Oklahomans Find Many Things of Interest at the MPLA/NDLA/SDLA Tri-Conference
October 4-7, 1995
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

A grand total of 680 people, including seven from Oklahoma, attended the Tri-Conference recently held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota (say that DaKota).

Oklahoma joined the Mountain Plains Library Association in 1989. MPLA conferences are held jointly with member states at their annual conference. Future conferences will be:
- May, 1996: Wichita, Kansas
- April, 1997: Shangri La, Oklahoma
- March, 1998: Salt Lake City, Utah
- June, 1999: Big Sky, Montana (just north of Yellowstone)

Two awards were presented at this year’s MPLA banquet:
- The Literary Contributors Award to Kathleen Norris for Dakota: A Spiritual Geography.
- The Legislative Leadership Award to the Wyoming Library Association Legislative Committee for its work in obtaining support for upgrading statewide library computer services.

MPLA Board Takes Action
- As part of an MPLA membership promotion, Oklahoma received 35 calculators to distribute.
- The MPLA Finance Committee will reevaluate the dues proposal and consider a general dues increase.
- The ad hoc Structure Committee will continue to study the interactions of MPLA interest groups and sections before making a recommendation in January.
- The Board approved a tool for evaluating MPLA personnel in paid positions; and agreed to explore establishing an MPLA listserv and home page.

What’s Going on in Our Fellow MPLA States
Oklahoma. Reported on Conference, Encyclo-Media, AASL Reading Program, State Question 669, Internet and pornography policy, Trustees’ membership drive, and Certification of Public Librarians.
Montana. Statewide Technology Committee is formed and working on a strategic plan dedicated to universal access. MLA developed a new procedures manual.
Kansas. MPLA/KLAKASL/KAECT Conference is scheduled for April 10-12, 1996 in Wichita. As they only budget money for the keynote speaker, look for lots of creative programming. In late April the legislature appropriated funds ($100,000 FY95 and $200,000 FY96) for state telecommunications.
North Dakota. ND State Library has its own books on tape program. They had previously contracted it through the SD State Library. Flicker Tales Children’s Book Awards went to Mary Jane Auch’s Easter Egg Farm (pre-school to grade 3); and Gary Paulsen’s The River (grades 4–6).
Utah. In March 800 people attended ULA’s annual conference; that’s 90–95 percent of membership! The 1996 Snowbird Conference will be held May 29–June 1. A collaborative effort between the Salt Lake City Public Library and Emporia State University School of Library and Information Management will begin library school classes in Salt Lake City in June 1996. Utah has had no accredited library school to feed graduates into state positions. The first National Information Infrastructure Award for the best government sponsored electronic network project in the nation was won by the Utah Library Network Initiative.
Wyoming. More libraries are being brought into WYLD CAT, a public access catalog. The Soaring Eagle Award, given by youth in grades 7–12, went to Michael Crichton for Jurassic Park; students in grades 4–6 gave Ben Mikaelson the Indian Paintbrush Award for Rescue, Josh McGuire.

Kathleen Todd and Jan Sanders recording the crossing of the third wide-open prairie state line on the way to the MPLA conference in Sioux Falls, SD

Patsy Stafford, MPLA Representative
OLA President's Message
Why All the Hubbub?

While attending a state-wide Episcopal conference this weekend, I was reminded of how political all of life's activities have become. One delegate rose to address the group and stated that she thought it inappropriate for religious bodies to make political statements; it was her opinion that politics was politics, religion was religion, and the two should not mix. And yet, politics has leaked over into virtually every aspect of our lives. We use HMOs or Medicare, we take our children to licensed day-care providers, we encourage our neighborhoods to live up to EPA standards, the list goes on and on. How can we avoid venturing into politics if we are to be informed and productive as citizens?

Certainly one of the hardest working committees of the Oklahoma Library Association is the Legislative Committee.

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OLA.

Co-chaired by Kathy Hale and Debra Engel, this group is charged with establishing legislative goals for the year, planning and implementing our annual Legislative Day, and generally keeping us up to date on what is happening or is threatening to happen. Countless telephone calls, faxes, and e-mail notes fly through the airways between scheduled meetings.

You may ask yourself, "Why all the hubbub about politics anyway? Isn't the legislature going to do what they want to anyway? How can their actions possibly have any impact on how I do my job?" All valid questions, but all perhaps a bit naive.

Folks in my community are constantly amazed that I continue to remain informed and current on legislative issues. They seemed surprised that I would be aware of the recent Southwestern Bell reimbursement situation, that I would know about OneNet and how its implementation will impact our vo-tech, that I understand why rural farmers and ranchers would fight any increase in ad valorem taxes, or that funding for rural school libraries might impact public library services in those communities. "None of that," they say, "has direct bearing on how you run the Bartlesville Public Library."

And they are right—to a point. But how can I encourage the development of libraries statewide if I am concerned only with my little neighborhood? How can I work for an electronic network that will benefit Bartlesville students, citizens, and entrepreneurs if I am unaware of how to make a wide area network a reality for all of Oklahoma? How can I effectively budget my local monies if I am not also working for the most effective use of state/federal monies through the provision of statewide database licensing and other options?

Like it or not, the legislature affects how we do our jobs—even if we try to pretend that it does not. So what am I suggesting?

I am suggesting that you become involved with the process. Make sure you know what the leading legislative issues are and what their implications might be. Talk to your representatives and senators, call them, write them notes, invite them into your library to have their photo taken for the newspaper. Let them know you understand who they are and what they are working on. Make sure they understand you are their source of information, especially when library issues are on the table.

One of those issues is State Question 669, which has been fully covered in earlier editions of this publication. Again this year, OLA will be working for greater telecommunications possibilities for the state. Our greatest need is for increased electronic access for our patrons and this is where we will continue our legislative emphasis. Join us—get to know your legislators, stay in contact with them, keep them informed. Mark Legislative Day, February 13, 1996, on your calendar NOW. Plan to bring board members, Friends, and others with you to visit your delegation at the capitol.

We cannot avoid politics in our lives. We can, however, avoid participating. To choose to do so, to stick our collective heads in the sand, will hand-off our responsibilities, our choices, and our opportunities. To ensure that the decisions made are the ones we would choose and can support, I challenge you to keep informed and to keep active. This is not the time to hide or to assume that other groups can carry the load. You just might end up marching under a banner you cannot endorse.

—Jan Sanders

UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY
New Children's Sequoyah Masterlist is Ready for Reading

The 1995–96 Sequoyah Children's Book Award Committee has released the titles for the 1996–97 Sequoyah Book Award Masterlist. Books from this Masterlist of 22 titles are to be read and voted on by boys and girls of Oklahoma in grades 3 through 6.

The Sequoyah Children's Award honors Sequoyah for his unique achievement in inventing a written language for the Cherokees. He created a syllabary of eighty-six written symbols still used to represent the sounds of spoken Cherokee.

The Sequoyah Book Award, established in 1959, is the third oldest "children's choice" book award in the United States. It is sponsored by the Oklahoma Library Association.

OLA Sequoyah Children's Book Award Committee
1996–97 Masterlist

Ancona, George - The Pinata Maker—El Pinatero
Auch, Mary Jane - The Latchkey Dog
Bunting, Eve - Nasty, Stinky Sneakers
Coville, Bruce - Into the Land of the Unicorns
Danziger, Paula - Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon
Dewey, Jennifer O. - Wildlife Rescue: The Work of Dr. Kathleen Ramsay
Gaeddert, LouAnn - Breaking Free
Grimes, Nikki - Meet Daniela Brown
Hahn, Mary D. - A Time for Andrew: A Ghost Story
Hurwitz, Johanna - A Llama in the Family
Kimmel, Eric A. - Iron John
Lemieux, Anne - Fruit Flies, Fish & Fortune Cookies
Lexau, Joan M. - Trouble Will Find You
McKissack, Patricia & Fred McKissack - Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters
Murphy, Claire R. - A Child's Alaska
Naylor, Phyllis R. - The Fear Place
Pinkney, Andrea D. - Dear Benjamin Banneker
Polacco, Patricia - Pink and Say
Ross, Gayle - How Rabbit Tricked Otter and Other Cherokee Trickster Stories
Sabuda, Robert - Tutanakamun's Gift
Snyder, Zilpha K. - Cat Running
Woodruff, Ethel - Dear Levi: Letters from the Overland Trail

For more information contact: Charlotte Parker, Oliver Middle School Media Center, 3100 W. New Orleans, Broken Arrow, OK 74011 or call 918-259-4590.

| December 15  | Program Committee/Executive Board, Guthrie P.L. Support Staff Roundtable Meeting |
| December 25  | Christmas Support Staff Roundtable Meeting |
| January 1    | New Year's Day Oklahoma Librarian Deadline |
| January 4    | Legislative Committee Meeting, ODL - 10 a.m. |
| January 5    | Membership Committee Meeting, ODL - 10 a.m. |
| January 19-25| ALA Midwinter, San Antonio, TX |
| January 26   | Program Committee/Executive Board, Medallion Hotel, OKC Support Staff Roundtable Meeting |
| January 30   | Public Libraries Division Workshop, Stillwater |
| January 31   | Voting Deadline - Sequoyah Book Awards |
| February 2   | Membership Committee Meeting, ODL - 10 a.m. |
| February 6   | Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 a.m. Reference Roundtable Workshop, Norman |
| February 9   | Joint Sequoyah Childrens/YA Meeting, ODL - 9:30 a.m. |
| February 13  | Legislative Day, Oklahoma City FOLIO Board Meeting, Oklahoma City |

Mark Your Calendar!

QLA/FOLIO Legislative Day
Tuesday, February 13, 1996

Handstitched Quilt Donated to OLA

Remember the stunning quilt made by several OLA members and donated to the Association two years ago? Keep your eyes peeled for a new opportunity! You, too, might be able to put on your bed an original quilt made in friendship by librarians this year.

Donna Dennison, Beverly Jones and Donna Skvarla have created a new quilt masterpiece, which is nearly complete, and donated it to OLA. OLA is already taking $1 donations. Donor names will be included in a drawing to be held April 5th at the Annual Conference.

Those who attended the recent Technical Services workshop or ACRL fall conference were able to see the quilt in its full (not quite complete) glory at the OLA Store there. Look for it at upcoming workshops as well! Otherwise, wait for it at the Conference in April, 1996.

We Welcome New Members

Elaine Atkins, Trustee, EODLS
Judith Brown, SEPLS
Renee Chastain, Ingram Library Services
Shirley Darrell, Trustee, MLS
Susan P. Faust, St. Peter's Church, Tulsa
John Freeman, Trustee, SEPLS
Tim Fulton, Trustee, Ardmore PL
Susan S. Hughes, inactive, OKC
Lisa Hunt, Student, OU
Marilyn Krist, Trustee, Ardmore PL
Elissa Laird, Student, OU
Stephanie Leisner, Western OK St College
Georgia Libby, Aline-Cleo Schools
Terry Magill, Trustee, WPLS
Donald A. Mangham, Student, OU
Joyce Mattingly, Student, OU
Mel Miller, Trustee, Stillwater PL
Melissa Noed, TCCL
Lynn Presley-Davis, Owasso Schools
Dariene Price, Student, OU
Shirley Pritchett, Trustee, MLS
Cylinda Richardson, Student, Rose State
Ramona K. Smith, Rose State
George Statham, Trustee, SEPLS
Kay Thomas, Student, OU
Nancy Wikle, OSU
Tora L. Wilkening-Berry, OSU
Letty Young, Trustee, SEPLS
Enhance Public Contact Skills and Explore Customer Diversity

On Tuesday, January 30, 1996, the Public Libraries Division is offering a workshop on "Quality Customer Service: Improving Public Contact Skills and Exploring Customer Diversity" at the Stillwater Public Library.

Dr. Lee Manzer of Oklahoma State University, who is a well-known speaker on customer service concerns, will be the featured morning presenter. His talk is designed to "enhance front-line personnel's awareness of the principles and techniques of establishing and maintaining good customer relations."

The afternoon will consist of a panel discussion, "Exploring Customer Diversity" moderated by Rhonda Harris Taylor, OU School of Library & Information Studies. Panel members have been selected for their background and experience in ethnic and cultural diversity. A question and answer period discussing multi-cultural issues will conclude the day's program.

—Jane Lilly, Chair
Public Libraries Division

Original Oklahoma Documents and Materials Will Be Seen Up Close on February 8, 1996

In keeping with the Oklahoma Library Association's theme of "Unity Through Diversity," the Reference Roundtable is planning a "A Field Trip through Western History" at the University of Oklahoma on February 8, 1996.

The Western History Collections acquire materials on Oklahoma and Western history, North American Indians, the settlement of the West, and related topics. The Manuscripts Division has extensive holdings of photographic materials, microforms, oral history, cartographic records, and the University archives. Untold pearls of interest to all ages can be found here. Sessions are planned to tour the various archives divisions and meet some of the materials up close.

Registration is $25 for OLA members and $50 for non-members. Checks made out to OLA may be sent to 300 Hardy Drive, Edmond, OK 73013 by January 15, 1996.

—Elizabeth Romero, Chair
Reference Roundtable
Trip to MPLA Meeting Spawns Idea for a Movie

"Hello? Hollywood? I've got a great idea for a new movie. You'll love it. It's kind of like Thelma and Louise, but there's no big crash at the end. You know the kind of story, like 48 Hours, but not so much bad language. It's about a bunch of women on a road trip bonding and exploring life on their way to some place... Oh yeah, well see, they're librarians. Yeah! With books and stuff. Librarians are really smart; they win Jeopardy all the time. It'll have lots of quick dialogue.

"No, they're not running from anything; they're just headed somewhere. Maybe a library convention. And it needs to be far away so there's plenty of time for stuff to happen on the road. Hey! How about South Dakota? They can start the trip in, oh, I know, Oklahoma! That would be a long trip maybe what 14 or 15 hours. We'll use three chicks in the car and when they get to the convention, they can meet some friends... and they'll make some friends and the audience will learn a bunch of stuff about computers and the first amendment. Like in The Net."

"You think it would be boring? You could add a car chase and spice up the part about Onawa, Iowa." Click. "Hello?" "Hello?"

Well, it was many things, but not boring. It was my second trip to a Mountain Plains Library Conference. Last year's was in north Lake Tahoe and this year in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Talk about a big change in location? On this trip, I decided to be fiscally conservative and save a penny or two by car pooling. I was greatly honored to share my trip with Jan Sanders (you know she's the prez) and with Patsy Stafford (she's the MPLA Representative from Oklahoma). I, on the other hand, was the designated navigator. According to someone's CD-ROM program called Map-n-Go, you actually can get from Ardmore to Sioux Falls. It takes about 14 hours and 36 minutes to do so.

Along the way, we kept passing great places to stop and explore, but we had to get to the first board meeting on Wednesday and we couldn't tarry along the way. At about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday night, we passed the Little House on the Prairie, but Jan wouldn't let me detour. And way after Wednesday had arrived, the driving demons did allow me to seek a real bed for a short night. According to the map, St. Jo is nine hours and 29 minutes into the trip. It was a nice hotel. They locked the doors after 9 p.m. and the continental breakfast served dry bagels and cheerios. However, in its defense, it did lead to an exceptional conversation about selection policies as we perused the Pay-per-View movie choices.

Back on the road early Wednesday (dawn), we continued our trip. My two thin friends had been quite content with the tremendous hotel breakfast. I, on the other hand, was starved and kept checking the gas gauge (unfortunately, a Camry can make this whole trip with only one gas stop). Upon entering Sioux land, we began to keep an annotated list of stops one should not miss. I would like to share some of those with you. We could not stop for: The Belle of Sioux City Casino, the Gateway Factory outlet (painted just like the box), the Winnebago Reservation, the Sgt. Charles Floyd boat, grave or museum (he's a really famous guy), the Gardner Cabin, the monument of Chief War Eagle (we did catch a glimpse from the Interstate), the Queen of Peace, the Corn Palace, and CasinOmaha. This final tourist spot is located in lovely Onawa, Iowa (the home of the Eskimo Pie). We liked the poetic repetition of vowel sounds in CasinOmaha, Onawa, Iowa. However, after repeating it a few times, rain did fall out of a blue sky. I have shortened our total list of thirty-six, but if you make this trip, we'll be happy to send it to you.

If all of this sounds pretty fun to you, remember that we aren't even there yet! After arriving at the convention, we attended lots of meetings (there's a reason why the librarian always wins at Jeopardy.) We went to meetings on handling and making effective complaints. We learned about the significance of rural librarianship and the future of such. We explored government documents on the Internet. We visited vendors and exhibits with incredible new electronic gizmos. We actually met Betty Turock and spoke with her after her luncheon. We learned exciting ways to design Home Pages. We spent a terrific evening at an Arabian Horse farm. It was complete with dinner in the barn, a horse show and a great hayride (when was the last time you sang "Home, Home on the Range"?).

On Saturday, they threw me in the back seat of the Camry. By then, I had made lots of new friends from North and South Dakota and they brought me oranges, granola, and a six-pack of diet coke. I was prepared for the long ride even if Patsy didn't stop. We made Bartlesville by midnight and by the time I made Ardmore, I was sleeping.

The phone rings. "Hello?... You called who? Let me write this down... Mariel Hemingway?... Rosie O'Donnell?... Annette Benning?"

"Have your agent call mine, we'll do lunch." ---Kathleen Todd
Code States Values and Provides Guidance for Ethical Dilemmas

At its recent meeting in Stroud, the OLA Ethics Committee
decided it was important to share the newly adopted ALA
Code of Ethics with the rest of the OLA membership.

ALA Code of Ethics

As members of the American Library Association, we rec-
ognize the importance of codifying and making known to the
profession and to the general public the ethical principles that
guide the work of librarians, other professionals providing
information services, library trustees, and library staffs.

Ethical dilemmas occur when values are in conflict. The
American Library Association Code of Ethics states the values
to which we are committed, and embodies the ethical respon-
sibilities of the profession in this changing information environ-
ment.

We significantly influence or control the selection, organi-
zation, preservation, and dissemination of information. In a
political system grounded in an informed citizenry, we are
members of a profession explicitly committed to intellectual
freedom and the freedom of access to information. We have
a special obligation to ensure the free flow of information and
ideas to present and future generations.

The principles of this Code are expressed in broad state-
ments to guide ethical decision making. These statements
provide a framework; they cannot and do not dictate conduct
to cover particular situations.

I. We provide the highest level of service to all library users
through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equi-
table service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbi-
ased, and courteous responses to all requests.

II. We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and
resist all efforts to censor library resources.

III. We protect each library user's right to privacy and
confidentiality with respect to information sought or received
and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired, or transmitted.

IV. We recognize and respect intellectual property rights.

V. We treat co-workers and other colleagues with re-
spect, fairness, and good faith, and advocate conditions of
employment that safeguard the rights and welfare of all em-
ployees of our institutions.

VI. We do not advance private interests at the expense of
library users, colleagues, or our employing institutions.

VII. We distinguish between personal convictions and
professional duties and do not allow personal beliefs to
interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions
or the provision of access to their information resources.

VIII. We strive for excellence in the profession by main-
taining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills, by
encouraging the professional development of co-workers,
and by fostering aspirations of potential members of the
profession.

—Adopted by ALA Council on June 28, 1995
(taken from the July/August American Libraries)

This prompts the thought—How long has it been since each
of us has looked at the “Oklahoma Library Association En-
dorsement and Amplification of the ALA Statement on Profes-
sional Ethics”? It is easily found in the blue pages of the OLA
directory. Re-reading it provoked some thought and affirmed
values shared.

Ethics Case Study

What Should Tom Baedeker Do?

The library at Southern University, a publicly sup-
ported academic institution, has just begun providing
public access to the Internet via Mosaic through the
school's main computer system.

Tom Baedeker is the librarian on duty at the reference
desk on Saturday afternoon. When helping a new
user gain access to the Internet, he notices that
the man at the next Internet computer is looking at dia-
grams for homemade bombs. It appears to Tom that
this man has gained access to an electronic version
of the infamous "Anarchists' Cookbook." Recent local
media coverage of the formation of independent
militia groups in the area has included anonymous
interviews with some members who talked about the
possibility of blowing up local governmental offices.

What should Tom do?

Ask your colleagues what they think about the situ-
ation. The OLA Ethics Committee hopes to promote
thinking and stimulate discussion with these case
studies written by committee members.

Authors/ Illustrators Lois Ehlerl,
Floyd Cooper, and Walter Dean
Myers (left to right) inspired
Festival of Books
participants.
ACRL Workshop on Cyberspace on Campus: Policy to Practice
Oklahoma City, November 3, 1995

One bystander asked me, "Was that whole day spent discussing policies?" The answer is yes, and it was a most stimulating day.

The day began with an overview by June Lester, Director of the OU School of Library and Information Studies. She included a wide range of topics that need to be considered. Randall Coyne, OU College of Law professor, followed with an overview of legal aspects of providing electronic access.

Ann Studden, Director of Academic Computing and Network Services at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois discussed the application of problem solving techniques; what problems come up, and how they are dealt with. She communicated directly with the offender or refers the problem to the campus computer policy committee.

Paul Gandel, Associate Provost, Information and Instructional Technology, Ohio University, discussed policy specifics as implemented at Ohio University and North Texas State University. The final speaker was Dan Chaney, Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian at Oklahoma State University. He discussed policies and implementation in relation to oversight of public Internet use from the perspective of a librarian in the role of reluctant enforcer.

Legal aspects included the general concerns librarians deal with daily, as they apply to providing access to the Internet. Copying is the same, no matter the medium. Access, however, is apparently different; denying access to a segment of materials carries with it implied sanction of all items not made inaccessible. In other words, do not limit access! One case balanced first amendment rights against a concern about sexual harassment possibilities. As with photocopying, the provider of the equipment is not responsible for its use, unless the provider knows or should know of its misuse. "Should know" refers to employee use.

Campuses tend to set up a campus-wide committee to oversee policies and practices for cyberspace access. This committee should certainly include library representation, along with less obvious persons such as the "enforcement agency" for student rules, and the University Press.

The reaction of one attendee who is not now an Internet provider was rather negative. The workshop's presentation of pitfalls associated with providing public access to the Internet highlighted for him the ambiguity and frustration also apparent in many of the users. He also saw a threat to the librarian's status as knowledgeable and in control of resources. Another perceived threat is the division between those comfortable with the new technology and others.

From the perspective of an Internet provider, this workshop had the feel of any other "users' group," that is, an airing of specific, often small concerns that tend to obscure the broader picture. In the case of Internet, this broader picture is positive, opens a new world of resources and learning and, as a bit of serendipity, can enhance the image of the library.

—Beverly Jones, Chair
College & University Division

Inspiration and Rich Experience Enjoyed at the Festival of Books

What do squirrels, construction labor, angels and a University of Oklahoma School of Art graduate have in common? They were all components of the sixteenth annual Mildred K. Laughlin Festival of Books for Young People.

Librarians and other book lovers gathered on the University of Oklahoma, Norman Campus, on October 14th, to experience the inspiration of notable children's literature authors and illustrators.

Lois Ehrlert, author and illustrator, delighted listeners with brilliantly colored slides of her multi-cultural art collection, much of which inspired illustrations for her award winning books. She revealed the processes and designs behind the unusual format of her works. Readers of Ehrlert's alphabet book, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom can attest to the importance of color in her books. The Festival audience found out she also uses color to depict seasonal change in Vegetable Soup, a gardening story. Differing page lengths and cut outs in the pages also make Ehrlert's books tactically engaging for children. A squirrel is the main character in Ehrlert's new book, Nuts to You!, which is based on a real-life encounter with a curious squirrel she coaxed from her house with a trail of nuts.

Floyd Cooper, University of Oklahoma School of Art graduate and lauded children's illustrator and author, revealed the technical secrets behind his rich toned illustrations of African Americans. These have accentuated both his own works, including a collection of African American poetry for children and a tribute to Langston Hughes, as well as the works of other children's authors. During the presentation, Cooper created a painting which he gave to Dr. Kathy Latrobe, Festival coordinator. The shadowy portrait of a Native American echoes the style of Cooper's illustrations. Many Festival participants took home books not only signed by Cooper, but accent with his whimsical drawings.

Walter Dean Myers left a lasting impression on the minds of his listeners. Myers, acclaimed author of Scorpions, and other children's and young adult works, was himself a high school dropout. His inspirational presentation told the story of many challenges he's overcome in his life, including a speech impediment. Before his successful writing career, Myers did construction labor, but he will be remembered for the labors of his mind. Years ago, in conjunction with research for his writing, Myers began collecting pictures of African American children, some of which he shared with the Festival audience. He now has a collection of tintypes and photographs of individuals from all ages and cultural groups. Myers shared the hope and promise shining especially from the faces of children in those images. His inspirational message encouraged listeners to overcome obstacles and to strive toward the accomplishment of personal dreams. Many of these images and messages appear in Myers' book, Brown Angels.

Between these presentations, participants browsed the Festival preview collection of over 400 positively reviewed children's books of 1995, and purchased copies of books autographed by the presenters.

Next year's Festival is scheduled for October 26th.

—Carla Porter
Do You Know This Person?

The idea for this column came to the editor during one of those organized bonding experiences where each person tells two things about themself that the next person doesn't know.

The people we work with and who lead us in OLA are MUCH more interesting than just their titles, library types, and towns. People found in this column have been chosen mostly randomly (a statistical term). I then ask someone who knows that person to interview them so the rest of us can share a little in the delight of knowing them.

Mystery Member of OLA is Revealed

What well-known OLA participant has the unparalleled honor both of having received the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD and of having a close family member member who received the same award 36 years earlier?? Details follow.

More clues:
He has attended OLA every year since 1946 or 1947—with a few years out for "that Korean thing" in the early 50s. He is always the best known "charmer" in the headquarters hotel bar, greeting members by name, making them feel welcome and wanted, and in general spreading his good cheer (to say nothing of his Jack Daniels) throughout the room.

Figure it out yet?? Of course, the person in question is our own Robert T. Motter, Jr. of Muskogee, former owner of Motter Bookbinding Company, and stellar organizer of exhibits for OLA conferences extending back into the mists of time.

I talked to Bob recently, to find out how he likes being retired, what he is up to, and generally just to chat. He told me that he is doing a lot of fishing, and in fact was due to leave for the White River in Arkansas within the next few days. He and his pal go out early each morning, about 4:30 a.m. It's still foggy then, he says, so foggy that even when there are 25-30 boats on the river, all you can see are the heads of other fishermen seeming to float atop the gathered mist. Having arrived that early, though, they are pretty much assured of catching all the trout required for that night's dinner. The down side to all this enjoyment, however, is that according to Bob, once you've cooked your catch and enjoyed a drink, all you can do is fall over into bed, since the next day calls for another 3:30 reveille!

I encouraged Bob to reminisce with me about OLA and his most memorable times. The meeting in 1956 in Pawhuska was one of his favorites. Allie Beth Martin was president and the conference was held in a cattle barn at the Osage County Fairgrounds. Exhibit space was marked off that year by a blanket hung across the hall, floor to ceiling. We've come a long way. I must admit that I share Bob's nostalgia for those annual meetings which could be held throughout the state. With growth of the Association has come confinement to large conference center facilities.

Bob started going to OLA in the late 40s and has continued to the present, the only exception being "that Korean thing." His father, Robert Motter, Sr., received the OLA Distinguished Service Award at the 1953 meeting in Ponca City. Bob, Jr. received the same honor at our 1989 conference in Oklahoma City. Our hats are off to you!

Since I am relatively new to Oklahoma, I asked Bob how he got involved in bookbinding. He has been "in the business," he says, since he was "not tall enough to reach the top of the table." Starting out by sweeping and cleaning, he learned binding from every perspective. When someone was off the line, Bob, Jr. filled in, quickly mastering all of the many processes necessary to finish a binding project.

The company was founded by his grandfather, who came to this country from Switzerland in 1911, stopping off for a time in Nebraska before he settled in Muskogee. Later, he brought over Bob's father, uncle and grandmother. Grandfather and Uncle started the binding business, concentrating on trade binding for printers, doing blank page books, county record books, and the like. Bob's father did not immediately take to binding, instead deciding to go to the gold fields of Alaska to try his luck at panning for gold. We must assume that Alaska did not hold Father Bob's fortune, since he returned to Muskogee. There, he bought out the company as he wanted to concentrate on the "library business" rather than trade binding.

The actual process of binding has changed little over the years, Bob says. Newer binders, however, often do not provide rounded backs or double sewing. Customers have increased their demands for high quality at little or no cost, a point we all know and understand.

We applaud you, Bob Motter. You have served OLA well and faithfully. Your willing spirit and dedication to libraries inspires us all and your sense of our corporate memory amazes us. Thanks for talking to me, thanks for sharing, and I'll meet you in the bar for a Black Jack on the rocks.

—Jan Sanders
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Literacy Ranked Highest in Survey

During the 1994-95 year, Oklahoma Library Association members were asked to complete a survey. The Social Responsibilities Roundtable wanted to know which social issues the membership felt were important for Oklahoma librarians.

In this survey done under the leadership of Judy Harmon, Tecumseh Public Library, members were asked to select and rank the three most important issues from a list of ten.

Results of the survey were:
1. Literacy
2. Crisis management & safety issues
3. Latch-key children
4. Multicultural awareness
5. Environment and recycling
6. Outreach
7. Homeless people & the public library
8. HIV and AIDS awareness
9. Substance abuse
10. Other: ADA requirements; Gay issues

The Social Responsibilities Roundtable is using this information as a guide. We are focusing on the top-ranked "Literacy" and will be sponsoring a meeting on this topic at the Conference in the Spring. And, watch for another survey coming later this year!

You are invited to join SRRT and share your ideas on literacy and other social issues!!!

—Fran Austin, Chair
Social Responsibilities RT

Call for Papers

The Libraries and Popular Culture area is soliciting paper proposals from librarians, graduate students, library school faculty, collectors, writers, and other aficionados of popular culture and libraries for the Annual Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Assn. and Southwest/Texas American Culture Assn. meeting to be held Tulsa on Feb. 8-10, 1996! Also welcome are proposals for slide shows, video presentations, workshop formats, and panels organized around common themes.

Suggested topics:
- profiles of popular culture collections
- reports of research studies in the area of popular culture and libraries
- marketing popular culture materials to library users
- discussion of intellectual freedom issues related to popular culture materials
- collection building and popular culture materials organization and description of popular culture materials
- technology and popular culture in libraries
- and other topics welcome!!!

Contact immediately: Rhonda Harris Taylor/Judith Overmier, area chairs, at School of Library & Information Studies, 401 W. Brooks, Rm. 120, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019-0528. Phone 405-325-3921, fax 405-325-7648, e-mail rtaylor@slis.lib.uoknor.edu and/or rovermier@slis.lib.uoknor.edu.

Fifty five People Successfully Cope with Copy

The Technical Services Roundtable held its annual Fall Workshop, "Coping With Copy: Copy Cataloging Trends, Issues and Management," on October 27 at the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Conference Center in Weatherford. The workshop was attended by 55 people, representing all areas of the state as well as various types of libraries. The westerly location encouraged some to come from Goodwell and Guymon in the Panhandle who had never before been to an OLA workshop!

The workshop focused on several areas of concern for many libraries. Attendees were allowed to choose and attend two different focus groups of their choice. The focus group sessions were very informal and allowed the presenters and participants time to ask questions that were of importance in their own situation.

Focus groups and presenters were:
- "The Selection of Bibliographic Records and Their Sources" presented by Janet Ahhrberg, Oklahoma State University; Jane Chasteen, Will Rogers Elementary School, Stillwater; Janice Molby, Oklahoma State Department of Vocational-Technical Education; and Charlotte Frazier, Tulsa City-County Library;
- "Manual or NOT!!!" presented by John Rosenhamer, Oklahoma City Community College;
- "Cataloging for Non-Catalogers, or The Joys of Editing" presented by Pauline Boyer Rodriguez, Metropolitan Library System;
- "The Training and Education of Copy Catalogers" presented by Charlene Rezabek, University of Oklahoma; and Dr. Kathleen Haynes, University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies;
- "Record Enhancement in a Small Library" presented by Pat Sprowls and Rita Knopf, Elks City Carnegie Library.

In addition, Jim Pool, Northeastern State University, presented "Trends and Issues," and Ken Bierman, Oklahoma State University, discussed "Calculating Cataloging Costs and the Outsourcing Option."

Technical Services Roundtable committee members responsible for the planning and preparation of the Fall Workshop were: Julie Brooks, TSRT Chair, Western Oklahoma State College; Bea LeValley, TSRT Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Northwestern State University; Karla Moore, TSRT Secretary, Western Oklahoma State College; Janet Ahhrberg, Oklahoma State University; Charlene Rezabek, University of Oklahoma; John Rosenhamer, Oklahoma City Community College; Linda Pye, Southwestern Oklahoma State University (site coordinator); Jim Pool, Northeastern State University; Dr. Kathleen Haynes, University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies; Steve Folsom, Oklahoma State University; and Pauline Boyer Rodriguez, Metropolitan Library System.

A get-together was held on Thursday night at the T-Bone Steakhouse for attendees who traveled to Weatherford the night before. It was a great time along with great food! One comment heard was that it was fun to be together and just talk about the kids, family, animals, weddings, and life in general!!

—Karla Moore
People and Places

KATHLEEN TODD, library director for the Ardmore Higher Education Center, has recently been promoted to Assistant Director of the Center. She will continue to serve as library director.

PAULINE BOYER RODRIGUEZ was promoted to Cataloging Manager for the Metropolitan Library System starting December 1st.

Several OU School of Library & Information Studies faculty were on the international scene recently:

CHARLES R. HILDRETH presented "Preserving What We Really Want to Access, the Message, Not the Medium: Challenges and Opportunities in the Digital Age" in October, at the 18th International Essen Symposium, held in the Essen (Germany) University Library.

RHONDA HARRIS TAYLOR presented "Images of the Native American in the 100 Best Conservative Movies," and JUDITH "Robin" OVERMIER presented "Nineteenth Century British and American Children’s Science Books: Their Role in the Formation of Attitudes Toward the Use of Animals in Scientific and Medical Research" in July at the International Popular Culture Conference held in England at Oxford University.

BOB SWISHER spent two and one-half weeks in Europe in August 1995 attending the Distance Education Conference at Ramstein Airbase, Germany, and an Education Futures course in Heerlen, Netherlands.

Thanks to Our Donors

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Library School Students Meet Refreshments and OLA

The New Members Roundtable hosted an informal reception for students at the University of Oklahoma’s School of Library and Information Studies on Tuesday, Sept. 19. About 25 people showed up for the event, which featured lots of goodies and an excellent punch prepared by Debra Spindle. The reception was intended as a relaxed introduction to OLA for the library school students.

For the Tulsa students, New Members RT sponsored a get together at the University Center at Tulsa on Sept. 27.

—Charles Brooks, Chair New Members Roundtable

OLA officers, library school students and faculty gather early in the fall semester at the NMRT reception held in the OU Library School's conference room.

Executive Board Takes Action

The OLA Executive Board, serving your Association as its current set of guiding lights, has been making decisions, just as it is supposed to do. In the last two meetings, the following actions were taken:

September 22, 1995

Approved a release form which permits the Taxpayers for Fairness Committee to use the name of the Oklahoma Library Association in the effort to defeat State Question 669.

Approved funding for postage costs for a mailing which will be sent to all public library trustees inviting them to join OLA.

Endorsed the American Association of School Librarians’ “Count on Reading” program and approved the appointment of Betty Riley as the OLA Representative to Oklahoma’s “Count on Reading” Task Force.

October 20, 1995

Approved acceptance of the Reference Roundtable workshop entitled "Field Trip through Western History" scheduled for February 8, 1996 at the University of Oklahoma campus.

Referred an invitation to join ALA’s Council of LAMA Affiliates to the OLA Administration Roundtable for a recommendation.

Authorized the OLA President to send a letter to Senators Nickles and Inhofe opposing passage of the Non-Profit Gag Bill.

—John Angelli, Secretary
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