

Texas Libraries



TEXAS
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TEXAS LIBRARIES

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STATE ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY BUILDING: A NEW HOME FOR THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY

by William K. Peace, Acting Director and Librarian

December, 1960, marked the beginning of the planning stages for the move of the Texas State Library into its magnificent new home, the State Archives and Library Building, located just east of the Capitol grounds.

After years of shifting State Library materials from one end of the Capitol Building to the other, and later from North and South Austin locations, at last a permanent home has been found in what we believe to be the most beautiful yet functional building in the City of Austin.

Of course much thought had been given the move even prior to actual construction two years ago, but with the delay in the completion date more time for study and actual planning of the move was made possible. A 100-page, detailed, written plan for moving the collection of the Archives Division, containing some of the most valuable documents in Texas history, was completed in June and the actual transfer began on July 18th. Every item, from the Texas Declaration of Independence to the bottle containing samples of river water from each of the rivers in Texas, was accounted for and labeled, with each item destined for a specific place in the new building. The Archives Division was closed to the public for one month, reopening for public use on the 21st of August.

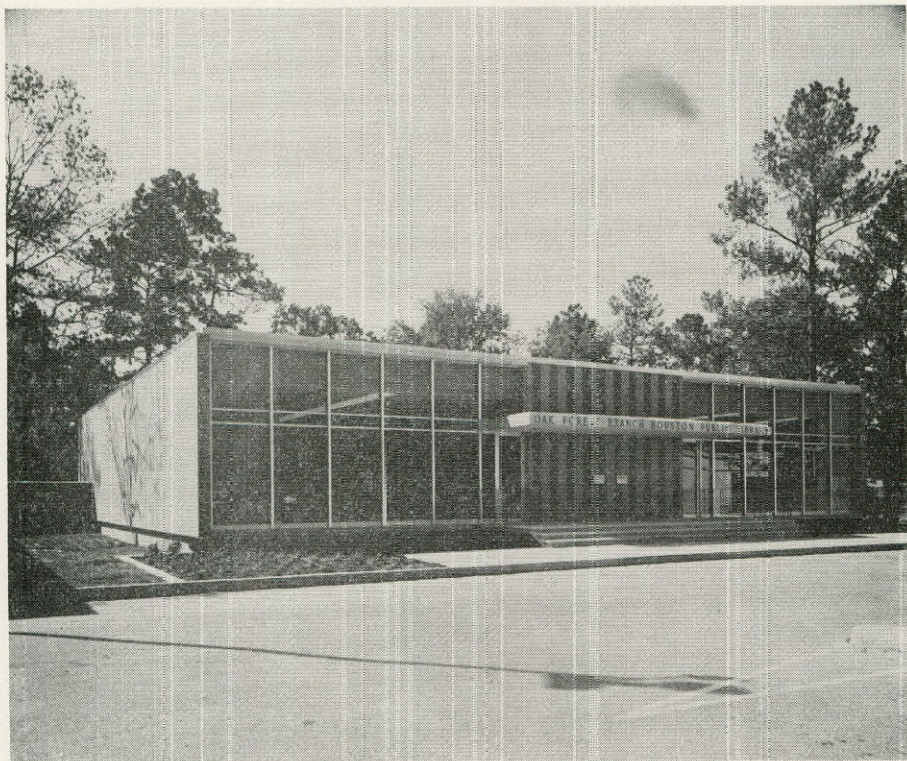
The other divisions of the State Library which were scheduled to be housed in the new building began moving on August 1st, and by October 1st 90% of the materials of these divisions occupied

the new building. The other 10% yet to be moved consists primarily of two collections: the newspaper collection containing approximately 6,500 volumes of Texas newspapers, published since 1900 to the present time, and the United States Government depository collection. The move of these materials cannot be completed until additional shelving can be installed in the sixth and seventh stack floors. It is hoped that this shelving can be installed within 45 days so that the move will be finally completed.

A proposed list of needed furniture items for the building was submitted to the State Building Commission on September 12th and it is anticipated that the delivery of this new equipment will be available as early as 90 days from this date. The present furniture, much of which is now in excellent condition, will be utilized to the fullest extent for economy and efficiency in operating the State Library.

We, the employees of the Texas State Library, are proud to be the occupants of this stately, granite structure, and that at last we have a safe and permanent home for not only past archival material relating to Texas history, but also ample room for the future archives of Texas. It is also recognized that in our new quarters we will have sufficient room to carry out the other functions of the Texas State Library as set forth in the laws pertaining to library service in the State of Texas.

OAK FOREST BRANCH



The Oak Forest Branch of the Houston Public Library opened to the public October 6, 1961. The branch occupies a site on the southwest corner of Oak Forest Shopping Center. Designed by Golemon & Rolfe, A.I.A., the building, a contemporary single-story structure, faces the shopping center with approaches from both Forty-third Street and Oak Forest Boulevard. A glazed north front where glass and aluminum are composed around a motif of imported Italian glass mosaic tile adds an eye-arresting note of color to the exterior. An aluminum facade carries the name of the library. Eight-inch aluminum letters with a turquoise porcelain finish are easily discernible from the street. The flow of traffic is

controlled by single-action glass doors marked Entrance and Exit.

Patrons step from the shopping center into the library, where a large, especially designed service desk provides for the quick and efficient issue and return of books. This location of the charging desk affords excellent supervision of the major portion of public service areas. The charging desk is partially enclosed by a wall of mosaic tile and is backed by a small work alcove. Though small, it is compact with room for a work desk, typewriter and chair. Wall shelving with closed cabinets below further increases the effective utilization of this area.

The interior of the building consists of a large rectangular room so designed that adult, juvenile

and reference service areas are defined by means of counter-height shelving, distinctive lighting fixtures and suspended decorative canopy ceilings. Children's sections are set apart by the use of brightly colored furniture. As one enters the library, there is an immediate sense of books and reading, and an atmosphere of ease and informality. There is an uncluttered look that is inviting and restful. A large picture window overlooking the patio garden, and a north frontage of ceiling to floor windows augment the beauty of the branch. Draw draperies of fiberglass net in a soft biege color diffuse the light from the front windows. Woodwork, shelving and furniture are of natural birch, finished in a rich shade of walnut, which blends well with the muted biege and brown tones of the vinyl floor covering. Striking and artistic combinations of color are found in the lounge areas, reference and children's sections.

Directly to the left of the charging desk is the adult browsing lounge and reading room. In addition to regulation library tables and chairs, patrons find comfortable upholstered lounge chairs arranged around a large, low magazine table. Slanted shelving, holding current periodicals, are located nearby. Also accessible to the lounge are shelves of new and popular reading material which may be leisurely perused or picked up on the run. Such areas have proven successful in other branches. The colorful lounge furniture provides the informal and friendly atmosphere that is essential to a neighborhood library.

Across from the adult and juvenile catalogs is the reference section—close to the boys' and girls' room yet sufficiently set apart to

assure the necessary quietness. Since the reference alcove is used by both adults and children, adequate floor space was provided to accommodate two long reference tables, chairs, dictionary stand and several arm chairs. A suspended canopied ceiling and the striking color combination of painted chair backs adds to the attractiveness of this section.

The west wing of the building is devoted to service for young adults and children. A focal point of interest is the young adult alcove. An informal grouping of lounge furniture in front of a large picture window and a well-selected collection of reading material gives ample and pleasant quarters for the young people of the neighborhood. Located in the southwest corner of the west wing is the children's room. Here the generous use of color has created a feeling of gaiety and friendliness. Boys and girls are attracted by the low tables, matching chairs with painted backs in daffodil yellow, sunset orange and strawberry red. The room is further enhanced by a large picture window which overlooks the patio garden. "Small fry" are not forgotten as one corner contains especially designed wall shelving for picture and easy to read books, slanting-top picture book tables and benches. Small stools with bold red tops are placed near the picture book shelving.

Opening off the children's room is the club room. This is a beautifully designed room which will accommodate approximately fifty persons. Furnishings consist of folding chairs, a speaker's table and arm chairs. The wall directly behind the speaker's table is composed of a decorative sound absorbent screen which is equipped

with wooden pegs and a shelf for hats and coats. Walnut wood panelling is used most effectively for the rear wall. Color notes are picked up in the upholstery of the folding and arm chairs. This promises to be a much used addition to the branch. A separate entrance makes it possible for the room to be used after library closing hours.

Remaining space in the building is given over to public toilets, closed stack room, staff lounge, work and utility rooms. These work areas are placed at the rear of the building in order to expedite the servicing of air conditioning equipment and delivery of books, equipment, and supplies. The work room contains a commodious closet for storage of office supplies while floor to ceiling shelving provides space for mending, binding and discards. Two work tables with formica covered tops, chairs and book trucks find

adequate placement space in this area.

Ample provision is made for a staff lounge. This area, opening off the work room, affords privacy and easily accommodates a couch, two arm chairs, table and a combination sink and refrigeration unit. Generous use of color enlivens and adds to the inviting appearance of the room.

One measure of a branch library is the ease and efficiency with which the public is served. With this in mind, every effort was made in the planning to present a library in keeping with the character of the community; to provide as functional and flexible a building as possible, and to insure means of future expansion.

Size of building, 7,632 square feet
 Cost of building.....\$132,869
 Book capacity40,000
 Seating capacity of club room, 50
 Mrs. Alice G. Stewart,
 Supervisor of Branches

LIBRARIES OFFERED TAPED INTERVIEW WITH MRS. HENRY

A taped recorded interview with popular children's author Marguerite Henry is offered for use by school and public libraries free of charge by Rand McNally & Company.

Any librarian can obtain a copy of the approximately 13-minute tape accompanied by a written transcript for use in story hours and other children's programs by writing to Library Department, Rand McNally, P. O. Box 7600, Chicago 80, Ill. Specify between what dates the tape is needed, allowing at least 10 days for delivery.

In the interview, Mrs. Henry describes her trip to Chincoteague

Island off the Virginia Coast during the filming of 20th Century Fox's movie version of "Misty of Chincoteague." She also describes her newest book, "Gaudenzia: Pride of the Palio," and reads a selection from the book.

"We have thought that many librarians might welcome the chance to stimulate young peoples' interest in reading by letting them hear an author describe her work in her own words," Rand McNally Library Department Manager Roy Porter said. "This first tape," he added, "is a trial run and if the libraries' response indicates that it is something they need and can use, we'll continue with a series of tapes using other authors."

"HAVE BOOK — WILL FLY"



"Flying Rancher" Will O. Mills, and his wife are here shown loading their Piper Cub with books from the Val Verde County Library, Del Rio, Texas—destination, Pandale, ninety-five miles northwest as the Piper flies. Mrs. Bess Bradley, County Librarian, has just assembled an exchange collection of books which will serve the Pandale ranch country from the library station in the community building. The Mills fly into Del Rio for new collections of books, "every two or three months" according to the County Librarian. Fifty to one hundred books are loaded into the "book plane" at each trip. Mrs. Mills, a County Library Board member, keeps the station open for the ranch families of the sparsely settled region. The community building is the social and club center, and Mrs. Mills appears faithfully to man the library station for all such gatherings, where it is reported that the book service is "certainly popular."

"PINEY WOODS" BOOKMOBILE SERVICE

by Elizabeth Karle, Field Consultant, State Library

Twenty-three years after an attempt was made by the Texas State Library to set up multi-county library service in a group of East Texas counties there is a beginning. The original group of counties was Nacogdoches, Sabine, San Augustine, and Shelby intended for a regional library experiment. On August 1, 1961, with Federal aid under the Library Services Act, the Texas State Library began another Multi-County Bookmobile Demonstration, this one comprising Newton and San Augustine counties. Adjoining counties were invited to participate in the one-year "free" demonstration of service; however, the Commissioners Courts of Sabine and Shelby counties decided that at this time they were not ready to join in the project.

The staff consists of Mrs. Evelyn Maples, graduate librarian from East Texas State College, and Carlton Harris, driver-clerk. The project is under the supervision of Miss Elizabeth Karle, Field Consultant of the Texas State Library. The service is free to all residents of the two counties, at forty-two stops, with locations varying from a cage-chicken farm to a town of approximately twenty-six hundred population.

"The bookmobile staff has found citizens hungry for printed matter," states Miss Karle. One patron who reported that she had not had access to a library for the past twenty-five years, said that she has a new outlook on life since the bookmobile has started making regularly scheduled visits to her rural community. It was learned that books on religion, psychology and philosophy, as

well as books on cooking, recipes, diets, sewing, interior decorating, repair of home appliances, animal husbandry, and boat building were the most popular.

R. N. Stripling, San Augustine County Judge, took great personal interest in the public library service on wheels in the City of San Augustine the first and second times of service. In spite of his 81 years, he time after time brought groups of his friends to the bookmobile to register and to borrow books. He said, "The seeds of knowledge that the bookmobile is planting now, will reap rewarding benefits to future generations. You are doing good work. We are going to continue this program after the 'free' demonstration."

In the small Newton County town known as Burkeville, population 400, eighteen people registered on the first trip and borrowed 70 books. On the following trip, three weeks later, six additional people registered. Total circulation during the one hour service was 82. A retired colonel asked if he could use the bookmobile at two stops—namely, in Burkeville and in the City of Newton.

Because the bookmobile has a small collection of phonograph records, consisting of classical and semi-classical music, two patrons have already reported that this was the incentive to purchase a long-desired record player. The demand for records has become so great that patrons are limited to one per trip.

Miss Karle reports, "A Newton elementary school boy, when informed that only adults may borrow records, ran home and brought

his mother so she could apply for a card and borrow the record he had selected, as well as books for herself. On the next trip to Newton, here comes Johnny with the record, his mother's books, and two which he had borrowed. When he told the bookmobile Librarian his sad tale of woe — that his mother was out of town — it was suggested that he bring his dad to borrow another record. This he did and it was past lunch time for the staff when they almost had to carry dad and Johnny off the bookmobile. Of course, with one record and six or seven books."

In each County three board members were appointed by the County Judges. The board members selected a Stop Chairman and two committee members in each county served by the bookmobile to publicize the service and to continue this during the entire year. The appointments were made weeks prior to the initial trip of the bookmobile. These representatives advertised the services, handed out schedules, registration cards, and mimeographed information.

In some sparsely settled areas it was difficult, on the first runs, to find people. On one bright, sunny day, the bookmobile driver walked to nearby homes to invite people to come to see the book-

mobile parked down the road at the little country store. Just as the staff member who had agreed to "man the fort" was climbing out of the bookmobile to see if she could spot a potential reader, a pick-up truck sped past. She hurried inside, honked the horn loud and long. The pick-up truck started backing up — towards the bookmobile. "Boy, this was her chance!" She scurried to the truck, invited the elderly couple to come inside the bookmobile and to borrow books. To see their eyes beam when they saw the 2,000 bright, new, interesting-looking books before them was an "inspiration" according to Mrs. Maples, newly initiated to rural library service.

Mrs. said to Mr., "You know I told you when I read about this in the **San Augustine Tribune** that I want to get books from this bookmobile — and you always drive so fast — and we almost missed it!" As they left the bookmobile about twenty minutes later he, with a twinkle in his eye said, "While I sit in my easy chair reading these 'Westerns,' she can try out some new recipes from this cook book for me."

"For a never-ending challenge, bookmobile work in rural areas is highly recommended!" is the concensus of the bookmobile staff.

PROFESSIONAL LIBRARY POSITION OPEN: TEXAS STATE LIBRARY

Texas State Library needs Field Consultant for rural library development program under LSA, including supervision of bookmobile and other extension demonstrations, work with trustees librarians, county officials and citizen groups planning new and improved library service, plan and conduct workshops, general advisory aid in library management. Fifth-year degree from ALA accredited school. Minimum of five years experience in county, regional, public library extension with administration or supervision duties; bookmobile experience essential.

Personal car used, mileage reimbursement and per diem; same reimbursement for attendance at professional associations. Range of \$5,406 to \$5,894; starting salary dependent on qualifications. Social Security, state retirement, two weeks vacation, 12 days sick leave annually, group hospitalization available. Headquarters at new State Library building in beautiful, hilly, wooded Austin, university and cultural center, nearby lake recreation areas. Apply to William K. Peace, Acting Director-Librarian, Texas State Library, Austin 11, Texas.

WELL DONE!

Mrs. Vida Martin, Librarian of the Texas County Library, recently invited the Superintendents of the schools in her county to meet at the library to discuss the service of the Texas County Library to schools.

Mr. Harry M. Talbot, District Supervisor of the State Department of Education, and Miss Edna Bothe from the State Library were also present.

Mrs. Martin stated the county library's problem of its inability to meet the needs and demands coming from school children on

the library's limited income. After a discussion the fact that Texas County schools need to provide better school library service became evident. The film, "Planning a School Library," which is available for loan from the Library Bureau of Remington Rand, was shown.

Meetings of this kind should result in better understanding of the respective responsibilities of the schools and the public library for service to children.

From: Show-Me Libraries, Missouri State Library, June, 1961.)

LOANS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION

Under the Public Facility Loans Program (Community Facilities Administration of the Housing and Home Finance Agency), long-term loans are available to assist in financing of needed public works projects. Public libraries are considered eligible for such loans.

Form CFA-700 (dated 2-10-61), issued by the Community Facili-

ties Administration, summarizes Title II of Public Law 345, 84th Congress, As Amended. Inquiries should be forwarded to the regional office of the HHFA, Federal Center, Room 2000, 300 West Vickery Boulevard, Fort Worth 4, Texas. Prior consideration will be given to projects for which assurance can be given of an early start of construction.

NEWS NOTES

ABILENE The Abilene Public Library opened its new audio-visual department September 5 on the second floor of the library. The department at present included 84 16mm. sound movies, some 600 long-play and 2,500 78 rpm. recordings, 127 prints and 40 maps. Records and movies may be checked out of the library for home or group use. The department has a sound projector and a record player equipped with eight head sets for use of the material in the library. Long-playing records in the library include music, stories and learning aids. Marguerite Anderson is director of the department.

ALVIN A major event to benefit the Alvin Library Fund took place in July when Bailey Hellman, member of the Houston Astronomy Club, brought the world's largest mobile telescope to the city. All proceeds were given to the library fund. The telescope is a 20-inch Cassegrain reflector and can magnify up to 1600 power. The instrument is equipped with chrome plated signs giving basic information on the moon and the planets. Since greater emphasis has been placed on science, and space travel has become a reality, the telescope was received with much enthusiasm.

AUSTIN A huge Library Mobile Station, a double-unit vehicle unique in this area, has been placed in service by the Austin Public Library. The traveling library will circulate some 4,000 books on a city-perimeter route. A detachable "carryall" vehicle, which also will carry a supply of books, will be used to pull the big 300-square-foot station to central

points. The carryall will then serve as a bookmobile itself, traveling on to smaller shopping areas and gathering places in the vicinity. Circulation is expected to be greatly stepped up as a result of the facilities of the Mobile Station.

CANYON The Randall County Library was the recipient of \$100 presented by members of the Junior Woman's Book Club. Various fund raising projects were sponsored by the club to provide the money. The donation will be used for children's books and equipment for the library.

CARTHAGE The Public Library project, sponsored by the Carthage Service League, is an example of forward-looking civic improvement. The League could leave no better monument to its interest in Carthage and Panola County and to the untiring industry of its members. The club has raised \$6,259 and has purchased a site and a building for the library. The building has been remodeled to make it a handsome structure of which the League and the city may well be proud. It is fitting to say that the League has had the support and cooperation of the business people of the county as well as the help of other civic groups. The task is not yet complete, but knowing the energy and resourcefulness of this group, there is no reason to doubt that it will be.

CHANNELVIEW The Channelview Library, the first Harris County Public Library branch built entirely with county funds, is now settled in its new \$10,000 home. The new build-

ing has more than 1,100 square feet of floor space and holds more than 5,000 volumes. The library was started as a community project in 1954 by the Channelview chapter of the Pilot Club, and exemplifies the accomplishments which may be gained through community cooperation. The project typifies the American system of starting with an idea and ending with the completion of a worthwhile project.

COMANCHE The third annual exhibition of paintings and sculpture by members of the Coppini Academy of Fine Arts was held in Comanche during September under the sponsorship of the Comanche Public Library. A silver tea was held in conjunction with the showing to help defray expenses of bringing the exhibit to Comanche. The variety of subject matter of these realistic creations in watercolor, oil and sculpture has proven popular with the general public as well as the art connoisseur. The works of over thirty artists of outstanding ability were included in the exhibit.

COPPERAS COVE The City Council assumed control for the city of the Cove Public Library in August. The library, located in the city hall, has formerly been managed by the Copperas Cove Garden Club.

CORPUS CHRISTI The City Council approved plans for Corpus Christi's first branch library. The library will be built on a one-acre tract donated to the city by the Parkdale Plaza Co. A \$195,000 bond issue for the library was approved by the voters in January. Construction is expected to begin in January and be completed

some time in the summer of 1962. The building will have a total of 10,000 square feet. Of this, 6,700 square feet will be for public usage. About 1,000 square feet will be used for the bookmobile garage, air conditioning and equipment rooms. It is estimated that 200,000 books will be put into circulation at the library during the first year of operation. The donation of the land is an excellent example of city and citizens working together to make Corpus Christi a better place in which to live.

DALLAS The Walnut Hill Branch of the Dallas Public Library, first branch to be built here in 30 years, was opened to the public on August 8. Walnut Hill is the first branch completed under the million-dollar library expansion plan authorized in 1958. Opening of the second branch in Pleasant Grove will follow soon. The branch contains six basic areas—adult, children and young adult department, a 150-seat auditorium, a staff work room and a bookmobile garage.

DEL RIO Val Verde County Library plans for sponsoring a Great Books Discussion Group meeting in August. The Great Books Group at Laughlin Air Force Base composed of both military and civilian members, gave a demonstration discussion at the library open house in September.

DUMAS Formal ceremonies for the dedication and the presentation of the new Killgore Memorial Library to Moore County were held July 23. The new \$100,000 library building was made possible by a gift of the Killgore Foundation of Amarillo.

County Commissioners purchased the building site, and a recent fund drive for books and furnishings has totaled more than \$13,000.

GALVESTON The Houston Endowment, Inc., and the M. D. Anderson Foundation announced grants totaling \$110,000 for storm rehabilitation and relief. Rosenberg Library is the recipient of \$10,000 of this grant for damage done in the library as a result of the storm. Rosenberg Library is one of the oldest in the state, and it is the major library on the Gulf Coast south of Houston.

HOUSTON In an effort to help Houstonians discover or rediscover those things that have given America its personality, the Houston Public Library system presented a program of exhibits and special reading suggestions called "U. S. A. in Focus." The main library and each branch chose facets of "U. S. A. in Focus" for their themes. This program was featured during September in observance of Constitution Day, September 17.

HURST The Cooper Collection was recently displayed at the Hurst Public Library. The display included James Fennimore Cooper's books — exciting reading in 1845 as now; a silver candlestick and candle trimmer, and a hand-loomed coverlet of linen and wool. The books are from the complete set of James Fennimore Cooper's novels, published in 1849. These books came from the library of D. P. Brewster, a judge and member of the House of Representatives from Oswego, New York.

KILLEEN The Xi Delta Omega of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority presented a check for \$100 to the Killeen City Library Board.

LAMPASAS The Lampasas City Council took action to start on the new public library building for Lampasas County. The council accepted the recommendation of the library board and various advisory groups and expressed their thanks for the work these individuals had put forth in helping get the project started. The site was purchased by the Campbell family and presented to the city in memory of Villard Campbell, a former mayor. Cost of the new building is estimated from \$60,000 to \$75,000.

LEWISVILLE Lewisville's long-dreamed-of library became a reality when the doors of the Community Library quietly opened in August. Many persons visited the library on its opening day.

LONGVIEW The Nicholson Memorial Library in Longview has been designated an official depository for United States government publications. Only one such library is authorized for each congressional district. To qualify as an official depository, a public library has to meet the requirements set up by the United States Government Printing Office, Division of Public Documents. These requirements include an agreement to organize and classify the materials, to make the materials available either through the main library or its branches, and to maintain space for housing the government publications.

NEDERLAND The City of Nederland is to get a new \$20,000 library building. Members of the Nederland Lions Club outlined plans for the building at a meeting of Nederland City Council. The club members will build the structure and members of other civic and social clubs have been asked to give financial assistance. The new library will have large reading rooms and will provide space for 10,000 books.

ODESSA Ector County Commissioners, in a specially called meeting, accepted an agreement calling for the county to pay \$4,456 more money into the county library fund this year. The move is to result in the library actually receiving about \$6,400 more money, according to a plan presented to the court by a group of library friends. The group agreed to match county funds to provide purchase of microfilm to record historical documents, plus 1,500 new books. The money is to be used to buy a microfilm viewer and camera, a storage cabinet for the films, a legal file, a map cabinet, table, display rack, sliding doors and the new books.

ROCKDALE The proposed new Rockdale public library has a \$1,000 gift coming from Lem Scarbrough of Austin just as soon as Rockdale people have brought their contributions to the fund up to the \$8,000 figure. The lot where the library is to be located was deeded to the city of Rockdale for this purpose years ago by the heirs of the late E. M. Scarbrough of Austin. To date the fund drive has netted between \$7,500 and \$8,000.

SHERMAN That little boy, Johnny, whose ability to read had everybody concerned back there a few years ago, is doing pretty well at the Sherman Public Library. Representing the nation's youngsters, Johnny was found by some experts to be a poor reader, implying a weakness in public instruction. The members of the Sherman Library staff report Johnny is not only reading more, but is reading better books. Parents of younger children are themselves better educated and promote good reading habits; and children's books are better, with more enticing stories, attractive covers and interesting pictures.

