the list of acceptable book selection tools, and to plan the basis for selecting books for the next year. The motion was seconded and carried, unanimously.

Mrs. Shields moved that the group go on record as approving the principle of earmarking funds for library books, but continue to work for the elimination of features undesirable to librarians. The motion was seconded and carried.

Miss Bethel DeLay, Mrs. Ida Self, and Miss Elva Curtis served as the nominating committee. The following officers were elected by acclamation: Chairman, Mrs. Charles C. Kiser, Librarian, Crooked Oak High School, Oklahoma City; First Vice-Chairman (Program), Mrs. Wanda McCollom, Librarian, Emerson School, Tulsa; Second Vice-Chairman (Membership), Miss Barbara Bailey, Librarian, Edgemere School, Oklahoma City; and Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Margie Belle Bramlett, Librarian, Poteau High School.

Margaret Stewart, Acting Secretary

Special Libraries

A joint meeting of the Special Libraries Section of OLA, and the Oklahoma Chapter of the Special Libraries Association was held in Bartlesville on April 20, at 2 p.m., in the library of the U. S. Bureau of Mines Petroleum Experiment Station. The group was welcomed by Miss Vern Hutchinson, Librarian, and Mr. H. C. Fowler, Superintendent of the Station. Mr. Sam Smoot, Chairman, presided.

Mr. Kenneth Knight, Librarian of the Boeing Aircraft Company, Wichita, Kansas, spoke on “Special Loans for Special Libraries.” Mr. Knight stressed the need for cooperative effort and human relations in library service, and emphasized the growing importance of inter-library loans. He recommended that consideration be given to limiting purchases in the same area by the use of union lists of comprehensive collections.

Mr. Sam Smoot was elected as chairman of the section for a second term.

S. J. Bragg
ARDMORE, Public Library—The voters of Ardmore, with a 60 per cent majority, passed a $280,000 bond issue for a new library building.

DRUMRIGHT, Public Library—Under the direction of May Calkins, Librarian, the 1956 summer reading program is underway. The library is still in the process of getting its collection in order following the recent tornado which left it without a “home.”

EL RENO, Carnegie Library—The slogan for the library’s annual vacation reading program this summer is “Read One Good Book Every Week.”

GAGE, Public Library—The library received a check for one hundred dollars from its sponsoring club, the Gage Women’s Research Club. This club, with the library as its project, placed second in its division in the Community Achievement Contest, sponsored jointly by the General Federation of Women’s Clubs and the Sears Roebuck Foundation.

HARTSHORNE, Public Library—A collection of books by and about Will Rogers has been received from Mike Barno of Haileyville. Included among the items is a drawing of Rogers made by Erle B. Slack, of the Tulsa Tribune. This drawing was created especially for the library.

KINGFISHER, Memorial Library—A brick, air-conditioned building, formerly occupied by the Kingfisher Office Supply Company, was recently acquired and redecorated for the library. With reading rooms provided for both adults and children, the building has a large stack area, a reference room, periodical room, and office space. Open house was held on April 22, 1956.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma City Libraries—Open house was held on April 17 in the main library. Visitors were given the opportunity of following the route of a book from the time it arrives until it is ready for circulation. John S. Richards, President of ALA, and Gordon G. Dupee, President of the Great Books Foundation, were special guests.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma City University—By the will of Dr. A. C. Scott, pioneer Oklahoman, the library has received his personal library of approximately 2,000 volumes. Dr. Scott was a faculty member at O.C.U. for many years. He was the founder of the Oklahoma City Times, and a former president of Oklahoma A & M College. This bequest was accompanied by $30,000 for endowment scholarships.

The Law School was recently moved to the campus, and new steel shelving installed for the law library. All units of the university are now housed on the campus and served by the main library.

OKLAHOMA CITY, State Library—Mr. Ralph Hudson, State Librarian, has been elected President of the National Association of State Libraries. This association plans to become a division of the American Library Association under the reorganization plan.

PERRY, Carnegie Library—New steel stacks have been installed, and the exterior of the library renovated.

C. Irene Mason, Librarian, has planned a summer story hour program, using an opaque projector for added effect.

POTEAU, Public Library—The 1913 Study Club recently presented the Library with a gift of one hundred dollars for the purchase of new books.

SAPULPA, Carnegie Library—The library has presented the Drumright Public Library with a gift of books for its collection.

WOODWARD, Carnegie Library—Two reading programs are in progress this summer; one for readers of high school age, and the other for the younger children.
Inside Oklahoma
(Continued from Page 57)

the Archbishop, and then I decided to take a correspondence course on the subject from the University of New Mexico. It was an elementary undergraduate course and could have been completed by an average college graduate like myself in a month with the use of the single textbook. Well, I renewed the course twice when the year’s allowance of time was up, and at the end of the third year, with ten assignments of twenty completed, I gave up hope of ever finishing and quit in disgust. I quit working on assignments, that is, but I began what has turned into a lifelong dedication to southwestern Americana. The reason I never finished those lessons, you see, was that I got so fascinated by the subject that I began to go astray from the textbook. And woe to the single-minded, purposeful reader who intended just to brush up on something but steps aside for a moment to look at a new aspect of it a little more carefully! It’s like—what? compound interest? or square root? Every time I read a supplementary reference, I was led to two more. And from each of those two to two more. And so on, ad infinitum.

And I got deeper and deeper into New Mexico, and pretty soon I was out on the prairies, and then I was into the Mississippi Valley, and that led me to the Louisiana Purchase and Lewis and Clark, and that led me back to Thomas Jefferson, and that led me—well, enough of that. You have some small idea of what I mean. I learned how to run down obscure references: I began to unravel the unrivalled beauty of bibliography. I began to think of myself as somewhat of an authority, to the extent that I questioned certain printed statements and could cite proof. I played with the idea of writing a book about the old Maxwell Land Grant in northern New Mexico where my mother had first lived as a girl fresh out from Minnesota in the late nineties. But I kept getting sidetracked and finally somebody beat me to it. I even took a course in Spanish. I discovered Turner’s classic Frontier in American Life, and the wondrously revealing study of The Great Plains by Walter Prescott Webb. And the excitement and satisfaction of research took hold of me and transformed my life. Oh, it don’t mean Ph.D. level research, and you may be amused at my pretenses to the word. But it was personal, spontaneous, independent reading, purposeful and sustained, and from it I have derived my life’s greatest book recompense.

Well, I settled down finally to reading systematically, and about 1935 I had gotten up to the early nineteenth century and was immersed in accounts of the Santa Fe trade, the mountain men, the first impact of Anglo culture on Spanish. And somewhere along the way, with the inevitability of fate, I met up with Josiah Gregg. He wrote a contemporary account of The Commerce of the Prairies and first published it in 1844, which I read in a cheap reprint and loved for its detailed first-hand account of life on the frontier a century ago. He made me wish desperately that I had not been born so late, indeed like Miniver Cheevy too late, so that I could never know it except vicariously. But if Gregg took from me on the one hand, he endowed me on the other with an appreciation of a quality with which I would imbue all librarians everywhere.

In this audience, inside Oklahoma, a territory astride Gregg’s travels and the proud possessor of a press which recently published so handsomely Gregg’s Diary and Letters, I doubt not that you have all read him, too, and that you, like myself, appreciate his indomitable curiosity. And that you would agree with me that intellectual inquisitiveness is a most desirable requisite in a business where most of our work is motivated by the satisfaction of our public’s curiosity about anything and everything under the sun.

Gregg had this quality to an unsurpassed degree. No event which came within his view escaped his consideration and analysis. No aspect of strange custom or unusual habit failed to engage his interest. And everywhere he went, there also for our everlasting enrichment went his little bound notebooks. Even when he was dying of starvation in the wilderness of northern California, he enshrined his companions by delaying their efforts to escape their plight with his computations of latitude and longitude and the measurement of fallen redwood trees. He was a curious man, a man on whom nothing, no least thing, was ever lost. Paul Horgan, in his introduction to the Gregg Diary, says of him:

“... Gregg was of the order of men who create literature out of their most daily preoccupations, that is, without a transfiguring act of the imagination. Romantic inaccuracy may produce masterpieces, of course, but so may the sublime magpies, the gossips of fact, they who sense the
marvel in the trivial, the whole from the part."

How can one be a librarian without this quality to some degree? He simply can't. It does not cost anything to be curious, it can be cultivated freely, as it was in my case, without benefit of library degree. Certainly it is necessary to make librarianship—living and working with books—anything more than a dull routine way of earning a poor living. But through curiosity all things come to life and take on meaning and color. The eternal why, buttressed with who, what, when, and how, keeps a good library in a stir of intellectual excitement, from one end of the book process to the other, from the acquiring of a book to its discovery by a reader, perhaps through you. Curiosity is absolutely essential, for instance, to a good bibliographer, and for the life of me I do not see how you could be a good cataloger either, without possessing that quality of inquiry that I have called by a more homely name. It is just impossible to be any kind of librarian worth your salt and alive above the neck unless you are interested, inquisitive, curious. And I shall always be grateful to Josiah Gregg who demonstrated this quality to me early in my career because he wrote as he rode, observed as he worked, analyzed as he experienced—a man of curiosity first about things which interested me, true, but finally in the absolute philosophical sense.

I said awhile ago I never read a book or set foot in a library till I was past fifteen. And I have written elsewhere that if I go on reading like mad till the day I die, as I intend to do, I shall never catch up with those lost fifteen years. But I had an experience three years ago that brought my life around full circle and laid the old ghost forever. And if you will forgive me for being personal even more than I have already been, and I am sure you will or you would not have asked me to talk to you in the first place because everybody knows that that's just the way I am—if you will forgive me, I should like to share it with you. This is the first time I have tried to set it down, but it seems to me as I look back on it from the safety of time, that it has a significance for all librarians everywhere who read, but more particularly perhaps for southwestern librarians, and I'll tell you why.

In 1953 when the American Library Association met in Los Angeles, I took the opportunity to visit one of the country's most distinguished literary research libraries, as I had done earlier on my way home from a San Francisco meeting and saw the Huntington Library. Yes, you're right: The William Andrews Clark Memorial Library. I was shown the collection from underground stack area to locked cases on the balconies overlooking the main floor book rooms. I held in my hands a first edition of Whitman's Leaves of Grass. I examined the section on Dryden in the Clarks' checking copy of the Wing Short Title Catalogue with the holdings recorded therein of the world's finest collection of that seventeenth century English poet. I saw the famed Wilde collection and was allowed to touch with gloved finger the Shakespeare First Folio. I was served tea in the drawing room, and sat there properly and quietly while the book talk flowed around me, letting my eye rove to the rich English oak ceiling with its stunning paintings from Dryden's All for Love, at the glow of candlelight reflected in the burnished wall panelling.

Later, I went through the exquisitely-kept gardens, past the pool with its bronze statuary gleaming in the fading afternoon light, and I stood there alone, the girl from Clarkdale, for a long melancholy moment, while I fought down a rising tide of resentment. Was this Travertine monument filled with academic loot worth the blighted lives that had paid for it? Here was where the Clark money went. Here were the things his Arizona copper had bought. Here were the things I never had, things I had believed irrevocably gone for me. That I somehow had retrieved my life in a book career was only a final fateful twist in the affair that proved truth stranger than fiction. But what about the hundreds of others, and their children already unto another generation, whose capabilities would never be fulfilled? I turned slowly and looked down at the reflection of the Clark library in the fountain below me, and saw, too, the curious reflection of myself therein, not at the middle age of forty-three, but at thirteen, a wild ignorant girl who had no assets but her instincts. And in a calm, deliberate summoning up of all that books had taught me over a thirty year span, from Clarkdale to Clark, I decided in that moment that nothing is ever really lost—it exists somewhere. This was what it had all been for, I thought calmly as the reflections in the pool faded and I came back in time to this time, this was what it had all been for, that this great, serenely beautiful and gracious place could house some of the world's most treasured books.
Salaries Are Studied

A study of librarians' salaries, released at the ALA Conference on June 21, 1956, shows that while professional librarians' salaries have increased 14 per cent since 1952 and are just about on par with teachers' salaries, they are far below the income of professional and semi-professional persons estimated by the Federal Reserve Board.

The study, recently completed, is based on information gathered in 1955. It was made public at a meeting of the Board on Personnel Administration of the American Library Association during the 75th Annual Conference of the ALA in Miami Beach. The detailed report "Salaries of Library Personnel, 1955" is available from the ALA Publishing Department.

The data was supplied by 1,053 libraries of all types and covered 28,294 positions. The median monthly salary for 14,036 professional positions was $359.28. On March 1, 1952, the figure was $314.16, according to a previous study. In comparing the annual median salary of librarians—$4,311.36—with the median salary for teachers—$4,100—it was pointed out that the figure for teachers did not include the salaries of school administrators, while the librarians' median salary figure included the salaries of the highest paid chief librarians. The Federal Reserve Board's "spending unit" figure for professionals and semi-professionals was $7,380.

Some of the non-professionals working in libraries have fared better than the professionals, according to the study. Salaries of stenographers increased 15.3 per cent; senior clerks, 18.5 per cent; and junior clerks, 13.1 per cent. The increase for all non-professional positions in 1955 was 12.1 per cent over 1952.

Committee Appointed

James Gourley, Richard Covey, and William Morse have been appointed as a committee to work with Ralph Hudson, State Librarian, on the Oklahoma plan for library service under the Federal Library Services Act. John Stratton, OLA President, is an ex-officio member of the committee. The plan will be presented to the OLA Executive Board for review and approval before it is submitted to the Washington office. The State Librarian will keep OLA members informed about the progress of the plan.

El Reno Librarian Honored

Mrs. Edna McMahan Kelly, Librarian, El Reno High School Library, was named "Woman of the Year" for 1956 by the El Reno Junior Chamber of Commerce Jaynes. Mrs. Kelly was a candidate from the Business and Professional Women and the American Association of University Women organizations. She had served both as teacher and principal in the El Reno schools before becoming Librarian.

New Appointments

Arthur Long, Norman, University of Oklahoma Libraries, (M.L.S. Univ. of Okla. '56) has accepted a position in the Reference Department.

Irene Cunningham, Stillwater, Oklahoma A & M College Library (M.L.S. Univ. of Okla. '56) is a new member of the Library staff. She has assumed duties in the Catalog Department.

—Because of the lack of interest exhibited these past few months by our contributors, there will be no WHO'S WHOHERE column this issue. Won't you please drop the editor a note when you are doing something that would be newsworthy.
—News Editor

NEW . . .

Plastic Display Letters
in 6 colors
(inexpensive—non-brittle)

Magazine Reinforcing Tape
in 4 colors

Wire Book Holder
for holding books open

Please write for complete information.
SCHOOL LIBRARY NEWS

DEWEY, High School—Mrs. Sarah Winn, Librarian, reports some interesting and unusual activities of the library club during the past school year. This group of student assistants, 40 in number, meet the first Tuesday of each month. A car, decorated with colorful books, jackets and posters, was entered as a float in the homecoming parade, with students dressed as book characters. The group also sponsored a “Swap-a-Book-Day,” when all students in the school were asked to bring suitable but unwanted books from their homes. Library assistants sold them for fifteen cents each, the proceeds going to their treasury.

HOLDENVILLE, High School—The Kiwanis Club has given the library a two year subscription to Science Research Associates Occupational Briefs and Job Facts Charts.

NORMAN, Junior High School—Mrs. Ida Self, Librarian, reports a successful plan to acquaint teachers with the new library books. “Book Parties” were held after school hours during the past year. Library assistants issued the invitations, served the refreshments, and acted as guides in locating the new books which were grouped on tables. The plan found much favor with the teachers, who appreciated the opportunity to preview the new library books.

PAULS VALLEY, High School—Eleven student assistants were presented the school’s “V” certificates of award for library service in the recent awards assembly.

The May 6 issue of the Pauls Valley Daily Democrat carried a lengthy, illustrated article on the library. Since 1952 the library has grown in staff from a part-time worker with six student assistants to its present staff of one professional librarian and thirteen student assistants. The library has been remodeled to double its reading area.

PONCA CITY, High School—Members of the Ponca City Senior High School Club were hosts to the library clubs of neighboring schools at their April meeting, Tuesday, April 24, in the Senior High School Library at 7:00 p.m. Schools represented were Perry, Enid, and Blackwell. Over fifty student assistants were present at this first attempt in the district to bring student librarians together for a joint meeting.

The first part of the evening was spent in touring the library and the school, and in “talking shop.” Glen Dale Marshall, President of the Ponca City Library Club, gave the welcoming address. Sonya Tucker, Ponca City, reported on the State High School Library Day held at the University of Oklahoma in March. A discussion grew out of this report on the possibility of organizing an association of student librarians in this district. The group decided in favor of such an organization, and elected the following officers: Janet Jones, Enid, president; Jim Mitchell, Blackwell, vice-president; JoAnn Padilla, Perry, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Rosa Mae Lynch, Enid, sponsor. Ponca City members assisting with refreshments and games were Neal Baumwalt, Bill Keathley, Velda Harney, and Sonya Tucker.

A.L.A. Resignations

The resignation of Arthur T. Hamlin, Executive Secretary of the Association of College and Reference Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, is announced, effective August 31, 1956, by Robert W. Vesper, President of the ACRL. Mr. Hamlin has accepted the position of librarian at the University of Cincinnati and begins his new duties on September 1. He has served as ACRL Executive Secretary since November, 1949.

Miss S. Janice Kee, who has served as Executive Secretary of PLD for more than four years, is resigning as of August 31, 1956, to accept the position of Secretary, Wisconsin Free Library Commission, Madison, Wisconsin.
ALICE BROOKS McGUIRE is the Librarian of the Casis Elementary School, in Austin, Texas. She was formerly on the faculties of Drexel and University of Chicago Library Schools, and was president of AASL in 1953. Mrs. McGuire has been active in school library work for several years, and is the present editor of the School and Children's Libraries page in Wilson Library Bulletin.

PATRICIA PAYLORE has been Assistant Librarian at the University of Arizona since 1946. She is a former president of the Arizona Library Association, and at the present time is serving as president of Southwestern Library Association. Miss Paylore is a frequent contributor to library periodicals, and is active in state, regional, and national associations.

JOHN S. RICHARDS, President of the American Library Association during this past year, has been librarian of the Seattle Public Library since 1942. He is a past president of the Pacific Northwest Library Association, and has served as chairman of numerous ALA committees. Mr. Richards has also been a member of the Board of Directors of the Great Books Foundation for several years.
Oklahomans Are Hosts
To Southwesterners

The Southwestern Library Association Biennial Conference will be held in Oklahoma City, October 10-12, 1956, with headquarters at the Biltmore Hotel. Clarence Paine, Librarian of the Oklahoma City Libraries, is Chairman of Local Arrangements. According to tentative plans, each section of the Association will be responsible for a general session.

Plan to attend SWLA meeting this year. It is your opportunity to participate in an enthusiastic regional association meeting, without traveling far. Oklahoma librarians who heard Patricia Paylore speak at OLA's Pawhuska meeting will welcome the opportunity to hear her again as President of SWLA. Ralph Shaw, President of the American Library Association, will be the guest speaker on October 12.

COME TO OKLAHOMA CITY—OCTOBER 10-12—FOR SWLA!

A.L.A. Conference News
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A.L.A. Officers

Lucile M. Morsch, Deputy Chief Assistant Librarian of the Library of Congress, has been elected Vice-President and President-Elect of ALA. Miss Morsch, who becomes President in 1957, was installed at the final General Session on Friday evening. Dr. Ralph R. Shaw, Professor at the Rutgers University Graduate School of Library Service, was inaugurated as President at this session.

New Headquarters Personnel

David K. Easton, presently librarian of the Caribbean Commission, Trinidad, has been appointed Librarian at the Headquarters of ALA. Mr. Easton will start his duties on July 16, succeeding Helen T. Geer who resigned effective July 1.

Robert L. Gitler, well known library educator who has been Director of the Japan Library School since 1951, has been appointed to the Headquarters staff of ALA. Mr. Gitler, who will assume his duties on November 1, 1956, will serve as secretary, ALA Board on Education for Librarianship, and Executive Secretary, Library Education Division.

ALA Publications

Two noted book selection periodicals published by ALA—The Booklist, and Subscription Books Bulletin—will be merged into one periodical effective September 1, 1956. The merger was voted by the ALA Executive Board during the conference. The selection and reviewing procedures and the content of the reviews dealing with each type of material will remain unchanged.

O.L.A. Chapter Status

The Oklahoma Library Association has now become a chapter of the American Library Association. Following the revision of our constitution, the ALA acted favorably on our application for chapter status in the national organization.
Challenges to Librarianship

(Continued from Page 35)

today meet a new challenge. Suddenly our people face a whole host of problems brought about by the world crisis. These problems have to do with personal living and family life as well as the individual's relationship to his community—local, national, international. The explosive change in the old settled order brings questions for which past experience does not provide answers, and so we must all go on learning through life.

In the past, our formal education has done pretty well in promoting expertise and efficiency in vocational training but much less well in the management of private and public affairs. This has led to an increasing awareness by the average citizen of his need to be better informed, and so there has arisen a great interest in adult education.

I hope you have all had an opportunity to see the Fifty-fifth Yearbook of the National Society for the Study of Education, recently published under the editorship of our own David Clift. In this you will find chapters on “What Do Adults Read?” by Lester Asheim, and “The Role of the Public Library in Adult Reading” by Grace Stevenson. The chapter on “The Role of the College Library in Adult Reading” by Arthur Hamlin indicates that our colleges and universities have come a long way in developing informal adult education programs for their students.

In this volume the chapter on “Adult Education” by Dr. Cyril Houle is the one I wish to refer to. Dr. Houle quotes Morse Cartwright as saying that before June 1924 the term “adult education” was not in use in the United States of America. At the same time, however, Mr. Cartwright intimates that nearly fifteen million persons were participating with some regularity in activities which they regarded as educational. Dr. Houle thinks that Cartwright was correct in believing that he was dealing with a new term and a new idea. In the past, the many institutional forms in which mature people learned or taught were separate, each with its own aims. In the 1920's Cartwright and other leaders realized that all these institutions embodied a common idea and sought a common end. Dr. Houle estimates that the fifteen million involved in adult education in 1924 had grown to twenty-two million in 1934, to twenty-nine million in 1950 and to nearly fifty million in 1955. Dr. Houle concludes that

this tremendous involvement in adult education in the last thirty years is doing three things: It is stimulating individual participants to do more about their adult education than they have done in the past; it is countering the stultifying influences of mass communication—a counterbalance to the drift toward the mass man; and finally, it is developing leaders for our society.

Recently, through grants from the Fund for Adult Education, ALA has been able to experiment with new techniques. The Adult Education Survey was made possible by these grants, as was the American Heritage Project, an adaptation of the Great Books Program, one of the pioneer adult education programs carried by libraries. The adult education sub-grant project enabled individual libraries to try their wings in developing experimental programs.

More recently, we have had the consultant service specializing in the fields of leadership training, program planning, community analysis and the use of audio-visual materials. This service is offered on a nation-wide basis but it is channeled largely through state and regional associations, stimulating them to offer workshops and institutes at state and regional meetings.

Another recent development is the Library in the Community Project, which undertakes to relate the library's adult education activities to the total community. Four states, Maryland, Kansas, Michigan and Tennessee, have been designated as grant areas for a two-year period. In each grant area one library—metropolitan, county or regional—is selected for a pilot project in the development of a plan for a long range program. In these four test states there will be an attempt to increase the potential for adult education by making the program an integral part of the library administration and organization, properly related to all other library activities and to the total community which the library serves.

From this it can be seen that the ALA in the last few years has made great progress in bringing the library's part in adult education into clear focus. Librarians of both large and small libraries are coming to understand their role in community-wide adult education, and through the experimentation made possible by the Fund for Adult Education, procedures and know-how are developing.

What are the distinguishing characteristics of library adult education? In the recent announcement of leadership training awards by

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the Fund for Adult Education we find this definition and explanation of their interest in liberal adult education:

"Liberal adult education is concerned with the continuing improvement of the mature individual in the responsible exercise of his freedom, both as a private person and as a citizen in a free society.

"For the purpose of this program, liberal adult education is distinguished from remedial, vocational, technical, avocational and mental health education. These distinctions are respectful of the importance of all kinds of adult education, but are necessary for a focus of effort on liberal adult education, which is neglected and which is essential to the future of the free society."

We know that the Fund for Adult Education has selected the public library as one of the agencies best qualified to develop and carry on liberal adult education, and it is important now for librarians to have the vision to grasp these opportunities.

As libraries undertake an increasingly large program of adult education, there are two things we must bear in mind: first, books are worthless unless the ideas and inspiration they contain can somehow be conveyed to the minds of men; and second, and here I repeat, possibly three fourths of our adults seem not to be bookish or at home in the world of print. In other words, some of our most effective liberal adult education may begin with the so-called non-book materials.

In Seattle, our use of films has probably attracted more new patrons than any other service we have employed. Last year our 688 films were shown to over 650,000 people in programs given throughout the city. We know that new borrowers invariably have to be sent first to the registration desk to secure borrower's cards. Since each of these documentary films has something to say in today's troubled world, it would be impossible to overestimate the importance of the impact on the community of these film showings. We also know that the film showing and the discussion following frequently lead directly to books.

Or take the case of a collection of great music records, which in Seattle have had a large circulation for almost twenty years. The thousands of people who have used and enjoyed these transcriptions have undoubtedly secured more real music appreciation than if they had read all the books on the subject several times over.

We must not overlook educational television, which seems likely to play a large part in the development of liberal adult education. Recently one of our talented Seattle women, Mrs. Elizabeth Wright Evans, who is educational director of our first and largest commercial television station, was called to Louisiana, where the librarians of that state came together for a conference on educational television. These included librarians from both large and small libraries and many of them had never seen a television camera. Mrs. Evans, in telling about the week-long conference on her return to Seattle, reported that the commercial television men who had been called in as resource people approached the conference with the idea that these librarians were primarily interested in promotional programs which would increase library circulation. This impression was soon corrected, however, by the librarians themselves, who announced in no uncertain terms that the libraries wanted to use television for education per se, whether or not these programs ever circulated a book. As a result, the week was a very fruitful one, with the librarians learning much about the production of television shows, and the commercial television staff learning that the public library was a rich source of information and a fertile field for program ideas.

Perhaps the greatest challenge to libraries is in the broadening base of community interest and support which takes place when the library multiplies its community contacts. Co-sponsored programs by the library with a wide range of groups and activities will acquaint many of our citizens with the diverse contributions which the library can make.

Out of this broadening base will come the opportunity to help our individual citizens to find answers to the perplexing questions which face all of us. Just recently, as President of ALA, I received from a Los Angeles woman a plea that ALA exert appropriate influence in support of the Constitution of the United States as related to Miss Lucy of Alabama, who wished to become a librarian. In my reply I explained that the only possible action by ALA would be one which implemented a specific ALA policy and policy can be made only by the Council. I went on to say that as to the influence which librarians should bring to bear in any situation where the people we serve are struggling.
for a solution, we cannot attempt to give the solution, but we must help all the people to arrive at their own solution. This, historically, has been the role of librarians in the development of our free society in America. It is, I believe, destined to be one of great influence and assistance now when Americans everywhere are struggling, with widely varying and deeply felt conviction, to cope with some very difficult problems. The old slogan is as good today as it was when we first used it: "The library does not tell people what to think, but it has a definite responsibility to tell them what to think about."

I now come to one of the very practical challenges, the challenge of financial support and library coverage, and I know that Oklahoma is struggling with this challenge just as are the State of Washington, and almost all others. From material sent to me I learn that one half the population of your state have no library service and that many of the libraries in Oklahoma are too small and inadequate to provide good service. As I have traveled about the country this year this pattern has come to have a very familiar ring.

The important thing is that Oklahoma is on the right track in proposing library service units on a multi-county basis, enabling one or more counties to contract for service.

If Oklahoma is similar to my own state of Washington, the realization of larger area service will take all the statesmanship and all the tact at your command, for it has been difficult in many cases for librarians, trustees and government officials to get the vision of what can be accomplished by giving up some nominal autonomy in order to pool resources and secure the advantages of the larger tax base. In Washington, for planning purposes our thirty-nine counties have been combined into twelve regions, each of which is possible of being developed into a self-supporting and self-sufficient library unit. At present, four of these twelve regions are functioning in whole or in part, but there has been a good deal of resistance, active or passive, to the idea of this practical cooperation. To our shame let us admit that this resistance too often comes from the librarian, who should be crusading for this type of service with the old time missionary fervor.

Here, of course, is where the Library Services Bill will give us a much needed lift. This national legislation, which has been in prospect for ten years, now seems in a favorable position for passage at this session of Congress. It is ideally drawn to advance the development of larger area service. The funds available under this bill are to be used exclusively for rural areas and must be matched by state funds. Since the legislation has a five year terminal date, it seems likely that rural areas will be stimulated to develop plans for local financing which will be both realistic and practicable.

Most, if not quite all, of the states have readied plans so that they may take advantage of these funds when they are available, and I would suggest today that this planning has been enormously worthwhile, entirely aside from the prospects held out by the Library Services Bill.

If I have a special message for you as president of the American Library Association it is the wish that we may all see the library in broad outline against the swiftly moving events of our time. Librarians are adapting services to meet new needs, but are we moving fast enough? How best can we share the library yeast that is fermenting throughout our state and regional library associations? How make sure that our librarians are prepared to swing into action quickly to meet new demands or even emergencies? Of one thing I am sure; we must enlist more librarians and more laymen in various organizations which are attacking these problems at both the local and the national level.

Our ALA membership of over twenty thousand may seem large but it represents only a fraction of the people working in and for libraries throughout this country. Every librarian or trustee who is not plugged in to a professional organization by means of active membership is working without benefit of a power source which gives our libraries their momentum and their direction.

The American Library Association is important to all libraries and to every librarian because it represents the combined force of all of us. Through ALA we make ourselves felt. Without ALA we would have no Freedom to Read Statement, and it would be unlikely that fifteen senators and twenty-seven representatives in our national Congress would be actively sponsoring the Library Services Bill. Without ALA it would be well nigh impossible to secure the overall view which allows us to chart the library course and to meet rapidly changing conditions. Because of this overall view and because of your letters, the American Library Association Executive Board at midwinter auth-

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O.L.A. Annual Conference
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was considered and approved unanimously. Mr. Hudson moved that the amendments to the By-laws be accepted, and that No. 7-d (Library Education Section) be deleted. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mrs. Lula Pratt, Chairman, gave the report of the Resolutions Committee and moved its acceptance. The motion was seconded and carried.

Richard Covey moved that OLA go on record as approving the Bookmobile Project. The motion was seconded and carried.

Luncheon Meeting

Mr. John Stratton, President-Elect, presided at the closing luncheon on April 21. New officers of the Association were presented. Mr. John S. Richards, President of the American Library Association, addressed the Association on the “Challenges to Modern Librarianship.” This meeting closed the conference.

Challenges to Librarianship
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orized the establishment of a public relations office which will this year begin to cope with our three related problems — recruiting for librarianship, public relations, and membership promotion. And so I would hope that you could envision ALA not as another organization apart, but as an extension of your own library program and of the important business being carried on by your state association.

Today I have discussed briefly with you three challenges to librarianship—the challenge of books and ideas, the challenge of liberal adult education, and the challenge of financial support and library coverage. These challenges are interdependent, for unless we librarians have a dynamic philosophy of the book which encourages us to plan programs which will reach and serve all the people, we have no right to ask for an ever increasing portion of the tax dollar; and conversely, if our programs are sound, if they meet the real needs of the people and are not merely what we, in our library fastnesses, think the people ought to want, we will ultimately secure the patronage and support of our citizens.

Our libraries, both public and university, can provide for every individual the self-realization which we know to be in the great American tradition. Our system is based on the recognition of the worth of the individual and his participation in his government. Our libraries have evolved as a chief instrument in this process. We can be proud of our achievement but we must not slacken or pause at a time when our services are needed as never before. Our aim must be to see that every American has the equivalent of the best service now being given by any library today.

*Note: The Library Services Bill was passed by the House of Representatives on May 8, by the Senate on June 6, and became law on June 19 when it was signed by President Eisenhower.

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