

# Texas Libraries



Mary E. Bivins Memorial Library, Amarillo

VOLUME 18—NUMBER 1—JANUARY 1956

*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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VOLUME 18, NUMBER 1, JANUARY 1956

## Contents

Domestic Services of Your Department of Commerce <i>E. M. Roeder</i> .....	3
Index to Short Stories for Children .....	5
OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES	
Mary E. Bivins Memorial Library .....	6
LIBRARIES OVER THE STATE .....	11
American Association of Library Trustees	12
TEXAS HISTORY	
New Year's Address—1836 .....	13
Annual Library Awards .....	14
Fun with a Poetry Club	
<i>Mildred K. Blair</i> .....	16
Basic Book Collections .....	18
Ideas for Literary Exhibits in February	19

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# Domestic Services of Your Department of Commerce

by

E. M. Roeder

Many Texas businessmen, in our present expanding economy of unprecedented production and prosperity, have found the resources and facilities of the United States Department of Commerce indispensable in making decisions for the conduct of their business operations.

**LIBRARIES IMPORTANT.** The far-flung libraries in Texas are playing an ever-increasing and important role in supplying business information needed by business. A large portion of the basic business information they furnish to persons seeking it is found in the reports and publications from the various bureaus and offices of the Commerce Department.

Among the Department's publications and reports well known to librarians are the Censuses of Agriculture, Business, Manufactures, Mineral Industries and Population; the Monthly Survey of Current Business; Distribution Data Guide; Construction Review, Chemical and Rubber Industry Report, Government Research Reports, Containers and Packaging, Industry Quarterly Report, and Public Roads Bi-Monthly Report.

**NEW BENCH MARK DATA.** The Bureau of the Census, world's greatest fact-gathering organization, is busy preparing reports which will provide new bench mark data essential to business in evaluating the great changes that

have taken place right here in Texas as between the years 1947 and 1954. Figures presented will include the number of establishments, workers and receipts for business firms in groups and by types and kinds of business activity, including retail, wholesale and service trades. Similar data will also be tabulated for manufacturing industries. In the mineral industries, production and consumption data will be presented.

The current data for 1954 will comprise the most authentic statistics available. Reports are being readied in half the time formerly required for their presentation. As in business so in Government, a new product has been put to work in the tabulation of the voluminous data taken in the latest surveys—the "Univac."

**TRENDS.** The new statistics when available will be required by Texas businesses to determine trends, both for individual firms and for various fields of our business structure. Comparisons of trends are frequently made to determine growth or decline and the degree for each category. Very often comparative trend information reveals opportunities for decisions on the formation of new businesses to meet the needs of our ever-growing population or the expansion of existing facilities to meet increased capacity requirements.

We are all familiar with the phenomenal growth of business activities in the state, but the answers as to where and how much

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depends on a study of the final results.

**MARKETING.** It is foreseeable that our libraries will be called upon more and more in the future by local business people for help in guiding them to facts, figures, methods and services which will open to them the means of getting answers to their individual problems. They are finding out that there is a significant relationship between knowing what customers need and want, inventory and profits, where the customers are located, in what numbers; what their incomes might be, their ages and the type of products or merchandise to offer them; what new products will sell and at what prices. Answers to questions like these are found in a scientific approach which is termed marketing.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.** In 1950 Congress set up the Office of Technical Services in the Department of Commerce. This office functions as a clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of scientific and technical information to business, industry, state and local governments, other federal agencies and the general public. This is accomplished by the furnishing of specific reports on a particular technical problem. The enormity of this nation's technological advancement may be slightly grasped when we realize there are over 250,000 technical ideas now on file in OTS with more being added each month.

Some \$2 billions yearly are spent by the Government for research in finding answers to such questions as the best ways to fabricate metals and in discovering new materials and ways to use them. New conditions often require research

to meet new problems encountered by our military establishments, Atomic Energy Commission, and civilian branches of the Government. Many new ways to do old jobs and eliminate wasteful methods have been found.

As this research is completed in our factories, laboratories and educational institutions, declassified information is prepared for profitable use by business, industry and the general public.

The Commerce Department's Field Offices are constantly acquainting both business and the general public with this treasure house of technical know-how available to them as their own inheritance.

**EXAMPLES OF FIELD OFFICE SERVICES.** A young G. I., trying to orient himself after military service, visited one of the Texas Field Offices of the Department of Commerce to determine if a product he had in mind was being produced here and if so, in what quantity. With the help of staff personnel a check was made of the Census of Manufactures. Research revealed that his product was practically non-existent in this area. The end result was the development of a new industry using automatic equipment to produce his product, now in ever-growing quantities.

Marketing research is now being carried on in an effort both to maintain current production and also to get a check on ultimate potential for his product.

A number of firms are now working on projects to determine the market potential of the areas in which they operate and further to determine the extent of coverage they are getting in relation



to the population and business growth. In several instances it was found that they were underestimating the market that they thought they knew so well. One firm found after a little research that their market had grown to three times what they thought it was. The result was the employment of additional personnel to contact the increased number of potential customers.

Numerous sales territories are being re-evaluated by many firms for more consistent coverage. It is a case of using the rifle shot approach to the target rather than buck shot, hoping to hit the market somewhere. The net result is more profit per customer.

In the technical field a number of firms are finding new ways to handle materials, new methods of machining, processings and fabricating products.

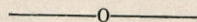
A firm with a large sum of money to invest in new equipment to make a product they felt would be quite useful found after a little research that the market was well saturated with a similar product. Thus they were saved from going into what they finally decided would have been an unprofitable venture.

The domestic services of the Department of Commerce are just about as broad as is this nation from coast to coast. Only a few segments of its activities are mentioned here. It is surprising what one can get for the cost of a 3 cent stamp by contacting the Department's Field Offices for specific information on a business problem.

**FIELD OFFICES.** To assist businessmen, the public, libraries, as well as other organizations, there are three field offices of the De-

partment of Commerce in Texas. These offices are located in Dallas at 1114 Commerce Street; in El Paso in the Chamber of Commerce Building; and in Houston at 430 Lamar Avenue. These offices have trained personnel to assist all in need of data and information on management, marketing, distribution and technical aids. Also maintained in these offices are books of published reports and studies of current value to business, many of which may be had for a nominal fee.

The services of these offices are open to all, and this includes our libraries which are often called upon for assistance beyond their normal functions. Inquiries or requests falling within this latter category may very logically be referred to the Department's Field Offices, either directly or by having individuals contact any of the Field Offices if they so desire.



## INDEX TO SHORT STORIES FOR CHILDREN

How many times have librarians and teachers had these questions put to them: "Can you find me some stories on pets and on Christmas?" or "I know the name of the story I want, but what book is it in?" or perhaps, "I want to read that story about the boy who joined the circus, but I can't remember its name." Enough times, no doubt, to justify the publication by the American Library Association of a new index (*Subject and Title Index to Short Stories for Children*. American Library Association, Chicago, Illinois. 1955. 344 pp. \$5.00) to serve the specific purpose of helping teachers and librarians locate such hard to find stories as they work with children



from third grade through junior high school.

This volume indexes approximately 5,000 stories under more than 2000 subjects chosen to satisfy the variety of demands placed up libraries. With few exceptions, the stories indexed have not been indexed elsewhere. Titles and var-

iant titles are used in both title and subject indexes. The 373 books indexed were chosen with the help of school and children's librarians throughout the country. Approximate grading is given for each book indexed. The *Index* has been tested by actual use in libraries.

## *Our Public Libraries*

### **Mary E. Bivins Memorial Library, Amarillo**

*Alice Green*  
*Librarian*

Residents of Amarillo are daily expressing their pride in and appreciation for the new Mary E. Bivins Memorial Library which was dedicated July 10, 1955. The tastefully appointed library is the result of a bequest from the late Mrs. Mary E. Bivins, long-time resident of Amarillo. Mrs. Bivins willed her red brick and limestone home and the quarter block on which it stands in downtown Amarillo to the City of Amarillo to be used as a public library or related public service. The will stipulated that the home remain intact on the lot for twenty years. Taxpayers voted \$225,000.00 to remodel the beautiful mansion for a public library and to erect a three story wing onto the rear of it for additional space. The resulting structure makes a most delightful setting for the library.

The success with which the elegance of the Bivins residence has been transformed into usable library quarters is pleasantly surprising. Reading and reference rooms located on the first floor of

the mansion have retained the beautiful murals, tapestries, chandeliers and other decor which lend a dignity and warmth to the structure. Blending colors in draperies, walls and floors, functional library furniture and fluorescent lighting used successfully throughout the four floors of the building tie the old and new portions together with unity and usability.

The public entrance leads into a large reception room which takes care of all registration and circulation facilities. On either side of this room are reading rooms. In addition to the reading and reference areas, the first floor also contains current periodicals, a large open stack area, and office and work room space for the reference and circulation departments. An outside entrance into the work room leads onto a loading dock built in anticipation of bookmobile service. The Amarillo A. A. U. W. has undertaken as their current project the provision of a bookmobile.

The basement houses the pro-





### Reference Rooms

cessing department, back file periodicals, and an additional open stack and reading room area.

The second floor of the library houses administrative offices, the geology collector, the genealogy room, the adult education department, the audio-visual department, the William H. Bush Collection of Books on the Southwest, children's and young people's library, staff quarters and public rest rooms.

The third floor, formerly a ballroom, has been converted into an auditorium and art gallery. Library sponsored groups meeting in this auditorium are taken care of by setting up folding tables and chairs. For art exhibits this furniture is placed in adjoining storage rooms, and the light weight di-

vans and chairs purchased for the art gallery by the Amarillo Junior League make a pleasing arrangement. Walls covered with monk's cloth simplify preparations of exhibits, and special lighting in this area makes showings most satisfactory.

A drive-up book return box furnished by Amarillo Friends of the Library is proving very popular. Although the downtown location fails to provide parking facilities for the public, indications are that the services of the Mary E. Bivins Library will be used twice over the facilities in the old location.

Although the library is now on four floor levels, the actual work load per staff members seems considerably lighted because of departmentalization of services, an



elevator, ramps for book trucks, adequate equipment and "elbow" room. Both staff and public continue to express delight in the new Mary E. Bivins Memorial Library.

Among recent facilities and services of the library much enjoyed by the public, the audio-visual service is paramount. The film library is made up of some two hundred 16mm sound films which are in almost constant use. The film librarian works with program planners, previews films for small groups and presents monthly film showings with the assistance of the Film Council of America.

In 1953 the Amarillo Junior League gave the library a three-speed record player with earphone attachments and a well selected collection of records. Since that date the library has continued to

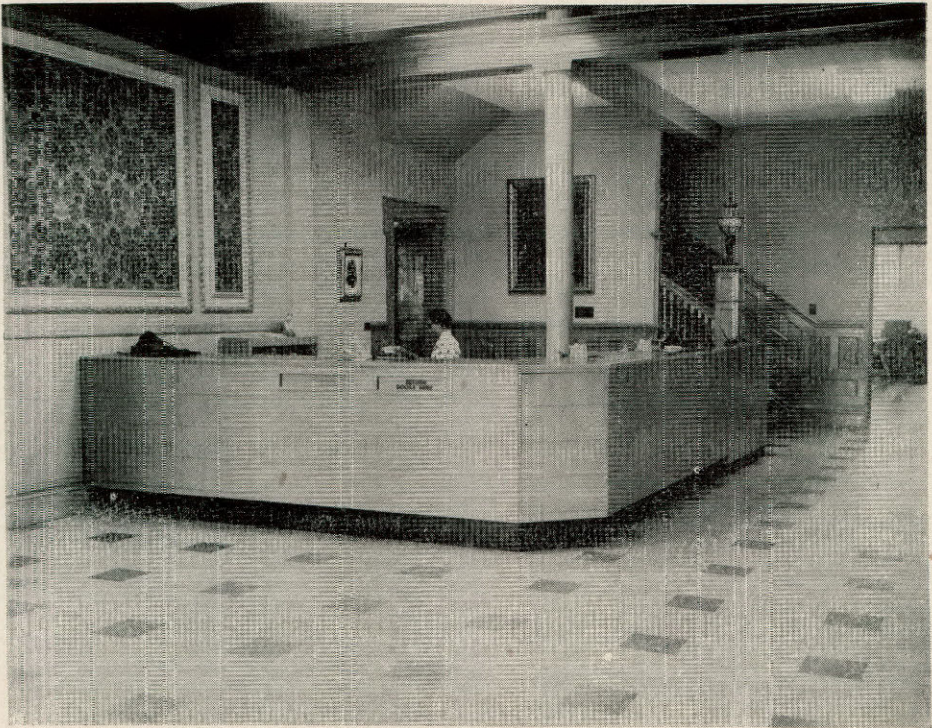
add to the collection. The machine and recordings are in a conspicuous spot in the First Floor Stack Room where they enjoy almost constant usage. Records are subject to loan. Recently the library received a second three speed player with earphone attachments. This machine was presented to the Children's Library as a memorial gift. Recordings for children vary in age levels corresponding to books found in the department—we have pre-school through teenage selections. Fairy tales and folk songs are two of the more popular type recordings in this collection. Present demand for children's records far exceeds supply. All records are catalogued and the files kept with the collections.

Adult education activities of the library have contributed enor-



Young People's Alcove





Circulation desk

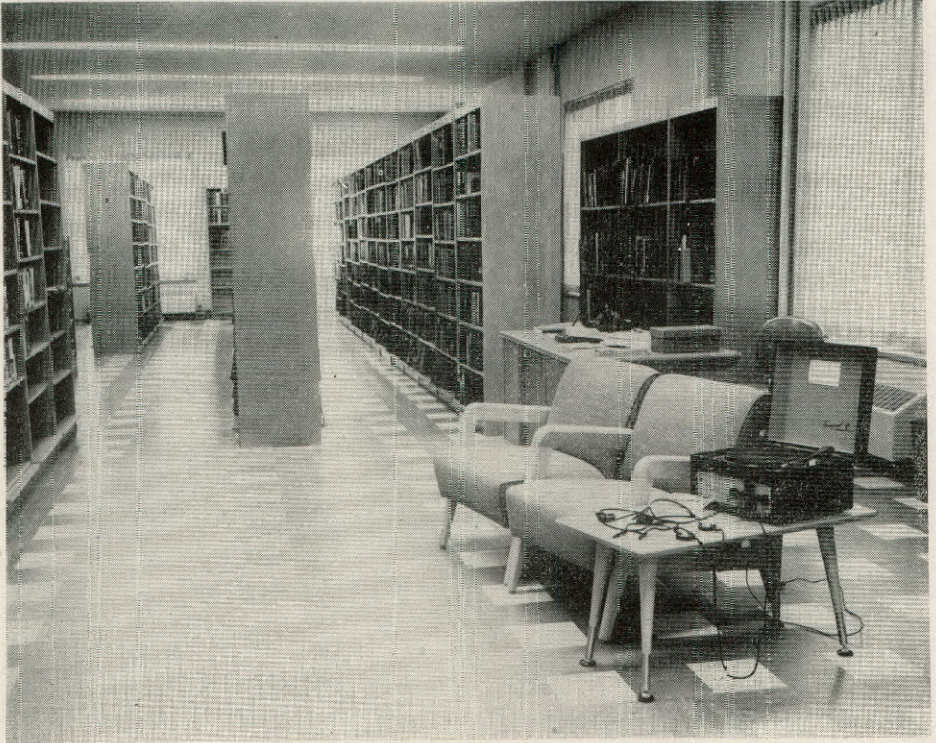
mostly to placing library service before the people. This season the adult education director has four Great Books groups meeting at the library. She also has two active American Heritage groups, one meeting at the Main Library and one meeting at Carver Branch Library. The adult education department contributes to community activities by supplying reading matter to other groups and through work by the director in planning groups in other adult education organizations. The director also does readers advisory work and program planning with women's clubs.

Services to children have enjoyed special attention since the move to downtown Amarillo. Although it has always been a policy of the children's library to encour-

age classroom visits, this fall has been exceptional. Last week as part of the Book Week festivities, thirteen classrooms scheduled visits to the Main Library and ten classrooms visited Carver Branch Library. Scout troops also scheduled visits. Hundreds of students called during the week to get information about the Friends of the Library sponsored essay contest. Amarillo Friends of the Library are offering cash awards for the two best essays in elementary, junior high and high school levels. Essays must be based on a visit to the Mary E. Bivins Memorial Library or one of the two branches. Prizes were presented over TV in early December.

As library quarters have grown, so have staff and budget and almost with equal proportion; how-





First floor open stack area

ever, the staff is not large enough to maintain services twelve hours daily, six days per week. On October 1st we started a six months trial run of keeping the library open only five days per week. This library has not offered Sunday service since 1945 and since October 1st, we are also closed on Fridays. All personnel work three hours Friday morning at which time we have staff meetings, in service training periods, confer-

ences and other programs necessary for expanding services. Although we do not enjoy limiting our public service, we are forced to observe the marked improvement in efficiency since we have been operating the five day week. What the regular library hours in Amarillo will be remains for the future. After six months the library board will recommend a permanent policy to the City Commission.

—C—

I have often thought that nothing would do more extensive good at small expense than the establishment of a small circulating library in every county, to consist of a few well-chosen books, to be lent to the people of the county, under such regulations as would secure their safe return in due time.—Thomas Jefferson.



# Libraries Over the State

Mary Rice, librarian of the **AUSTIN** Austin Public Library, has announced the gift to the library of the records of the Whitis School, which flourished from 1899 to 1921, and related papers dating back to 1846, by Miss Mary Bell, Broadway actress and member of the Whitis family. Miss Rice said the Whitis papers are one of the most valuable historical collections the library has received for its archives. The materials include a transfer of property to Mirabeau B. Lamar, voted by the Congress of the Republic of Texas and signed by Anson Jones, and daily record of Austin weather from 1858 through 1880. The Whitis papers will be housed in the Austin-Travis County Room in the library.

District III of the Teen-**ABILENE** Age Library Association held its fifth annual conference in Abilene on November 5. Mrs. R. H. Guinn was named as district sponsor for the coming year. The president of the district organization has not yet been named but will be a member from Breckenridge

On December 11 the American Bible Society, a non-denominational Bible Publishing house, held an exhibit at the F. M. (Buck) Richards Memorial Library in **BRADY** Brady calling attention to Universal Bible Sunday.

In the exhibits were reproductions of some of the earliest of Scriptures in English and some facsimile pages of several foreign language editions of the Bible.

The Shelby Memorial Library, **CENTER** Center, officially opened for service early in

November. The library will be open only two afternoons each week, Wednesday and Saturday from 1 to 5. Plans for a membership drive are now being made.

The Dallas Public Library **DALLAS** was given a Steinway Grand Piano by the Dallas Federation of Music Clubs in ceremonies in the new library auditorium on December 2. Highlight of the ceremonies was a recital featuring Walter Hendel, Dallas Symphony's Conductor.

El Paso Public Library celebrated National Book Week **EL PASO** November 13 through 19 with a children's Book Fair. The three day Fair included displays of new and classical children's literature in all categories.

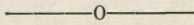
Bill Holman, Librarian, **GALVESTON** the Rosenberg Library, has announced acquisition of a number of copies of newspapers, **Die Union** and the Galveston **Zeitung** published on the island in the 1850's.

The \$20,000 addition to Lufkin Memorial Library is nearing completion according to Mrs. Ora McMullen, librarian. The new reading room increases library space about four-fifths the size of old library area space.

Plans are being made in **ODESSA** Odessa to present to Ector County voters a bond issue which will include funds for library expansion. On November 18 two groups of citizens presented to the Commissioner's Court a petition calling for a \$95,000 library bond election. Last August 4 a similar bond for \$60,000 failed to pass by only 19 votes.



A new Boy Scout Library was presented to SAN MARCOS San Marcos Public Library on November 21 by members of the Sportsman's Club. This 100 volume collection includes books on every subject covered in the Scout program.



## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Library trustees took forthright action to revitalize their activities when they adopted a new set of by-laws during the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Philadelphia. They changed the name of the Trustees Section of the ALA Public Libraries Division to: The American Association of Library Trustees, and set forth the purposes of the new organization as:

1. To study and encourage the development of libraries and library service in the United States and Canada.

2. To study the library programs of the several states and Canada and to disseminate the information gained from such study; and to strengthen state trustee organizations.

The new Association remains a Section of the Public Libraries Division.

The by-laws call for a National Assembly of Library Trustees which "shall be a consultative body to this association which shall consist of persons delegated by each state trustees organization to represent it in this association." In states where no library trustees organizations exist, provision is made for delegates to be selected from citizen's organizations whose purposes are similar to the Association's purposes.

President of AALT, Frank T. Milligan, lumber and grain merchant who is President of the Jefferson, Iowa, Public Library Board of Trustees and President-elect of the Iowa Library Association, announced the following four-point program for the coming year:

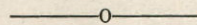
1. Establishment of the National Assembly of Library Trustees. A Credentials Committee, whose chairman is Mrs. George Rodney Wallace, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, President of the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association, is working up the requirements for Assembly membership.

2. Adoption of a five-year program for long-range activities to implement the Association's purposes. A Planning Committee, chaired by Mrs. J. Henry Mohr, member of the San Francisco Public Library Board, will develop this program.

3. Promotion of the Home-Study course *How to Be a Good Library Board Member*, and the recently-published book *A Handbook for Library Trustees* by Mrs. Gerald Winsor.

4. Development of a vital program for trustees attending the 75th Annual Conference of ALA in Miami Beach in June, 1956.

As soon as the Credentials Committee completes its work, Mr. Milligan said, state trustee organizations and citizens groups in all states will be advised so that selection of delegates to the Assembly may proceed.



Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested: that is, some books are to be read only in parts, others to be read, but not curiously, and some few to be read wholly and with diligence and attention.—Francis Bacon.



## New Year's Address — 1836

Kind Patrons,—Our attachment to the customs of the good “olden times” has induced us to come before you this week with a “New Year’s Address;” and we beg you to extend your indulgence towards us, even though we fail to present you with any thing novel, entertaining, or instructive.

We are aware that some modern innovators have attempted to bring the good old practice into disrepute; but we consider every thing of the kind as an attempt to detract from the wisdom and good sense of our ancestors, who were as scrupulous on this subject as they were punctual in their attendance at church.

We, too, have our scruples upon the subject, and should consider that we had neglected one of the most important of our duties, did we not comply with this ancient and venerated practice.

As we have just passed another “milestone in the journey of life,” it is very natural, as well as profitable, for us to pause and reflect upon the changes which have taken place during the past year; the vicissitudes through which we have passed, and the part we have acted in the grand drama of human events. From such a review of the past, we may derive lessons which will be serviceable to us in after life. We may learn to steer clear of many difficulties in which

we have involved ourselves through inexperience; and where we have had “hair breadth ’scapes,” we may learn to keep at the proper distance. How often have we done things which, had we in the first place seriously reflected upon the probable consequences, we should carefully have avoided; and how frequently have we, when it was too late, regretted the imprudence of our conduct, and resolved in future to pursue a different course. When reviewing our past actions in connection with their consequences, it is then that we see the necessity of being circumspect and guarded in our intercourse with the world. It is then that the lessons of experience are impressed upon the mind, and are made the monitors to govern our future conduct.

The last year has left upon the soil of Texas traces of its footsteps which time will never obliterate. It has indeed been a year of trial and conflict. It has seen Texas involved in internal dissensions and war, with an invading force. It has passed away, and the new year is ushered in amid triumphs and shouts of victory. During the year 1835, the political affairs of the country have undergone an entire revolution; the system of government has been totally changed: the state sovereignties have been destroyed, and all the authority of the nation has been concentrated in a few individuals in the city of Mexico. This change has been effected without consulting the people, who have, in some parts of

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*This editorial appeared in the January 2, 1836 issue of the Telegraph, and Texas Register, published in San Felipe de Austin.*



the country, been deprived of every means of resistance. We have been told, that we have no right to interfere in the matter; that it is our duty, as we have been partakers of the bounties of the "*liberal and enlightened Mexican nation*," to submit implicitly to whatever form of government our lords and masters, in the abundance of their wisdom and good pleasure, may think proper to impose upon us. Obedience to the new order of things was refused, and an army has been sent to enforce it. This army has been met, defeated, and sent back in disgrace. They came expecting to meet an enemy too contemptible and too impotent to offer any resistance, but they have been "bearded in their own den" by the very enemy of whom they entertained so contemptuous an opinion. At sea, their success has not been much better. They declared our ports in a state of blockade, and sent armed vessels to carry this declaration into effect. One of these vessels has been captured by a merchant schooner, which she had singled out as her prize. We now have the means of meeting them on sea as well as on land.

Among the various causes we have for congratulation, the demonstration of sympathy from our brethren in the United States, is not the least. Hundreds have already left their homes to embark in our cause, and thousands are ready at the call.

The centralists of Mexico have pronounced us "rebels," "ungrateful foreign vagabonds," "a handful of banditti," &c., and have declared their intention of exterminating us. Notwithstanding all this, we have nothing to fear. They have already witnessed in Bejar, Goliad, and Lipantitlan, the bravery of the Anglo-American; and we are of opinion, that they will not be anxious to make another experiment. Extreme prudence, and energy in our operations are requisite, and with the assistance of which we have the promise from abroad, we cannot fail of success. We have good reason to hope that by pursuing the proper course, before another year passes away we shall find ourselves in the enjoyment of peace and a permanent government of our own choice, secure to us all the rights and immunities of a free people.

## ANNUAL LIBRARY AWARDS

The Board on Awards of the American Library Association presents the following list of awards and citations to be made at the 75th annual ALA Conference in Miami Beach, June 17 to 23, 1956. The Board urges all library associations and ALA members to assist in the selection of outstanding librarians worthy of these national honors by sending nominations to the persons indicated below, well

in advance of the announced deadlines.

*Melvil Dewey Medal.* Awarded annually to an individual or a group for recent creative professional achievement of a high order.

*Letter Librarian Award,* consisting of \$100 and a special certificate. Awarded annually to a librarian who, in line of duty, contributes most to emphasize the human qualities of service in libra-



rianship. A duplicate award is given to a library for distinguished contribution to the development of an enlightened public opinion on an issue of current and continuing importance.

*Joseph W. Lippincott Award*, consisting of \$500 and a special certificate. Presented for distinguished service in the profession of librarianship, such service to include outstanding participation in the activities of professional library associations, notable published professional writing, or other significant activity on behalf of the profession.

Nominations for these four awards with a statement of qualifications and reasons for the choice would be sent to the chairman of the ALA Board on Awards, Robert E. Scudder, Free Library of Philadelphia. The deadline for nominations for each of these awards is April 1, 1956.

*Grolier Society Award*, consisting of \$500 and a special certificate. Given annually in recognition of the achievements of a librarian in a community or school who has made an unusual contribution to the stimulation and guidance of reading by children and young people. The nominee must be a salaried librarian who spends the major part of his time in working with children and young people. Send nominations to Rosemary Livsey, Director, Department of Work with Children, Los Angeles Public Library. The deadline for entries is March 15, 1956.

*E. P. Dutton - John Macrae Award*, for advanced study in the field of library work with children and young people. Consists of a fellowship amounting to \$1,000 and is open to a librarian working

with children or young people through a public library, a school library, or an institution library. To be eligible for the award, a librarian must be library school graduate and must have had at least three years of successful professional experience in libraries serving children and youth. Submit applications to Nancy Jane Day, Supervisor of Library Services, State Department of Education, Columbia, South Carolina by April 15, 1956.

*Trustees Citations* will be awarded to two outstanding library trustees in actual service during at least a part of the calendar year preceding the 1956 ALA Conference. Recommendations must be accompanied by a full record of the candidate's achievements. Mail nominations to ALA Jury on Citation of Trustees, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

*John Cotton Dana Publicity Awards*. Given by the *Wilson Library Bulletin*, in a contest sponsored jointly with the ALA Public Relations Committee, for outstanding library publicity, based on scrapbooks submitted to show a cross-section of the year's publicity in various types of libraries. Application blanks are available from *Wilson Library Bulletin*, 950 University Avenue, New York 52 or from ALA Headquarters, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago 11. Deadline for entry blanks is April 1 and for scrapbooks April 15, 1956.

*Margaret Mann Citation*. Awarded annually to a librarian who has made a distinguished contribution to librarianship through cataloging and classification. It may have been through publication of significant professional litera-



ture, participation in associations, or valuable contributions to practice in individual libraries. Nominees must be members of DCC. Submit nomination to Mary Darrah Herrick, Associate Librarian, The Chenery Library, Boston University, 725 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, by February 1, 1956.

*Newbery and Caldecott Medal* winners for 1955 will be announced on March 5, 1956 in the New York

office of Mr. Frederic G. Melcher, who established and endowed the awards. The Newbery medal will be presented to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children published in 1955. The Caldecott medal will be awarded to the illustrator of the most distinguished American picture book for children. Nominations for the 1955 awards were due December 10, 1955.

## Fun With A Poetry Club

by

*Mrs. Mildred K. Blair, former  
librarian, Hogg Junior High,  
Houston, Texas*

Are you planning to sponsor a different club this fall? We had fun with a poetry club. By we, I mean the teacher who sponsored the poetry club, who is too modest to permit her name to be used, the members of the club, the librarian, and the library club. Here are some of the ideas we used. Take them and improve them!

We began with nursery rhymes, where poetry really begins for the youngster. How many nursery rhymes can you finish? You may get some original rhymes when the students try giving the concluding lines. Have you ever tried acting out nursery rhymes? Let the dramatizations be in the form of a contest with one group doing the acting and the rest of the club guessing the rhyme?

*The Saturday Evening Post* furnished several club programs. In the May 3, 1947 issue, on page 139, "Double Trouble" gives a contest in the form of definitions of people or things that can be described by two rhyming words. As

an example, "a home town lad (rustic)" is defined as "a local yokel." Nearly every number of *The Saturday Evening Post* has a usable rhyme or so on the "Post Scripts" page. At one meeting of our club, students cut from old copies of the magazine the jingles that appealed to them. Some of the members were here introduced to the distinctive form of written poetry.

For March meetings, the clubs began with limericks. Have you filed the clever limericks from "The Cerfboard" in *This Week Magazine*? The October 5, 1952 and the November 22, 1953 have interesting ones. March poems and St. Patrick's Day greetings from greeting cards were also included in our meetings. If you have talent in your club, you may obtain some interesting results with these. Don't forget the vocational aspect of writing rhymes. Use *Vocational Trends*, December 1945, pages 5 and 6.

In 1946 the December issue of



*Seventeen*, pages 22 and 24, contained some clever jingles which give or suggest the name of the article in the Christmas package. The following rhymes were the ones I composed to use as a contest:

CAN YOU GUESS THE GIFT WHICH GOES WITH THESE RHYMES?

1. This gift is meant to use;  
It's one a boy would choose.  
With proper care, it'll have long life;  
Guess what it is! A \_\_\_ (knife)
2. Here is something small,  
But that isn't all—  
It's what a little girl wishes;  
It's for her doll, a set of \_\_\_\_\_  
(dishes)
3. This little toy  
Is meant for a boy.  
Its name rhymes with thistle;  
Why, yes, it's a \_\_\_\_\_ (Whistle)
4. Tho I am sweet, I am not candy;  
For a gift for a girl, I am dandy.  
She'll put a little of me on her dress.  
What am I? Can you guess?  
(perfume)
5. Altho I am not a locket,  
You can put me in your pocket.  
In Spanish they call me panuelo;  
Mouchoir in French, but we  
don't say so (handkerchief)

A joint meeting of the poetry club and the library club had fun with original poetry. We discussed "words easy to rhyme" and listed "words harder to rhyme"; then we read original poems written by the typing teacher to use as an introduction stunt for the members of the basketball teams, and the

rhymes written by another teacher or so. Next we guessed the rhyming words for the following jingles composed by the librarian who was able to give a few library hints in this way:

1. When a book is new,  
What should you do?  
Be sure to open it right  
And keep its pages \_\_\_ (white)
2. Will you turn down pages to  
mark your place?  
Or lay the book upon its face?  
No, never! Tho we're not book sharks,  
We'll always remember to use  
\_\_\_\_\_ (book marks)
3. For the topic you took,  
Where in your reference book  
Are you going to look?  
The index? Something's starting  
to \_\_\_\_\_ (cook)
4. Will you use the card catalog  
To find a story about a dog?  
The subject cards, *dogs-stories*,  
Will end absolutely all of your  
\_\_\_\_\_ (worries)
5. When your science report requires  
the latest information,  
What will undoubtedly be your  
inclination?  
To consult books and pamphlets  
to provide  
The facts? No! Use magazine  
articles from *Reader's*  
(*Guide*)
6. When the class period ends  
The librarian on you depends  
To leave of paper scraps no  
trace,  
And to push your chair into its  
\_\_\_\_\_ (place)



7. Be a good citizen! Obey library rules;  
 Make ours the best of all the schools;  
 Take care of books and return them on time;  
 Be thoughtful of others; and  
 I'll end my ----- (rhyme)

Our poetry club next examined the original poetry written by students in *Student Life*, the official organ of the National Honor Society, and *Scholastic*. Perhaps these will inspire members to write rhymes for the school paper.

Meetings of our poetry club included sessions devoted to cowboy songs and ballads, Negro spirituals and poetry, and choral speaking. An auditorium program may grow out of the activities of the poetry club. The teacher who sponsored our poetry club put on one of the cleverest assembly programs we have ever had.

Here is a short bibliography which will help in selecting poetry club material:

Adams, Florence, and McCarrick, Elizabeth. *Highdays and Holidays*. Dutton, 1927.

Auslander, Joseph, and Hill, F. E. *Winged Horse*. Doubleday, 1927.

Barnes, Ruth A. *I Hear America Singing*. Winston, 1937.

Gullan, Marjorie. *Choral Speaking*. 2nd ed. Expression Co., 1933.

Hicks, Helen G. *The Reading Chorus*. Noble and Noble, 1939.

Huber, Miriam B. *Story and Verse for Children*. Macmillan, 1940.

Lomax, John A. *Cowboy Songs and Other Frontier Ballads*. Rev. and enl. ed. Macmillan, 1938.

Wells, Carolyn. *A Nonsense Anthology*. Scribner, 1930.

## BASIC BOOK COLLECTIONS

New editions of the American Library Association's widely used Basic Book Collections are now in preparation and will be published early in 1956, according to an announcement by the ALA Publishing Department.

The three titles are: *Basic Book Collection for Elementary Grades*, *Basic Book Collection for High Schools*, and *Basic Book Collection for Junior High Schools*.

The Elementary and High School books, first published by ALA in 1922 and 1924, respectively, will be sixth editions; the Junior High School book, first published in 1950, will be the second edition. The new editions of the Elementary and Junior High School books are expected to be published in the Spring; the High

School book in the Summer.

Recognized as authoritative buying guides for basic books for school libraries the ALA Basic Book Collections are designed to fill the need of small and medium-sized schools which may not have the services of trained librarians. They are also used extensively in training classes for school librarians and by teachers and librarians in schools of all sizes.

All titles are in print at the time they are included in the collections. The Elementary and Junior High Collections include approximately 1,000 titles; the High School titles number about 1,500. With each title is given an annotation, author, publisher, date, price, Dewey Decimal Classification number, subject headings for the library cata-



log and the indication if printed cards are available from the H. W. Wilson Company. The High School titles include Library of Congress Card numbers.

In addition to the classified books, each of the ALA Basic Book Collections include recommended magazines prepared by the Magazine Evaluation Committee of the American Association of School Librarians, an ALA division. The High School book additionally will include "Selection Aids for Audio-Visual Materials."

In 1954, the AASL conducted a survey to determine the extent to which the ALA Basic Book Collections serve the purposes for which they were developed. It was found that they provide the basic list needed for first purchase for small libraries and the magazine and audio-visual guides were noted as especially valuable. It was found librarians also used the books to maintain a balanced collection in their libraries; to make reading lists; and as a guide in

cataloging books. The survey emphasized the usefulness of the books for small libraries and their especial helpfulness when the library was conducted by a person without special training.

The ALA Basic Book Collections are each prepared by a sub-committee of librarians appointed by the ALA Editorial Committee from recommendations presented by AASL. The committees frequently have the advice of other librarians as well as the assistance of special consultants from these educational organizations: Association for Childhood Education International, National Council of Teachers of English, National Education Association (Department of Classroom Teachers); Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and the National Council for the Social Studies. The subcommittee members and the consultants works to achieve a distribution of titles which meet the demands of reading interest and curriculum enrichment.

## Ideas for Library Exhibits in February

Jan. 31-					
Feb. 4	ALA Mid-Winter Conference in Chicago				New Mexico, Arizona, and California were ceded to the United States
1	Supreme Court of United States held its first meeting, 1790	3			Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809-1847
2	Candlemas, the festival of the presentation of Christ in the Temple	3			Horace Greeley, 1811-1872. Pioneer American Journalist
2	Ground-hog day	3			Sidney Lanier 1842-1881
2	Fritz Kreisler, 1875—Austrian violin virtuoso and composer	4			Charles A. Lindbergh 1902-
2	Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed by the United States and Mexico 1848, by which Texas,	5			D. L. Moody 1837-1899. Noted American Evangelist
		7			Charles Dickens 1812-1870



7	Sinclair Lewis 1885-1951	18	for woman's rights
7	George Herman (Babe) Ruth 1894-1948	19-24	Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress published 1678
9	William Henry Harrison 1773-1841. Ninth President of the United States	22	Brotherhood Week
10	William Allen White 1868-1896. American journalist, author and publicist.	22	George Washington, 1732-1799. First President of the United States
11	Thomas A. Edison 1847-1931	22	James Russell Lowell 1819-1891. American poet and critic
12	Race Relations Sunday observed on the Sunday nearest Lincoln's birthday	22	Edna St. Vincent Millay 1892-1950. American lyric poet
12	Abraham Lincoln 1809-1865. Sixteenth President of the United States	25	Enrico Caruso 1873-1921. Italian singer
14	St. Valentine's Day	26	Victor Hugo 1802-1885. French romantic poet and novelist
15	Susan Anthony 1820-1906. Pioneer crusader	26	William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody 1846-1917
		27	Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1807-1862
		29	Leap Year