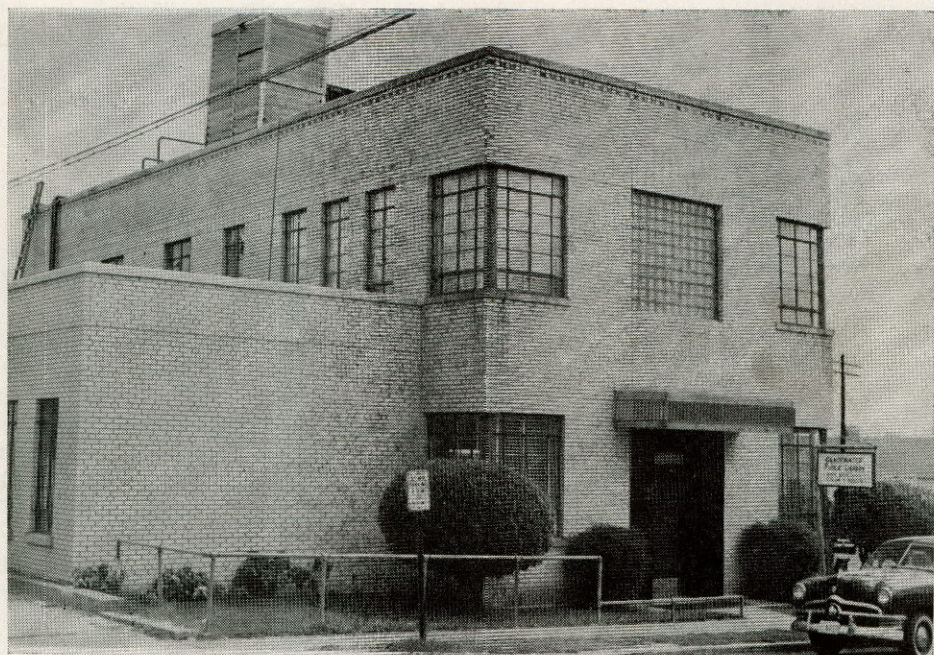


Texas Libraries



Gladewater Public Library

VOLUME 20 - NUMBER 3 - MARCH, 1958

Texas State Library

Texas Library and
Historical
Commission

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"The Commission shall control and administer the State Library . . . Mark historic sites and houses and secure their preservation . . . Maintain for the use and information of the members of the Legislature, the heads of the several State departments and other citizens a section of the State Library for legislative reference and information" and to "give the members of the Legislature such aid and assistance in the drafting of bills and resolutions as may be asked . . . Collect materials relating to the history of Texas and the adjoining States, preserve, classify, and publish the manuscript archives and such other matters as it may deem proper, diffuse knowledge in regard to the history of Texas . . . Aid and encourage libraries and give advice to such persons as contemplate the establishment of public libraries, conduct library institutes and encourage library associations . . . Establish and maintain in the State Library a records administration division which shall manage all public records of the State with the consent and co-operation of the heads of the various departments and institutions."
—From *Texas* statutes.

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TEXAS STATE LIBRARY

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TEXAS LIBRARIES is issued monthly except July and August in the interest of the libraries of Texas, and published by the State Library at the Capitol. Opinions expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the Texas Library and Historical Commission.

Do's and Don'ts of Book Repairing

Use Judgment to determine what to discard, what to rebound and what to mend. Sorting is the first step in mending. Note: compare cost of replacement with rebinding charges—rebinding will wear longer than a replacement.

Discard Worn and Soiled Books With Missing Pages. Missing pages can be typed from other copies. Books may be discarded for reasons other than condition. Trivial books no longer popular do not merit mending or rebinding. The same is true for some out-of-date textbook materials and technical books. Books with microscopic print may be replaced by reprint editions with better format and larger print.

Rebind When Contents Become Unstitched and Case Is Damaged. Again the type and use of the material must be considered. Include for rebinding books that will receive hard continuous use, books of permanent value, expensive books, non-fiction still up-to-date, out-of-print books by outstanding authors.

Compare Cost of Replacement With Rebinding Charges.

Mend in the Following Instances: When pages are loose, torn or rumped; when back is breaking at joints or at top or bottom; when super or joints are broken. Recase books which will not be rebound when contents or sections are loose, or cloth on back is worn. Examples of books which should be mended rather than rebound are: popular fiction in too great demand to be retired to the bindery, adult non-fiction of temporary value not to

be rebound, a rebound book needing minor repairs, valuable books too old to be rebound, little-used books valued for illustrations, plates, local interest, etc. Note: Do not try to recase unless equipped. Consider time and supplies.

Take the Following Steps to Prevent or Delay Repair Needs:

1. Check new books for faulty structure before accepting from publisher.
2. Shellac back when new for washability and to protect labels and lettering.
3. Open new book properly before putting on shelf. Alternating from front to back, open book a few leaves at a time (10 to 15 leaves), pressing gently along inner edges of pages to flex the back and to form a softly creased hinge along inner edge.
4. Use strong book supports on shelves. Shelf properly to prevent hinges from spreading and sagging.
5. Try to keep books in an even temperature, not too dry or too moist—about 70 degrees Fahrenheit. This applies to books in storage as well as on open shelves.
6. Plan a dusting schedule so that all books will receive a periodic cleaning. Use modern and efficient dusting tools.
7. Prevent damage by insects. Books in storage may be treated with a preparation to repel and kill roaches and silver fish or slickers. Any good insecticide is effective.

Keep Entire Staff Alerted to Inspect and Pull Books Needing Repair. Think of mending as "first-aid" to be given at once for small injuries. Minor damages pave the way to a major breakdown necessitating replacement or rebinding. The return desk is the logical place to catch worn or dirty books. The shelver can make a quick check. Follow up at inventory time when weeding the collection.

Provide Adequate Working Space for Mending Processes. Area should be large and well lighted, and planned for efficient use of equipment.

Work by the Process Rather Than the Book to eliminate waste motion. Sort books into groups according to the repair job needed those with torn pages, those with loose leaves or signatures, those needing cleaning, etc. Then complete one process on all books in one group before starting another type of mending. This saves time and materials—such as shellac, glue or clorox which dry or evaporate.

Experiment and Practice on a book to be discarded before attempting a new mending process. For example, repairs on hinges and re-casing jobs require practice before skill is attained.

Remember the Two "P's"—Protect and Press, the final steps to make your work lasting and professional looking.

DON'TS:

Avoid Overmending a Book That Eventually Will Be Bound. If the original bulk of a book has been increased, you have overmended. Adult fiction will be mended more than non-fiction which is more likely to be re-

bound as a permanent addition to the library.

Don't Attempt To Sew Books. This is a rebind job.

Bookmakers' Terminology

Book-making, like other technical trades, has its own vocabulary with which every librarian should be familiar. These terms appear in all bookmending pamphlets. They will be used in any discussion with the representatives of the companies who handle rebinding for a public library. Check recognition of bookmaking terminology against the following explanation of the construction of a book.

A book is made up of two main parts—the cover or case, and the contents. The cover refers to that part of the book which encloses the printed contents. It is made of two stiff cover boards (sometimes made of leather) connected to a cloth back by a thin cloth lining called the super. Hinges, or joints, are formed where back and boards meet. Boards, unless made of leather, are covered with book cloth on the outside, and finished with lining paper of durable stock inside. The contents refers to the inside of the book. It is made up of signatures, sections of printed leaves (pages) usually sixteen in number, sewed together. End papers (fly leaves) are attached to sewed contents at the front and back. The contents is attached to the case or cover by gluing to the super and one side to endsheet.

Additional terms peculiar to book mending are: (1) Tipping-in—the process of inserting a loose leaf into its place in a signature so that it again becomes an integral part of the contents. (2) Re-casing—the re-covering of the backs of books. Contents are removed, new super, back, and end papers

are added. (3) A Bite is a piece torn from the margin or corner of a page. (4) Rubbing-down refers to gentle stroking pressure applied over protecting paper to pasted part. The heat from rubbing as well as the pressure insures good adherence and smooths out wrinkles.

Cleaning Books

Rag paper may be sponged with damp cloth rubbed on soap. Press book under weight over night. Do not use water on glazed paper as it will remove sizing and frequently circle.

Erase smudges and pencil marks with art gum. Ink spots will usually respond to ink or steel erasers. Eradicators may be used but may dissolve print as well. Gasoline and benzene are useful solvents in removing grease and oil spots. Saturate spots with solvent; place sheet between blotters and press with hot iron carefully so as not to burn paper. Pure alcohol, applied sparingly, will remove mold and mildew stain. A 10 per cent solution of Clorox (or equal) and water, with very small amount of detergent will remove finger smudges, candy stains or such, and not injure pages or hands. This is preferable to soap because it is so easy to get too much soap. Lacquer will prevent mold, and is especially necessary on black bindings.

Book covers should be tested for color-fastness before washing. Use cheese cloth or sponge, warm water and white soap. If color runs, use light sweeping strokes and wipe with dry cloth immediately afterwards. Vinegar added to water in proportions to two parts vinegar to one part water makes an effective cleaner and brightener for children's linen picture books.

Sandpaper edges of books. Turn

back covers, hold pages tightly, and rub with buffer. Art gum may also be used.

Re-letter or re-label as needed. To remove old lettering done with white ink, wash with water. If letters have been protected by a coat of varnish or shellac, remove with alcohol; then wash off ink. Since both alcohol and water may soften book cloth and cause color to run, it may be best to remove lettering with steel eraser or razor blade (single edge). Test cloth for color fastness before attempting to use fluids.

Waterproof with shellac if desired. Use two coats and dry quickly by standing books on edge or hanging them over a cord.

DO'S:

Take All Precautions Against Fire when using cleaning solvents. Ventilate well.

Use Solvents Sparingly. They may dissolve printing ink and/or paste and glue of book.

Dry Washed Pages and Cover Thoroughly. Insert wax paper if pages are at all moist. Press leaves under weights. Stand books on edge or hang over cord until dry.

Test Covers for Color Fastness on an inconspicuous area—inside back cover, near spine.

Use Damp, not wet, Cloth for Cleaning.

Rub From Inner Margin Out to avoid rumpling leaves when erasing or washing pages.

Hold Fingers on Each Side of Pencil Mark While Erasing.

Brush Off All Particles After Erasing Before Closing Book.

DON'TS:

Avoid Using Water of Glazed Paper.

Repairing Ragged Margins, Bites, Rumpled Pages, Tears and Cuts
Straighten out torn or rumpled

edge of ragged margin. Do not cut an even line. Use sharp knife, feather edge the paper by working toward outside. An uneven edge adheres better to mending tissue. Tear strip of mending paper the length of page and wide enough to extend $\frac{1}{4}$ inch over torn margin. For a straight tear a $\frac{1}{8}$ " strip, just enough to catch the edges, is sufficient. Work over paste paper, and apply thin paste to strip. Lay over margin, one edge even with outer edge of paper. Smooth out ragged and torn places of leaf so whole surface adheres. Protect with waxed paper and press overnight. If page is thick or a plate is being mended, paste margin paper on each side of outer margin of page. Paste on back of page.

Bites occur when pieces or corners of margins are torn from page. Select paper of same or similar stock, torn to make a feathered edge where joining is made. Old end papers of corresponding color and thickness of leaf to be mended may be used. If not available, use Japanese tissue paper. Mending paper should be torn in similar shape but slightly larger than bite. Apply very little paste to feathered edge with toothpick. Fit piece of paper over bite and smooth down. Sprinkle with dusting powder or any talcum, protect with waxed papers, and press until dry. For a very ragged edge, use parchment paper.

If holes are torn in the printed section, the whole page may be replaced completely from another imperfect volume or mended with mending tissue as above and hand-print missing letters. It is possible to type a copy of the damaged page from a duplicate book and tip in. Use similar or light weight paper stock for typed page.

For ruffled pages, smooth out

wrinkled portion and cut piece of transparent parchment paper large enough to cover tear or ruffled part of page. Moisten surface of parchment paper with thin paste and lay over page. Rub down with paste cloth, sprinkle with dusting powder, protect with waxed paper, and press until dry.

A feathered tear may be pasted without use of tissue. The strip of mending tissue should extend $\frac{1}{4}$ inch beyond each side and ends of tear. Apply paste to strip of tissue. Protect with waxed paper, and press until dry.

DO'S:

Use Mending Tissue Sparingly.

Small strips lightly applied become almost a part of the mended page. Mending is neater and actually more durable.

Press While Drying to remove wrinkles. Keep under weights 12 hours. If no hand press is available, use unabridged dictionary, old flat irons or some definite weight.

Use Paste Sparingly because of moisture content.

Match Printing Exactly When Pasting Torn Pieces Which Extend Into Print. When repairing bites and corners, trim outer edges even with others.

Stack Books When Pressing So That Backs Alternate With Fore-edges.

Use Fresh Paste Papers for Each Operation to insure a clean job. (Newspapers cut to convenient size are useful here.)

Rub Down Gently But Firmly After Each Pasting Operation.

Use Wax Paper Under and Over Pages Being Mended to protect adjoining leaves when pasting, rubbing down, and pressing. Be sure to keep wax papers clean and free from accumulated paste. Be sure to patch on re-

verse of page—for some reason patches stay tighter on reverse side.

Keep Outside Edges and Pages Straight and Even When Mending Bites and Corners.

DON'TS:

Don't Cut Feathered Edges Before Mending With Tissue. (If cut, it is not feathered.)

Don't Use Scotch Tape no matter how tempted. It is too heavy for book stock and becomes yellow and brittle with age, and pages break at edges of tape.

Inserting Loose Pages, Pictures, Maps or Plates

Fold hinge on inside edge of leaf if page projects beyond other pages, apply thin line of paste $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide to inner margin. Insert page into book, pushing it well into hinge with bone folder. Protect and press. Badly torn loose pages may be re-typed on onion skin paper and tipped in according to previous directions.

Loose pictures, maps or plates are too heavy to tip in without adding a hinge. Trim inner edge. Cut strip of mending paper $\frac{3}{8}$ inch wide and length of plate. Apply thin line of paste $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide to inner margin of plate on under side. Apply to edge of mending strip, rub down and allow to dry. Fold extended edge of mending tissue over pasted edge of plate to form hinge. Apply paste to loose edge of hinge. Insert plate into book, pushing it well into hinge of signature. Protect and press.

For unusually heavy plates, add a second hinge applied to face of plate. Hinges will attach plate to adjoining pages on top and under side of plate.

DO's:

Do Push Insertion Deep Into Back of Contents to insure its incorporation into whole contents. If

not pushed in, the page or signature is only pasted to single pages on each side and will soon tear out, damaging other pages to which it is attached.

DON'TS:

Don't Paste In More Than Two Sections With Binder. Extra thickness will break the binders.

Never Let Tipped-In Sheets Extend Beyond Margin of Book. Projecting edges are unsightly and lend themselves to further tearing. Always fasten in hinge.

Don't Waste Time on Valueless Illustrations Which Have Become Loosened Unless They Are Numbered With Pages.

Don't Delay Taking Care of Loose Signatures. Do consider for a rebind job.

Tightening Loose Hinges or Joints

Open book upright and fold covers back so cloth back separates from contents. With a small long-handled brush insert paste from top to bottom down front and back joints. Press back well into cover with bone folder, and close. Crease joints on outside with bone folder. Protect unpasted surface of hinge with folded strip of waxed paper. Dry book under weight.

When original paper over a joint is broken but contents have not torn loose from cover, tighten as described above, and then apply a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch strip of hinging cloth (white muslin), heavily pasted, over the publishers' joints.

When the contents are loose in the cover, recasing of the book is necessary.

DON'TS:

Don't Use Too Much Paste in the First Process Above.

Avoid Allowing Paste to Spread to the Super or Back of Book. If spine of signatures adheres to back of book, flexibility is lost,

and book will crack when opened. Protect with waxed papers.

Rebacking a Book Without Recasing

Tear off the ragged edges of the old back. Slit the super which extends over the back $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from bottom and top at the hinges to allow for folding the book cloth over the ends.

Cut a strip of book leather, harmonizing in color with the binding, one inch longer than the back of the book at each end and extending an inch at each side. Cut a strip of kraft paper the length of the book, slightly narrower than the width of the book. Paste this in the center of the book cloth. Apply paste to book cloth not covered by kraft paper lining.

Place the book in the middle of kraft paper. Turn in the book cloth over the edge of the book at top and bottom so that this new back is exactly the length of the original back. Then paste down extra width of book cloth to cover boards and smooth.

Paste in new end papers if desired.

Protect inside of covers with waxed paper and close book. Crease hinges with a bone folder. Label from old cover, if legible, may be pasted over new back. Press.

Repairing Books with Loose Contents, Torn Supers and Worn Backs (No resewing)

For a book with loose contents but undamaged super, remove contents. Scrape all old glue and paper off back of signatures with a knife. Apply large quantity of paste or a light coat of glue to back of contents, brushing well into surface. Put on new super, allow to dry and insert contents into old case. Lightly paste edge of

hinge and fit end sheet into place with bone folder. New lining papers may be added if desired. Protect inside of hinges with folders of waxed paper and press. This process requires practice and skill.

For a book with loose contents and torn super, replace with cambric cut $\frac{1}{2}$ inch shorter and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wider than back of contents. Apply paste or glue to back of contents. Stretch super smoothly across back rubbing well with bone folder to force paste into super. Place a strip of soft paper the length of the super and slightly narrower than the back over the super to absorb the extra adhesive. Set contents aside while case is being prepared, also put a piece of soft paper on the inside spine of the book. With a knife, cut the lining of boards about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from joint and remove all old paper and super on exposed area. Apply paste to cleaned surface. Replace contents in cover taking care to have it exactly centered. Close inside of joint with muslin and press. (See instructions for "Tightening Loose Hinges or Joints.")

If the back is worn, the best time to replace it is when the contents are separated from the case. With a knife, cut the old cloth cover about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch back from joint. Lift the back out, being careful to save tabs at top and bottom, getting the exact width of back from this measurement. Slit cloth of old cover back $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches and pull up the full length of case to make room for insertion of the new backing cloth under the original board covering. Scrape off old paper and paste from old book cloth to prevent bulgy wrinkles in the finished book. Cut book cloth for back two inches wider than space between boards and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches longer than book. Cut lining

paper for back the same length as the case and slightly narrower than width of contents. Apply paste to the new cloth back. Then place cloth on cover boards under the old loosened cloth. Turn case over and place lining paper in position. Be sure to have both parts of case even with each other at top and bottom. Paste loosened edge of old covers back into original position, covering edges of the new back. Smooth with bone folder and press out excess paste. Crease new back at joint and at new folds at the top and bottom. Round the back of the book by placing the forefinger at the outer edge and pressing until the back is in its original shape. If the lettering on the old back is in good shape, trim and paste the old back to the new one, or re-label. Cover inside of joint with muslin strip and press.

DO'S:

Leave Super Intact by taking care in removing contents of book.

Remove All Old Glue and Paper From Back of Signatures. The new coat of paste or glue can then soak into the back of the contents.

Protect All Unpasted Surfaces Adjacent to Parts Being Bended.

Use Tabs To Measure Correct Width Between Boards. Accurate measurement of the width of signatures is difficult, but this width must be exact.

Paste Cover Boards Exactly Opposite Each Other When Attaching to Back.

Note Places Where Paste Should Be Applied in a Heavy Coat, and When It Should Be Applied Lightly. Paste heavily over backs of signatures where you want it to soak in. Paste lightly at joints, and under covering of boards.

Open Recased Book Carefully.

Treat as you would a new book, opening by sections and pressing along hinges to prevent cracking of spine.

DON'TS:

Don't Injure the Stitching while scraping old glue from signatures.

Care and Use of Equipment

DO'S:

Plan the Working Space. The working surface should be well-lighted. Table must be sufficiently large to hold all supplies and of comfortable working height. Supply cupboard and shelves for sorting and stacking books should be grouped conveniently near. A plate glass, 18 inches square, makes an ideal flat hard surface for pasting and rubbing down.

Assemble All Necessary Equipment Before Starting Job. Don't skimp on fresh papers (brown wrapping paper is good for covering table), paste papers, paste cloths, wiping cloths.

Learn To Judge Quality of Paper, both in book and mending papers. Match color and quality as closely as possible. Treat glazed paper differently from other stock both in cleaning and pasting.

Tear and Fold Paper Lengthwise With Grain. Test for grain by tearing both ways. It will tear most easily with the lengthwise grain. Important!

DON'TS:

Never Use Mucilage Instead of Glue. Mucilage is non-flexible.

Don't Confuse Uses of Paste and Glue. Paste is suitable for paper, soft cloths such as cambric and silk, for casing-in books, end leaves, mending and repairing torn pages. Glue is the proper adhesive for backs of books

where flexibility is needed, for colored or sized book-covering cloths, and for most leathers.

Never Use Adhesive Papers. They are too heavy and tend to get brittle with age. Some binderies refuse to accept books for re-binding that have been mended with gummed paper.

List of Mending Materials and Equipment

The following materials are essential for making repairs, such as cleaning, mending torn pages, tipping-in loose leaves and sections, and strengthening hinges. Most of the equipment listed may be purchased from your local stationers or hardware merchant, or from a library supply house.

Shears: Choose general office shears made of forged steel with slender blades having keen cutting edges. You will need a 6 or 7-inch blade.

Knife: A sharp-pointed paring knife with 3-inch blade and sharp cutting edge is suitable.

Bone folder: Two or more. Made of bone or plastic in 5, 7 or 8-inch lengths, folders are essential for perfect creasing, for rubbing down, and pushing tipped-in leaves securely into hinges.

Straight edge ruler: Use an 18-inch ruler with steel edge for marking true line on trimmed leaves, for making hinge lines on mending tissue, to use as a guide when cutting book cloth with knife.

Cleaning materials: Soft rubber and art gum erasers, ink and steel erasers and ink eradicators are needed for erasing smudges, pencil and ink marks from soiled pages. Such solvents as alcohol and gasoline will aid in removing stubborn oil spots and other stains which cannot be erased. For cleaning book covers include

white soap or prepared cleaner and vinegar on your list. Sandpaper and art gum will be needed for cleaning edges of books.

Shellac or book lacquer for waterproofing. One or two coats of shellac applied to new books makes them waterproof and easier to clean when they become soiled. Shellac turns white when wet. Book lacquers are more expensive.

Shellac brush: 1-inch wide, 2½ inches long with chiseled edge. Vulcanized shellac brushes give longer wear. Brushes should have a metal band between brush and handle.

Plastic spray: It may be well to investigate the new plastic spray now being advertised and used successfully.

Paste pot: Any container with large opening and screw cap of convenient size may be used to hold a day's supply of paste thinned with water to the proper consistency for the work to be done. Thinning paste in small amounts will conserve paste and keep bulk amount stored in better condition.

Paste: Library supply houses manufacture excellent adhesives including those with plastic base which may be purchased in large quantities. Any library supply house can furnish a good paste.

Paste brushes: Choose soft, flat brushes, preferably made of boar's hair fiber. These may be purchased in varying widths—¼, ½ and ¾-inch. A small ½-inch brush with over-all length of 12 inches will be needed when reinforcing the hinges of a book without recasing. (Toothpicks are useful in spreading paste on torn feather edges.) Do not hesitate to use fingers for meticulous jobs.

Paste papers: Cut newspapers to quarter size. Keep under all surfaces that are being pasted and discard after each pasting operation. Old magazines, e. g. *Saturday Evening Post*, are good for paste paper.

Dusting powder: Library supply houses sell dusting powder to promote quick and thorough drying after pasting. Their use is optional—good 10 cent store talcum is quite satisfactory, odor leaves quickly.

Blotters: Cut into convenient sizes and lay over pasted tears while rubbing down. Have good supply of clean ones. Be careful not to re-use blotters while wet.

Waxed paper: Use to protect adjoining pages while mending and pressing while paste dries. Bread paper may be used, always turn printed side away from glue or moisture.

Mending papers: Use transparent tissue and parchment papers for mending tears and as margin papers. Choose paper of equal or slightly lighter grade, thickness and texture than the page to be repaired. End papers of discarded books, if clean, may be saved and used for mending holes and bites. These are more likely to match the quality, texture, and color of the torn leaf than new tissue papers. Ten cent store tissues may be used when joining tears and transparent paper needed.

End and lining papers: Select butchers manila, ledger paper, or kraft paper. All papers should be cut lengthwise with the grain. Brown paper sacks are usable to save cost.

If a more ambitious program of book repairing is attempted, the following materials and equipment will be needed for recasing and re-

pairing of contents:

Shears: 9-inch blades.

Knife: One with a beveled edge will be needed for paring edges of board. Fourteen inch cutting board and knife attached may be used to cut board and cloth.

Glue: Use flexible animal glue on backs of books when recasing. Glue must be dissolved in water, heated in a double-boiler type of container, and kept at the proper working temperature of 155 degrees Fahrenheit. Electric glue pots with thermostatic control are best but expensive.

Brush: For heavy pasting or gluing over a large surface such as cover boards, use a brush with bristles 1 inch wide and 2 inches long.

Cloth binders: A double-stitched binder may be used to attach the contents of a book to the case when recasing is done. The use of gummed cloth binders has been criticized on the basis that gummed materials become brittle and weakened and eventually crack. Plain white muslin cut to convenient widths is the best joint material. You can use "used percale" that is yet strong.

Cord: Heavy braided lise cord may be used to reinforce the upper and lower edges of a new spine. Waxed, cotton twine may be inserted in fold at top and bottom of spine when making new case.

Book Cloth: Cambric, buckram and waterproofed book fabrics may be secured in small quantities from a local book binder or a library supply concern. Light colors brighten the shelves but soil easily. Dark colors show lettering to better advantage. Watch for strength of material and color-fastness.

Boards: If new boards are neces-

sary, select binder boards with rag, rope and waste paper content. Avoid paper boards and those made of plywood, metals,

plastics, etc., which have not yet been perfected.
Paper cutter: Useful in large cutting jobs.

Our Public Libraries

The Gladewater Public Library

by

Mrs. Frank Bauman, Librarian

Because a city and a county could visualize the inestimable value of adequate library service to its people, Gladewater in Gregg County, has a library second to none in its size towns, and a happy and well-read public.

Gladewater is a comparatively young town. The East Texas oil boom of 1930 started the growth of the unincorporated town of 500. By 1937 the many far-sighted leaders had not only planned for a library, but had organized one. These people realized that next in line to the church and the school, a public library was imperative to an up-and-coming community.

Gladewater Public Library has continuously grown from its modest beginnings. In 1947 an expansion program was carried out and the library floor space was increased tremendously, adding another of the rooms of the Gladewater Community Building in which it is housed. Now, ten years later in April of 1957 an annex was completed to the building proper, through the efforts of Mr. H. E. Bingham, commissioner, and Gregg County. This provides for the children and young people a separate room which makes their growth, through books and other media of the library, possible.

It was the Elementary School P. T. A. with Mrs. L. W. Pelphrey as chairman, and a cultural club of women, The Three Arts Club with

Mrs. T. M. Armstrong as chairman, who were instrumental in making the first steps toward a library. The business and growth are regulated by a Board of Directors. Twenty years after its inception there are two active members who were charter members of this group: Mrs. T. M. Armstrong and Mrs. S. D. Todd. Mrs. L. W. Pelphrey is an honorary member. Mr. H. D. Victory, Mr. H. L. McKaig, and Mrs. Grady Coleman have served on this for a number of years. Perhaps one of the greatest aids in continued progress is the fact that this board meets once a month regularly in the interest of its commission.

The city of Gladewater has increased its annual allocation to the library steadily as the need has grown. Gregg County is the other sustainer of the finances. This county has a unique County Library plan in that three libraries go to make up the Gregg County Library. Longview's Nicholson Memorial Library and Kilgore Public Library work together in the interests of every individual in the county. There is a library or a branch-library within ten miles of every resident.

In recent years the services to the children of this area have become one of the paramount channels of the program. Story hour is held weekly for pre-school youngsters that they too may have



an introduction to books. An average attendance of 35 of these children under five years of age makes the project worth while. For the students, the library sponsors a summer reading program, which keeps the young people in touch with books during the summer months.

Services to adults are not neglected. The bookstock is kept to meet the demands, as well as the interests and pleasure, of the people in the vicinity. Study clubs work hand in hand with the library staff to provide programs to suit their needs. The library personnel is pleased to be called upon by the local and surrounding civic organizations for programs and reviews. Plans are in the making for a Great Books Discussion Group to

be organized in the near future. Behind these services is the much-used book stock of 17,000 volumes, approximately 80 periodicals and many newspapers.

There are six libraries in Gladewater: two elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, Weldon School, and the Gladewater Public Library. Two branches are maintained: Greggton Public Library, and Weldon School Library. A summer reading program is under the direction of the Gladewater Public Library at the Weldon School Library for the Negroes of this area.

It is evident that the center of the small-town activities can be its library. The people of the community appreciate their privileges and use them.

Texas History

The First Anniversary of Independence Ball

Jane Herbert Wilkinson Long was the first known woman of English descent to come to Texas. She accompanied her husband, James Long, who led two expeditions into Texas against Mexico. After his capture and death she returned to Natchez but came back to Texas in 1824 as one of Austin's Old Three Hundred.

Mrs. Long made Austin's fringed buckskin suit and the first national flag with the emblem of the lone star. She met and knew many of the prominent figures of early Texas history—Peter Ellis Bean, Governor Antonio Martínez, Ben Milam, William B. Travis, Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, and Mirabeau B. Lamar. The first anniversary ball was held at her boarding house in Brazoria—a popular meeting place in the days of the Republic.

On the afternoon of November 21, 1835, the New Orleans Greys, that distinguished band of volunteers from the United States, arrived at Velasco. At Brazoria, flowers were strewn along the line of march and the company of sixty-four was entertained by Mrs. Long. From a description of her furniture, which is now in the possession of her descendants, one can imagine that the entertainments in pioneer days were not devoid of grace and beauty.

Among Mrs. Long's articles of furniture were an original Sheraton table, a Hepplewhite mahogany console inlaid with satinwood, a writing desk of mahogany veneer, a mahogany grand piano made by Samuel Gilbert of Boston, a fine old four poster mahogany bed, and a heavy round mahogany table with handsomely carved legs. Among

INDEPENDENCE.



Your company is respectfully solicited to the first anniversary ball, to be given at Mrs. Jane H. Long's, in the town of Brazoria, on ~~Tuesday~~ evening, the 2nd of March next.

MANAGERS.

G. B. MCKINSTRY,

D. MILLS,

F. M. GIBSON,

F. J. CALVIT,

EDWIN WALLER,

ANSON JONES,

WM. W. FRANKLIN,

A. BRIGHAM,

B. T. ARCHER,

C. L. DUROCHER,

A. M. TOMKINS,

H. P. BREWSTER,

P. C. JACK,

A. J. HARRIS,

B. F. HILL,

WILLIAM B. ALDRIGE.

Brazoria, February 21, 1837.

other possessions were a cape of handmade French lace, a French embroidered cap, a white china fruit bowl, and an oil painting done from an old daguerreotype.

This invitation to the first anniversary of independence ball was sent to Colonel H. W. Karnes. In 1837, March 2 fell on Thursday. Apparently, this was the reason

for striking out Tuesday which must have been written by mistake. Only one other of these invitations is known to be in existence. It is in the University of Texas Archives, and on it Tuesday is also stricken out. While no descriptive details of this particular occasion have been found, it was undoubtedly celebrated with all due gaiety and elegance.

Libraries Over the State

BROWNFIELD An announcement was made by County Judge Herbert Chesshir that the 10-room red brick home of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Kendrick has been given to Terry County. The presentation, valuable because of its location and because it is to house a Terry County public library, was made by heirs of Mr. and Mrs. Kendrick. The Commissioners Court will order immediate remodeling of the residence to conform more suitably to the requirements of a modern public library.

Plans for a book fair this fall were discussed at a meeting of the board of directors of Val Verde County Library. A report from the City Council indicated the commissioners and mayor approved an appropriation of \$100 a month to the library to supplement the fund for the purchase of books needed, particularly for children's division and research books.

The operetta, Don Alonzos' Treasure, by Morgan and Penn, will be presented in the high school auditorium, sponsored by the History Club. Proceeds from the musical will go to the public library fund. The cast is made up entirely of local talent.

The Public Library will support three "town meetings" on Fort Worth which will cover the city's past, present and future. The series named "Our Town," heads the spring program of adult education. Librarian A. B. Nixon announced the appointment

of a 19-member adult education citizens committee to help put more emphasis on the new service. The adult education division was formed only a year ago. Besides the "Our Town" Thursday night series the spring program includes a series of lecture-discussion groups.

The new building for the **GOLIAD** Goliad County Library was dedicated recently. After a short program, the library board held open house in the book room and about 100 guests attended.

A fund drive kick-off **KERRVILLE** for the proposed Kerr Memorial Library was held in the Green Room of the Blue Bonnet Hotel by the Friends of the Kerr County Library. This was the annual meeting of the organization which was devoted to the fund kick-off. Plans for the new library have been completed by August W. Harris, prominent Austin architect, and were on public display. Two prominent authors appeared on the program—Miss Harriet Garrett of Kerrville and Senator Carlos Ashley of Llano.

Announcement was made **KINGSVILLE** of gifts amounting to \$25,000 to the Robert J. Kleberg Public Library, a portion of it to be used to purchase a site for the new library building. The gifts were announced by Robert C. Wells, member of the library construction committee, who paid particular tribute to the generosity of the firms and the association from whom the money came. The King Ranch, Inc. gave \$12,500, the Humble

Oil and Refining Company gave \$5,000, the Kleberg County Historical Society gave \$5,000 and the Central Power and Light Company gave \$2,500.

Mrs. Rose Kinzer, librarian at the Midland County Library, received a check for \$100 from Mrs. A. P. Shirey, treasurer of the Midland Garden Club. The donation, earned during the Garden Club's annual Bulb Mart, is to be used for library furnishings.

The public was invited to open house to view the new addition to the McAllen Memorial Library. Like the original structure, the new addition has been financed without use of tax money. The Memorial Library was constructed through donations sought and obtained by various civic groups during an extended campaign. In conjunction with the open house there was a small art display of modern paintings which were hung for the occasion.

"That old-fashioned idea of libraries has changed drastically and our new Orange library will be no exception. Today the library is a place where families and individuals can spend relaxing hours free of the old taboos of smoking, loud talking and similar restrictions," Mrs. Janowski, Orange municipal librarian, commented. During the initial year of operation, about \$25,000 worth of books will be purchased. A considerable sum will be spent for reference books, non-fiction for adults, young adult collection for teenagers and juveniles. The present building space will hold about 10,000 volumes. The new library will probably be opened

about May 15. The four steps in the program of the library are:

1. Keep the collection "live."
2. Give a good reference service.
3. Pleasant staff relations with the patrons.
4. Constant and aggressive public relations program to sell the library and its services.

Ten years ago the Ranger Public Library opened its doors to the public with a selection of 1,565 volumes, all received from private donations. Today it can boast of over 7,000 volumes ranging from Shakespeare to children's books. Even though it is overcrowded, it is a far cry from what it was during its first year of operation. In 1957 there were 6,735 books checked out of the library and indications are the figure will be larger this year.

An all time high of over 992,000 books were circulated by the San Antonio Public Library in 1957. This is an increase of 167,000 books or 17 per cent over the 1956 total. Probably the chief reason for this growing interest in library services is the new emphasis on getting the material to the people. The city's four bookmobiles are continuously taking more books to more stops in order to reach more people of all ages.

In a special meeting of the commissioners court, members highlighted the session by agreeing on plans for enlarging the county library. Time warrants amounting to \$1,200 will be issued to finance the work.

Readers Ask "How Do You Choose Library Books?"

*By Robert L. Peterson
Nueces County Librarian*

Editor Note: This article, which appeared in the Robstown Record April 3, 1958, restates the basic principles of book selection. It is the author's answer to a question put to every public librarian.

So frequently are our staff members questioned as to why the Nueces County Library fails to purchase a particular type of book, that I should like to take this opportunity to explain the book selection policy of the library. As you know, the library operates under general policy statements developed and expounded by the Nueces County Library Advisory Board composed of two citizens from each county precinct appointed by the Nueces County Commissioners' Court.

On July 22, 1955, the following book selection policy was unanimously adopted by the Library Advisory Board:

"The Nueces County Library shall attempt to supply its patrons with the best books and non-book materials on all subjects of current interest. The library shall be guided in its selection by the opinions of experts in their subject fields. In cases of all controversial topics, the library shall strive to have for its readers materials reflecting all points of view."

Perhaps analysis of the above statement will answer most questions which arise. The selection policy under which we operate states that the library "shall attempt to supply . . . the best books . . ." The key words are "attempt" and "best." The word

"attempt" indicates that the Library Board recognizes the impossibility of supplying all of the "best books" with the limit of our severely restricted book budget. Each year there are approximately 12,000 titles issued by American publishers. If we had all the titles published in the past, and, of course we have but an infinitesimal percentage of them, we would still be able to purchase only a small fraction of currently published material.

On the surface it would seem that since our policy calls for the purchase of "best" books our task is greatly simplified, for, certainly, of the 12,000 or so titles published each year only a relatively limited number could be classed as "best books." But herein lies the difficulty, for a small library staff could not possibly read all of the books published and reach a personal decision concerning which of these these are "best books." Presuming that such a reading of all issued titles were possible, the question naturally arises, would your library staff then be able to make a valid selection of the "best books"? The answer is a loud and resounding "NO," for while we could render a personal opinion, it would remain just that, a personal opinion. Consequently the Library Board has wisely instructed that we be guided "by the opinions of experts in their subject fields." What does this mean in practice? Simply that we lean heavily on accepted reviewing media and on generally accepted listings of recommended books for public librar-

ies. With as much care and thoroughness as time will allow we read book reviews in "Booklist" issued by the American Library Association, "Library Journal," "Book Review Digest," "Saturday Review," "New York Times Book Review," "Time," "Newsweek," "U. S. News, and World Report," "Atlantic" and "Harpers," all generally regarded as satisfactory reviewing media.

For the replacement and addition of older titles which should be in our library, we depend almost exclusively on "The Standard Catalog for Public Libraries," "Fiction Catalog," "Standard Catalog for High Schools," and the "Children's Catalog." Again, these are tools most frequently used for the selection of material by all good libraries.

Now to answer more specific questions. Why do we fail to buy "The Rover Boys," "The Bobbsey Twins," and similar series of well known books for children? Is it because we feel that they are harmful for children? Are we "censoring" these books? In answer to the question of harm we give a qualified "No." In answer to the question of censoring, an unequivocal "No." We do not feel that there is anything degrading about the "Rover Boys"-"Bobbsey Twins" type of book for children, except that it could perhaps be considered harmful for children to spend their time reading these when better books can be made available. No, we do not censor them. We do follow the stated policy of the Library Board by deciding the issue with the guidance of "experts in their subject fields," children's literature specialists, who are in virtually unanimous agreement that such books are not among the "best books" for chil-

dren.

The above remarks concerning children's books are applicable to some types of books written for adults as well. In the field of fiction, for example, there are a number of publishers who regularly issue "light romances" without literary merit. These books are not reviewed by responsible reviewing media nor are they listed by the "Fiction Catlog" or other recognized tools for the selection of books for a public library. They are not bad books. We do not "censor" them. We do follow our stated book selection policy of depending upon the recommendations of specialists in the field of fiction, all of whom are in agreement that these are not among the "best books" published.

We certainly do not mean to imply that we do not make mistakes in the selection of individual titles, for we do unintentionally buy some debatable titles which we probably should not buy, and we also fail to purchase others which we should. But our decision concerning the "types" of materials discussed above is sound, I believe, and in perfect accord with the book selection policy as adopted by the Library Board.

But, a critic could say, this is a public library supported by taxpayers and should furnish the taxpayer with anything he wishes to read. The objection seems valid on first blush, but if we look at it more closely, we will probably admit that the reasoning is faulty. If comic books were provided by the public library there would doubtlessly be tremendous demand, for children who are exposed seem to develop an almost insatiable appetite for them. We are not opposed to comic books as such, but it does not seem wise to spend our

limited funds providing them merely because there is a demand for them.

Shortly, our attitude is that you are perfectly free to read comic books if you desire, but the tax-paying public should not be expected to pay for them.

Finally, then, we come to the basic problem involved. What is a public library and what is its responsibility to the taxpayers who support it?

I think that I express the feel-

ing of the library staff, Library Board, Commissioners' Court, and the great majority of the taxpaying public when I say that your library should be primarily an educational and cultural force in the community. It should provide education, information, inspiration, and recreation. But more than this, it should provide sound education, valid information, uplifting inspiration, and productive recreation.

We try to select our books with these responsibilities in mind.