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Paperback Books and The Oklahoma Public Library

Improving The Book Collection: "Weeding, In Action"

Reports on 80th ALA Conference

October 1961

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OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN

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Gerald M. Coble

A Message from the O.L.A. President

By the time this appears in print the vacations we have taken will be little more than pleasant memories and I don’t wish to impose mine on you. However, when I have an opportunity to travel, I make it a practice to visit the libraries which cross my path mostly to see how others are doing and to become acquainted with colleagues whom I might otherwise never meet but with the hope and the intention of learning something if there is anything to be learned—and usually there is!

The Book-Front Memorial Library, Liberal, Kansas, certainly lives up to its name. The facade of the center portion is built to resemble an open book with the main entrance cutting through the middle. While the book-fronted part of the library was constructed through private donations, the fine new wings on either side are the result of a successful bond issue. Liberal is a gas field boom town of sorts and the county, which the library also serves, is also doing well. Many Oklahoma citizens use this library because Liberal is the trading center for an area which includes a large part of the pathandle. What idea did I get here? The library has postcards having a full color photo of the library on one side and uses them for all correspondence where postcards are appropriate. Also the library has recently completed a self-study of the library and the communities it serves and has printed the results in a handsome, illustrated booklet. All in all, a lovely, lively, looking-ahead library.

My home town library in Longmont, Colorado, receives an annual visitation—mostly nostalgic. This time I found the librarian free for a longer talk than usual and I profited thereby. She is deeply involved in plans for a new building, which is definitely needed, in the operation of a county bookmobile service, and in plans to find a better financial basis for such service. Most important, she and her colleagues on the Legislative Committee of the Colorado Library Association had just brought off a major coup—a one hundred thousand dollar state appropriation for the support of public libraries. The Committee had spent three years working on a formula according to which any monies received would be allotted to the libraries requesting financial aid. The formula is far too complicated for adequate coverage here but the lesson is clear—have the machinery all set up and ready to go before you approach the legislature.

Finding the Denver papers loaded with fractious comments regarding an exhibit of Russian children’s books enshrined in the ample confines of the Denver Public Library, I had a ready excuse to visit that library. Appear at the circ desk, hold out a dime and you automatically receive two nickels for use in parking meters! I was delighted to find that the one Russian children’s book in my possession was included in the exhibit. Smiled wryly at the statement in large poster print that in Russia children’s books have a social purpose over and beyond the purposes of enjoyment, and etc. Didn’t doubt the statement at all and the wry amusement was called forth by some of the criticism of our own books for children—not realistic, fantastic, untrue to life, serve no useful ends, and so on. The situations are not comparable of course but . . . At any rate, I fail to understand and certainly don’t share the feeling that the Russians have bamboozled the Denver Public Library and the citizens of Denver. Rather, I think the exhibit and its implications most valuable and enlightening. One could wax lyric about the DPL main building. It shows careful thought and planning in every detail; and, while I suppose there are problems, they are not apparent in a casual tour. The Bibliographical Center really profited from the change. The Center is in a state of transition. Eulalia Chapman, for so many years the energy, the faith, the intellect behind the Center’s activities, will be most difficult to replace. One question—many libraries in Texas and in Kansas are mem-

(Continued on Page 90)
Paperback Books And The Oklahoma Public Library

by
Raymond Yamachika
and
Aaron I. Michelson

"I know we have gained many readers because of the paperbacks and not infrequently they begin to borrow hardbacks even though they come to borrow only paperbacks."

"We have felt that with our limited budget, we should buy books that are more durable."

"They are wonderful for extra copies such as Bartlett's Quotations and Plato, etc."

"Most of the paperbound books are obscene literature, especially for teenagers. There are some westerns and religious books that are all right, but most of the others are sexy and dirty reading."

"In a small library some titles are seldom checked out so a paperbound will serve and leave money to purchase other more circulated books."

"We are ordering only prebound books, for we find it a waste of time and money to consider others."

"We are purchasing more paperbacks each year."

These are but a few of the comments made by Oklahoma's public librarians in response to questionnaires investigating the use of paperbound books in their libraries.

Although a few efforts have been made in the past to obtain some kind of an estimate of the use of paperback books in the public libraries of Oklahoma, these efforts were extremely limited and ignored the greater percentage of libraries. Therefore, during the early part of 1961, a student at the School of Library Science of the University of Oklahoma, in connection with a research project, undertook an investigation dealing with this matter.

For this investigation, questionnaires were prepared, questionnaires patterned largely on an instrument previously used in a nation-wide study of paperbacks conducted several years ago by representatives of the larger paperback book publishers and approved by the Public Libraries Division of the American Library Association. However, there were certain differences between the questionnaires used in the Oklahoma study and the national study. Perhaps the primary difference was that instead of using only one type of questionnaire, two were used; one prepared for libraries using paperbacks, designated Questionnaire A; the other prepared for libraries not using paperbacks, designated Questionnaire B. Both of these Questionnaires, A and B, were mailed to all of the 114 functioning public libraries listed in the Annual Report and Directory of Libraries in Oklahoma for the Year Ending June 30, 1959, and each library was asked to complete and return the appropriate one. Of the 114 libraries, 86 responded for a percentage of 75.4.

From the results of this study, there is little doubt that paperback books of practically all types are to be found on the shelves of public libraries in Oklahoma, public libraries in the smaller as well as the larger communities. However, the results also indicate that paperback books have not gained anywhere near complete acceptance in the public libraries of this state.

Of the 86 responding public libraries, only 31 (36.1%) answered Questionnaire A, indicating they were using paperbacks, while 55 (63.9%) answered Questionnaire B, indicating they were not.

To extend this even further, out of the 55 public libraries not using paperback books, only six (10.9%) stated they were presently considering their use. In fact, 20 of the respondents indicated they had never, at any time, considered their use. Therefore, it does not seem very likely there will be a great increase in the number of public libraries using paperbacks within the near future.

This paper, originally titled SOFT COVERS AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY was submitted by Raymond Yamachika as a course requirement in the School of Library Science at the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Michelson, assistant professor of Library Science has edited the paper for this publication.

Mr. Yamachika is currently the library assistant in the Architecture Library at the University. He plans to graduate with his Master's Degree in January, 1962.
The reasons most often given for not using paperbacks generally relate to the physical book itself, and not to its textual quality. Though criticisms were made regarding the poor quality of literature in paperbacks, its lurid covers depicting sex and violence, it was the physical book that was most strongly criticized. Over 85% of the librarians who reported any dissatisfaction at all, mentioned its lack of durability as a primary factor limiting use, while about 30% of the librarians who reported dissatisfaction, claimed the paperback book to be difficult to display and shelve. In addition, a few librarians mentioned that, because of the size and flexibility of a soft covered work, it is rather easy to steal.

**Acquisition Policies**

From the results of the questionnaires, gifts appear to be a very important factor in the acquisition of paperback books, as 30 out of the 31 libraries answering Questionnaire A stated that their library acquired paperbacks as gifts. In addition, 15, or almost half of these 31 libraries, indicated they acquire paperbacks only as gifts. The other sources of supply for the libraries acquiring these books are: local bookstores, book jobbers, publishers, news and magazine agencies, and news stands.

All of the 16 libraries which said they purchased paperbacks indicated that they bought these books in an "irregular manner." In other words, they tended to purchase them as specific needs arose. None of these libraries claimed to buy paperback books in a regular manner such as by monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual purchases.

In regard to the types of paperbacks purchased, for the most part these works were in the realm of what might be considered the less serious fiction, such as mysteries, western, light fiction, and science fiction. Although a few libraries did report the purchasing of serious fiction and non-fiction, these libraries were in the minority.

The results also indicated a trend toward the purchasing of the inexpensive paperbacks, primarily works in the 25c-50c range and the 50c-$1.00 range. A few libraries mentioned that they purchased some paperbacks costing more than $1.00; however, this appeared to be a rather uncommon practice.

**Preparation**

A slight majority (16) of the public libraries that indicated using paperback books do not catalog nor accession their paperback books; eight catalog and accession these works just as they do the hardbound works; and four accession, but do not catalog. In only three libraries did the cataloging and accessioning of paperback books depend on the type of content and the permanency of the work. Therefore, the great majority of these libraries treat all their paperbacks in a similar manner in regard to cataloging or accessioning.

As to special treatment in preparation, only six of the libraries reported ever treating their paperbacks in some special way to increase their durability and longevity. This special treatment included such things as the use of plastic covers, reinforcing the binding, etc.

**Shelving**

In regard to shelving, as in the case of preparation, there was considerable variation in practices among the libraries. However, here again, the great majority of libraries (26) indicated they shelved all their paperbacks in the same manner, 19 of them segregated their paperbacks from the rest of the collection, none of them integrated their soft covers with their hard covers. Only three claimed to use a "flexible approach," intermixing certain paperbacks with the regular collection, while shelving the others separately.

**Circulation**

Twenty-three of the libraries reported lending paperback books to patrons in a manner similar to hardbound books, while eight mentioned they used a form of the "honor system"—sometimes on the "take one—return one basis.

Only 20 of the 31 libraries attempted to estimate the number of circulations which could be expected from a paperback book before it wore out and needed to be discarded or repaired. Of the 20 replies, the most common estimate was from 11—20. The next most common estimate was from 21—30. It is perhaps somewhat interesting to note that the six public libraries which indicated that they prepared their paperbacks in some special manner (i.e. using plastic covers or reinforcing the binding) all estimated getting at least 11 circulations per book, one library claiming that it got more than 20 circulations per book.

While this questionnaire did not ask the length of loans, except to ask whether paperbacks were lent in a similar manner to hardbound books, several librarians commented how paperbacks have been used successfully with individuals who want to borrow a book for an extended length of time. Also some libraries exclude paperbacks from the limit of books which a patron is per...
mitted to borrow, thereby helping to serve the needs of those who desire to borrow a large number of books.

Promotion

From the results, it would seem safe to assume that few public libraries in Oklahoma promote the use of paperback books. In fact, only one library out of the 31 responding to Questionnaire A claimed to do any promotion of paperbacks, and this was strictly limited to the “more scholarly works.” The way that these books were promoted was not specified.

General Comments

From an analysis of the general comments of the public librarians who use paperbacks in their libraries, the overwhelming majority of these comments seemed to be quite favorable. This was particularly noticeable among the librarians who said they purchase paperbacks. However, the general comments made by the librarians who do not use paperbacks in their libraries were, on the whole, quite different. For the most part these comments were highly unfavorable, the chief criticisms centering primarily on the physical book, its lack of durability and difficulty to shelve.

General Impressions Of The Authors

From the somewhat limited results obtained from this study, it is the writers’ opinion that the public libraries in Oklahoma have not given as much consideration to the paperback book as they should. This, of course, does not mean to imply that public libraries or any other libraries should acquire paperbacks just for the sake of acquiring paperbacks. Naturally, no library should stock paperback books or any other kind of material unless it will be of advantage to the institution. On the other hand, every library should explore to the fullest every opportunity which comes its way to enrich its program of service.

Few librarians would challenge the statement that the paperback book is less durable and perhaps more difficult to shelve than the hardbound book. However, the paperback does have certain important virtues which its hardbound cousin cannot always offer the library. Mainly these virtues consist of the paperback book’s low cost, and closely associated with cost, its coverage of certain useful titles which might be rather difficult to obtain through the hardbound market. (A glance through the Spring, 1961, issue of 11,500

Paperbound Books in Print would seem to confirm this.) For example, few public libraries would find it practical to purchase more than perhaps two or three hardbound copies of Dr. Spock’s Book of Child and Baby Care, a perennial best seller and a work in great demand, yet a library could buy perhaps 10 or 11 soft cover copies for the price of one hard cover copy. Perhaps even fewer public libraries would think it worthwhile to purchase Rudolph Koch’s Book of Signs, which now sells for somewhere in the neighborhood of $25.00 in the out-of-print market; yet a library could rather easily acquire this particular work in soft cover form for just $1.00 from Dover Publications. It would seem somewhat difficult to believe that a library that wanted a large number of copies of The Book of Child and Baby Care or a copy of The Book of Signs would ignore these works at these very inexpensive prices solely on the basis that they “will not last as long” or “they are more difficult to shelve.”

A close look at the paperbound book industry of the mid-twentieth century will show that the fast developing technology in which paperbacks have recently grown has given the industry such things as a more flexible synthetic glue and paper which resists yellowing and is far less brittle than that used only a few years ago. These technological advances, along with the overall improvements in production standards of certain book publishing companies, have placed certain quality paperbacks among the annual American Graphic Society’s “50 Best” for a number of years. (This includes a period of about a decade prior to the Society’s recent establishment of a special category for paperbacks.)

The writers also feel that perhaps certain public librarians treat paperbacks too much with an “either or” approach in regard to processing and shelving. Some of these librarians might want to change their policies after a closer examination of the types of paperbacks now printed. For example, many librarians might find it more feasible to deal with the paperback editions of Rawhide River and A Concise History of Mathematics with a “flexible approach” rather than classifying both of these works simply as paperbacks.

Therefore, the writers strongly feel that the time is at hand when many Oklahoma librarians should re-examine their positions regarding the paperback book. If librarians will do this, it is believed that the paperback book may then have the opportunity to play an important part in the public library’s efforts to fulfill its distinct role in our society.
Improving The Book Collection: “Weeding In Action”  

By Mary E. Murdoch

Miss Matthews in her paper has covered a definition of weeding, suggestions for formulating a weeding policy, and some general principles which may be applied in a weeding program. I will consider (1) the responsibility for a weeding program, (2) how one is carried out, and (3) some practical problems involved.

Material for some of the observations which follow has been taken from library literature. A survey of this reveals that systematic weeding, while recommended in theory, is often neglected in practice. Professional articles deal mostly with the policies of larger libraries. Here it should be noted that if weeding is important for the large library, it is crucial for the small, which must operate within restricted subject areas.

One of the principal considerations of this paper is that while responsibility for a weeding program rests directly with the library administrator, the actual weeding process may use the talents of the staff.

South Pasadena’s Program

Miss Matthews has referred to the value of a written policy on weeding. Since few libraries appear to have a written statement, and since we were unable to locate other examples, we are distributing copies of South Pasadena’s program which has been in effect for five years. This was developed for a library of 55,000 volumes, but may have application for others. The statement is called “Policy and Procedure for Upkeep of the Book Collection”.

According to this policy, each professional librarian in public service is responsible for weeding and recommending replacements and new titles for one or more classifications of the book collection. Systematic weeding is continuous, and time is scheduled each week for five librarians who carry on this work.

The procedure is as follows: Books to be examined are removed from the shelves by the librarian in charge of the section. These are turned over to a clerk who supplies routine information on a printed weeding slip, called the Book Disposition Form.

Because decisions are made on the merits of the individual book, the policy states that the librarian, after noting information on the Book Disposition Form, will examine the book in hand, to make her own appraisal of its worth, keeping in mind the following: Does the material satisfy any known need in the community? Does the book appear to have lasting value? Does uninviting appearance of the book discourage use? After evaluating, the librarian checks one of the following recommendations: discard, rebind, re-letter, repair, replace, send to storage, transfer to another library, or some special instructions. To prevent rehandling and simplify future weeding, all books examined which are retained have pertinent information briefly noted on the verso of the title page, including the current date.

For titles which appear to have value but which are not found in sources listed on the Book Disposition Form, it is recommended that the librarian spend reasonable time searching bibliographical and reference tools to determine the author’s standing and, if possible, information about the book. Books on which a librarian is unable to make a decision are referred to a subject specialist.

The following are transferred to storage: duplicate copies of seasonal popularity; titles of value but of infrequent demand; standard sets in readable print; older editions of major or minor poets, playwrights, historians and novelists; unusual books; local or regional material in frail format; books in too poor condition to remain on open shelves but which serve a unique purpose, for example, for puzzle contests. It is recommended that a book never be sent to storage un-
less in the librarian's judgment there will be some recurring call for it.

Replacements

When weeding is done systematically under a weeding and replacement program, new material can be ordered with greater economy of time and effort. When the decision to discard is made the librarian will have specific information, e.g., how adequately the subject is covered, what is available in print, etc.

If funds permit, replacements should be made as quickly as possible and order slips for new titles or new editions filled out at the time the decisions are made to retire or discard.

In weeding, replacing, and ordering, the requirements of the book collection as a whole are to be considered as well as a subject in popular demand. In working on a classification it is recommended that a librarian have brief conferences from time to time with the chief librarian who may point out problems and make suggestions.

The policy statement concludes: "It is implicit that work on the book collection never be done mechanically, but that it be done imaginatively and in an organized manner. Upkeep of the book collection is one of a librarian's most privileged assignments. It offers genuine opportunity for personal enrichment and professional growth."

"No time" is the explanation usually given for not weeding. To find time, some libraries may have to have an administrative review of all procedures and a decision on their relative importance. As a result, some activities may have to be de-emphasized, some even eliminated, in order to make time for this important work.

While it is the responsibility of the chief librarian in smaller libraries and the department head in larger ones to make the final decisions, it is possible for her to pass on a larger number of books in record time, if the preliminary searching and recommendations have been supplied by the staff.

Utilizing the general staff in a weeding and replacement program is not as radical a proposal as it may seem. Other professions, notably medicine and teaching, are reassigning duties to employees who are competent to do the work. Nurses perform many functions which were formerly reserved for physicians, while schools are using qualified aides to relieve the teacher's load.

Quality Control

Despite the fact that weeding and replacement should be an integral part of the library's work program, performance budgets, which show a high percentage of man-hours for book selection and acquisition, often show relatively little time for the re-evaluation of books which have been in the collection for years. Here again it must be understood that by "weeding" is meant the quality control of a book collection's usefulness rather than the mere disposal of worn-out books.

Miss Matthews has mentioned the high cost of administering a library where there is no planned weeding program. A clearer understanding of costs by librarians should lead to a more realistic policy on the retention and disposal of books including the practice of keeping gifts of doubtful value. Dusting, shelf-reading, shifting and taking inventory of superfluous material runs up maintenance costs. If fire insurance is figured on a per volume basis, the recurring expense to protect unused material is difficult to justify.

"Even more serious than financial loss, is the loss of prestige a library suffers when a patron draws conclusions or acts according to information from library books which are out-of-date or unreliable. Patrons feel that books are selected by experts and to some the mere fact that a book is in the library lends authority to it."

The professionally-minded librarian will have the courage to withdraw without delay, even a newly acquired book or an expensive book, if on acquaintance it proves to be below standard.

Here is an example of how one library exercised responsibility: The Brooklyn Public Library purchased many copies of Arthritis and Common Sense by Alexander. Later, when unfavorable notices appeared, the Library requested an opinion from the Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation. When the statement came explaining why the book could be harmful to readers, all copies were withdrawn.

What Should Be Kept?

Another problem even more serious than not weeding is the hazard of eliminating material which should not be withdrawn. A book should remain in the collection, no matter how old its publication date, if it is listed in bibliographies of contemporary authorities or in up-to-date standard encyclopedias. Collier's New Encyclopedia, for example, has excellent bibliographies. When in doubt, the weeding and replacement librarian may seek advice from specialists in their fields, including patrons of the library, faculty from nearby colleges, and experts in business and industry. It is well to double check on these authorities, but their advice is valuable.

Direct correspondence with publishers is another aid in weeding, since prompt replies are usually received to inquiries about contemplated new editions. A library might often prefer wait-
ing to replace with a new edition of a standard work, rather than to fill a gap with a secondary title.

Opportunities seem limitless to the enterprising librarian seeking ways to improve a book collection.

Together with the aid from bibliographies and personal contacts with subject specialists, the librarian herself needs to be increasingly aware of changes and new trends. For example, some novels bought for a young adult collection five years ago may be more suitable if transferred to the children's room today due to the growing sophistication of young people. Teaching techniques have changed so radically that books on old methods are no longer acceptable. The discovery of the hoax of the Piltdown man in 1953 hastened the obsolescence of titles in the field of archaeology. Books on house-wiring published before the last revision of the National Electrical Code in 1956 are worthless and like other outdated codes should be tossed out. Books on diseases which antedate the new drugs can be dangerously misleading and have no place in a community library.

Time does not permit further elaboration, but it might be well to point out that due to rapidly changing concepts in many fields, purchasing re-

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mainders, with certain exceptions, is a poor bargain.

My colleague has suggested that collections for small and medium-sized libraries have a maximum imposed on them. This might be valuable in formulating a long-range policy on the purposes the collection is to serve and deciding in advance on limitations for subject areas.

A place to start might be with foreign language collections — libraries are having increased demand, yet in many weeding and acquisition are in arrears. The coverage for foreign languages might be decided as follows: to acquire, over a given period of time, a basic collection in French, Spanish, German, Russian or any other needed language. The formula might be to purchase for each language a bi-lingual dictionary; a few current texts for learning the language; some short works written to interest adults; a few modern novels (these might be paperbacks); and some long-playing language learning records. These collections need not be static. Periodically they could be refreshed by adding the new basic books and eliminating the read-out titles.

The illustration on setting priorities for foreign languages might easily be applied to other fields including fiction. Planning in advance might tighten up and improve overall coverage. It might reduce impulse buying stimulated by ephemeral demand and in the long run it might provide librarians with a practical philosophy for developing serviceable book collections.

In summary it should be observed that one of the most serious deterrents to weeding is the generally accepted idea that the chief librarian or department head must do the job rather than delegate it to staff, with the chief making the final decision. The administrator who participates in a weeding program with her staff finds the sharing of decisions invaluable.

The staff member who is a systematic weeder learns the strengths and weaknesses of the collection, and becomes a better book person and reference librarian.

To gain that elusive time for weeding which the administrator never seems to have. perhaps we should paraphrase Changing Times and say: "The smart library executive is one who never puts off until tomorrow what she can get staff members to do today."

Wee to him who reads but one book —George Herbert.

What a sense of security in an old book which Time has criticized for us! —James Russell Lowell
Mabel A. Murphy Reports On The

80th Annual ALA Conference

The prestige and stature of the American Library Association nationally and internationally and the creative, constructive programs carried on by responsible divisions, committees and round tables form two sparkling facets of our professional organization. The concise reports to the Executive Council showed continued progress in improving existing service, in extending service into new areas, in probing for constructive solutions to vital problems of freedom of thought and of action, in efficient utilization of all available resources and an imaginative search for more, and in the adaptation of new processes of automation for better service. Borrowing from one report: "There's nothing going on that does not have a purpose."

Mrs. Frances Lander Spain, president, conducted all business meetings with gracious authority, allowing each item of business to receive healthy discussion from librarians from all sections of the country.

Probably the one item obviously touching more librarians than any other was the change in the dues schedule. It is quite a shock to look at the top figure of $50.00 a year, but quick relief follows a look at the matching salary, relief accompanied by the sad realization that not many Oklahoma librarians will be found in the $15,001.00 class. There are more classes than in the old schedule and the increase is moderate in most of them. The proposed schedule of dues and other amendments adopted at Cleveland were printed in the ALA Bulletin, May, 1961.

A constant comment about insufficient staff and the appalling number of positions available, in comparison with the minute list of librarians even moderately interested in changing locations only heightened the discouraging reference to "the continued apathy of individuals toward recruiting." This is a sad commentary on members of a challenging profession that has unlimited opportunities before it. If there are to be 14,000 additional positions by July 1, 1964, as one speaker suggested, it behooves each of us to do more than our share to provide quality librarians for these places.

Library legislation introduced in Congress and the discussion of this legislation has resulted, unintentionally, in the Congressional Record providing an excellent history of library progress. What happens legislatively to library development is determined to a large degree by the individual librarian and the interest that he takes in discussing proposed legislation with his representative in Congress. The same principle is just as true with state legislation.

Council approved the recommendation of COO on the responsibility for selection and evaluation of materials. Implementation by interested divisions or committees will be presented to COO by Midwinter, 1962.

The request of the American Library Trustee Association for divisional status was granted. Approval was given the recommendation that the Federal Relations Committee be made an ALA committee with full responsibility for the Association's total legislative program on all levels—federal, state and local.

One of the highlights of the conference was the talk at the first general session by the well known author, Rumer Godden. As she related many of her own experiences in writing, she emphasized each person's responsibility to the talent given to him.

With finesse, dispatch and a bit of humor the eight librarians who visited Russia in the spring of 1961 told of their experiences, giving both the advantages and disadvantages of the Russian system. Also at this second general session John T. Eastlick, director of the Public Library of Denver, emphasized a challenging future in which all types of libraries will change, causing many librarians to toss out some concepts most endearingly cherished. Since too many inadequate local libraries only perpetuate mediocrity it is essential that we plan together and work together or all sink into hopeless mediocrity.

The third general session was of particular interest to Oklahomans as this was the inauguration banquet and address by the incoming president.

(Continued on Page 88)

OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN
Libraries For All

After a great deal of deciding which meetings to attend while in Cleveland, and trying to juggle an already over-crowded schedule to fit one more important meeting, and after an even greater amount of anticipation, I was finally on my way to A.L.A. That was the thought that ran through my mind as I climbed the steps into the plane which transported me (in rather a rough fashion) to Cleveland.

I think that the first A.L.A. conference is a memorable and exciting occasion. As I said, I anticipated the meeting for many weeks and I was not in any way disappointed. From the time Mrs. Spain declared the meeting in session until the final gavel fell, I was caught up in the busy whirl of librarians, and when you get that many librarians together, believe me, it is a whirl.

Actually A.L.A. started for me on Saturday, July 8 with the American Library Trustee Association institute, Blueprint for Action. This was a pre-conference institute on the role of the trustee in policy making for the library. Dr. Lowell A. Martin gave an engrossing speech on Specifications for a trustee in which he pointed out that too many trustees seem to get bogged down in the housekeeping functions and never move on to actual policy making. Since Dr. Martin is himself a library trustee, and since he had some personal examples to give, his speech was very effective. A question and answer period followed the speech. During the afternoon librarians and trustees sat down together in small groups to actually draft sample policies on various subjects. My group worked out a policy on provision of non-book materials by the library and we had a very active discussion in the process. On Sunday morning, the institute as a whole looked over the policies drafted by the various groups and criticized and made suggestions for improving them.

This institute was an excellent chance for an exchange of viewpoints between trustees and between trustees and librarians. Certainly the role of the trustee as policy-maker is an important one in any blueprint for action and the trustees at this institute accepted the responsibility and went right to work to learn how better policies should be drafted. This was a working group.

It would be impossible to relate the happenings of every meeting that I attended (my days began early and ended late) but there are some meetings which made large impressions on me.

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, I attended the Public Library Association’s series of meetings, The Small Public Library in the Jet Age. This was an excellent series. Each morning there was a panel of librarians exchanging experiences which their libraries had had, and relating how their libraries are meeting the challenges presented to the small public library in this fast-moving world. All of the sessions were valuable, but the most inspiring meeting was on Wednesday, when a trustee from Ohio told how a very active and dedicated librarian had turned their fast-decaying library into a county-wide system of libraries which is actually meeting the needs of the citizens. He told of the many obstacles the librarian had to overcome and how the active program of just overcoming the obstacles and seizing the opportunities had given them a fast-moving library system to meet the challenges of the times. I think that all of the librarians there on Wednesday were inspired by the story of this county library. Let’s all start grasping the opportunities and down with the obstacles! In other words... “Damn the torpedos, full speed ahead.”

On Tuesday I attended the Young Adults’ Services Division meeting on Reading for deeper meaning. I had pre-registered for this meeting and had been given a reading list of four books. All those attending were to come prepared to discuss and evaluate the books assigned to them. At my particular table there were librarians from Indianapolis, New York State, Michigan, and Cleveland and two publishers’ representatives. We had a delightful morning of discussion about...
our books and then presented our evaluations to the whole group. I found this meeting particularly valuable and very enjoyable. The evaluation of books for values of deeper meaning should be very important to librarians who work with both young adults and adults.

Also during this week, I had a chance to observe the Council of A.L.A. at work. I was very impressed with these meetings and the fact that everyone does have a chance to speak for or against the questions under consideration, even if they are not council members. Of course, only the council members may vote, but all can be heard.

I was overwhelmed by the exhibits and I had to restrain myself and proceed at a ladylike pace up and down the many aisles. The professional exhibits were particularly valuable, and I did manage to visit most of them. Even though I spent part of a morning and part of an afternoon looking at exhibits, I couldn't get them all in. I had a huge shopping bag, with Winnie Ille Pu on the front, full of book catalogues, professional literature, samples of things and everything that was handed out. Luckily for the members of the state library staff attending the conference, Bill Morris of Ardmore drove to the meeting and we were able to send our booty back by him, which I am sure made the airlines very happy.

One particularly interesting exhibit was the Russian Children's Book Exhibit which happened to be at the Cleveland Public Library during the conference. I was amazed at the number of books included in languages other than Russian. I had been aware of the mass publication of books for distribution outside of Russia, and of the importance placed upon learning of foreign languages by the Russian children, but this display of books certainly was disturbing to say the least. Mark Twain's works were in abundance in various languages. The Prince and the Pauper seems to be the favorite one to translate. I saw it in Spanish, German, Dutch, Russian and English and I found several cuts from the book included in readers. Most of the books were paperback and on rather poor paper. This, of course, makes it possible to sell them for less and achieve mass distribution—something that American publications do not always achieve because of price. I was intrigued with the illustrations, which I found to be colorful and enchanting, though some looked rather old fashioned. I found such old favorites as Hans Brinker among the collection but I did not see any Russian editions of modern American children's books. There were many foreign language textbooks also. I tried to engage one of the Russians in conversation, but she would only answer specific questions and say nothing more. Books are powerful and important propaganda tools and the Russians seem to be using their children's books for this purpose, at least the cheaply produced foreign language books which are getting mass distribution seem to be for this purpose.

All of the meetings were valuable as far as I am concerned, for they gave me a chance to learn of what others are doing in their efforts to provide libraries for all. I found the personal contacts with librarians from all over the country stimulating and exciting, as well as just plain fun.

I went to Cleveland with a full schedule of meetings and I attended all of them plus some, after all who could sleep or even want to with all of that excitement going on. And whoever thinks that library meetings are deadly-dull is certainly mistaken. A more dedicated, hard-working, interested, active, stimulating (the adjectives could go on forever) group of people would be very hard to find. The roles of the librarian and the trustee in providing libraries for all are big ones and there is a great deal of work to be done before we can truly say that everyone has equal access to libraries. But with librarians and trustees like the ones I met in Cleveland, we certainly are on the right track.

I returned to Oklahoma City physically tired, but mentally inspired and anxious to go back to work, so I could put some of the new-found knowledge to work.

Miami Beach, here I come.

Recruitment Contest

The OLA Recruitment Committee is sponsoring an exhibit contest in conjunction with the television series discussed elsewhere in this issue. All Oklahoma high school students are invited to prepare an original work entitled, WHAT IS A LIBRARIAN?

The entries may be any form of writing, art work, or other media. They will be judged by the committee, Della Thomas, chairman, Virginia LaGrave, Sarah Jane Bell, Sylvia Coles, Elva Curtis, Thelma Gunning, Dorothy Gleason, and Jane Stevens. The winning contestant will be the guest of the Association at Stillwater and receive a prize book.

Full contest information may be obtained from Mrs. Thomas, OSU Library, Stillwater.
Eager readers strip the shelves of the Caddo-Grady Multi-County bookmobile at a recent stop in Broxton in the left hand picture above. On the right the Library staff restocks the bookmobile for another busy run. Left to right are: Mrs. Cecil Benson, administrative assistant; Miss Suzanne Johnson, bookmobile librarian, and Miss Mabel A. Murphy, acting administrative librarian.

Progress of Oklahoma’s newest multi-county library, the Caddo-Grady county system, has been overwhelmingly gratifying both to the residents of those counties and to the State Library’s Extension Division operating its 18-month demonstration period.

Mabel Murphy, who joined the library staff as field librarian a year ago, has been acting administrative librarian of the Caddo-Grady library since its start on March 15, just about six months ago. For a week the bookmobile visited the largest towns on a shortened schedule, then settled down to a five-day week of service to all corners of both counties.

Already two new libraries have been started, in Cyril June 1 (Caddo County) and in Minco September 15 (Grady), while another existing library has been reactivated by interested citizens of Cement. Longer hours at Carnegie, Hinton and Rush Springs libraries and increased book stocks have resulted from participation in the multi-county organization. The six libraries have revolving collections of around 200 books apiece from the multi-county book stocks. During the summer new rentals from McClurg were added to the collections.

In July, a typical month, circulation figures were: Caddo—1,599, bookmobile circulation; 1,648 books to participating libraries; 75 special requests: total, 3,320. Grady—1,648, bookmobile; library 40, and requests, 33; total, 1,721. Grand total for the month—5,041 books.

Beginning in June, the bookmobile changed to a Tuesday through Saturday week, so that the bookmobile would be in the larger market towns on Saturday, shopping day for the entire area. This is being retained through the school year this fall.

Response from residents has been extremely favorable, with much interest in reading for both knowledge and pleasure. Miss Murphy has started a newsletter to circulate via the bookmobile; local and district library boards’ names are listed, plus interesting quotations about reading and libraries, news of the bookmobile staff and contributions from readers. New services of the library, such as a collection of books on Oklahoma, a film circuit with five films weekly, contests for both youngsters and adults on reading content—all have been announced in the newsletter and in the two-county press.
NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board of OLA met September 23 at 9:30 a.m. in the Staff Room of the Oklahoma City University Library.

Members present were Gerald Coble, Elizabeth Cooper, Mary Ann Wentroth, Mrs. Austin Smith, Juanita Means, Mabel Murphy, and Mrs. Elizabeth Oliver. Mrs. Frances Barnes, Mel Spence and Esther Mae Henke were guests.

Mr. Coble opened the meeting. Minutes of the May 27 meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Coble presented two letters from ALA thanking OLA for the $265.41 donation to the Building Fund.

Miss Cooper reported that the tax deductible status of OLA had not been approved but that the details were gradually being worked out.

The treasurer’s report showed $1,254.76 in the General Fund, $270.50 in the Sequoyah Book Award Fund, and $481.40 in the Past Presidents’ Fund for a total of $1,906.66. The membership totals are: personal—300, institutional—22, lay—16, trustee—51, organization—2, for a total of 384. There are 12 separate subscriptions to the OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN.

Miss Wentroth announced that a $37 surplus from the September 22 Book Selection Workshop was being turned in to the treasurer from the Children’s and Young People’s Services Division.

Miss Murphy reported that at the ALA meeting the two issues of raising the dues and library integration were given much time and consideration. She reported from the SWLA Board meeting that the 1964 meeting will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, that the Board is recommending that only one person represent each state in SWLA, and that a raise in fees is under consideration.

It was announced that 1962 National Library Week Plans are underway in Oklahoma. Virginia Owens is the State Executive Chairman. Eugene Hodges will assist her this year and take over the chairmanship for 1963.

The site of the 1964 OLA meeting was discussed. Miss Murphy moved the acceptance of the invitation from Oklahoma City. Miss Wentroth seconded the motion and it carried. Miss Cooper moved that the tentative 1964 dates be April 24-25. This motion carried also.

The theme of the 1962 Conference to be held in Stillwater is THE IMAGE OF THE LIBRARY. Miss Wentroth is planning closely coordinated conference meetings.

Mrs. Barnes reported upon the attempt to combine OLA and OEA efforts in the field of school librarianship. Mrs. Smith moved that the Board endorse the plan and offer any support possible. Miss Cooper seconded the motion and it passed.

Mr. Coble announced that the new position of State Supervisor of School Libraries is now open. Gladys Tingle and Frances Barnes, heads of the OLA and OEA school library sections, were asked to form a committee to recommend candidates for the job.

Miss Murphy moved that the Board send a letter of appreciation to Louise Smith for her fine performance as editor of the OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN. Miss Wentroth seconded the motion and it passed.

Miss Henke announced that a series of programs about libraries will begin October 6 on TV Channel 13. Sponsored by the State Library, many Oklahoma Librarians will participate in the planning and presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40.

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National Library Week Reviewed

Safest thing to say about National Library Week, 1961, in Oklahoma is that it was more local than it was national, or even state. With no state-wide "horse" to ride, such as the library amendment in 1960, local newspapers used nearly as much space (4,236 inches as opposed to 4,843 last year). However, the bulk of the stories used were about local libraries and library situations, rather than any state-wide releases which figured so heavily in last year’s lineage. True, many of the small-city editors ran syndicated editorials instead of their own thoughts on library matters, which the library amendment engendered in 1960. But otherwise local events—open houses, teas, exhibits, programs in the libraries, poster and essay contests—held court.

This seems to the state library committee on NLW (headed by Allie Beth Martin for librarians and Mr. John Rogers of Tulsa as lay chairman) a healthy situation for Oklahoma libraries to have reached one year after the library amendment passed. While there were still not as many local public libraries’ reports as there might have been, the many that did come in seemed more detailed, more aware of the need for involving citizens. Laymen’s committees over the state, specifically in Woodward among the smaller cities and in Tulsa among larger areas, functioned smoothly and for a purpose.

Another trend this year was the growing number of county-wide and even regional committees. Thus Tulsa’s was a county committee, representing all the smaller towns and cities in the area, with Tulsa’s city-county library vote coming up in the fall a prod to action. A very active group in Texas county, up in the Panhandle, did an unprecedented job in alerting the whole section to library development problems. Under the direction of Guymon radio station owner T. W. Raburn and Paul Parham, librarian at Panhandle A. and M., each town had its committee member and played host to a State Library demonstration bookmobile on a touring schedule National Library Week.

Both in this county and in the Chickasaw Multi-County area (which took in Ardmore, Tishomingo, Marietta, Davis and Madill people as well as their surrounding counties) there was even a move to “come over into Texas” and help. The Chickasaw bookmobile had a 15-minute show on KBII-TV, Sherman, Texas, and the State Library demonstration bookmobile had two bus-loads of school children from the Texas Panhandle cross the line to visit in Texhoma.

—Otherwise National Library Week contacts this year moved into four areas not emphasized last year. School librarians, as part of a nation-wide effort to concentrate on and improve school library standards, functioned as never before under the guidance of Helen Lloyd of Oklahoma City’s John Marshall high school and Seminole’s Mrs. John B. Townes. One of the most interesting school programs was at Douglass High School, Oklahoma City, where Sarah Jane Bell planned an assembly program and dedication of Douglass’s new Negro literature collection, both honoring and reflecting the guiding spirit of retiring principal F. D. Moon.

Second new area was an attempt to reach the churches of the state, both to mention National Library week to their congregations and to recognize the growing number of churches which have their own libraries. Mr. Rogers, being past Council of Churches president in Tulsa, was particularly interested in this and Olen Nalley of Oklahoma City as chairman of an inter-faith committee did yeoman service above and beyond the call of duty.

College presidents were represented also on Mr. Rogers’ state committee and all either took active part in their own city and county organization or planned campus programs.

Fourth area, germinated last year when amendment publicity mentioned the value of good libraries to growing communities and lures for new industry, was the release of statements by business leaders over the state praising the role of libraries in their respective businesses or professions.
OKLAHOMA CITY

Elizabeth Cooper has begun her duties as Adult Service Librarian with the Oklahoma City Public Libraries. Miss Cooper replaces Louise Smith who resigned the position to join the staff of the San Antonio Public Library.

MUSKOGEE

2,647 boys and girls participated in the Summer Reading Project at the Muskogee Public Library. 1,269 of these earned Reading Certificates by reading a minimum of 12 books. U.S.A. READING CLUB was this year’s theme.

Richard J. Covey, former Director of the Muskogee Public Library and active member of OLA, has been elected Vice-President and President Elect of the Alabama Library Association. He has been Director of the Huntsville Public Library since October 1960.

NORMAN

The Norman Public Library began its very popular pre-school story hours October 4. One hundred and twenty 4 and 5 year olds fill the four sections that will meet weekly through the fall. Mrs. Wilna Tipps and Mrs. Mary Sloan conduct the programs.

ARDMORE

Mrs. Theresa Roberson, Carver Branch Librarian of the Ardmore Public Library died September 21, 1961 after an extended illness.

WEATHERFORD

Ernest A. Thomas, former librarian of the Southwestern State College library, died of a heart attack August 6 in Wichita, Kansas. The family was en route from Mankato, Minnesota, where Mr. Thomas was head librarian at Mankato State College, to Conway, Arkansas, where he had been librarian at Arkansas State Teachers College.

Mrs. Anne Oakes Cramer, 1951 graduate of the O.U. School of Library Science, joined the Southwestern State College Library as head of the cataloging unit, September 1, 1961. She came to Weatherford from Kansas City, Missouri where she was Headquarters Librarian at the Johnson County Library.

REMEMBER

NATIONAL CHILDREN’S BOOK WEEK will be November 12-18. Materials may be ordered from the Children’s Book Council, Inc., 175 Fifth Ave., New York 10, New York.

ALA Conference

(Continued from Page 82)

Mrs. Florinell F. Morton. In addition to being a speaker at the last meeting of OLA, Mrs. Morton is president of Southwestern Library Association. Her inaugural address, “United by Common Interests and Common Purposes” brought an understanding of the challenges and goals before us and avenues of progress based on enthusiastic cooperation.

Since there was no official registration by state, the list of Oklahomans in attendance may be incomplete. If there were those at the conference whose names are not included, please let us know as we wish to have a complete list. Known to have attended: Miss Mary Mathis, Miss Mary Jeanne Hanson, Mrs. Austin Smith, Miss Elizabeth Cooper, Miss Virginia La Grave, Miss Esther Mae Henke, Mrs. Virginia Collier, Miss Dee Ann Ray, Mrs. Rachel Whitaker, Miss Virginia Owens, Mrs. Frances Doll, Miss Adeline Franzel, Mr. and Mrs. Mel Spence, John Stratton, James Gourley, William Morse, William Lowry and your councillor, Mabel A. Murphy.

For people who like that kind of book, this is the kind of book they will like.—Abraham Lincoln

Colonial Book Service

Specialists in supplying the out-of-print books as listed in all Library Indices (Granger Poetry; Essay and General Literature; Shaw; Standard; Fiction; Biography; Lamont Catalogue; Speech, etc. . . .)

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23 EAST FOURTH STREET
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Children's Book Selection Workshop Held At OCU

The Children's and Young People's Services Division of the Oklahoma Library Association and the Extension Division of the State Library co-sponsored a Children's Book Selection Workshop at the Oklahoma City University Student Union on September 22, 1961.

Ninety librarians and interested persons from Oklahoma City, Shawnee, Norman, Stillwater, Enid, Woodward, Fairfax, Wewoka, Ardmore, Guthrie, Okmulgee, Tonkawa, Bartlesville, Ada, Midwest City, Tulsa, Pauls Valley, Duncan, Bristow, Lindsay, Ringling, Healdton, Wilson, Kingston, Chickasha, and Sapulpa gathered to examine and discuss over 250 late spring and summer books for children and young people.

The afternoon session featured an outstanding discussion and exhibit of display materials by the Curriculm Librarian of Oklahoma State University, Mrs. Della Thomas.

A Workshop to review fall and winter publications is being planned at Oklahoma State University.

Books In Good Hands Series Being Shown

Starting October 6, and every Friday at 6:30 p.m., on Oklahoma's two educational television channels, KETA-TV and KOED-TV, is a new series on libraries, called "Books in Good Hands." Planned by the State Library staff, the series is the result of an idea developed jointly by Ralph Hudson, state librarian and archivist, and John Dunn, director of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority. Libby Price is behind-the-scenes coordinator and script writer, when the participants need and want a script.

So far, most of the participants seem willing to take of for the half-hour on their own. Bill Lowry of Norman, director of the Pioneer Multi-County Library system, will be master of ceremonies on the entire series and participant in the first one, probably already viewed by the time the Librarian gets in the mails. He is to discuss "Bookmobile Trails in Oklahoma" with earnest practitioners Esther Mae Henke, Virginia Owens and his own new assistant librarian, Betty Lou Neel.

Other programs to run in October are "Room for Hundreds More," a recruitment session, with Mabel Murphy, Della Thomas and Miss Neel again (she was 1960-61 State Library staff scholarship winner), October 13; "Behind the Scenes in Your Library," October 20, with Jim Gourley, Elizabeth Cooper, Mary Ann Wentroth, and "Once Upon a Time," a story-telling just before Hallowe'en, with Elizabeth Oliver, Wilma Tipps and Beth Heimann.

November programs will explore generally the field of special libraries, with two December television shows on books and book-giving. The series will take a winter holiday, start in again with the new semester early in February. Many of the topics barely touched in November will be in the spring.

Ideas for such programs are welcomed at the State Library from librarians over the state, especially for a school library program in the spring. Book marks were to go out to public libraries around October 1, announcing the series for general viewing.

Everywhere I have sought rest and found it not except sitting apart in a nook with a little book—Thomas A Kempis.
Changes Announced For John Cotton Dana Contest

Two important changes have been made in the rules for the annual John Cotton Dana Publicity Awards Contest, it is announced by the Wilson Library Bulletin, and the American Library Association’s Public Relations Section (Library Administration Division), who jointly sponsor the awards.

In future, entries from public libraries will be grouped for judging according to size of population, as usual, but further categorization into "municipal" or "county or regional" libraries has been abandoned. The division was made in the past on the grounds that county and regional libraries were in general not so well financed or developed as municipal libraries, and needed special consideration from the John Cotton Dana judges. This generalization is no longer valid.

Other categories remain unchanged, as follows: school libraries, college and university libraries, service libraries (divided by type of service), miscellaneous (special libraries, state libraries, library associations, etc.).

Secondly, an attempt has been made to clarify rules governing the nature of publicity activity which will be considered for the awards. The rules have been specified that scrapbooks submitted must reflect an entire year's work in publicity. A new rule enlarges that specification to include scrapbooks reflecting special publicity projects, even if they occupied less than a year. Examples would be bond drives, salary campaigns, etc.

The new rules are available from John Cotton Dana Publicity Awards Contest, c/o Wilson Library Bulletin, 950 University Avenue, New York 32, N.Y.

President’s Message

(Continued from Page 75)

bers of the Center but only one library in Oklahoma, a special library in Tulsa, has joined and is receiving the benefits of membership. Why is this so?

Last and least was the library of a popular resort town. Receiving little support from the town but relying on fees and gifts to finance its activities and to provide its book stock, the library still manages to be a warm and inviting place. Oh, the book stock is a bit shabby and old and much of the material is hardly what one would hope to find in such a library but the library does serve and that in itself is a triumph.

So much for this crop of library visits. We in Oklahoma have our own particular problems to worry about—big problems, little problems, perhaps even some imaginary problems. It helps some to know that we are not alone, but the help falls into the category of moral support for the most part. Still we can be as hard working and as imaginative as any set of librarians anywhere, and those two factors plus absolute dedication still constitute the best answer to the difficulties which face us.

GERALD M. COBLE

OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN
Library Development Plan Is Studied

By invitation of Mr. Ralph Hudson, State Librarian, a number of persons involved in the library development program of Oklahoma met in Oklahoma City on October 11, 1961. Attending were Dr. Arthur McAnally, University of Oklahoma Librarian, Mr. Gerald Cobe, Director of the O.L. Library School and President of OLA, Miss Virginia Owens, Field Librarian and acting head of the Chickasaw Multi-County Library, Mrs. Leta Dover, Boacme College Librarian, Miss Mary Ann Wentworth, President-elect of OLA, Miss Mable Murphy, Field Librarian and acting head of the Caddo-Grady Multi-County Library, Mr. James Gourley, Tulsa Public Librarian, Mrs. R. D. Myers, Clinton trustee, Mr. Edmon Low, Oklahoma State University Librarian, Miss Esther Mae Henke, State Extension Librarian, Mr. William Lowry, Pioneer Multi-County Librarian, and Mr. Hudson.

The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the progress made on the Oklahoma State Plan and after Mr. Hudson gave a brief statement about the background of the Plan, Miss Henke reviewed the establishment of the four multi-county libraries, outlining the way each was set up and operated, and the status of the three that are still in existence.

The question, "Where do we go from here?" stimulated much discussion. Ways other than multi-county or city-county arrangements were discussed as being perhaps easier to establish and more efficient to operate, but after considering many facets of the problem the group concluded that the Plan was the only feasible means for Oklahoma library development at this time.

Continuing the discussion into the afternoon session, a series of recommendations was drawn up by the participants.

1. That currently operating multi-county units be given full support and new ones established as they can be arranged.
2. That the Plan be accelerated with a state grant-in-aid program.
3. That scholarships be promoted to furnish personnel for the expanded library service.
4. That the Legislative Committee and the Library Development Committee of OLA were suggested to implement Nos. 2 and 3.

Sequoyah Committee Elects Secretary

The Sequoyah Book Award Committee has elected Frances DuVall, Alva, to be its Executive Secretary for a five year term. Established this year, the office will give a measure of stability to Award procedures for information and materials may be obtained from this address and all ballots will be tabulated here.

Write to Miss Frances DuVall, Librarian, Northwestern State College, Alva, for Sequoyah booklists, sample ballots, and bookmarks. The bookmarks are priced at 50c per hundred. The other materials are free.

To surpass last year's voting, over 17,000 Oklahoman youngsters will have to participate in the late winter ballot. Send for details now for the boys and girls of your community.

Now Is the Time To Nominate An Officer

Now is the time to send in your suggestions for OLA officers for the year 1962-1963. Offices to be filled in the election are: First Vice-President and President-Elect, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Nominees must be members in good standing of the Oklahoma Library Association. The Membership Directory appeared in the July 1961 issue of OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN. New members are listed elsewhere in this issue.

It is your responsibility to nominate librarians with leadership and vision—librarians who are willing and able to carry forward the high standards required in the years ahead.

Send in your nominations to the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Miss Frances Kennedy, Oklahoma City University Library, Gold Star Memorial Building, Oklahoma City 6, Oklahoma. November 15, 1961 is the deadline.

5. That the Citizens' Committee that spearheaded the successful campaign for the Library Amendment be requested to help with these projects.
6. That a survey of library service in Oklahoma be made as soon as possible.

Anybody that's got time to read half of the new books has got entirely too much time.—Kin Hubbard

OCTOBER, 1961
School Librarians Hold Meeting; Gladys Tingle Heads New Committee

Representatives from three Oklahoma organizations of school librarians met at Norman on July 10, 1961, to initiate a program to abolish duplication of services. The head of each organization was chosen to serve on a committee to formulate and recommend a plan of action.

Gladys Tingle, Ada, chairman of the School Libraries Division of the Oklahoma Library Association, will act as chairman of the new committee. Sarah Jane Bell, Oklahoma City, president of the Secondary School Librarians of the Oklahoma Education Association, is secretary for the committee. The third member is Frances Barnes, Chickasha, president of the Librarians' Section of the Oklahoma Education Association.

To begin its study, the committee is consulting various organizations of school librarians over the nation as well as individuals experienced in this field. When the replies have been compiled, it is hoped that a formal or informal organization can be established to coordinate the activities of these groups. This has recently been done on the national level with the formation of a School Librarians Division in the National Education Association that works in conjunction with its sister division in the American Library Association.

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