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ON THE COVER
GO PLACES WITH BOOKS during the 1968 Children's Book Week (November 17-23). This bright poster by Ellen Raskin is one of many inexpensive display items available from Children's Book Council, national headquarters for Children's Book Week. For an Illustrated brochure write to CBC, 175 Fifth Ave., New York

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The Oklahoma Librarian is the official organ of the Oklahoma Library Association, and as such, carries news of the Association, its members, divisions, and the addresses of conference speakers, as well as general articles. Published quarterly in January, April, July and October. Second-class postage paid at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112. Postmaster, please send Form 3579 to Post Office Box 12568 Oklahoma City, Okla. 73112. Mailed to each member of the Association upon payment of regular dues, $2.00 of which is for one year's subscription. Subscription price to nonmembers is $1.00 per year. Membership dues and subscription should be sent to the Treasurer. The OLA membership year is the calendar year.

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October, 1968

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OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN
A Message from
the OLA President

A rose is a rose is a rose.
But what is a library? More specifically, what is a good public library?

The only definition which interests us is one which tells us how to build good public libraries in Oklahoma. Unlike the poet, a gardener will define the rose in terms of the soil and climate needed to produce full flowering.

Librarians who want to build libraries in Oklahoma need to know first what a good library is and second, the conditions which will produce them, here and now, in our state. When we arrive at sufficiently valid, clearcut, and full answers, they may be called standards for Oklahoma libraries. We are interested in standards as goals towards which we can work, with a real hope and conviction that Oklahomans deserve the best possible libraries and that they can be obtained.

Standards tell us how close we are coming to translating our dreams into reality. They give us the assurance that the goals we are pursuing are attainable, by providing understandable measures of our progress along the way. They can best be used not as measures of a library’s failures and inadequacies, but as measures of its strengths and potential, and of the challenge and opportunity for further progress.

Without adequate standards for public libraries, we are left only with our daydreams of sometime, somehow, achieving that sometime thing, a good library, which we will never have really defined or conceptualized.

A good library starts with a vision of what library service can be to real people in a real state, our state. Like Jacob wrestling with the angel, a committee of OLA members representing all kinds of public libraries has been working all summer trying to pin down the dream, measure it, calibrate its wingspread, and analyze its flying mechanism and flight potential. The Joint Committee on Oklahoma Public Library Standards is sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Oklahoma Council on Libraries, and OLA. During the hot summer and early fall, it has continued to meet and work, study similar standards both national and from other states, and carry on correspondence and interviews with OLA members.

What do you want these standards to do for you? What do you want to know about your own public library? How can standards be made most useful to librarians and board members in working with their governing authorities? What do you think should be in the standards?

These are the questions the committee has asked many of you in person, by mail, in workshops and meetings.

The completed draft will represent the best and most complete guide to achieving good public libraries that Oklahoma librarians can put together. It should be only the first of many drafts, to be constantly tested in actual application and revised in the light of newer methods, advances in the profession, and the changing needs of library users.

A rose is a rose is a rose. Standards are the blueprints from which we can build our dream libraries in Oklahoma. And a really good public library is not a sometime thing.

October, 1968
M. B. Polson

A Great American Poet

By Joy Flasch

In the August 7, 1965, issue of Saturday Review, critic Robert Donald Spector made the following evaluation of Oklahoma poet Melvin Beaunorus Tolson in his review of Tolson's most recently-published work, Harlem Gallery: Book I, The Curator:

Tolson stands apart from and above contemporary poetic accomplishment . . . Sufficient to say that whatever his reputation in the present critical clime, Tolson stands firmly as a great American poet.³

Eight months earlier in mid-January, poet-critic Karl Shapiro had also praised Tolson's work highly in a pre-publication review appearing in the Book Review section of the New York Herald Tribune:

The Harlem Gallery is as if improvised by one of the great architects of modern poetry. It may be that this work, like other works of its quality in the past, will turn out to be not only an end in itself but the door to poetry that everyone has been looking for.²

Both reviewers were struck by the fact that although Tolson had been writing for several decades and attempts had been made by such eminent men of letters as Allan Tate, William Carlos Williams, John Ciardi, and Robert Frost to bring his work to public attention, he was virtually unknown. Shapiro stated bluntly that Tolson's work had been ignored because he was a Negro poet who had refused to accommodate himself to "the Tradition"; Libretto for the Republic of Liberia (1953) "pulls the rug out from under the poetry of the Academy; on the stylistic level, outpouring Pound, it shocks the learned into a recognition of their own ignorance"; Harlem Gallery "pulls the house down around their ears." Spector agreed, pointing out, however, that "here is a poet whose language, comprehensiveness, and values demand a critical sensitivity rarely found in any establishment." Whatever the reason, it is true that three years after these extraordinary tributes, many readers know little about this "great American poet," Melvin B. Tolson, who conceived, wrote, and polished the two books of poetry which earned such words of praise from the critics, during the eighteen years he spent as a professor of English and speech at Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma.

Although Tolson had been poet laureate of Liberia since 1947 and had published a book of poetry in 1944, Rendezvous With America, also warmly received by critics, the name Tolson was familiar primarily to those Oklahomans who had seen his oldest son, Dr. M. B. Tolson, Jr., Professor of French at the University of Oklahoma, in his role as an instructor on educational television Channel 13. Within a matter of hours after Shapiro's review, fame descended on the sixty-five year old professor who would retire within four months. On that frosty Sunday he was not preparing a lecture or writing poetry, however; nor was he enjoying Shapiro's review as he relaxed in his modest white-frame house just off Highway 33 in the little all-Negro village of Langston. He was fighting for his life in St. Paul's Hospital, Dallas, Texas, where he had just undergone his second major abdominal operation for cancer within a period of eight months. A dynamic little man whose very being vibrated with energy, he had been stricken with a malignancy just as public recognition and time to write were almost his.

Certainly his morale needed the boost the accolade of letters, telegrams, and telephone calls gave as his many friends and acquaintances across the country read the review, which had been picked up by newspapers from San Franci-
co to Washington, D.C. The doctor who had performed his first operation had given him six months to live eight months ago, but Tolson, like Tennyson's aging Ulysses, resolved that "Some work of noble note may yet be done," and he was back in his classroom by the end of February. He was gone again by the end of March, but not because of a relapse. Harlem Gallery was at last on the stands, and the author was in demand in New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. Long ignored by the reading world, he now received an invitation to the White House to present a copy of his book to President Johnson. And Karl Shapiro, the poet-critic whose review had precipitated this acclaim, journeyed to the campus of Langston University in April for Fine Arts Week, appropriately dedicated to Tolson, to pay his respects in person.

In the days ahead, one honor succeeded another. Retiring in May after a near half-century of college teaching—twenty-four years at Wiley College, Marshall, Texas, and eighteen at Langston— he was invited to be the first Avalon Professor of Humanities at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, for 1965-66. He wrote several book reviews for the New York Times. In October he spoke at the Library of Congress under the auspices of the Gertrude Whittall Poetry and Literature Fund. And miraculously, a few weeks after a third operation in late October, he was able to appear at a reception given in his honor at the Liberian Embassy.

Each invitation came as a delightful surprise to Tolson, for although he had had faith in his ability as a poet for over forty years, he had almost resigned himself to writing for the "horizontal" audience of the future, not the "vertical" audience of the present. He was especially pleased with the invitations which came at last from Oklahoma groups: a Central State College Poetry Workshop; the annual luncheon for English teachers at the O.E.A. Convention (a date he was unable to keep because of the October operation) the Oklahoma State University of Arts and Sciences banquet. He did not disappoint his audiences. Those who have heard him speak find it difficult to say whether he was a better speaker or poet.

Perhaps his most significant honor came in May, 1966, when George Kennan, president of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, presented the Academy's annual poetry award to him in New York City. Following this presentation, he and Mrs. Tolson returned to their home in Langston. There was one more date to keep in Oklahoma before returning to Dallas for the checkup he had postponed as long as possible.

For this date, all the Tolsons would go to Norman, Oklahoma, where a dream of some thirty years would be realized. The role education had always played in the Tolson family is evident not only in the forty-two years which Tolson had given to college teaching, but in the number of degrees accumulated by Professor and Mrs. Tolson and their four children. When he and Ruth Southall had married forty-four years before, he had just received his bachelor's degree from Lincoln University, Oxford, Pennsylvania. Later he earned a master's degree from Columbia University, and, as a result of his literary achievements, he was awarded two honorary doctor's degrees from Lincoln University. Mrs. Tolson and their daughter Ruth, now a member of the library staff at Howard University, attained master's degrees at Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma respectively. Of the three sons, M. B., Jr., had received a Ph. D. in French from the University of Oklahoma and Wiley had earned a Ph. D. in biochemistry from Georgetown University. Now in June, 1966, the Tolsons gathered to attend commencement exercises once more at the University of Oklahoma, where Arthur, the third son, was awarded the Ph.D. in history.

A few days later Tolson entered St. Paul's Hospital for the last time. Three operations were performed in the two months ahead in a desperate attempt to prolong the life of the courageous little man who insisted that he had "miles to go before I sleep." He spoke often of the five-volume epic which he had begun. Harlem Gallery: Book I, The Curator was only the introductory volume to the massive work which would narrate the story of the Negro in America from the time he was brought to this country in chains to his liberation almost 300 years later. He had begun research for Book II, Egypt Land and was thinking ahead to the remaining volumes: Book III, The Red Sea (Civil War); Book IV, The Wilderness (Reconstruction and following); and Book V, The Promised Land (The present and future). He knew that what he needed most was time—time to complete his own monument. As one of his characters in Harlem Gallery said, a work of art is an everlasting flower in kind or unkind hands dried out,

it does not lose its form and color in native or in alien lands.

But he also knew that his time was running out, and in one of the few conversations in which he spoke of his impending death, he expressed the very human wish that someone, or perhaps the

October, 1968
state of Oklahoma, would put a marker on the highway running by his house in Langston, indicating that an Oklahoma poet had lived and worked here, a wish that so far has not been fulfilled.

The death of Melvin Beaunorus Tolson on August 29, 1966, marked a great loss to American literature, but in the time allotted him, he did make a significant contribution to twentieth-century poetry, a lasting contribution, as those familiar with his three books—Rendezvous With America, Libretto for the Republic of Liberia, and Harlem Gallery—can testify. He will always be remembered by the thousands of students to whom he preached that mediocrity was not good enough—students like James Farmer, ex-director of CORE; by the debaters he coached at Wiley College; the debaters who established at one time a ten-year winning streak and who initiated interracial debating in the South and Southwest; by the drama students he directed over a span of forty years, several of whom went on to attain success in Hollywood and on Broadway. Nor will he be forgotten by the many audiences who watched the dynamic speaker manipulate them from laughter to tears as he juxtaposed earthy folk tales and classical allusions in dazzling metaphorical language which had meaning for all, yet challenged the most intellectual among them.

But perhaps most of all, Tolson will be remembered by those who were privileged to know him personally, for words on a printed page cannot possibly capture the warmth of the little professor whose enthusiasm for life and people radiated to those around him. Shortly after his death, Jack Bickham, Oklahoma newspaperman and novelist who had known him but a short time, wrote a tribute to him entitled "A Superbly Successful Human B:ing" which explains why Tolson lives in the hearts of those who know him as poet, philosopher, teacher, and friend. He wrote,

... if Tolson had any quality that was most impressive, it was his uncanny ability to make every person he met feel special—important. He was a superbly successful human being whose love for his fellow man gave him a vitality unique in my experience."

Notes
1 "The Poet's Voice in the Crowd."
2 This review appears as the Introduction in Harlem Gallery.
3 "The Oklahoma Courier, September 9, 1966, p. 5.

About the Author

Mrs. Joy Flasch is an associate professor of English at Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma. She is currently writing a Tolson biography which will be published in Twayne's United States Authors series. Mrs. Flasch is a candidate for the Ed D degree with emphasis in English from Oklahoma State University.
Oklahoma Library Association Workshop Held June 8

What should be the role of a state library association? What kinds of activities should it carry on? What kinds of services should it give its members? What should be its over-all goals? And what could our own Oklahoma Library Association do that it is not now doing?

These were some of the questions posed to the 30 OLA Board members, Division officers, committee chairmen, and immediate past-chairmen of Divisions who attended the one-day orientation workshop held in Oklahoma City on June 8.

Librarians and trustees attending were: Calvin Brewer, Arlene Chapman, Mrs. Roy Craig, Billee Day, Mary Lee DeVilbiss, Clarice French, Ralph Funk, Doris Gatlin, Mary Gattoni, Beth Heimann, Esther Mae Henke, Anne Hoyt, Charles Ingram, Mrs. Tom L. Irby, Virginia LaGrave, Velma Lake, Ann Lowry, William H. Lowry, Jeanne Loy, Patricia McCune, Virginia Owens, Carl Reubin, Roscoe Rouse, Melville Spence, Jane Stevens, Rod Swartz, Della Thomas, Betty Lou Townley, and Mary Ann Wentroth.

A special and most distinguished guest was Miss Ruth Warncke, Deputy Executive Director of the American Library Association, who was the luncheon speaker and also took part in the morning and afternoon general sessions and group discussions.

Purpose of the workshop was to introduce new officers to their responsibilities and the overall structure and program of the Association and stimulate greater membership participation in the work of the Association through the division and committee activities.

Miss Warncke took as her luncheon topic, "The Chapters of ALA." Her address, printed elsewhere in this issue, points out that our Association is in fact and in deed a chapter of the larger national association. Provisions of both the ALA and OLA Constitution and Bylaws provide the legal basis for this affiliation, and OLA has applied for and has been approved for chapter status by ALA. Miss Warncke’s address points up ways to make this relationship more meaningful and mutually helpful in terms of the program and goals of both associations. OLA members are urged to evaluate this Association against this checklist to see how far we are going in meeting our obligations to the national association.

To orient officers to their new responsibilities, Della Thomas reviewed the contents of the OLA Officers’ Handbook, which originated with her committee several years ago. Copies were distributed to those present.

Mary Ann Wentroth, immediate past Treasurer, distributed and reviewed a detailed financial statement and reported on membership statistics.

To set the stage for group discussion on the role of the state association, Rod Swartz gave a challenging summary on what it means to him. Paraphrased, it is as follows:

1. It means a written, long range program, stating the goals of the Association.
2. It means short range goals, dealing with specific library needs and problems, on which the activities of Board, Division, Committees and the annual conference could focus each year.
3. It means that OLA is and will have to become more involved in the legislative process, which we should not fear but should welcome as an opportunity to achieve our goals.
4. It means that OLA has a responsibility to inform the general public about its goals and about libraries, through such programs as National Library Week.
5. It means that OLA in cooperation with other agencies more immediately involved in library education and training has a responsibility to keep its membership up-to-date through inservice training and continuing education programs for librarians.

OLA members will be interested to hear the answers those attending the workshop had to the questions posed above about OLA and its role.

October, 1968

ROD SWARTZ, PRESIDENT-ELECT; Virginia Owens, President; Anne Hoyt, Secretary; at the OLA officers Workshop in June.
Following are the reports handed in by recorders for the four discussion groups indicating what participants thought the Association needs to do:

Group I. (1) Continuing education in librarianship, possibly in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the State Department of Education and the O.U., School of Library Science (institutes, workshops, and annual programs). (2) Continuation and development of our role in the political process at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Group II. (1) Need to redefine the roles of OLA, the Department of Libraries, and the Council on Libraries, to clear up some confusion that exists. (2) OLA can enhance the professional effectiveness of librarians in the following ways: a. Develop a code of ethics. b. Counsel with library schools dealing with admission and certification. c. Study the possibility of renewing the internship program.

Group III. (1) Increase membership. (2) Regional workshops which cut across types of library lines. (3) Maintain a central office which could provide members with professional facts, statistics, etc. (4) Statement of professional standards and endorsement. (5) Publicity to help establish the new image of libraries.

Group IV. The role of OLA in improving the image of the librarian is (1) To take a definite stand on legislation; with an active committee on legislation. (2) Part-time executive secretary. (3) Workshops.

Biennial Conference Scheduled for Tulsa October 16 thru 19

The Twenty-Second Biennial Conference of the Southwestern Library Association, "Management and Manpower," will convene in Tulsa, Oklahoma October 16-19. From keynote address to the closing general session, every aspect of the theme will be explored with relevance for every library, "mini" or "maxi."

Highlights of the general conference will include Dr. Paul Wasserman, Dean, Graduate Library School, University of Maryland, speaking on the topic, "Manpower Blueprint—Library Personnel for the 1970's." Dr. Wasserman's address will keynote the first General Session on Thursday, October 17.


At the Second General Session, Thursday evening, Mr. Roger McDonough, president, American Library Association, will be the featured speaker. The topic for his address is "We Are All Librarians." At the Third General Session on Friday, "New Directions in Library Education?" will be the topic of a speech by Dr. Lester Asheim, director, Office for Library Education, American Library Association.

Friday is a day designed for trustees. In addition to the general conference activities, there will be a panel discussion led by John Bennett Shaw, "Trustees and Sound Library Management." Roger McDonough will speak at a trustees luncheon on "Responsibility of the Library Trustee in Library Management." An Open House at the Central Library will be hosted by the Friends of the Tulsa Public Library and a tour of new branch library facilities will be conducted by the Tulsa City-County Library Commission.

The program suggests that the Twenty-Second Biennial Conference of the Southwestern Library Association at Tulsa will be an outstanding meeting for librarians and trustees.
A Review of Progress in the Past Decade

By Clifton Warren

I have been asked tonight to share with you some literary reminiscences over the past decade. I want to preface my remarks with a picture of Oklahoma when I came here ten years ago. At that time I had come to stay only two years, so you must know how intrigued I was to be here still. I was not so moved by what was then at hand as I was with the possibilities of the area, and it has been a great excitement to watch the cultural growth of Oklahoma City and Tulsa—in fact, the entire state.

My first observation of Oklahoma was the typical one from an Easterner's vantage point: it was that of a state with great cultural potential but which was, in actuality, a cultural desert. Of late, I have watched this desert blossom through the location of an oasis here and there; but upon my arrival Oklahoma City and Tulsa signified to me all that culture was not, and I am primarily interested in the cultured person (because I consider myself in my work as a college professor a purveyor and preserver of culture). We are alike. You, too, as librarians are primarily purveyors of culture: to some individuals you represent the only contact with the finer things of life.

In 1958, my impression was that there was a great deal of money in Oklahoma but that it was not being used in very creative ways. There were few artistic outlets. Attitudes seemed wrong. In fact, when I first reviewed for book clubs, I sensed that the women members did not really read books, they just wanted to hear entertaining, light reviews. Instead of reading, they played mahjong or bridge.

A second investigation produced no intellectual clubs for men. Everyone simply went out to the golf course in free moments; civic discussion groups were especially needed.

Moreover, the libraries in the colleges and universities were quite understaffed. They were excellent libraries so far as they went, but the chief problem lay in keeping up, and to one who had come from an area where there was plenty of money for libraries, it seemed that here they were not growing as they should grow. Later, I observ- ed in Oklahoma City an undernourished art collection with too few travelling exhibits and very little variety.

Then, too, among the people I immediately detected a self-consciousness, a suspicion of anything foreign. Part of this attitude could be attributed to two factors: little foreign language teaching was going on in proportion to the size of the state (a conclusion later borne out by an MLA survey) and very little experience in the arts. Furthermore, there were no ballet performances to remember. One travelling opera company appeared that year; there were no state opera groups, only the usual college apprentices. We still have a long way to go in these realms.

There was no place for a sculptor out of college to work. There was one unremarkable foreign film theater, but no experimental films were being shown. There was no book and author dinner like the other cities of comparable size and wealth present in the spring (there still is none). There were adequate symphony orchestras in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, but rarely were the guest artists of exceptional reputation. And at that time I remember counting seventeen book stores in our capital city.

There were two very fine museums in Tulsa, but very few travelling artists appeared, and we seldom saw scholars from other territories. Then, too, I felt that there was too much religious circumscription for the arts to be experimental. Although there were competent and expanding little theater groups in the two largest cities, I wished for a truly experimental theater. The cultural situation was slowly settling to a standoff.

Now I see in ten years' time a reverse trend taking place. For instance, much more private money is given to the artistic endeavors of the communities. Also, the state has seen fit to create the Oklahoma State Arts and Humanities Council and to bring people from over the entire state to sit together and discuss cultural needs under the direction of Curt Schwartz and his staff.

I find that places where men and women read a great deal are the small towns of Oklahoma—Enid, Carnegie, Edmond, Stillwater, Blackwell, Purcell, Altus, Bartlesville. I find, too, that the lack of reading in the larger cities is due to the fact that so much is going on, and perhaps a book review must suffice from time to time.

The understaffed college libraries are still

An address before the 1968 OLA Conference, April 25, 1968, in Norman. Dr. Warren is Professor of English and Humanities, Central State College, Edmond.

October, 1968
quite the same, but there is a great eagerness to aid them. Certainly the time will come when we have enough money for our libraries. Perhaps when our universities have grown to twenty-five thousand or so students, we will be able to have collections which match those of the great eastern and midwestern institutions of higher education.

In the arts much improvement is evident everywhere in the state. The growing art center in Oklahoma City is bringing in some of the best travelling exhibits available — inexpensive ones but ones of quality; also, new private museums are opening like the highly successful venture “Red Ridge.” Moreover, as success comes in the arts, there is less self-consciousness than there was before.

The great acclaim given the Indian Ballerina Festival last year with coverage by Walter Terry in the Saturday Review is the kind of success that is doing much to change the image of Oklahoma. Other pluses are the recently formed Lawton ballet company, which hopes to present programs throughout the state in the near future and the several new opera groups with members trained by Dame Eva Turner during her years at the University of Oklahoma.

Foreign language laboratories are springing up everywhere: we now have some of the finest in the United States. It is great fun to walk past these labs now and see students using the very latest equipment and with such an interest in foreign culture. As a corollary to this development, foreign language periodicals are rapidly being added to the college and university collections.

What was a little experience in the arts of painting and sculpture has developed into so much of a spread that it is hard for one to manage to see all the exhibitions. And in Oklahoma City where we did not have a place for a sculptor to work, we now have under the direction of Mr. J. R. Witt the Contemporary Arts Foundation, which not only offers a place for artists to work and exhibit but also frequently sets up contests and finds grant monies for worthy recipients.

The American Institute of Discussion headquartered in Oklahoma City is doing much to spark creative discussion. New groups are constantly being formed in our state and elsewhere.

The book and author dinner is the annual event sadly lacking; for years I have tried to promote one on my television spot. In many cities across the country—like Boston, Richmond, Kansas City—there is such a dinner to which leading authors of the year are invited. Several are selected to give a short talk about their current best sellers, and one main speaker gives an overall view of the literary scene.

In Richmond, Virginia, when such an event was organized during my undergraduate years, it was set up as a charity function and held on the grounds of the Valentine Museum; it soon became a great occasion on the spring social calendar. It gave a chance for young college students from the area to meet many authors, often great people in their special subject areas. For instance, the first time I attended the dinner in Richmond I heard Arthur Mizener give an address and I talked with him about his work on the F. Scott Fitzgerald materials; my interest was stimulated so much that I later wrote my Master’s thesis about Fitzgerald’s novels. Our own Artist-in-Residence program at Central State has recently proved the value of such unions of author and student, too. For such a little effort on our part there can be such fine results.

Well, so much for the artistic and historical progress as seen from this man’s vantage point: it is certainly a view of pride in our state’s accomplishments in a short span of time.

(In the next issue Dr. Warren’s speech will be continued; the second part deals with the rising Oklahoma authors of the past decade.)
At University School in Norman

Reading IS What’s Happening

By Charlotte McGraw, Librarian, and
Bessie G. Jenkins, Reading Co-ordinator

Not even the most ardent devotee of the McLuhan “message” could proclaim the death of the book at University School. While materials of every kind are used extensively in every classroom, reading still provides the basic foundation for the educative process at every level, and the book retains its place as a popular and convenient medium for communicating ideas to individuals for both informational and recreational needs.

The philosophy and objectives of the school, and its curriculum, establish the goals and objectives of the reading and library programs. These programs in turn strengthen the curriculum and reinforce the philosophy and objectives of the school. This kind of interaction is dependent on the participation and commitment of every staff member, access to a wide range and variety of carefully selected materials, planned time in the weekly schedule for individual and group participation, and the continuing evaluation of results.

This article describes some of the kinds of programs resulting from the presence of these factors and is based on the belief that “knowing how” to read is only the first step toward the development of thoughtful and creative lifetime readers.

Books are shared, enjoyed, and discussed at every level. For most of our students, the foundations of appreciation have been established in the home. These are continued and expanded in the elementary years where the development of pleasurable associations with the process of reading is one of the major goals of every teacher, and the creation of an atmosphere in which reading is regarded as a worthwhile, rewarding activity is the shared responsibility of the entire staff. Perhaps the most vital influence, however, comes from seeing other boys and girls reading, enjoying, and discussing books so that reading becomes, in fact, an important part of “what’s happening” in the child’s world.

Meaningful experiences with books begin in kindergarten where “reading readiness” often reaches a burning intensity. From these earliest stages, emphasis is placed on the pleasures and satisfactions to be gained as ideas and meanings are “decoded” from the symbols on the printed page. Conversation about books and libraries in the kindergarten classroom may lead, as it did last year, to the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a classroom library of picture books which the children had made. These were classified into broad subject areas, were shelved, and circulated by five-year-old “librarians”!

In the primary grades, students are encouraged to share stories they have found to be especially exciting. Oral interpretation of stories and poems is stressed, and the children may present “live” or taped skits for the enjoyment of the group. Storytelling sessions and the use of filmstrips and records of favorite stories also help to stimulate interest in reading at this level.

In the intermediate grades, individualized reading instruction encourages the child to make his own selection of materials. Unobtrusive guidance
WALT MOREY, SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER, talks to children at University School.

by the teacher and librarian ensures that the choice is appropriate in terms of reading difficulty and that each child’s choice reflects his individual needs and interests. Through frequent individual conferences, the teacher is able to discover how the child is progressing and what his specific needs may be. On the basis of these conferences, and the results of standardized tests, reading inventories, and informal tests, the teacher is able to plan instructional groups for the teaching of specific skills, including word recognition, vocabulary development, comprehension, and library research skills.

Skills lessons are sometimes presented to an entire class, but more often small groups are formed for lessons in a specific skill. For students who have mastered a particular skill, time is available for continuing independent reading. A planned program of skills presentation to all classes is utilized in order to ensure orderly progression for each child at his own rate.

It is axiomatic to say that an individualized reading program such as this demands easy access to a wide selection of books and periodicals. The location of the elementary reading center adjacent to the library makes such access possible during formal reading instruction. Close cooperation between the librarian and reading teacher is, of course, a vital ingredient to the success of the program. The major concern is STILL in helping the right student to the right book at the right time, and the means to this end is STILL based on knowledge of both children and books.

Interest in books and reading is stimulated through formal and informal sharing, bulletin boards, book talks, book lists, and author interviews. Students may be asked to do brief presentations on the funniest, scariest, happiest, or saddest incident in their readings, or they may be asked to tell about the most unusual or likeable character they have “met” recently in books. These brief talks always mention the author and title so that others who want to read the book may do so.

The production of annotated bibliographies has proven a worthwhile and enjoyable learning experience. Beginning with a comparison of publisher’s blurbs with professional annotations, students are encouraged to write their own annotations of books they have enjoyed. They may be asked to write an annotation which would “sell” the book, or to be objective and critical in their wordings. Content, style, and format are questioned, analyzed, and compared. From these experiences students can learn much about the way in which a writer’s purpose influences his writing, as well as the establishment of valid criteria for selection and evaluation. Other students are encouraged to read the books and evaluate the review in terms of the reviewer’s purpose. (Incidentally, the “selling” technique is usually extremely successful. Better provide plenty of duplicate titles, and expect a waiting list!)

Oral interpretation of selections from favorite stories or poems serves to stimulate interest in reading as well as to develop oral reading skills. Formal presentations include an introduction, and the reading aloud of a selection. The performance is then evaluated in terms of specific criteria previously developed by the group as a whole. The process of analyzing and evaluating helps the audience to be objective and specific in responding to situations in and out of the classroom.

Lists, such as the Newbery Award winners, and the Sequoyah nominees receive much attention. At this age, many students like to “collect” books, using these and other lists, or the works of a particular author.

For the generation of real excitement, almost nothing compares with the opportunity to meet and talk with outstanding authors. We have been especially fortunate in having several such visits. Harold Keith and Virginia Sorenson, both Newbery Award winners, and Walt Morey, winner of the 1968 Sequoyah Award, have been enthusiastically received and questioned by University School students.

Classroom activities often lead to reading in depth on a particular topic. Fifth- and sixth-year students last year used newspaper and magazine
articles as the basis for a study of the moral and legal aspects of heart transplants. The resulting formal debate was both heated and carefully documented.

Excitement about books and reading carries over into extracurricular activities. Elementary students are encouraged to participate in the Sequoyah Book Club, which meets once a week after school. Membership in the club is voluntary, and student officers carry the major responsibility for its operation. Club members plan and present programs which may include dramatic skits, short book reviews, or panel discussions about a particular book, subject, or author.

The school sponsored Summer Reading Program provides for continued growth and interest during vacation time. During the last week of school, packets explaining the program and inviting participation are distributed to students in grades three through six. These packets include a letter from the sponsor, a space for recording books they would like to read, a space for recording books they have read, and the pamphlets, Growing Up with Books, Growing Up with Paperbacks, and Growing Up with Science Books. Students are invited to attend “sharing time” one afternoon each week to talk about their reading and to enjoy filmstrips and recordings of favorite stories.

Junior and senior high students continue to develop and mature as readers as classroom activities demand more sophisticated research skills, and today’s problems demand understanding and commitment at an early age. In spite of the increased appeal of social activities and the newer media, books continue to play an important role in the lives of University School students. Junior and Senior High Honors Reading Programs offer further opportunity for understanding and enjoyment. Outstanding scholars from the University of Oklahoma have generously donated their time for lecture and discussion sessions meeting at night in the University Library. Voluntary student participation offers further proof that reading is happening and that libraries, books, and reading will continue to happen when today’s students become tomorrow’s adults. As one of our former students has said, “The student who has learned in high school that Sophocles is within his mental grasp is not likely to be intimidated by ideas from any source, nor is he likely to be content with the offerings of the mass media for mental stimulation. He knows there is something better.” Isn’t this what schools and libraries are all about?

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Ralph Hudson, Former Director Of Department of Libraries, Dies in Oklahoma City August 9

Ralph Hudson, former director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, died at 3:10 a.m., Friday, August 9.

The Oklahoma State Library is 77 years old and Hudson piloted and guided this agency longer than any of his predecessors, serving over 30 years.

He was 29 when he came to work for the state as the 12th librarian of the State Library. Following his graduation from Oklahoma University, Hudson served briefly with the University Library, before coming on to what became his life’s work.

During his 30-year tenure, Hudson did many things to further the growth of the State Library. In 1963, he was instrumental in combining the Oklahoma Library Commission, which dealt primarily with public libraries, and the Oklahoma State Library, which handled mostly legislative and governmental matters.

Hudson sponsored much important library legislation while active as director, and was author of the bill creating the Oklahoma Council on Libraries, an advisory committee on library problems and related matters to the Governor and the legislature.

Co-workers termed Hudson’s philosophy of librarianship excellent. He always spoke of “superior” libraries — just good was never enough for him. He was creative and saw the broad spectrum of libraries.

Hudson was active in many library-oriented groups. Among them were the Oklahoma Council of Libraries; the Oklahoma Arts and Humanities Council; the National Association of State Libraries, of which he served as president from 1944-49, and the Southwestern Library Association, of which he was president from 1944-46.

He was a member of the American Library Association and the American Association of Law Libraries. He was a Phi Beta Kappa and an Episcopalian. Hudson is survived by his wife, the former Katherine Kaufman, of the home. A Ralph Hudson Memorial Fund has been established at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center Library.

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Join OLA—Pay Your Dues Today
Problems in Organization and Administration of Multi-Media Resources

By Mrs. Evelyn Clement and Dr. Herman Totten

Public and university librarians are finding themselves responsible for an increasing proliferation of multi-media materials. The administration and organization of these materials require new policy decisions, knowledge of new sources of materials, new ways of organizing and housing the materials, new standards and bases for evaluation, and even, perhaps, a new look at lending and user policies in the libraries.

Many institutes have been held in the last several years for the training of school librarians and teachers in the nature and function of multi-media resources. Courses offered in colleges of education as well as library science, however, have dealt largely with the physical nature of the materials and the operation of the hardware. Almost without exception, public and academic librarians come to the administration of multi-media resources unprepared to treat them as library materials, and whether they are really willing to do so or not, most have had to work out a rationale for administration within the framework of their library training.

Guidelines have been few, but these are becoming identifiable. Bibliographic control has been difficult and acquisition and budgeting equally so. Criteria for evaluation of materials have not been readily available, nor agreed upon. Moreover, there is a definite division of opinion over who should actually administer audiovisual materials—the librarian or the A-V specialist. This schism is further complicated by the employment of the formally trained A-V specialists in libraries and librarians in multi-media administration.

There is a strong case that it is time for a dialogue among these people who have been feeling their own separate ways along unmarked roads, pioneering in a field not new in itself, but in a new phase of development.

With this as background, the United States Of-

eice of Education funded a three-week institute at the University of Oklahoma School of Library Science. This institute on Organization and Administration of Multi-Media Resources in public and academic libraries was held July 8-26, 1968.

The Institute was designed to cover selection and acquisition, organization and administration of media. Thirty librarian participants were selected on the basis of their library training, present responsibilities as administrators and degree of interest in multi-media resources. One participant was forced to withdraw after the first week to return to work, and 29 completed the course.

Sessions were held five days a week for three weeks. Formal daily sessions met from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Two adjacent seminar rooms in the Forum Building of the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education were used. One was equipped as a dual-purpose room for office space for the staff, and for reference, browsing and coffee break area for the participants. The other was flexibly furnished as a meeting room, with several possible seating arrangements for maximum communication among participants and speakers.

Three full-time faculty members were Evelyn G. Clement, director, Thelma H. Jones, assistant director, and Herman L. Totten, instructor. Four outside speakers, each with a different view of media administration, spent two days each in sessions with the group. Their participation was in part formal presentation and in part informal interaction and problem solving. Standard audiovisual equipment was available to the faculty, lecturers and the participants during the entire institute, both for formal presentations and for informal examination. Preview materials were also provided during the three weeks.

Ten men and 19 women came from 17 states. Their ages ranged from 26 to 64 years. They held professional degrees from 21 different library schools. There were thirteen directors of college libraries, one director of a university library, and two directors of public libraries. Five persons were heads of technical services, three headed departments of university libraries, and two were curriculum librarians. There were also one cataloger, one public library branch head, and one serials and shelving librarian.

Mrs. Clement is Learning Resources Librarian, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Oklahoma and a member of the faculty of the University of Oklahoma School of Library Science.

Dr. Totten is Chief Librarian, Wiley College, Marshall, Texas.

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This is a report of a survey conducted during the final session of the Institute. The purpose of the survey was to supply evaluative data and to determine the extent to which the Institute met the following state objectives:

A. To bring together people who are engaged in the administration of multi-media resources in public and academic libraries in order to discuss problems they have faced, how they were solved and on what basis they were resolved.

B. To identify the available resources for assistance in the administration of multi-media materials. These resources included printed materials and professional and commercial organizations. The assistance will be in the area of selection, evaluation, organization and general administration of multi-media.

C. To stimulate creative intellectual ferment in the areas under discussion, with a view towards the improvement in quantity and quality of the resources and guides.

A brief questionnaire was developed and administered to the 29 participants to tap their attitudes relative to the Institute’s meeting its stated objectives. Most of the questions simply required checking off responses. However, three questions were of an open-ended nature. Of the 29 questionnaires distributed, 29, or 100 per cent were returned completed. Objectivity was assured by having all returns made anonymously.

Twenty-eight of the 29 participants indicated that the Institute met their particular needs. In stating how the Institute specifically met these needs, the participants mentioned these areas: questions answered and problems solved, attitudes changed, a gain in working knowledge of media resources, standards, selection, nature and use of materials, an overview of the development of media as well as current thinking, exchange of ideas with other librarians, and a range of thought from abstract theory and philosophy to precise how-to information, with an awareness of the implications of the new media for all libraries. One participant felt a need for more concrete information than was received.

Twelve participants felt the Institute was very well planned, and the remainder agreed that it was well planned. Participation by the resident staff was thought adequate by 21 participants, but eight felt there should have been more faculty involvement.

Contributions of the guest lecturers were rated very effective by 21 participants, and adequate by the rest. None considered that there was little application to Institute problems in the presentations.

All but one participant indicated that they felt the participation and involvement of the group was well distributed. All but three of the group felt the assignments were adequate. Twenty-four of the 29 felt they had adequate opportunity to become familiar with the operation of hardware, while all 29 agreed they had adequate opportunity for examination of the hardware. It was not intended that these experiences be a formal part of the presentation, but materials were made available and participants were encouraged to preview them during their own time.

Relative to the length of the Institute, 26 felt the three weeks were just right, while one said it was too short and two felt it was too long. All agreed that the daily sessions were the optimum length.

Twenty-three participants felt there were sufficient field trips and laboratory experiences, while six did not agree.

“What would you say was the most significant thing that happened to you during the Institute?” Participants responded in a variety of ways. The most frequently mentioned were dialogue, awareness of a need for further study, personal and professional associations, free exchange of ideas and experiences with peers, comparison of local operations and problems, feedback, awareness of their own institution shortcomings, knowledge of reference tools, a new realization that librarians may become “activists” in the educational experience, and a strong feeling that all librarians should acquire a “media outlook.”

In commenting on the relative degree of success they felt the Institute achieved, participants’ replies ranged from a small degree of success, relative success, and very successful to outstanding success, tremendous success, and achieved objectives beyond expectations.

The Institute staff must conclude that the basic premise on which the Institute was based—the acute need for such an institute for this audience—was a valid one. The Institute staff further conclude that the dialogue among the participants and between the participants, faculty and speakers provided an exchange of information well beyond stated objectives.

From the formal responses to the questionnaires and the informal comments of the participants has come a realization that this Institute was a propitious step in answering the tremendous need of academic and public librarians for further training, guidelines and professional dialogue in organization and administration of multi-media resources.

October, 1968
Choctaw Nation Multi-County Library

By John Hinkle

In describing the Choctaw Nation Multi-County Library, a friend of mine once quoted Sophocles in saying, “Winds are fair always, for those who fly for the good of the people.” I hope the reference meant we are providing a service long needed in this part of the state, but then again, sometimes the pace could be described as ‘flying.’

The library system which operates in a four-county area, has two service centers, located in McAlester and Poteau, and two bookmobiles, which start each day from these two centers and travel to rural towns, checking out books, and during these past summer days, having special story hours for children underneath the story umbrella. Two of our employees have braved heat, rain, wind, dogs, and once a horse wearing a life jacket because “he don’t swim.”

Established libraries in the four-county service area have displayed cooperation and enthusiasm in abundance, and the two major libraries in the area, located at McAlester and Poteau, have demonstrated acceptance of the program by planning construction of their new libraries to include housing the service centers. The new McAlester building, beautifully styled with ultra-modern decor, will play an important part in the growth of the city of McAlester as it embarks on its new program of Model Cities and continues its Urban Renewal Development. The Poteau library will be an integral part of the downtown community.

Along with the library bonds voted by citizens, these libraries have received patron gifts, free of restrictive conditions, to aid them in construction. The proposed libraries have been designed according to ALA standards, with the capacity to expand.

In Stigler, in Haskell County, we opened a new branch library recently, with hundreds of new books. Their modern decor is beige and orange. The opening was attended by the Honorable Carl Albert, Dr. Arthur McAnally, Ralph Funk, John Bennett Shaw, Board members and local area citizens. The children’s area of the library has a red rug, throw pillows, and three five-foot posters, depicting story book characters. In Latimer County, the Wilburton Library is remodeling its building. The building is a WPA building of stone which is being redecorated with an Early American decor in mind. Other branches include Heavener, Wister, and Hartshorne.

The goal of the Choctaw Nation Multi-County Library is not to become the “all powerful dictator” in the four-county area, but rather the assisting force. Our purpose is to help each of the counties reach the citizens of their area. The buildings used by the library are all owned by the cities creating a cooperative coalition in which both the cities and the Choctaw Nation Multi-County Library must cooperate by necessity, or otherwise face a noticeable reduction in service to patrons.

We have taken literally the statement “the library is the core of adult education” by an invitation issued to the Adult Education agency in Pittsburg County to share the McAlester Service Center’s temporary quarters. Many initial problems remain related to use of materials and the division of responsibility, but the theory is sound, and the prospective benefits staggering.

Communication with children in the four counties has been achieved in several different ways. The aforementioned children’s Story Umbrella began in June has reached an estimated 2000 children so far, and is a very popular aspect of the library service. Children who came to listen to different stories, as told by the story umbrella lady, stayed to check out books, and in this way became familiar with reading material offered by the Bookmobile.

Another aid to communication with children was the presentation of three children’s plays, Snow White, The Pied Piper and Cinderella by the Tulsa Children’s Theater July 22 and 23, in McAlester. A total of 1200 viewed the three plays. The CNMCL in conjunction with the Oklahoma Arts and Humanities Council, the McAlester Public Library and local citizens, sponsored the productions.

In a Saturday parade given in McAlester,

Mr. Hinkle is Director of the Choctaw Nation Multi-County Library.

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CNMCL employees dressed as clowns handed out over 4,000 tickets to children which read "a ticket to anywhere through the magic of books," inviting them to the library.

In August, a regular story hour in McAlester, Wilburton and Stigler began. One of the special hours was a puppet show, based on James Thurber's Many Moons. McAlester's first storyhour was an introduction to the proposed new library building held on a grassy site. John Gross, architect pointed out where proposed portions of the building would be located, and told them how soon they could expect progress and how that progress will appear. It is hoped that the youngest citizens of McAlester will feel that this is their library and they can watch it grow. Over 150 children came to see the puppet show, which was given as the final storyhour for Poteau. Mrs. Nolan, Librarian at Poteau Public Library, awarded attendance certificates to the children after the play with the help of the grumpy old Royal Mathematician. Evidently he wasn't too grumpy because he received a juicy kiss from a three-year-old young lady at the close of the show.

The emphasis may seem to be on children in this article and it has been for these first few months of our existence, but this fall adults will be our focal point with the opening of a multi-purpose room in our service center plus continuous presentations to civic clubs.

The Choctaw Nation Multi-County Library, created in the fall of 1967, is a demonstration as set forth in the Oklahoma Library Code, scheduled for two years to give the residents of Pittsburg, Latimer, LeFlore and Haskell Counties a sample of area wide library service which can be theirs if they continue to support the program by a two-mill levy. To date, over 20,000 books have been checked out by Bookmobiles. OTIS plays a very important part in our library service.

Another service of the Choctaw Nation Multi-County Library is to supply area libraries with magazines, as indexed in Reader's Guide. Shelv-
ing arrangements are made by the CNMCL, also.

Newspapers keep the population informed as to the coming of the Bookmobile, and radios help by using Bookmobile stop times as a part of their regular newscasts. However, many people in the beginning had no idea of why the Bookmobile was there. Therefore, employees of the library journeyed from house to house, in small towns, knocking on doors and explaining to people who they were. People were not told that the employees were the Choctaw Nation Multi-County Library Bookmobile Demonstration personnel, but simply, “Hi, I’m from the library and we’ve got a truck down in front of the post office where you can check out books free.”

Many people of the area are amazed at the speed of receiving special request books that they have gotten, through OTIS. One of our patrons in Rock Island told the Bookmobile Librarian that “this is the first time that anyone in town can remember that anyone from outside really showed that they cared. How very kind you are to bring us the Bookmobile and supply us with the books we need.” Our OTIS service covers the 7 South-eastern counties of Oklahoma and our teletype is located in the McAlester Public Library. This could be an inconvenient situation because the Service Center is some blocks away from the Public Library, however, because Felicia Dwyer, Librarian at McAlester and her staff are determined that the CNMCL will be successful, the problems are practically nil. This spirit of solving any problems that arise concerning OTIS carries through in all areas of library cooperation.

Although this article is filled with puppet plays and clowns these are just the surface sparkles to attract the attention of the young. There is something happening on another level and that is the awakening awareness of the adults in this area that libraries are for them and not just the domain of the very young or very old. They are finding out that libraries are a part of their world and that books, information, ideas are accessible to them through the facilities we offer. It is very rewarding to see children awaken to books but it is something akin to awe to see an adult on the Bookmobile become excited and enthusiastic over libraries.

**Bishop Kelly HS Library Honored**

Bishop Kelley High School Library in Tulsa has been awarded a certificate of excellence in the 1968 Catholic Library Association Contest held during Catholic Book Week. The High School division award was given for one of the best celebrations of the theme, “Multi Media—Multi Vistas.” Sister Mary Casilda, C. D. P., is the Librarian.
New library positions: Dr. Howard Clayton, who has been the Director of the Library of the State University of New York at Brockport for the past three years, will join the faculty of the School of Library Science at the University of Oklahoma in September . . . Mrs. Allie Beth Martin, Director of the Tulsa City-County Library, is the new first vice-president and president-elect of the Southwestern Library Association. Mrs. Martin was approved for the position by the Executive Board following the resignation of John Anderson, who became city librarian of San Francisco Library on July 1 . . . John D. Lewis, Jr., has been appointed to the newly created position of Administrative Assistant at the Oklahoma State University Library. After retiring from the U.S. Army this year, Mr. Lewis received his MLS at the University of Oklahoma . . . William A. Martin, Jr. is the new Librarian of Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts. Mr. Martin was formerly with the University of Missouri Library . . . Walter Gray, Jr., director of the Community Workshop of the Oklahoma County Libraries, has been elected to a three-year term on the executive committee of the national Adult Education Association. Mr. Gray will represent the association’s Region XI, composed of Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma . . . Ken Studebaker has been appointed head of BASIC, Business and Science Information Center, for Oklahoma County Libraries. Mr. Studebaker is from Perry, Oklahoma, and is a recent graduate of the University of Oklahoma’s School of Library Science . . . Another recent graduate from the University of Oklahoma with a master’s in library science is Miss Judith Mahan of Norman, who joined the staff of the Chickasaw Library System August 1 . . . Martin Wenger, formerly on the staff of the Pioneer Multi-County Library at Norman and Secretary of the OLA Public Libraries Division, has accepted the position of Head Librarian of the Mesa Junior College in Grand Junction, Colorado.

The University of Oklahoma will offer two library science extension courses for the fall semester at the Main Library of Oklahoma County Libraries. Three semester hours of credit may be obtained by those who complete either course successfully. The courses are: “Reference Materials” (Library Science 222)—Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30, beginning September 11, ending January 15. Instructor not yet announced.


MARRIOTT AT CSC

Launching the third year of Central State College’s writer-in-residence program will be Alice Marriott, widely renowned author and Southwestern folklorist. Miss Marriott will teach a course called “Literature and Folklore of the American Southwest” on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:55 p.m. during the Fall term. One of the nation’s top chroniclers of Indian cultures and the West, her latest book is American Indian Mythology, a compendium of myths, legends, and contemporary folklore from several tribes. This book’s co-author, Carol Rachlin, who is also Miss Marriott’s research assistant, will help with the new course at the Edmond college.

NEW LITERARY PUBLICATIONS

The appearance of the literary quarterly Cimarron Review at Oklahoma State University in September, 1967, gave the state a bona fide genera-
Cora Case Porter
1870—1968

If you are too young or too new to the state to recognize the name of Cora Case Porter you have missed knowing a truly great librarian, one who has left an indelible mark on library development in the state, and on the many young people who came under her influence and inspired leadership. Her long and distinguished career ended in Ada on July 3, where she had lived following her retirement.

After completing work at the New York Chautauqua Library School, Mrs. Porter entered the library profession in 1908, at the age of 38, at the old Carnegie Library in Oklahoma City. She headed the Enid Public Library from 1913 to 1923, and while there began the state’s first county-wide library service, to Garfield County. She recognized the need for further professional education and received her library degree from the University of Illinois in 1924. In 1925 she became librarian of the Muskogee Public Library and remained until her retirement in 1945. Leaves of absence took her to the Mexican border in 1918 to do traveling library work sponsored by ALA, and to Paris as a staff member of the Second American Expeditionary Force Library.

Mrs. Porter just missed being a charter member of OLA, but she served in many capacities and offices, including president of the Association from 1913 to 1915. She was a charter member of Southwestern Library Association, and was elected president for the term 1934-1936. Illness forced her resignation from this office before she could preside at the conference. She was ALA’s membership chairman for Oklahoma from 1927 to 1937.

The Oklahoma Library Association honored Mrs. Porter in 1955 when she was presented the Distinguished Service Award, and in 1957 she was one of the pioneer librarians recognized at OLA’s Golden Anniversary meeting. Lee Spencer wrote an interesting biography of Mrs. Porter for the April 1955 issue of the Oklahoma Librarian. Another article about her appeared in the October 1957 issue, with a poem by Mrs. Porter.

But it is not alone for these activities and positions that Cora Case Porter will be remembered. Mrs. Porter was an inspiration to young people, and recruited them to the profession long before that activity became organized or popular. Her philosophy of service was far ahead of her times. She achieved a high standard of excellence when budgets were low, physical facilities less than adequate, and grants unknown. In her communities, library service was extended to all races, the affluent and the underprivileged. She placed a high value on professional library education, and took pride in librarianship as a profession. Members of her staff never worked for Mrs. Porter; they worked with her.

Mrs. Porter’s “girls” were very special to her. Many of these “girls” are now librarians in Oklahoma and across the states. Hopefully, they are passing on to today’s young people the inspiration and challenge they received from this great lady. Mrs. Porter will always live in the hearts of those who were privileged to work with her.—Frances Kennedy

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New Personnel in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries has inaugurated several new programs in the past few months and new personnel have been added to the staff for the purpose of putting these programs into action.

One of the most exciting new programs, which is financed by Title IV funds from the LSCA, is our program to provide better library service for our state institutions. Two institutional librarians have been hired to study and evaluate all of our 28 institutional libraries and actual work has begun at the Oklahoma State Reformatory at Granite.

Jim Wilkerson and Mrs. Sue Blaise are the two new librarians who will be working on the institutional program.

This is a return bout for Wilkerson, who worked for the Department of Libraries before under Ralph Hudson as supervisor of the General Services Division. He became Librarian of the Moore Public Library in 1963 and remained there for three years.

In April of this year, Jim Wilkerson returned as a consultant for Institutional Library Services, which is a division of our Special Services Branch. He is currently completing his work on a master’s in Library Science at O.U.

Wilkerson is married and has two children, James Mark (9) and Elizabeth Ann (7). He and his wife live at 113 SW 13th in Moore, where Jan teaches in the Third Grade.

Sue Blaise
Jim Wilkerson

Mrs. Sue Ann Blaise is our other Institutional Librarian. Mrs. Blaise received her certificate in Nursing from O.U. in 1955 and a B.A. in 1967. She continued on there until she received her master’s in Library Science this year, working under an H. W. Wilson Scholarship.

Mrs. Blaise has held various positions in hospitals and in the Public Health field; she was library assistant at the Pioneer Multi-county Library in Norman and she held the same post in the Serials Record Department at the University of Oklahoma Library.

She lives in Norman with her husband, Thomas M. Blaise, who is a political science student at O.U.

Another most important position was filled in September when Robert L. Clark, Jr., came to work for the Department. Clark will serve as part time staff archivist while working on his MLS at O.U.

Clark is a native of McAlester, Oklahoma. He was graduated from McAlester High School in 1954 and received a B.A. degree in History from O.U. this year. He is married to the former Annetta Jean Howell, who is now an instructor in Library Science at Central State College. The Clarks make their home in Edmond.

Bob Clark
Gale Gill

Mrs. Gale Gill is the new Reference Librarian. She is filling the vacancy left by the resignation of Mrs. Hannah Atkins. Mrs. Gill was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was graduated from Wayzata High School in Wayzata, Minnesota; received a PHB from the University of Chicago in 1948, and completed work on her MLS at Texas Woman’s University in Denton in 1966.

Mrs. Gill has served as branch librarian of the Del City Branch of the Oklahoma County Libraries. A widow, Gale resides in Oklahoma City with her four teenagers, three girls and a 15-year-old son.

Another position of Public Library Consultant has been filled by Mrs. Virginia Collier, who has moved to Oklahoma City from Tulsa where she was director of bookmobiles for the Tulsa City-County Libraries.

October, 1968
Mrs. Collier is a native Texan. She lived in Austin for several years, received her B.A. degree from the University of Texas and later served as County Librarian for the Austin Public Library. In between, she completed work on a degree in Library Science at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Oklahoma became home when she married James L. Collier in 1945 and she remained a housewife until 1953 when she became librarian at Okmulgee. Now a widow, Mrs. Collier looks forward to vacations and summer when her three children return home from colleges and universities scattered across the country. The 21-year-old twins, Dough and Dana, are seniors at Rensselaer Polytech in Troy, New York and Louisiana State in Baton Rouge, respectively. Nineteen-year-old Marilyn is majoring in occupational therapy at Texas Woman’s University in Denton, Texas.

Colleen Schupbach received her MLS from O.U. this summer and will begin work with the Department in September as assistant librarian for the blind and handicapped in the Special Services Branch.

Previously, Miss Schupbach was graduated from Burlington High School in Burlington, Oklahoma, and she received a BA in Music Education from O.U. in 1967. She is a member of the ALA and the Music Library Association.

Kenneth John Bierman received his M.L.S. from O.U. in June of 1968 and came to work for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries as a Data Processing Consultant in September of this year. During his last year at O.U., he served as Serial Records Revisor at the O.U. Library.

Ken was born in South Dakota, but lived most of his life in Indianapolis and Chicago, Illinois. He was graduated from Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana with a B.A. degree and while there, received one of 10 alumni awards for Outstanding Service to the College. He also did undergraduate study on Elizabethan Literature in England.

According to Ken, he came to O.U. because he wanted to find out what the southwest portion of the country is like—and after finding out, he decided not to leave.

While at O.U., Ken was assistant editor of The Mathematical Log, and he supervised production of a computer produced list of serial holdings for the O.U. Library, including the Law and Medical collections. Ken also did a feasibility study of an automated serials check in procedure.

Death Claims OSU Librarian

Richard King, September 4

Richard E. King, 44, social sciences librarian at Oklahoma State University, died September 4 in Stillwater Municipal Hospital.

King received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Baylor University and a Bachelor of Science Degree from North Texas State University. He was completing his MLS at the University of Texas in Austin. He married the former Joyce Garrett in 1951, and the couple came to Stillwater in 1957.

A member of the First Baptist Church, ALA, and OLA, King was an assistant professor and head of the social sciences area at the Oklahoma State University Library.

Survivors include his widow, Joyce, of the home and three sons, James Arthur, 14, Robert Lynn, eight, and Thomas, one and one-half.
March 5 and April 16—Big Library Days!!!

By Dee Ann Ray, District Librarian
Custer-Washita-Dewey Library System

WE WON! Those were the words most often heard on the nights of March 5 and April 16th in the Custer-Washita-Dewey Library area. The Library Elections for the two mill library levy to make the C-W-D Demonstration a continuing library system providing service for western Oklahoma were held on those two dates, and they were big days here.

Behind the words—"We won!"—were many long hours of work by many people, all dedicated to a belief in library service and its importance. How to tell the story, and how to give credit to the many people who helped is a difficult task. Probably we will never know everything that everyone did, because so many contributed to the successful campaigns. We can only hope that we thank them for their good work every day when we continue to give library service throughout the area.

There are, however, some people who did play a part which is recognizable and they deserve a mention. For it is people "who make a nation strong" as a learned poet said; and it is people who put a program across.

In approaching the election dates for the necessary library levy, the Custer-Washita-Dewey Library System Board decided that "Citizen's Information Committees" would be the best means of informing the people of the area as to the need for the library levy. County wide informational meetings were held in Custer and Washita Counties early in October, 1967, to begin to inform citizens of the upcoming vote, for which the date had not been set at that time. There was good attendance at both of these meetings and a Chairman for each committee was named. In Custer county, Mrs. Doug Myers, Clinton was named chairman of the "Library Information Committee." In Washita county Mr. Bill Nichols, First National Bank, Cordell, was chosen County Chairman. These chairmen then went about choosing a committee, with representatives in each area of the counties. It was decided early that local committees could work most effectively in their own areas on election day to organize "Get out the vote" activities, and beforehand on speaking to groups and organizations.

Once these first informational meetings had been held, an effort was begun to reach every group and organization in each of these counties with the library story. This was a big effort, since there are some 73 groups and organizations in Custer county and about 50 or so in Washita county. However, for the most part, every group either had a speaker or some information on the library. News releases as to the need for the vote were started with the county informational meetings.

The Demonstration library system has had many friends since it first began, because people worked hard to get it started, with letters of endorsement and letters of support sent to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, so it was not too difficult to line up people to work.

Work was carried on through November and December to speak to groups and to begin to line up plans for the real campaign ahead, since a target date for an election had been set for early spring. About this time, it was felt by Dewey County System Board members that a peak of enthusiasm for the library program was being reached and that perhaps a vote at or near the same time as the Custer and Washita votes would be good. So work on informing the people was begun there and local people lined up to work on the election when the time came.

In January, meetings with the County Commissioners and citizen leaders and System Board members led to the decision that March 5 in Custer and Washita Counties would be the Library Election Date; and April 16 would be the big day in Dewey county. Once the date was set, the real work started. An effort was made to line up another visit with all clubs and organizations to give factual information as to the cost of the proposed two mill levy and how the system operates. Most important part of the library message was that if the library levy was not voted, all library system services would cease after the demonstration period, and all books, bookmobiles, etc. would be withdrawn.

Late January and early February were a flurry of activities, speaking and writing publicity, and news releases, and planning for get-out-the-vote activities at the last minute. Each community had a plan—and since there isn't room to tell all of that, I will relate only a few instances. It should be said that all communities had good
plans for their areas, and most of them did use
the same basic campaign materials which had
been supplied by the "Library Information Com-
mittees." Weatherford made plans for a "Honk
Parade" close to election date to call attention
to the vote. Posters were made by school children
and the day before the vote, the school band
played on Main street while a large group of
high school students marched with posters re-
minding people to vote. In each community there
were handbills for distribution the afternoon and
evening before the vote. There were bookmarks
which went home with school children and off
the bookmobile and out of the libraries for a
month before the votes reminding people that
their vote meant the continuation of library ser-
vice through the system. In Cordell, the school chil-
dren made posters which were displayed all
around the town square just before the vote. Sen-
tinel had posters up and so did Thomas. Boy
Scouts in several of the towns donated their time
the night before the election to put out materials

on the vote. Phone committees were organized
and active the day before and the day of the
election. Post cards and letters signed by library
board members and interested citizens were mail-
ed in all areas just before the vote—again call-
ing the attention of library users and citizens of
the area to the importance of the election. There
were radio shows, donated as public service time,
and in one case, paid for by an interested citi-
zen, telling the library story just before the vote.

Speakers for the clubs were mostly citizens,
although library staff also helped. Sentinel High
School speech students worked up some speeches
on the importance of good library service and
made them for clubs and over the radio. Invited
to attend the Cordell Rotary Club the day that
two of the students, Max Brazel and Nancy King,
gave their speeches, I was so impressed, I was
almost speechless myself.

Dewey County election activities really got
into full swing late in February, and plans were
made for a get-out-the vote campaign. In special
elections such as these library elections, it is a real problem to get people out; and everyone felt that as big a turnout as possible should be encouraged. All of the Extension Clubs were contacted for speaking engagements. As in all counties, these clubs are made up of women striving to keep up with new methods and they are interested in education for their families and themselves. I have always found them to be library-minded and civic minded. They were a big help. Bookmarks were used, and a poster contest was held at both Seiling and Leedey. A local library committee in each case provided cash prizes for the best posters. The Leedey contest included Camargo, and the posters, after being judged, were put up all over town just before the election. Some of the posters were just great and all were good. My favorite was one which had the saying—"The bookmobile is the best thing that has happened since Adam and Eve"—I love it! The Seiling Library Board also sponsored an essay contest and provided prize money. The winning essays were published in the local papers just before the vote. The ideas expressed by the winning students and all of those who entered were aimed at the benefits the library had brought to them. In each case the judging of the contest was done by out-side groups or persons, so that fair evaluation of work could be done. The Weatherford Advisory Board judged the Essay contest at Seiling; the Clinton Art Guild judged the poster contest for Seiling; the Canute Brush and Palette Club judged the posters for Leedey and Camargo. Again, citizen involvement.

The Library Elections also got a big boost through the help of the Custer County Extension Homemakers, who devoted their T.V. show on the "Farm and Home Hour" during February to the Library System. I had done a lesson for all of the clubs in how to make effective use of the library back in 1966. In the fall of 1967, the winning educational booth at the Custer County Fair was one which showed the services of the library. That booth had been prepared by the Custer Extension Homemakers Club. The T.V. show, 15 minutes in length, had four parts. The educational booth was shown, and information concerning services; then the Library System Story Hour program which was sponsored by the Extension Homemakers in the summer of 1967 was shown, with the children and "Purple Bear," the host for the story-time; Extension Home Economist, Joy Schomp, spoke on the values of library service, and while pictures of the bookmobile were shown I spoke on what the aims of the library system were and how it operates. The Extension Homemakers gave support and endorsement to the program and said so on the T.V. show.

As in all elections, there was opposition. Anytime you start talking about raising taxes, you have this. It has always been my feeling that people are willing to pay for a service program, if they can see the value of it and what it does. We had tried to show this during the demonstration period, but not everyone is a library user, as we all know. There was organized opposition in Washita county. The group involved used misinformation most of the time, and this is what helped us to win—The Library Committee told the truth and kept on telling the story again. However, the opposition did buy a great deal of newspaper space. This forced the Washita county Library Committees to have to make a large expenditure for newspaper space too—the papers were all "libraries" those last two weeks. Since library funds cannot be spent for election materials, all of the funds were raised by the citizens committees who got together enough to pay for the necessary ads. The mothers of Sentinel raised their money in pennies, dollars, nickels and dimes. A concerted effort to get the truth out and to answer all charges made against the Library System was made. Most of the opposition centered around the tax. Nobody wants more taxes—I un-

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**COLONIAL "out-of-print"**

**BOOK SERVICE, INC.**

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. . . .)

"Want Lists Invited"

"Catalogues on Request"

23 EAST FOURTH STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10003

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October, 1968
WEATHERFORD HIGH SCHOOL BAND and students working for libraries.

Understand that too, but when we want service programs, we must pay for them. The library tax is actually a relatively small one and cost more people no more than the price of one or two good books a year. Only very large land-owners are assessed more. Also, some of the opposition said that public libraries were not needed—and advertised the bookmobile as "used" and "for sale." The forces of the library couldn't let this one go by—and took an ad saying that indeed the bookmobile was used, heavily, and showed circulation figures. The election carried by 61% despite the opposition.

Although there was some opposition in Custer County, there was no organized opposition and the election carried by 73%.

In Dewey county, there was some opposition to the library system on the basis of the library tax. However, there was no real organized opposition—only one statement in the newspapers against it. Since the library election was on the same ballot with a bond issue for a County Fair Barn, both forces worked together. There were many ads placed in favor of the library during the final week, most of them unsolicited by the Citizen's Committees, but placed by interested citizens. The library election carried by 63%, but the Fair Barn issue which needed 60% to carry fell short by some 80 or so votes.

The newspaper support was great! Editorial support was almost 100% in the area, and who can ask for more. Of course, editorial support cannot be solicited, as far as I am concerned. Newspaper people, I have found, are for the most part people of great integrity, who survey all issues carefully. Editorial support is stating a belief and that means that the editors must really believe it. You can't ask someone to believe something—you can only give the information and facts and let them make a decision for themselves. The Cordell Beacon carried a front page editorial, the first one that anyone remembers, and we are sure it was done because of the opposition. The Clinton Daily News gave two editorials just before the election, one of them making an appeal to citizens to "leave it a better place," meaning now is the time to build for the future of the area. The Sentinel Leader gave good editorial support and the Elk City Daily News, located in Beckham county (not a part of the system now), but read in Washita, Custer and Dewey counties, also gave good coverage and editorial support. Dewey county newspapers gave editorial support and good coverage to the election. The Weatherford News also gave editorial support and much coverage to the election. All of the papers should be mentioned by name, but there isn't enough space.

The real question is—"Why was the library election successful?" As you have already read, there was a lot of work done, and much more not mentioned. There were personal contacts, probably the most important factor, and mostly there were hard-working people who believed in the program enough to make an effort to inform others.

There are a lot of bouquets which could be tossed to many people—The library system staff, who gave of their personal time to help; the library boards in the area, who were willing to give the library demonstration a chance, despite the changes it meant; and after seeing the benefits to the area, made the effort to get the library levy voted; to the citizen leaders who gave time and of themselves; the Oklahoma Department of Libraries for preparation of some informational materials; and well, really to the citizens of the area who had the belief in library service and were willing to tax themselves to support it.

I would like to give a very special mention to the two County Committee Chairmen from Custer and Washita counties (We didn't have a county chairman in Dewey County, where sparse and scattered population meant that local committees worked best using the same informational materials, but actually campaigning just in their part of the county), Mrs. Doug Myers and Mr. Bill Nichols. Mrs. Myers, called Tommie and "Mrs. Library" by most of the residents of Clinton and Custer county was County Chairman for Custer County. Tommie has been a tireless work-
er for libraries for years. She served on the Advisory Board for the Extension Division of the Oklahoma State Library for some years, and that is how she got interested in multi-county libraries to begin with. She saw that such an organization would bring library service to her beloved western Oklahoma. Having grown up with only limited library facilities herself, and encountering the problems of entering O.U. and trying to use a large library after having no library at all, Tommie saw the library system as the answer for library service for all people, regardless of whether rural or urban. She spearheaded the election back in 1962 for a new library building for Clinton. Serving as president of the Clinton Library Board during the last few years, she helped to get the Library Demonstration started. During the campaign, as with any project she undertakes, she directed all of her being to informing the people and working for the library levy. Mrs. Tommie Myers is a one-woman “prairie-fire,” and although she would modestly decline any honors, certainly there can be few greater boosters of libraries.

Mr. Bill Nichols, a banker in Cordell, believes in libraries and is a reader too. He likes mysteries mostly, but all of his family including the five children are big library users for informational purposes as well as recreational reading. Bill faced the opposition in Washita county and kept on going. He sees libraries as important to the business community and development of the area, as well as a place to get some good reading. During the campaign, after one encounter with the opposition, he was awarded a Purple Merry Heart and an abundance of Peanut Clusters for heroism. Another fine library supporter who gave of himself and of his time for library efforts—you just can't beat them!

Another person who deserves a mention—and there are so many that we would never do them all justice and leave any space for anything else in this issue of the Oklahoma Librarian is Mrs. L. R. Dawson, Weatherford. Mrs. Dawson served as chairman of the C-W-D Library System Board during the demonstration period. She also serves as chairman of the Weatherford Library Advisory Board. Some of us describe Mrs. Dawson as a “prime pusher” and she is a determined lady when she starts out. Charming and gracious, but determined are the words. Mrs. Dawson’s efforts and interest in the development of the library program were, it is true, at first centered around library service for Weatherford. However, after learning of the Library System concept and what it means for the people of the entire area, she broadened her interests to include getting library service for all of the area.

All C-W-D Board members worked on the campaign—Mrs. Hazel Craig, Mrs. Ramon Jordan, Mr. Doane Farr, Mr. Anton Kunc, Mr. Bill Crump, Mr. Walter Foth, Mrs. Donal Shepard and Mrs. Weeden Lowry.

The election time will provide some “good story-telling” for a long time, since there were so many things going on. Certainly, it will be remembered by some of us as the day that the people of the area went to the polls and voted the establishment of western Oklahoma’s first library system.

Thinking back through this article and of the days and months that made up the activities, it seems a jumble, and perhaps I have told it in that fashion. We have many sample campaign materials used and could show them to you. We might even dig up some campaign workers with some battle scars—don’t misunderstand—things like tired and crooked fingers from signing letters and cards, pierced fingers where staples mis-fired, tired tongues from licking envelopes, permanently bent fingers from dialing phone numbers, some worn out shoes from beating the pavement to get endorsements (Mrs. Ed Barrong and Mrs. Catherine Richert went out in a snow storm to get the endorsements of all of the business community in Weatherford—and they lived to tell the story).

As you can tell, the election centers around people—just as the library service program is aimed at people and providing them with the library services they want and need.

In trying to find a punch line to finish this article, I am at a loss. I can say this—it is exciting to work with people who believe enough to give of themselves (whether time and effort or money) to further a belief. It is exciting and a real pleasure to work for people who are willing to tax themselves for the services they want and need. Western Oklahoma recognized the need, saw the way to fill it and took the necessary steps.

My own personal thoughts on the two election nights are a jumble too, but I think I can remember thinking — “At last, we have really begun,” and although we can look back and see how far we have come—the exciting thing is that now we are assured of tax support, we can look ahead to the potential of the area and measuring progress is really done by seeing how far you have to go—“We have begun.”

October, 1968
Books Added To The Oklahoma Collection
At The Oklahoma Department of Libraries

**YUCATAN MONKEY**
★Beebe, B. F., N.Y., McKay, 1967. $3.95.

**SMALL VOICES**
Berger, Josef. Eriksson. 1966. $5.95.
p. 235-241. “Have I been busy this year! Whew.” by ★Marilyn Bell.

**PHOTO JOURNALISM MANUAL**
★Bergin, David P. Morgan, 1967. $8.95.

**BERRYMAN'S SONNETS**
★Berrymann, John. N.Y., Farrar, c1967. $3.95.

**SHORT POEMS**

**THE WAR ON CHARITY ROSS**
★Bickham, Jack M. Doubleday, 1967. $3.95.

**FOUR THOUSAND TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS FROM TEXAS, 1745-1870, ALONG THE OLD SAN ANTONIO ROAD AND THE TRAIL OF AUSTIN'S COLONISTS**
★Biggerstaff, Inez (Boswell) ‘Oklahoma City, 1952’ $12.00.

**WILDCAT ON THE LOOSE**

**THE FORGOTTEN FARMERS; THE STORY OF SHARE-CROPPERS IN THE NEW DEAL**

**JUST A MINUTE, MRS. GULLIVER; BEING THE ACCOUNT OF THE TRAVELS AND TRAVAILS OF ONE MRS. BOB CONSIDINE . . .**
★Considine, Millie. Prentice, 1967. $4.95.

**THE GENTLE RADICAL: A BIOGRAPHY OF ROGER WILLIAMS**
★Covey, Cyclone. Macmillan, 1966. $5.95.

**THE CHEYENNE-ARAPAHOE COUNTRY**

**AND STILL THE WATERS RUN**

**MAN AND HIS GOD**

**LETTERS FROM DR. DOCTOR JANE**
★Dunaway, Jane E. N.Y., Exposition, c1964. $3.50.

**THE FALLS CREEK STORY**

**THE COW KILLERS”; WITH THE AFTOSA COMMISSION IN MEXICO**
Gipson, Frederick Benjamin. Drawings by ★Bill Leftwich. Austin, Univ. of Texas, 1966. $4.95.

**GRAND SLAM; THE SECRETS OF POWER BASEBALL**

**GIFTS FROM THE BIBLE**
★Hall, Ennen Reaves. N. Y., Harper & Row d1968. $4.95.

**COWBOYS AND CATTLELAND**

**ALARMS AND HOPES; A PERSONAL JOURNEY, A PERSONAL VIEW**
★Harris, Fred R. N. Y., Harper & Row d1968. $4.95.

**CAPTAIN PETE**
★Heck, Bessie Holland. Cleveland, World, c1967. $3.95.

**THE YEAR AT BOGGY**
★Heck, Bessie Holland. Cleveland, World, c1966. $3.75.

**THE OUTSIDERS**
★Hinton, S. E. N. Y., Viking, c1967. $3.77.

**THE EPistles TO THE CORINTHIANS, A STUDY MANUAL**

**AN EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**

**AN EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

**THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JESUS: A CONTEMPORARY APPROACH**

**PREACHING VALUES FROM THE PAPYRUS**

**WHAT BAPTISTS BELIEVE**

**WHEN THE RAIN FALLS; COMFORT FOR TROUBLED HEARTS**

**WELCOME SPEECHES, AND EMERGENCY ADDRESSES FOR ALL OCCASIONS**

**THE GREY HORSE LEGACY**
THE CHANGING WORLD; AN EDITOR’S OUTLOOK
★ Jones, Jenkin Lloyd. N. Y., Fleet, c1964. $4.50.
SECOND YEAR NURSE; NANCY KIMBALL AT CITY HOSPITAL
CATLOW
FALLON
HIGH LONESOME
THE TWELVE DANCING PRINCESSES
SMOKE
IRON MEN; A SAGA OF THE DEPUTY UNITED STATES MARSHALS WHO RODE THE INDIAN TERRITORY
THE EDUCATION OF A BASEBALL PLAYER
★ Mantle, Mickey. Simon, 1967. $.4.95.
A SECOND TOUCH
THE TASTE OF NEW WINE
NORSE MEDIEVAL CRYPTOGRAPHY IN RUNIC CARVINGS
ON THE WESTERN TOUR WITH WASHINGTON IRVING; THE JOURNAL AND LETTERS OF COUNT DE POURTALES
THROUGH GOD’S REVOLVING DOORS
★ Scantlan, Sam W. Oklahoma City, Messenger Press, 1964. .$.2.00.
HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREA
BOBBED TAIL VERSES AND ONE LONG TALE
★ Ward, William Fletcher. Phil., Dorrance, c1967. $3.00.
THE BUCKSTONES
★ Wellman, Paul Iselin. Trident, 1967. $5.95.
BEASTS WITH MUSIC
★ Williams, Dorothy Jeanne. Meredith, 1967. $8.95.
OF LOVE AND FURY
★ Ziems, Armin. Pageant, 1965. $3.50.
★ Oklahoma Author
October, 1968

Ralph Funk Appointed Director, Okla. Department of Libraries

Ralph Funk was unanimously appointed director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries by members of the board in a meeting held Thursday, September 19. For the past ten months, Funk has been serving as acting director, following Ralph Hudson who is now deceased.

The appointment climaxes an eight-year tenure with the department for Funk who has served in many capacities while here including documents librarian, legislative reference librarian, special services librarian, governmental services librarian, and general reference librarian.

Funk, a native Oklahoman, was born in Holdenville and attended University High School in Norman. He received a B.A. and MLS from the University of Oklahoma.

He taught school in Marshall, Oklahoma and worked for the University of Kansas Library before returning to Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Since becoming acting director ten months ago, Funk instigated several new programs including the Oklahoma Teletype Interlibrary System, a TWX network covering the state; an institutional program to upgrade the libraries in our 28 state institutions and a new multi-county development library system.

Funk is active in advisory committees of the American Library Association, the Oklahoma Library Association and Southwestern Library Association. He is a member of the Oklahoma Arts and Humanities Council and he has served as a part time instructor in the Library Science Department of the University of Oklahoma.

In off duty hours, Funk is a student of the art of folk wine-making with Oklahoma elderberry and strawberry his specialties. He also is a gourmet cook and he enjoys reading whenever he can find the time.

European Tour

The Illinois Library Association is organizing two flights to Europe following the 1969 ALA convention in Atlantic City.

Chicago-London-Amsterdam departing on June 30 and returning July 27. Round trip fare per person is $279.00. New York-London-Amsterdam departing on June 29 and returning on July 26. Round trip fare per person is $210.00. Package tours are available if desired. For information write: Mrs. Dorothy Salchenberger, Secretarial Assistant, I.L.A.; 6725 N. Rockwell Street; Chicago, Illinois 60645.
American Library Association Councilor’s Report

In his president’s report to council at the first session, Foster Mohrhardt reflected the growing awareness and concern of our membership for social problems saying, “Librarians serve in a violent world as examples of action by reason.” ALA has its problems too, particularly operational or housekeeping, expansion of interest and the complexity of work, and the budgetary needs resulting from growth in membership and requests for more and more services. He pointed out that from 1958-1957 there was a 50% increase in attendance at annual meetings and that from 1957-1968 it increased by 100%. “There are only eight cities in the United States that can handle this group,” he said. Attendance in Kansas City was 6,554. His report was concluded with praise for the headquarters staff for the help and cooperation given him.

The Wednesday afternoon membership meeting was lengthy and lively. Many took part in the discussion from the floor as different items of business and reports were brought before the rather large group in attendance. Three recommendations were passed for council action. “That membership recommend to Council and the Executive Board that they reject that portion of the PEBCO report which would in any way reduce the funding of the Office for Recruitment” (this was mentioned as a possibility because of the necessity to cut the budget) and “... that the dues for ALA institutional membership be increased substantially on a graduated scale, to be effective at the earliest possible date, and that all the eligible institutions be invited and urged to join; and that the Council and Executive Board be asked to consider ways that a special voluntary dues supplement be established now for the purpose of supporting the recruitment activities of ALA.” These two recommendations were approved in a special Thursday morning session of Council. A third recommendation passed by membership but voted down at this time concerned the inclusion of a platform statement by candidates for the offices of first vice-president, president-elect, and second vice-president in ballot information.

Late Wednesday afternoon a motion was made and passed requiring action by the ALA Committee on Organization on a petition calling for the establishment of a Round Table on the Social Responsibilities of Libraries prior to the Council meeting to be held on Friday morning, June 28. COO voted unanimously not to make a recommendation, at this time, to Council when it met following the membership meeting.

At its special meeting on June 27, the Council adopted the following resolution: “Voted, That the Committee on Organization report to the Executive Board its recommendation for or against the establishment of a Round Table on the Social Responsibilities of Libraries, and that the action of the Committee on Organization and of the Executive Board be reported to Council expeditiously.” This will allow time to define the function of the Round Table and to consider the financial and other obligations which are implicit in the creation or dissolution of such units.

Among informational reports given during Council’s second session selected highlights of Forthcoming Standards for School Media Programs were read, and it was announced that a new Public Library Study is being considered. The report of the Program Evaluation and Budget Committee revealed that ALA is experiencing problems of not having enough money for all the requests, particularly for minimum raises for staff and for increased services to members.

The first open meeting of the Special Committee on ALA Chapter Relationships at Midwinter January 1968 made one point clear: Chapters are interested in developing a closer, more effective relationship with ALA. A second meeting of this committee was held in Kansas City with Chapter Councilors, Presidents, Presidents-Elect, and Executive Secretaries in attendance.

A list of ALA-Chapter obligations prepared by the committee served as the basis for a forum discussion. The list stressed work obligations and suggests that a strong Chapter program of work is a prerequisite to a meaningful Chapter-ALA relationship. It was noted that communication, cooperation and coordination will be necessary to fulfill the obligations.

There were too many Oklahomans in attendance at the Conference to list. Needless to say, they were all very busy attending meetings and participating in programs and committee work.

By Jane Stevens

OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN
PRINCESS HOLISSO APISACHI (which means Keeper of the Books in the Chickasaw language) was the name given to Mrs. Billee M. Day who was recently inducted into the Chickasaw Tribe by Governor Overton James. He cited Mrs. Day, the Director of the Chickasaw Library System, for outstanding dedication and service to the many Indians and all of the people in her four-county library system which is located in the heart of the old Chickasaw Nation of Indian Territory. Mrs. Day was also recently elected President of the Board of Trustees of the Chickasaw Historical Society for 1968-69.

We are very proud that Tulsa's John Bennett Shaw received the coveted National Trustee of the Year Award and that the Tulsa City-County Libraries won the John Cotton Dana award for outstanding publicity about libraries for a city of from 200,000 to 500,000.

A few of us got a hearty laugh when two of my board members got the key out of the box at my hotel (it was closer in than theirs) and went up to what they thought was my room to relax a minute. Would you believe that as coincidence would have it there were two of us in the hotel with exactly the same name and that my friends left a note in the room of the other one?

It has been a great honor to represent ALA during this past year and I'm grateful for the experience. It has also afforded the opportunity to learn much about ALA. Now, I look forward to the wise and experienced representation which our new councilor, Frances Kennedy, will bring to us.

October, 1968
The Chapters of ALA

An address given before the OLA Officers Workshop, June 8, 1958, in Oklahoma City. Portions of the address have been published elsewhere.

By Ruth Warncke
Deputy Executive Director,
American Library Association

I haven’t been to a working session of the officers and committee chairmen of a state library association since I left Michigan; such a session was an annual affair there and I believe it should be in every state. A meeting like this provides the means for setting up a year’s program of activities with specific goals. It enables every unit of the association to tailor its programs to the overall goals and to become part of a unified whole. Besides it’s fun, and probably the last peaceful time you will have together during what I hope will be an extremely busy year.

The fact that all 50 state library associations are chapters of ALA, is a matter of congratulations for all 51 associations, it seems to me. In addition, four regional associations are chapters as are two Canadian provincial associations. Tenuous as the relationships may seem between ALA and its chapters, they are actually strong in that they are based on sharing a common purpose. ALA’s purpose is “To promote library service and librarianship.” That is what the Constitution says, but in the annual November issue of the ALA Bulletin, you will find a further statement to clarify this objective. “In the furtherance of this objective, ALA seeks to make books and ideas vital forces in American life, to make libraries easily accessible to all people, to improve professional standards of librarianship, and to create and publish professional literature.” If I were a more diligent student, I should probably have looked up the statements of purposes of all of the chapters before I came here to talk to you but I have absolute faith that each one of them is totally compatible with that of ALA. Each chapter has, of course, agreed to accept the statement of the ALA Bylaws “The purpose of a chapter is to promote general library service and librarianship within its geographic area and to cooperate in the promotion of general and joint enterprises with the American Library Association and other library groups.”

It is well, I think, when we are discussing purposes to recall that neither ALA nor its chapters declare themselves in existence to serve their individual members. They exist instead to provide an instrument through which their members can serve a social good. When a prospective member asks what the prerequisites of membership are—the right answer is “Only the opportunity to support the program that will promote libraries and librarianship.” The fact that such promotion by the Association results in such windfalls as increased salaries and improved working conditions and is expressed through useful publications, is a pleasant accomplishment but not the real reason for belonging to the Association. The bargain hunters who indicate that the dues are too high, show that they think they are purchasing a commodity rather than supporting a cause.

As the Oklahoma State Library Association well knows, each chapter has representation on the ALA Council. I was pleased to see in the statistical studies that were done last year of the chapters that of the 49 responding, 43 reported that their councilors were members of their executive board, or whatever it is they call their governing body. Of those, 37 were voting members. 41 chapters reported that their councilors make reports to the membership — 11 orally, 18 through their publications and 13 both orally and through the publications. From there on, the record is not so good. Only 15 of the councilors were reported to be instructed by the governing body on the issues to come before Council. One sometimes instructs its councilor and 29 do not instruct them. One wonders what the 29 chapters think representation means. The other rather sad part of the picture was that only 18 chapters paid the expenses of their councilors to ALA meetings, although 13
pay in part; but 14 do not pay at all. Quite obviously if the councilor’s own library is able and willing to pay his expenses, there will be no need for the state association to pick up the bill, but if the state association is not prepared to pay, the councilor will be chosen on the basis of his abilities to get to a Council meeting not on the basis of his abilities to contribute to it or to bring back something from it.

Now that we have a committee on chapter relationships to work with the councilors, we hope that they will become much more articulate. Too many issues are voted on without discussion — even on important issues, relatively few councilors speak, and you and I know that the same ones speak over and over. If the chapters held their councilors responsible for representing them well, if they instructed them as well as possible in advance and demanded to know what the councilor or said in support of their point of view, the affairs and the character of ALA might undergo some change. Maybe it wouldn’t. But as long as the councilors stay mute, no one knows.

A chapter has, of course, far more responsibilities than the sending of a councilor to the annual meetings. The Bylaws say “Each state, provincial, territorial, or regional chapter shall be the final authority within the American Library Association in respect to all programs and policies which concern only the area for which the chapter is responsible.” Responsibility and authority, final and absolute rest in the chapters for the implementation of the common goals, “to extend and improve library service and librarianship” within the chapter’s geographical area.

Every now and then, we get a plea from one of the states such as:

“Our legislature is trying to pass an obscenity law that may prevent libraries from having the works of people like Hemingway and Faulkner. What can ALA do?”

ALA can send materials and advice but ALA cannot undertake a campaign to influence state legislation — that is the chapter’s obligation. Or we are asked, “Can ALA make the separate trustee or school libraries association become part of the state chapter?” No, ALA cannot. This again is a matter of chapter jurisdiction.

When I get one of these cries for help, I always wonder how the person who writes the letter would react if ALA did interfere with the state’s business. What if ALA should demand that each chapter get through its legislature a certification law, drafted by ALA. I can hear the howls from all over the country, and justified howls. State certification is state business and chapter responsibility. ALA can draw up a model certification law; it can report in its journals what other states have done in the field of certification. It can, if it is asked, send speakers to the state concerning certification, but it cannot, and it never will, draw up a certification law for any given state.

When I read the bit from the Bylaws that ends after speaking of chapter authority with the words “programs and policies which concern only the area for which the chapter is responsible provided they are not inconsistent with any programs and policies established by the ALA Council,” at the first meeting of the Chapters Relationships Committee with the councilors, I was greeted with a raucous laugh. I suppose that last phrase does sound limiting and makes the rest of the Article sound like a hollow mockery, until one stops to reflect. Suppose one of our chapters should be so misguided as to take a stand against Federal aid to libraries, let us say, or Intellectual Freedom. Certainly, ALA would be justified in asking such a chapter to bring its policies into compatibility with the general policies of ALA, or to drop its

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chapter status. Fortunately, except for the time during which four of our state chapters were not able to bring their constitutions into compatibility with ALA’s concerning the right of all people to join the chapter, as all people who are interested are privileged to join ALA, we have not had any problem about our agreements on fundamental matters. Now, the four states have resolved their problem and are back with us. Sad though the situation was, it did prove that chapter relationship has meaning and that the chapters and ALA as a whole do move in fundamental agreement on important issues, although one has responsibility at the national level and the others carry the responsibility in their own states, regions or provinces.

In the list of chapter obligations, drawn up by the Committee on Chapter Relationships for discussion at the Kansas City Conference, ALA’s first obligation is listed as formulating professional association objectives which may be adopted by chapters. ALA has fulfilled its obligations through the publication of the *ALA Goals for Action*, which was revised in 1967 and of which you all have copies. Another statement comparable to this in serving long term goals, is the other piece that you have: *Federal Legislative Policies of the American Library Association*.

It is quite natural that the first point under chapter obligation should be to set up guidelines for chapter activities by formulating and adopting long-range and short-range chapter objectives. Evidently the compilers of the list felt that it was unnecessary to comment that the two sets of objectives—national and chapters—should be compatible. This omission seems to me to indicate a remarkable history of harmony on fundamentals between ALA and its chapters even though each may be very critical of the other concerning organization practice and minor details.

On some of the other points, ALA is also filling its obligations. The chapters are charged with adopting a plan for statewide or regional library development and ALA is asked to promote such developments by providing staff assistance. There are three words in that item, however, that cause me some puzzlement “at those levels.” I suspect this refers to the idea of regional staffing of ALA but I think the ALA staff has a very good record of assisting the chapters and state agencies in developing and implementing their plans. Frankly I can’t see that we would do any better by having four or five regional officers than we do now, when we are all together and can share our knowledge and stimulate one another on the rare occasions when we are all at Headquarters together. Another chapter obligation is to give direction to chapter work by adopting an annual program of work, based on objectives or a statewide or a rational plan. And ALA is charged here with giving direction to national and chapter association work by adopting an annual program of work. This ALA does through its Program Evaluation and Budget Committee. Every unit of ALA must outline its program of work for the coming year and submit it for evaluation as a program and for budgetary support. At the Midwinter meeting of PEBCO the staff submits a Program Memorandum for use by PEBCO in its review and evaluation of ALA programs. This year beginning in April, the *ALA Bulletin* is printing the 1968 Program Memorandum in four parts. I should think it would be of interest for the officers and committee chairman of a chapter to read those four articles with a great deal of care for suggestions for the work of the chapter and to understand the nature of the total national program.

The fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh items under ALA obligations have not as yet been met. We have to skip down to number eight before ALA can produce evidence of meeting its obligations as outlined here with respect to the chapters. ALA has begun a program to prepare counselors for meaningful participation through the Chapter

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Relationships Committee. We have a long way to go but we have made a start. We do also, encourage chapter participation in policy decisions by briefing chapters well in advance through their councilor of major issues to be considered by the Council. Many councilors think that the material comes much too late, but they are referring to the final docket for Council. Actually, if a councilor or any other member follows the ALA Bulletin, he will be aware, from the reports of the previous Council meeting, from the items in "Memo to Members," and from articles what the major issues are that will be coming up, and can discuss them with the executive board of the chapter. The ALA Headquarters staff would like very much to get the Council docket materials out to the councilors two or three months in advance of the meeting, but this would not give our members, through their committees and divisions, time to complete the work begun at Midwinter before a report was called for. Perhaps we should take a completely imaginative approach to this problem and make whatever changes in our structure and organization are necessary in order that the ALA issues can be thoroughly discussed at the chapter level.

ALA certainly tries to foster the growth of association leadership at the national level by taking advantage of the talent and experience of seasoned chapter leaders. We do try to establish close communications between ALA and chapter presidents and we do encourage affiliation of chapter divisions.

As yet, we do not prepare guidelines of association management for adaptation by chapters, nor do we coordinate work at the national and chapter levels by using the chapter programs of work as a guide in the formulation of the national program. We do use the chapter conference in a way, as a means of determining state and regional interest in establishing work priorities, but only through the process of observation by our staff members as they are privileged to attend chapter meetings. Thus far we have not provided an annual training program for incoming chapter officers and a form for evaluating task programs in future plans. I shudder at the enormity of such an undertaking at the same time that I can see its tremendous value. We are planning to have more information on chapters and their activities in the ALA Bulletin although we have not thus far done very much about informing our total membership of what goes on in the chapters. And we are beginning to develop a central resource collection of chapter records and publications, and will make every effort to make the information available, upon request, to all chapters.

ALA's record, then, on this list of ALA chapter obligations is about 1/3 A, about 1/3 E; and 1/3 C for trying and beginning. Where the chapters stand, ALA really doesn't know. Each chapter will have to judge itself. As I visit chapters, I have been pleased to note that a great many of them have taken part with the state library agencies in adopting a plan for statewide or regional library development. More and more are giving direction to their chapter work by adopting an annual program of work based on their objectives in a statewide or regional plan. That sounds very good, but unfortunately as I say it, certain rather dismal pictures rise in my mind. I think of the annual chapter conferences I have been to where a principal speech may have been made about implementing the statewide plan, but every single section or round table meeting was concerned with some minutiae dear to the hearts of one small group of librarians and totally unrelated to the overall picture. I see even more dismal pictures of sections and round tables and even board meetings that indicate that nothing in the way of a program of work has gone on through the entire year. I see quarterly publications and newsletters that report news from the local libraries of less than world shaking importance with a little think piece here and there on some tried, true and tested aspect of librarianship. I hope that when chapters measure themselves against this list of obligations, they will be very honest in their assessment of their grade on number three, "adopting an annual program of work based on objectives at a statewide or regional plan."

Some chapters do give continuity to their work by publishing manuals of duties and procedures and a few even keep them up to date. Some muddle along from year to year, reinventing the wheel on an annual basis and some maintain continuity through the oral tradition.

I'm really not sure of the validity of number five under the chapter obligations. It says that the chapter should coordinate work at the national and chapter levels by using the ALA program of work as a guide in the formation of the chapter program. I suppose to an extent, this is desirable. Certainly when ALA publishes standards as part of its program of work, the chapter should react by doing everything in its power to implement these standards. When ALA makes a forceful statement on intellectual freedom as it applies to children and young people, it would behoove the chapters to spend some time in considering the statement until it is thoroughly understood, and in time implementing it. I think my
doubt about this statement is that it seems to be comprehensive, whereas it seems to me that the chapter must pick and choose from the ALA program of work those activities that are of greatest importance, of most significance in the area served by the chapter, and of most relevance to the chapter’s particular goals on objectives for the year.

I’m whole-heartedly in favor of the chapters contributing to the formulation of the national program of work by reporting chapter work plans and progress to ALA.

You can’t blame the chapters for never having done it because I think ALA has never asked them to do it. Here is a job for the Chapter Relationships Committee, again. The chapters, however, need no help from ALA in developing obligation number seven, to promote the chapter program of work by building the chapter conference around some phase of it. It seems to me that the chapter that has the ingenuity and good sense to adopt an annual program of work would find the annual program flowering out of such activities quite naturally. Something tells me that obligation eight is of major importance. I hope that the chapters will influence ALA policy making by selecting councilors with the breadth of knowledge and experience required to coordinate national and chapter programs. I spoke before of the need to select people to represent the chapters who are thoughtful and articulate and of the need for informing them about the chapter stand on issues and expecting reports from them.

I think the chapters do a pretty good job of meeting their obligation to foster the growth of chapter leadership by involving the greatest practical number of people in their activities. I am pleased to see, wherever I go, young people taking part in chapter activities and having a voice in chapter policies. Today I am seeing an example of strengthening chapter leadership by means of orientation programs to acquaint officers with the overall chapter program as well as with specific duties. I hope that very soon, every chapter in the country will make a meeting like this a vital part of its total year’s activities.

As soon as ALA does a little better on communication between the chapters and ALA and on maintaining the central resource collection, the chapters, I think, will be in a position to do better in keeping ALA informed on what goes on.

The more important thing to keep in mind, it seems to me, as we work at both the national and the chapter level, is that there is a good reason for the existence of both levels and for their working closely together. ALA has an overall responsibility to work with the national government, not only in securing federal support for library development but on such matters as the gathering of library statistics, the development of library research, and experimentation with, and ultimate production of national library network. It maintains relationships with other national organizations, ranging from the American Book Publishers Council to the Canadian Library Association, to the National Education Association, the American Correction Association, to the U.S. Jaycees. ALA holds memberships in twelve national and international associations and over 150 associations are listed to which we send representatives regularly. Only a national organization can maintain relationships of this kind and have a voice in the world wide discussions of significant issues in the fields of education, information, research and cultural developments that fall within the responsibility of the library world.

The national organization, of course, has greater resources than any of the chapters. We now have about 35,000 members whose dues help to pay the 200 or more employees of ALA. It takes a staff like this to produce important publications and to back up the committees and division boards.
with staff assistance. It takes a large staff to hold nationally important conferences, to conduct a national legislative program, and to secure grants for demonstration, research, and development projects.

We have spoken about leadership before and the role of both the national and the state associations in developing that leadership. One thing that is overlooked sometimes is that a national organization provides an opportunity for gifted and imaginative people to have greater influence. Without ALA the contributions of these leaders would be limited to their own states. It is true, too, I think, that involvement in a national organization for a person with genuine potential, is an incentive to greater performance and an awareness of higher goals. ALA is frequently criticized for not involving as many of its members as it should, according to some people’s standards. Actually, a quick run through of the annual Organization and Information issue of the Bulletin, which comes out every November, refutes that criticism. I sometimes think we’d be more efficient if we had fewer people in leadership roles in the organization and had more time to work with them and to support their efforts.

Without the ALA chapters, the drive for the promotion of libraries and librarianship would be greatly curtailed. One very important role that the chapters play is to start the neophyte librarian on the road to making whatever contribution his abilities will allow him to make to the total effort. You never know when you ask the slightly wet behind the ears, recent graduate to count the ballots or to monitor the meeting, whether you are starting a future president of ALA on the way or not. It doesn’t make any difference. The chapter gives each person a chance to contribute as much as he can—to be all that he can be.

The chapter also provides the opportunity for involvement for those people who will never become part of the national organization. Just as some of the people who may come to the library association’s district meetings or workshops, will never attend the state library association’s annual conference, so many people who are effective at the state level will never even join ALA. It would be desirable if they would or could, but it is patiently impossible to expect everyone to become a member of the national association. Without the chapter associations, the contributions of these people would be lost and their opportunities to profit by work with the association would be gone.

The chapter has some resources that ALA cannot tap. Strangely enough, ALA has no influence with the state legislatures, and it is at the state level that most of the laws are made that govern many school and college libraries and all of our public libraries. A steadily increasing share of the support for library service originates at the state level. ALA is powerless to influence any of this. Here the state chapter has a decided and distinct obligation. The chapter must develop necessary relationships with the other organizations in the state that are concerned with the educational welfare of its people. It must use all of the publicity resources that are provided by state based journals and locally owned and managed television and radio stations. The chapter, having worked with the state agencies to develop a statewide plan for library development and through the wise use of the National Library Week Program and other such activities, having made the state’s people aware of the value of libraries and the need for their support, has performed a basic service that only a state based chapter can. Without this kind of work at the state level, it is practically impossible to develop a national concern for libraries or to garner citizen support and legislator support for nationally financed programs.

I know that the Oklahoma Library Association takes seriously its responsibility to its own state and to the nation in general. I am certain that after this important kick-off meeting, the mails will be heavier in Oklahoma and A.T.& T. stock will go up, as every means of communication is employed among the officers and the committee chairman, and the members of their committee, and between the totality of the group here today and the membership at large. I trust that program does not and never will mean in Oklahoma, the putting together of a series of speeches and other mild entertainment once a year at a diversion called the annual meeting. I trust that programming will mean serious examination of the goals and objectives that have been clearly set forth, the definition of the activities that are necessary to move toward those goals and objectives, and the implementation of the plans this implies. To good chapter programming there can be no end. It is essential if Oklahoma is to have good libraries and it is essential if the nation is to have good libraries. I think we are well on our way to a closer relationship between ALA and its chapters and I hope that very shortly, when the chapters take the test on their obligations and ALA takes the test on its obligations, we will both have grades of A. I never did believe that perfection was possible, but I do believe that striving toward perfection is the moral obligation of ALA as a whole and of each of its supporting chapters.
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