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(Continued on Inside Back Cover)
Autumn haze has gathered on the calendar. Morning and evening chill bracket the warm days sharply. A new impetus is given our work, and there is much to do.

All of you know of the passage of the Library Services Act. That legislation, added to the success of our own amendment, has opened the door to tremendous development. Most of our work is still ahead of us.

The Oklahoma Legislature opens its session in January 1961. Our committee, headed by Bill Lowry, has presented the following proposals for OLA to:

1. Support the State Library budget.
2. Implement the Library amendment.
3. Secure an emergency appropriation of about $50,000. This is to match federal funds that will be lost otherwise.
4. Support the request of the State Department of Education for a library supervisor in that office.

An ambitious program, but we can do it.

Other library activities have pointed up the quickening of interest all over the State. One of these sign posts was the Library Community Project in Ardmore and the Workshop in August that marked its formal close—though not the activity it had generated. Another was the Book Review Conference held by the Children and Young People’s Division at Norman early in November. The National Rehabilitation Association at their meeting in Oklahoma City in October, carried on its program a library panel. This is a first for library discussion at the national convention of this group. There were a gratifying number of applicants for the OLA scholarship. Mrs. Alice Shore of Enid was selected.

Your Association is doing a tremendous job. As librarians you carry a responsibility for and to your professional organizations. Join the Oklahoma Library Association and the American Library Association. Membership fees will be due in January. These are your organizations, established for your benefit. Each of you is responsible for its operation.

We hope each library paid special tribute in some way to our friends of the press during National Newspaper Week, October 15-21. They played a major role in our amendment campaign and are a constant aid in our efforts toward service.
AGING IN THE MODERN WORLD

Today, there is increasing interest in the positive aspects of retirement. People speak not so as to emphasize the concept of retirement from, but rather retirement to—retirement to a new way of life and to new and challenging responsibilities.

Before speaking about these new responsibilities and their implications for library service, it might be well to discuss briefly the characteristics of our aging population and some of the major issues involved.

Population Trends and Characteristics

Those who are 65 years of age and over represent approximately 9 percent of the total population of the United States. Of the over 15 million aged, almost 8½ million are women and seven million are men. As might be surmised from these figures, the life expectancy of women is greater than that of men, with the trend becoming more marked with each decennial census. In 1900, for example, there were 102 men, age 65 and over, to every 100 women in the same age group. By 1959, the rate had changed to approximately 83 men to every 100 women.

Although the United States average for the number of persons aged 65 and over is 8.7 percent of the total population, that for individual States varies from a high of 11.6 percent in Vermont to a low of 4.1 percent in Alaska. For Oklahoma, the percentage is 10.3, representing approximately 229,000 persons out of the State’s total population of some 2,218,000.

It is interesting to note that despite certain urban concentrations, on the whole small towns have a much higher proportion of older persons than large cities. Communities under 1,000 population have approximately 13.5 percent who are over 65, as compared with the 8.7 percent for the Nation.

Although we seldom think of illiteracy as being a major concern here in the United States, the problem does exist. There are over 3½ million illiterates in our country, with illiteracy defined as the inability to read and write either in English, or in any other language.

The latest Bureau of the Census estimates report some 41,000 illiterates in Oklahoma, a great many of whom are 65 and over. This is consistent with nationwide findings that the aged as a group have the least amount of formal education. The median school years completed by all persons 14 years old and over is 10.9; for those 65 and over, it is only 8.3. On the whole, women appear to have a little more formal education than men, for men aged 65 and over, the median school years completed is 8.2, and for women, 8.4.

General Concepts

Since they are of significance to community-wide planning, some of the general concepts of successful retirement and work with the aged should be mentioned and emphasized. Of primary importance is the prevailing professional philosophy which affirms the value and impor-
tance of maintaining the older person in his
own home setting for as long as is possible.
Many community services make this feasible;
visiting nurse program, meals-on-wheels, home-
maker service, friendly visitor and shut-in serv-
ice by libraries.

Education for aging must be stressed—for
individuals, for communities, and for the nation
as a whole. For not until negative attitudes about
aging have been changed will satisfactory pro-
gress be made toward the solution of many of
the economic, social, personal and health prob-
lems of the aged.

In a country as new as ours, we seem to
stress the importance of youth. We need, there-
fore, to re-educate ourselves and hence others,
to the importance of conserving, developing, uti-
лизing and valuing the abilities and skills of older
persons. If this task is accomplished, the later
years can be not only productive but also satis-
fying and personally rewarding. This calls for
an extensive and far-reaching program of edu-
cation, not only of the aged themselves, but
of our younger citizens as well so they may pre-
pare effectively and positively for the later
years, and retire not from but to life for a sec-
ond career.

Role of the Library

Work with the aging and the aged has
many implications for libraries, and suggests
multiple roles rather than just a single role.
These are outlined below so as to indicate both
the scope and variety of the library’s several
roles:

Serve as the community’s clearinghouse
of current and reliable information on the
various aspects and problems of the aging
and the aged, to include areas such as
health, housing, income maintenance, rec-
creation, use of leisure time, education,
and employment.

Assist individual older persons to find ap-
propriate materials—whether for recrea-
tion, information, inspiration, education
or reference.

Encourage and help middle-aged adults
prepare effectively and positively for a
successful retirement.

Provide library services to community
groups through such library-sponsored or
cooperatively planned services as dis-
cussion programs, lectures, film services,
book reviews, exhibits, radio and televi-
sion programs, forums and other similar
educational and informational group ac-
tivities.

Make available appropriate library ma-
terials to the various professional and
volunteer workers who assist with
community activities for the aging—such
as social workers, ministers, community
recreation leaders, superintendents of
nursing homes and homes for the aged,
guidance workers, doctors, ministers, la-
bor leaders, health educators, friendly vis-
itors, and others.

Publicize the library’s many resources,
services and programs through such med-
ia as the radio, television, newspaper, ex-
hibits and, library publicity releases —
all on a regular, continuing basis.

Work in this field should not be regarded
as a separate program or service. Rather, it
should be considered an integral part of the
total adult services program regardless of the
size of the library. The very smallest of pub-
lic libraries can do as much proportionately in
its work with older adults as can the very
largest. In neither situation should current
public interest in this particular area of service
result in an over-emphasis. The public library
is charged with a responsibility for service to
people of all ages, and its planning should re-
fect balance.

Planning for Service

If service to the aging and the aged is not
to be considered a separate service, but rather
a part of the library’s regular program of work
with adults (certainly a traditional, time-honored
and typical aspect of service) why, many li-
brarians ask, all this fuss and exhortation. Li-
brarians have served adults since time imme-
orial, and will continue to do so.

There are several reasons for the current
emphasis and Nationwide concern about the prob-
lems of our older citizens. First, there is the
matter of sheer numbers — there are over 15
million persons 65 years of age and over, coupled
with the estimate that the number will increase
to approximately 10 million by 1970. Because of
medical and other advances, people are living
longer after retirement than at any other time
in the history of our country. The average per-
son of 65 may now look forward to some 12 to
15 years of retirement.

However, for a group of people with the
greatest amount of leisure time at their disposal,
they are the least prepared for its use. By

(Turn Page)
tradition and habit, our older citizens are predominantly work-oriented. They have devoted all their adult years to working, raising a family and making a home. Retirement means not just a cessation of work, but a cessation of meaningful activity. Adjustment, therefore, may not only be economically and physically difficult, but it may also be so emotionally and socially — for dignity and self-respect are at stake.

As was mentioned earlier, as a group although it is dangerous to generalize older adults have had less formal education than the nation as a whole. Correlated with this is the fact that, again as a group, they are not now library users, nor is it likely that they were in their youth. Although the median years of schooling completed is the equivalent of a grammar school education, a great many older adults are functionally illiterate—they have had less than five years of schooling. Reading for them is neither a pleasure nor a habit.

This should present many challenges to libraries. Not only must the librarian select books which are appropriate for the older person, but he must select with their limited reading ability and interest in mind. Book selection takes on other dimensions as well.

Many of our older citizens are arthritic. For them, a heavy book or one of awkward size can be a deterrent to reading even if the interest is there. Others have problems of sight. For them, books in large print are essential. Or, if sight is sufficiently impaired, it may call for the use of talking books, recordings, or braille books.

In view of the current philosophy of maintaining the older person in his own home setting as long as possible, librarians must begin to think increasingly of providing shut-in service. This highly individualized service, if effectively rendered, is expensive—not only in terms of time, but also of staff.

As the number of nursing homes, homes for the aged and convalescent homes increase, library services to these agencies must likewise increase. This, too, places a strain on the library budget. Faced with a nationwide shortage of professional librarians, with the increased cost of books and other library materials, with the need for expanded quarters and new branches, librarians are finding it difficult to plan effectively for service to the aging and the aged.

Not infrequently, this results in the rationale: "But we are serving senior citizens! They come to our libraries almost daily." And this may well be true. However, in proportion to their numbers, and to the amount of free time available, library registration almost always shows a disproportionately low rate of use by older people.

Not infrequently librarians will state that all adults, regardless of age, are welcome to their adult education programs, whether they are film programs, a discussion series, lectures or forums. And many come. But what about the countless others who do not? Their reasons are many should the librarian care to inquire. Typical amongst them are these:

- Library programs are given at night, and many older people find it difficult to travel after dark.
- Libraries erect physical barriers such as monumental stairs while failing to provide guard rails, ramps or other protective devices.
- Libraries are not easily accessible by public transportation, on which older people are dependent, particularly in large cities.
- Libraries fail to take into account limited hearing ability of many older people.

### Buying Guide For Books On Aging

Those who would like to implement Rose Vainstein's recommendations will find an excellent purchase guide in "Aging in Today's World" in the September 1, 1960 issue of The Booklist and Subscription Books. The list was compiled by Fern Long, chairman of the Committee on Library Service to an Aging Population, Adult Services Division, American Library Association, with the assistance of six members of the Cleveland Public Library staff.

On the list are books for those working with the aging, as well as books to be read by older people themselves. Those recommended for first purchase are starred.

Miss Long calls the attention of librarians to material appearing on local and state levels, and urges that efforts he made to include these in library collections. Oklahoma librarians will find this list a great help in maintaining collections of current and reliable materials on problems and aspects of aging.
which when coupled with generally poor acoustics of meeting rooms is almost unsurmountable.

Libraries have not publicized their activities and programs so that older people themselves, or workers with older people, learn about them sufficiently in advance.

As is true of any other aspect of service, provision for service for the aging and the aged calls for careful planning, both short and long range. It calls for knowledge of the field, knowledge of the community and what related services are available, and a willingness to assume leadership and provide support where necessary. The library’s greatest asset is flexibility. It can be innovator as well as follower; it can sponsor and also cooperate; it can work within the library and outside, in the community itself; it can work with individuals and with groups; it can assist the aged as well as the worker with the aged; it can provide books and non-book materials; it can make its resources available to the college professor and the clerk; it can provide a work of Plato and a contemporary novel. There are no limits, other than those imposed by lack of imagination or of understanding.

White House Conference on Aging

The forthcoming White House Conference on Aging, the first of its kind in our history, provides librarians everywhere with a unique opportunity to cooperate and participate in an endeavor of nationwide significance. That libraries have an important role to play in the Conference is attested to by the appointment of Mrs. Grace T. Stevenson to the national advisory committee for the Conference, and by the designation of delegate status to the American Library Association.

Although librarians cannot all participate directly in the Conference, they can make many important and useful contributions on both the State and local level. ALA’s "A Guide to Library Cooperation" suggests many of the ways in which libraries can cooperate and participate indirectly.

Of primary importance is the library’s responsibility to act as a clearinghouse of information on the Conference, its goals and objectives. Further, it is an important library responsibility to assemble and maintain the very best collection possible of current and reliable materials on problems and aspects of aging. In so far as budget will permit, this would include basic information on such subjects as the housing, economic and health needs of the aged, material on recreation and productive use of leisure time, materials on community resources for the aging, and on educational opportunities.

Through participation in the work of community councils and committees on aging, the public library makes known its many services and resources. And through such participation, the library can work cooperatively with other agencies and effectively reinforce the total community effort.

The library’s pre-conference role is assuredly an important one. However, its post-conference role is of even greater significance. In this area, the library has several major responsibilities:

- To help interpret the news of the Conference.
- To become well informed on Conference recommendations.
- To help relate recommendations to local situations.
- To assist in the implementation of the recommendations.

As they rise to meet and fulfill these responsibilities, libraries will be rendering an important service to their community and to their country.

Summary

"The opportunities are obviously varied and challenging. Whether the library is large or small, well supported or inadequately financed, the first task is to determine the library’s total objectives. Within that framework, and with knowledge of the community, its needs and resources, the next task is to determine those aspects of work with the aging and the aged which are unique to the library, and which have the highest priority."

The library should supplement, complement and augment rather than duplicate other community services and resources. Through this combination of providing a unique and dynamic program, a cooperative approach, a flexible attitude, and a leadership role, the libraries of this country can realize their true potential as major cultural, educational and recreational institutions.

October, 1960
Oklahoma's Adult Education Grant Ends

August 31, 1960, marked the "official" end of the Oklahoma Library-Community Project. This project, made possible by a grant from the Fund for Adult Education administered by the American Library Association, was for the purpose of "assisting public libraries to develop long term adult education programs based on the analysis of community needs." In Oklahoma, as well as in the seven other grant states, (Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Nebraska, Tennessee, and Wisconsin) this project had two parts: a pilot library experimental study, which in Oklahoma was conducted in Ardmore, and an overall statewide library adult education program.

Reviewing the events of the past twenty months, the history of our Library-Community Project shows that many accomplishments have been achieved despite the fact that there was a delay of approximately four months in getting the Project started before a director could be found. These accomplishments can be most readily noted in the Ardmore Public Libraries pilot library study.

In the study, the Ardmore Public Libraries started with the assumption that the public library's major function is to provide informal educational services to individuals, either directly or through groups. Working from this assumption, the Ardmore Public Libraries attempted to collect and organize information about the community and itself in order to formulate a total library educational program to meet the adult needs of Ardmore. This process involved two major steps, which were conducted simultaneously. Step one was a community study in which the educational needs and resources as well as various general factors about the city were closely scrutinized. Step two was a library self-evaluation study whereby the Ardmore Public Libraries attempted to evaluate its own resources, both material and personnel, and to take a close look at its procedures in the light of providing educational services to adults. On the basis of these two steps, the community and self-evaluation studies, the Ardmore Public Libraries endeavored to plan a realistic adult educational program.

Listed below is a checklist of most of the major activities that were undertaken in connection with the pilot library experiment. (For more descriptive details of these activities and their results, one may consult the various editions of the Oklahoma Library-Community Project Newsletter; the article entitled "Oklahoma's Adult Education Experiment at Halfway" by Aaron I. Michelson, in the October, 1959 issue of the Oklahoma Librarian, pp. 86-7, 96; and the State Library's Extension Division's Files.)

ARDMORE LIBRARY-COMMUNITY PROJECT CHECKLIST OF ACTIVITIES
January, 1959 Through April, 1960

Information on resources:
- library staff analysis
- library board analysis
- quantitative analysis of adult non-fiction collection
- qualitative analysis of adult non-fiction collection

Information on usage:
- sample study of adult circulation
- analysis of patrons' requests
- library use survey

Information on borrowers:
- map-spotting of registrants
- library use survey (also under "Information on usage")

Community Study

Community background:
- history
- composition of population
- economic structure
- educational level
- community sources of formal and informal education (schools, agencies, churches, and organizations)

While he was Director of the Oklahoma Library-Community Project, Mr. Michelson was also a member of the staff of the Extension Division of the Oklahoma State Library. He has now joined the faculty of the University of Oklahoma Library School. A graduate of Western Reserve Library School in Cleveland, he has completed the course work required for a doctorate at the University of Chicago, and hopes to soon complete his thesis.

OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN
Community needs:

determining needs from agencies
determining needs from churches
determining needs from organizations
determining needs from key people

After the conclusion of the above listed activities, the project director and the pilot librarian met with members of the Ardmore L-CP Citizens Committee, a committee composed of key citizens of Ardmore to help plan and assist in the community study, to review the data collected in the community studies and to interpret the results. Included in the interpretation were the needs for better coordination of educational resources; increased adult educational opportunities, particularly to those in the lower educational groups; the opening of better channels of communication among the various agencies, churches, and organizations in town; and more educational and recreational opportunities for older people. At the final interpretation meeting, the head of Ardmore’s new adult education program, jointly sponsored by the Ardmore Board of Education and the University of Oklahoma’s Extension Division, was called in and initial preparations were made for close cooperation between the officials of the new program and the Ardmore L-CP Citizens Committee toward the common purpose of achieving better adult education programs in Ardmore.

Recommendation Approved

At the same time, members of the Ardmore Public Libraries’ staff and the project director were meeting in two sessions to formulate both long and short ranged plans for the future based on the results of the L-CP findings. At the conclusion of these two sessions, the library board in a special meeting revised the recommendations made by the library staff and gave these recommendations their “stamp” of approval.

Listed below are the staff’s recommendations approved by the board.

**CATEGORY:**

1. Changes in the materials collection

2. Changes in library organization

3. Publicizing the library

4. Utilizing mass media for educational purposes

5. Development of cooperation with other agencies

**ACTIVITY:**

Building up of the vertical file collection, particularly in the area of government publications.

Strengthening of the adult collection at the branch library.

Closer cooperation between main branch libraries.

Closer cooperation between the Ardmore Public Libraries and the Chickasaw Multi-County Library.

Appointment of full-time librarian to, among other things, work with agencies, churches, and organizations and to help publicize the library as an educational resource.

Setting up planned library displays in churches and other places outside the confines of the library building.

Arranging with managers of industries to allow distribution of brochures to employees via pay envelopes.

Arranging for spot (public services) announcements on radio concerning the importance of libraries as a source of information and continuing education.

Planning special booklists for specific special interest groups.

Development of list of materials on hand that could be used by people with poor eyesight — books in large print — “books for tired eyes.”

Encouragement of Negroes to take more advantage of the resources available at the main library by word of mouth communication and talks with Negro intellectual leaders, and via Categories 3, 4, and 5.

**RANGE OF PLANNING:**

short & long (started)

short & long

short & long (started)

long

short and long

short & long (started)

short & long

long

short & long

October, 1960
6. Development of service to special groups

Encouragement of those in the lower socio-economic brackets to take more advantage of library resources via Categories 3, 4, and 5.

Utilization of qualified volunteer workers, under supervision, to provide library service to long-term hospital patients and other shut-ins.

Acquiring more space through the construction of a new library building.

Encouragement of the organization of an Ardmore Friends of the Library group.

Graphical presentation of results of library survey for the general public via mass publicity and organizational presentations.

7. Other

short & long

short & long

long

short

Results Observed

As of this date, the Ardmore Public Libraries has started action on at least three of these recommendations, and at least one of these has already brought about favorable results. This was the arranging with managers of industries to allow distribution of library brochures to employees via pay envelopes. Through this activity the library has added a number of new registrants who entered the library with brochure in hand to make application to take out materials.

In the area of the community study, there are also indications of certain positive observable results. One of the most important of these is the development of a closer cooperation between the library and the numerous churches, agencies, and organizations in the community.

For the first time the Ardmore Public Library now has an objective knowledge of the scope and content of many of the informal adult education programs that are being conducted in the city, and these organizations in turn, are now better aware of the kinds of resources the library has to offer to assist them in their programming. Agency heads, church officials, and officers of clubs are now beginning to consult with members of the library staff prior to offering a new educational activity. As a result the library is in a much better position to assist them.

Other indications of favorable results are better coverage of library activities by the local newspaper, thereby enabling local citizens of Ardmore to have the opportunity to learn more about their local library and its educational purposes; a greater awareness on the part of the staff and boards as to the educational role of the library and to the need for interpreting the library as an important adult educational institution to the community; and a greater knowledge of the community, not only by the library, but by other groups as well. In this connection, at least two of the local agencies are now making plans to expand their activities to reach members of the lower socio-economic groups. As one of these agency heads said, “We are now a little more aware of some of the problems of our community and are therefore able to try to do something about them.”

Statewide Program

In connection with the statewide program, the Oklahoma Library-Community Project has concerned itself throughout with a public relations program to inform librarians, trustees, and other interested individuals of the importance of good library adult education programs. This has been highlighted by two cooperatively planned and sponsored institutes for public librarians and trustees, one of which was held in October, 1959, the other in August, 1960. Along with this there has been a continuing program to provide assistance through the State Library Extension Division for requests for information and materials on adult education, community studies, group discussion programs, and the problems of the aging.

Since the inception of our Oklahoma Library-Community Project, members of the Extension Division’s staff agreed that improvements have been made in regard to their department; namely

1) A general policy of strengthening the collection in the Extension Division by purchasing all significant publications in the field of adult education.

2) An improvement and extension of its relationships with other institutions and groups interested in adult education toward better future cooperation. (Much of this is due to the efforts of the LCP Statewide Advisory Committee.)

3) The development of additional knowledge, experience, and techniques by members of the
Extension Division staff in regard to planning and conducting future workshops and institutes.

4. The Extension Division staff is now in a better position, after twenty months of L-CP experience, to give more effective consultation service to local public libraries which desire to improve their services to adults.

Summary

From the experiences derived from the Oklahoma and other state studies, it would be fairly safe to say that any community that attempts to conduct a library-community study will probably confirm many things that would already be "known" to a keen and perceptive staff. In some instances they will, however, suffer a severe shock. Such was the case when it was discovered that many of the agencies, churches, and organizations in Ardmore were making little or no use of the library as a source of materials for educational activities, even when the needed materials were available.

But what is far more important than whether the results will confirm or refute things that were previously suspected, is the fact that library-community studies demonstrate that librarians do not have to operate primarily on intuitive knowledge, (or what has been commonly called "by the seat of their pants") in regard to their own community and library in formulating adult education programs.

This leads to what the writer would regard as perhaps the most important value of our Oklahoma and the other Library-Community Project studies: the strengthening of the literature of librarianship and adult education by providing adequate accounts of the experiences and principles derived through these studies, which may be used in the further development of library adult education program throughout the nation as well.

Just as the Oklahoma State and Ardmore Public Libraries have benefited from the experiences of the L-CP experiments in seven other states, so in the future may other libraries benefit from our experiences. As stated by Miss Ruth Warneke, Director, American Library Association, Library-Community Project, in the ALA Bulletin of February 1957 (p. 107) the libraries that have actively engaged in L-CP "have endured the rigors of experimentation in order to make available to their colleagues information on practical methods for the development of the library as an adult education institution in the community."

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October, 1960
LIBRARY EDUCATIONAL ROLE STUDIED

Librarian-trustee teams from 23 handpicked Oklahoma public libraries met in Oklahoma City at the Thunderbird Motel August 17 through 19 with the representatives of nine other institutions in three work-packed days of the Oklahoma Library-Community Project Institute. Sixty-nine persons attended the sessions.

Objectives of the Institute were to provide an opportunity for librarians and trustees to study: (1) the educational purposes of the library; (2) the educational needs, interests, and resources of the community; (3) the development of planned programs of educational services for adults; and (4) the interpretation of those services to the community.

The institute was sparked by a suggestion last spring from the Library-Community Proj-
ect's statewide advisory committee, which believed librarians and trustees in the state needed to know more about working with groups in the community and might be helped by a workshop or institute. From this idea, a planning committee of librarians and lay citizens developed the three-day programs. The Institute was directed by Aaron I. "Mike" Michelson, state project director, with help from the Chicago LCP consultant staff, headed by Ruth Warncke, ALA project director.

The Institute was presented as the last major activity supported by funds from the State Library's Library-Community Project grant, which officially expired August 31, 1960. Invitations to send two persons, comprising a librarian-trustee team, to the Institute, with expenses paid by the Project, went to the larger public libraries in the state which qualified on the basis of their present ability to provide educational services to adults.

Registrants to the Institute soon found that this was to be a working meeting, which used a variety of adult education devices to secure audience involvement and participation, including discussion groups, buzz sessions, small work groups, and interrogation panels. Interest of those present was caught immediately in the opening session when a "library situation drama" was presented by half a dozen talented amateurs. (A "situation drama" proved to be like a role-play but more focussed, although equally unrehearsed.)

The situation presented was that of a typical library board and librarian discussing the "Soonerville Public Library's" annual report and wrestling with some of the problems common to libraries. Spurring the board's discussion was a new, alert and inquisitive board member, whose probing forced librarian and trustees to ask themselves—some searching questions about the community and the library's educational program.

Parts played in the situation drama were: The librarian, Louise Smith, Adult Service Librarian for the Oklahoma City Libraries; Board Chairman, S. Arch Thompson, a member of the McAlester Public Library Board; new board member, the Reverend B. Franklin Williams, of the Pawhuska Public Library Board. Other board members were played by OLA president Elizabeth Cooper; Mrs. W. S. Corbin, librarian of the Chickasha Public Library; and Mrs. Ethel Smyth, librarian of the Okemah-Okfuskee County Library.

In a scene of recapitulation at the end of the Institute, the library board of the Soonerville Public Library was again shown in an annual report meeting, this time five years later. By now the "new" Board member had become Chairman of the Board, much progress had been made in meeting community educational needs as shown in a community study just completed, and the library had become part of a multi-county library system. But the searching questions of another alert new board member (played by William H. Lowry of the Cleveland-Garvin Multi-County Library) pointed up dramatically the need for constant reappraisal of the library's educational program in the light of changing community needs.

**Six Sessions**

Topics considered at the six sessions of the Institute were as follows:

- **Session I.** The Educational Purposes of the Library.
- **Session II.** What Do We Need to Know? And, Where Do We Get the Information?
- **Session III.** How Do We Get the Information?
- **Session IV.** What Does the Study Mean?
- **Session V.** The Ardmore Story.
- **Session VI.** Planning the Library's Program.

Besides local participants, out-of-state talent was deployed heavily to help make the Institute a success. Besides Miss Warncke, adult education specialists contributing to the program included Eleanor Phinney, Executive Secretary of the ALA Adult Services Division; Phyllis Maggerni, formerly Oklahoma's LCP Consultant from the ALA office and now on the staff of the Illinois State Library; and Patrick R. Penland, Project Director for the North Carolina Library Community Project.

Oklahoma's Lieutenant Governor George P. Nigh gave a delightful and memorable welcome to conferees at the Wednesday luncheon.

Feature of the only evening session (Thursday) was a presentation of the pilot study of the library and the community conducted at the Ardmore Public Library. Ardmore Librarian William H. Morse and two board members, Mrs. Austin C. Smith and Mrs. Howard C. Brown, explained how the study was conducted and described the planned program of library adult education activities which resulted.

During the Institute, participants themselves

(Turn Page)
Notes From The October Executive Board Meeting

October 1, 1960

The Executive Board of OLA met October 1, 1960, at 10 a.m. in the O.C.U. Library, with Elizabeth Cooper presiding. Members present were Elizabeth Cooper, Gerald Coble, Elizabeth Oliver, Marian Dierdorff, Frances Kennedy and William Lowry. Guests present were Mabel Murphy, Mariam Craddock, Mary Ann Wentroth, Esther Mae Henke, and Louise Smith.

The minutes of the May 8 meeting were approved, and Miss Dierdorff presented the Treasurer's Report for the period since the last meeting.

Miss Cooper reported that the National Rehabilitation Association will meet in Oklahoma City October 16-12, and that for the first time a program on libraries is being included.

Miss Smith, new editor of the Oklahoma Librarian, discussed problems connected with the publication, most of which are financial. Mr. Lowry moved that the subscription rate to nonmembers be raised from $2.00 to $3.00 effective January, 1961. Miss Kennedy seconded the motion and it passed.

Letters were read from Mr. Coble, director of O.U. School of Library Science, and from R. Boyd Gunning, executive secretary of the University of Oklahoma Foundation, Inc., thanking OLA for the $300 scholarship. Mr. Coble announced that this scholarship had been awarded to Mrs. Alice Shore, Enid, for 1960-61.

Miss Wentroth announced an all day Book Review Conference to be held on the North Cam-

pus of O.U. on November 4. New childrens books will be available for discussion and selection.

Mr. Coble reported that Mrs. Frances Landers Spain, president of ALA will be present for the entire 1961 OLA Conference at Alva.

Mrs. Oliver presented a plan recommended by the Sequoyah Book Award Committee and moved its adoption. The plan calls for five members on the Committee from OLA and one each from the Oklahoma Education Association, the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English, the Oklahoma State Library and the Oklahoma State Department of Education. The five members of OLA are to be appointed by the President of OLA as follows:

One three year term, appointed with the approval of the Chairman of the Children's and Young People's Services Division. This member is to have the responsibility of compiling the book list.

One three year term, appointed with the approval of the Chairman of the School Libraries Division. This member is to be responsible for publicity and author arrangements.

One three year term from the membership at-large to be the committee business manager.

Two annual terms.

The three year members are to act as the steering committee of the Sequoyah Book Award Committee, one retiring each year and the third year member serving as chairman. Mr. Lowry seconded the motion that this organization be approved and the motion passed.

Mrs. Oliver requested that OLA give $50.00 to the Sequoyah Book Award Fund. Mr. Lowry moved that the request be granted, and Miss Kennedy seconded it. The motion passed.

Mr. Coble reported a meeting of non-profit organizations and agencies with a view toward regular distribution of pertinent legislative information.

A meeting of the OLA Legislative Committee was reported by Mr. Lowry. The sub-committee adopted the following program:

1. To support the State Library Budget
2. To implement the Library Amendment
3. To secure an emergency appropriation of approximately $50,000.00 for matching federal funds
4. To support the establishment of a supervisor of school libraries in the office of the State Superintendent of Education.

Mr. Coble moved adjournment. Seconded by Miss Dierdorff, the motion passed.
Jack Dickey has resigned as Geology Librarian at O.U. to become Assistant Acquisitions Librarian at the University of New Mexico. Jack came to the university in 1936 from O.S.U. The Geology Library is now under the direction of Mrs. Lucy Finnerty, Jack's predecessor who has been in private business.

Another familiar face at O.U. will be missing this year. Mrs. Kathryn Lewis, formerly Assistant Acquisitions Librarian, is now Bibliographer in the Southern Methodist University Library. Mrs. Lewis has been on the university library staff in various positions since 1951. Her place is being filled by Mrs. Marion Bergin, who recently obtained her Library Science degree at O.U.

Arthur Long, O.U. Humanities Librarian, moved to Durango, Colorado where he is Librarian at the Fort Lewis A & M College Library.

Mrs. Pat Baker, Assistant Law Librarian at O.U., received the John Mara fellowship of $50. This fellowship established in 1959 by John Mara, law book dealer in Dallas, is awarded annually to a member of the Southwestern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. This is the second time that Pat has received an award relating to the Association. Last year she received the Miles O. Price scholarship of $150, an annual award to an outstanding member of the law library profession.

Walter Murphy, O.U. 1956, is now librarian at Lakeland, Florida. He was on the reference staff of the Oklahoma City libraries while attending library school and spent the last year as administrative assistant to the head of the Kansas City Public Library.

Virginia Owens, Field Librarian with the Extension Division of the Oklahoma State Library, has been selected as one of Oklahoma's delegates to the White House Conference on Aging to be held in Washington, D.C. January 9-12. She was chairman of a committee appointed to assess the resources, activities and needs of Oklahoma libraries in work with the aging. The report of this committee was incorporated in the work of the Oklahoma Conference on Aging last June.

A sabbatical leave is the good fortune of

October, 1960

Tribute To An Editor: Virginia Owens

The July issue of the Oklahoma Librarian marked the close of Virginia Owen's term as editor of OLA's quarterly publication. Only an ex-editor can fully appraise and appreciate the time, thought, and energy which an editor devotes to each issue. And each of these issues beginning in April 1957 is tangible evidence of Virginia's editorial talent.

The Oklahoma Librarian has had many editors since its start in 1950. Virginia has survived the deadline dilemma longer than any previous editor—fourteen issues reflect her flair for writing and her "nose for news." The quarterly has been consistently high in quality and reader interest. A devoted editor has made them so.

But the Oklahoma Librarian has been but one phase of Virginia's busy professional life. She received her B.A. degree at Oklahoma City University, and the M.S.T. in L.S. at the University of Illinois. From 1947 to 1957 she was on the staff of the Oklahoma City Libraries, as Assistant to the Director, and later as Library Services Coordinator. Since August 1957 Virginia has been senior field librarian with the Extension Division of the Oklahoma State Library. She has traveled many miles in the big red bookmobile to extend library service in Oklahoma from border to border. During this past year Virginia served as chairman of the Public Library Services Committee of the Oklahoma White House Committee on Aging.

Meeting the Oklahoma Librarian deadline becomes the responsibility of Louise Smith, Oklahoma City Libraries, with this issue. OLA salutes you, Virginia, for your long term of service as editor. The October 1960 issue is one you'll really enjoy reading!

Frances Kennedy

Edith Scott, O.U. Library. She is attending classes this year at the University of Chicago as part of her Ph.D. program.

Bryan Rayne was born September 13 to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wendell Tomberlin. Mrs. Tomberlin is better known to Oklahoma Librarians as Irma, past president of OLA.
Looking back on the library amendment campaign from a fall vantage point, it seems we always knew we'd get it passed and open the financial doors for more multi-county libraries. July 26 should be a landmark in the history of Oklahoma library development — the day that 392 passed.

However, for most of the month of July the outcome did not seem so sure. In fact, for two or three days after the voting, we were still not certain of victory, as the July 27 morning lead kept getting whittled down — and down — and down.

What kept the result up in the air for those of us who were watching the count almost hourly was that the two wire services, the Associated Press and United Press International, were evidently tapping two different sources. The UPI's figures ran consistently less in our favor than the AP's margin, which kept above 1000 all day. In addition, the AP did not hear from two small counties — one of them Adair county, which alone among the no-library counties did vote for the amendment until quite late on Wednesday.

So to save possible disillusionment, it was safer to keep believing the UPI figures, which at one time got down to a 424 margin of victory. With this as the lowest possible margin, we felt sure that we had won. The official figures were 114,294 for and 113,671 against.

The breakdown by county votes showed almost overwhelmingly that the larger counties, already blessed by library service, were the ones who voted for it. Aside from Adair, all the counties without any library service at all went against 392, some of them almost crushingly against. However, these were counties in which hot primary races drew out large votes, many of them misinformed about the amendment.

Shades of Thurber's "Wonderful O"

Oddly enough, in every single county whose name begins with an O the margin was in our favor. Voting in counties which already have multi-county library service showed no consistent trend. For instance Carter County (Ardmore) and Cleveland County (Norman) which are headquarters counties without even bookmobile service in either county seat, voted for the amendment, while the Chickasaw system's four other counties voted against it. Yet McClain County, only half-way in the Pioneer system, gave it the nod, even while it was voting against 391, the corporation financing amendment.

As for the campaign before the amendment, most of us here at the State Library were run-
ning as "scared" as Dr. MacVicar had suggested last fall, even while we were doing everything we could think of to get 398's advantages across to the voters. We concentrated those last few weeks on Oklahoma County, using television advertising, banners on the bookmobiles, brochures and pamphlets at Penn Square and other shopping centers—and it paid off. Oklahoma County voted for the amendment 27,724 to 22,380, a margin of 5,344.

Of course with such a small margin of victory, every county could be said to have been the winning one. Tulsa, for instance, contributed a larger total vote on the library amendment (both pro and con) than the highest number voting in the run-off primary races. The Tulsa CCLD committee members' efforts really paid off there.

Mrs. Richard Rutledge, CCLD chairman, has her own private claim to one county. Just a few days before the vote, she stopped to give two women, who had evidently just missed a Tulsa city bus, rides to St. John's hospital. They were so grateful for the lift, which helped them see a sick friend longer than they could have otherwise, that they asked how on earth they could repay their benefactor. Not loath to talk about libraries, Mrs. Rutledge said, well, they could just vote for the library amendment, and asked where they were from. They were from Pawnee county, and told Mrs. Rutledge that they would vote for the amendment. And Pawnee went for the amendment by just two votes.

Speaking for the State Library staff, the "coordinator" would like to add a final note to the weekly "communique" that many of this magazine's readers received during the campaign. It consists of heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped pass the amendment: The librarians, the trustees, the CCLD members and advisory committee members, and the library backers in every county who took 392 as their project and carried it through. Especially to Dr. Robert MacVicar of O.S.U. do we owe a debt of gratitude—for the enthusiasm he generated with his challenging speeches at last fall's institute and the OLA spring meeting.

There is much work still to be done, but that "no-library" map is losing its black spots—and the multi-county library map is gaining ground all the time.

That is a good book which is opened with expectation and closed with profit. — Table Talk, by Amos Bronson Alcott

**OLA Directory Additions**

Since the July issue several new memberships have been received. The following names bring the number of individual memberships in OLA to a total of 411, compared with 398 at this time in 1959.

Harrison, Thomas J. Northern Insurance Co., Pryor
Hatchett, Mrs. Una Vey Star-Spencer HS. Spencer
Murphy, John Norman Smith Memorial Library, Hinton
Schaefer, Mrs. Alma Orninghoff 625 Locust, Alva
Starks, Mrs. John Hominy, PL
Strickler, Mrs. Letha Guymon PL
Webb, Laverne Brookside Branch, Tulsa PL

**12 Applications Received for Contest**

The State Library has received 12 applications for the Dorothy Canfield Fisher awards given by the Book-of-the-Month Club. Two will be selected as Oklahoma's entries for the $5000 to be given to a small library for the purchase of books. In addition to the $5000, there are nine awards of $1000 for the book purchases.
Some years ago the late Kenneth Kauffman lamented editorially the great lag in writing juvenile books by Oklahoma authors. Many of the rest of us have bemoaned this situation in loud or soft tones as the opportunity arose.

This year, however, we have real cause to rejoice — three fine books for boys and girls by Oklahoma authors and all with Oklahoma settings or Oklahoma related subjects.

Alice Marriott, with the gift of making us see with her eyes and of catching us up into her own enthusiasm for her special field of research, has produced *The First Comers, Indians of America's Dawn* (Longmans, Green. $3.95) This is an introduction to archaeology written for the amateur of any age. If it doesn't make you want to put on your hiking shoes and start hunting for artifacts, there must be something wrong with you.

Grace Jackson Penney, whose earlier *Tales of the Cheyennes* was so happily received, has now given us *Moki* (Houghton Mifflin. $2.75). While Moki is a Cheyenne Indian girl, she is a tomboy type with whom any child from nine to twelve will enjoy identifying. Her impulsive nature and her strong desire to perform a deed worthy of as much attention as her brother's remind us of other little girls we have known. Mrs. Penney is a fine storyteller and we look forward with eagerness to further contributions from her.

*In Shadow of Robbers' Roost* (World. $2.95) Helen Rushmore has done us a great service in writing for the ten to twelve year olds on a theme for which we have continued demand, and with her honest treatment of a subject which could have been sensational. Is there one among us who has not had a big-eyed little boy asking for a book about Oklahoma outlaws. Here is one about William Coe and his gang, based on a "true" legend and with plenty of excitement. Yet the boy Jonny Hardy and his courageous family are the heroes of the story and the arrogant, trigger-happy outlaws lose their glamour.

These three fine stories give us cause for rejoicing and hope. May their eager acceptance encourage and inspire more of the same high quality of writing for children by Oklahoma writer about regional themes.

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**Sequoyah Book Award Committee Compiling Master List Now**

The Sequoyah Book Award Committee is engaged in compiling the 1960-61 master list from which the 1961 award will be made. All librarians interested in the award are urged to make nominations from books bearing 1958 or 1959 copyright dates. Nominations should be sent to Mrs. Allie Beth Martin, Tulsa Public Library.

Posters for display are printed and available at $2.50 each. Bookmarks will soon be ready at a low, low price. Both of these items may be ordered from Frances Du Vall, Northwestern State College, Alva.
Gretchen Schenk Visits Oklahoma Libraries

The State Library Extension Division has launched what is hoped will be a continuing program of bringing in the best library talent and brains from out-of-state to help with Oklahoma's library development problems. Mrs. Gretchen Kneif Schenk, author of County and Regional Library Development, spent two weeks in September with Library Extension Division staff members in surveying operations of Oklahoma's multi-county libraries and the problems involved in the further development of public library service in the state.

Mrs. Schenk, now a free-lance library consultant frequently called in to survey operations of libraries large and small, has had a lengthy and interesting career in library extension work. For five years she directed the operations of the Kern County (Calif.) Library system, with headquarters at Bakersfield, a library system which covers an area larger than the state of Massachusetts with branches and bookmobile stops. Later she was librarian of the Washington State Library, and has directed surveys of state library services in Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Nevada. She is editor of the regular column in the Wilson Library Bulletin called "For Extension Librarians." She resides at Summerdale, Alabama.

Most of Mrs. Schenk's visit was spent in the Ardmore area consulting with board and staff of the Chickasaw Multi-County Library and the headquarters library (Ardmore Public). Mrs. Schenk visited participating libraries and bookmobile stops, visited city officials and board members, and reviewed policies regarding services, selection of materials, processing, circulation and registration routines, and the planned integration of the Ardmore Public Library with the multi-county library system.

1960 ACTIVITIES

National Library Week 1960 in Oklahoma was tied in so closely with the opening of a campaign to pass the Library Amendment July 26 that many of the week's events and much of the publicity were state-wide in scope.

One of the events was a televised interview on the popular WKY-TV (Oklahoma City) "Tom Paxton Show" on the Monday of National Library Week, April 3-9. It starred Dr. Robert MacVicar, dean of the O.S.U. graduate school, who did such a magnificent job as lay chairman in Oklahoma. Dr. MacVicar took the occasion to stress the undeveloped condition of many Oklahoma counties as far as library service goes, and to make the first public plea for passage of State Question 392.

Also announced during the week was the formation of Oklahoma's newest multi-county library, the Chickasaw five-county library system with headquarters in Ardmore, which has

CALENDAR

November 13-19 National Book Week.
January 9-12 White House Conference on the Aging, Washington, D.C.
January 30 -February 4 ALA Midwinter Meeting, Chicago, Ill.
April 16-22 National Library Week.
July 9-15 ALA Conference, Cleveland, Ohio.

October, 1960

Plans are already under way for the 1961 celebration of National Library Week April 16-22. Executive director this year is to be Allie Beth Martin of Tulsa public library, who started her tour of duty with a planning meeting September 17 in Oklahoma City.

Members of the state planning committee, most of whom were at the meeting, are "Mike" Sexton, last year's executive director, representing public libraries; Virginia Owens, who will be 1962 executive director, and Libby Price, from the State Library; Helen Loyd, assistant librarian at John Marshall high school, vice president of the Oklahoma City public school librarians' organization, representing school libraries; Pat Baker, assistant librarian at OU's law library, special libraries, and Sister Mary Joachim, O.S.B., Benedictine Hts. College, Tulsa, college libraries.

Agenda of the meeting included 1960 report and analysis, suggestions of names for both the 1961 state-wide committee and a state lay chairman, to be suggested to and invited by the National Library Week headquarters soon. As soon as a state chairman is picked and has accepted another organizational meeting will be held.

(Turn Page)
had such a successful six-month beginning. Many of the state newspapers used releases sent out from the State Library tying in both this event and the amendment in a NLW story.

At the end of the week, members of a 170-member advisory committee to the Citizens' Committee for Library Development were announced in the state press. This committee, formed during the winter to work on the amendment passage, is continuing as a permanent group for Oklahoma library development. Several of its members also were active in NLW activities, as both Dr. MacVicar and John Martin Meek, Tulsa NLW chairman, were on the steering committee.

The state-wide NLW committee headed by Dr. MacVicar and Irvin “Mike” Sexton, Oklahoma City libraries director, as executive director for OLA, consisted of Representatives Carl Albert, McAlester, and Tom Steed, Shawnee; Mrs. Charles N. Atkins, State Representative Bryce A. Baggett, Mrs. John Kirkpatrick, Alan Schrader and E. C. “Ted” Smith, Oklahoma City; the Rev. William Findlay, and M. Darwin Kirk, also on the Citizens' group steering committee, Tulsa; Mrs. Julian Fite and L. F. Rooney Jr., Muskogee; John Barksdale, Okmulgee; Henry Bass, Enid; Gerald Coble, Norman; W. R. Hancock, Hobart; Wallace Kidd, Anadarko; Dr. M. A. Nash, Edmond; H. H. Sims, Bristow, and Mrs. John Townes, Seminole, representing school librarians.

From this state committee’s activities, one of the most widely used picture and clipping releases grew. When Representatives Steed and Albert received their Oklahoma Library Week letterhead, they were at the same time working on the extension of the Library Services Act (finally extended August 22). They had their pictures taken with Librarian of Congress L. Quincy Mumford “planning for National Library Week” and sent it out to every daily and weekly paper in the state—all of which used it.

In addition to nearly 5,000 inches of newspaper space throughout the week—including at least 20 local editorials praising reading and library service, plus widespread use of syndicated articles—most radio and television stations in the state used tape and spot announcements. One librarian in a small city quoted a patron as being “surprised how many times I heard National Library Week mentioned on the radio.” In Oklahoma City, at least, spot announcements and the Charlemagne “telops” were bought by the Oklahoma City library and used by both commercial and educational channels.

First ten cities in actual newspaper space used were: Stillwater, first; Oklahoma City, second; Tulsa, third, and so on through Okmulgee, Ponca City, Enid, Sapulpa, Woodward, Pawhuska and Seminole. In 19 cities there were lay chairmen for local NLW observances. P. M. (post mortem) reports came in to Mr. Sexton from 22 librarians.

Both reports and newspaper clippings mentioned open houses, teas, contests, book reviews in both newspapers and radio programming, series of articles, school plays, re-registration campaigns, a moratorium on fines for one week, library tours, poster displays, gifts to libraries, etc. etc. After the week was over, the Westinghouse educational TV program, “Reading out Loud”, started on Channels 11 and 13 May 6, with much interest shown through the summer.
O.U. SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SCIENCE INCREASED THIS YEAR

The enrollment for 1960-61, with a total of 605 credit hours, has increased 17% of last fall's record attendance. This means 23 students who will eventually receive graduate degrees in the field. Gerald Coble, Director, is as enthusiastic about the quality as he is about the number enrolled. Richard Moore and Mrs. Rita Lucas, have qualified for fellowship awards, working half time in the library and taking courses in the library school. A cosmopolitan air is evident with two students from Taiwan and one from Baghdad. Six states outside of Oklahoma are represented, with one student from Hawaii.

Mrs. Alice Shore, of Enid, has been awarded the OLA scholarship for 1960-61. With undergraduate training at Missouri State University, Mrs. Shore has had considerable library experience. She was chosen from a number of applicants because of her fine undergraduate record and experience.

The 1960-61 recipient of the Oklahoma State Library Scholarship, Betty Lou Neel of Tulsa, has enrolled at O.U. instead of going to Washington University as she had originally planned.

The Executive Committee of the Oklahoma Student Library Association met September 17 to discuss plans for the OSLA Day next March 18 at the school. Gerald Coble has been named sponsor, replacing Mrs. Irma Tomberlin.

Aaron L. Michelson has joined the faculty of the library school. He was formerly director of the Oklahoma Library-Community Project.

Subscription Rate Going Up

With the January, 1961 issue, non-member subscriptions to the Oklahoma Librarian will be increased to $4.00. This action was voted at the October 1, 1960 meeting of the OLA Executive Committee to keep subscription rates in line with the higher dues members will be paying in 1961, and to help defray increased costs of publication.

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Oklahoma Library Association Select Committees

Select Committees

Conference Manual John Stratton, Oklahoma State University Library, Stillwater
Legislative William H. Lowry, Cleveland-Garvin Multi-County Library
Library Development Mrs. Letta S. Dover, Bacone College Library, Muskogee
Membership and Recruiting Helen Donart, Oklahoma State University Library
National Library Week, Executive Director Mrs. Allie Beth Martin, Tulsa Public Library
Sequoyah Children's Book Award Mrs. Elizabeth Oliver, Cleveland-Garvin Multi-County Library

REPRESENTATIVES

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Southwestern Library Association Irma R. Tomberlin, 619 S. Pickard, Norman
Joint Committee on Library Work as a Career Mariam Craddock, Oklahoma City Libraries
ALA Membership Committee, State Chairman Mabel A. Murphy, Oklahoma State Library
Federal Relations Coordinator Mariam Craddock, Oklahoma City Libraries
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