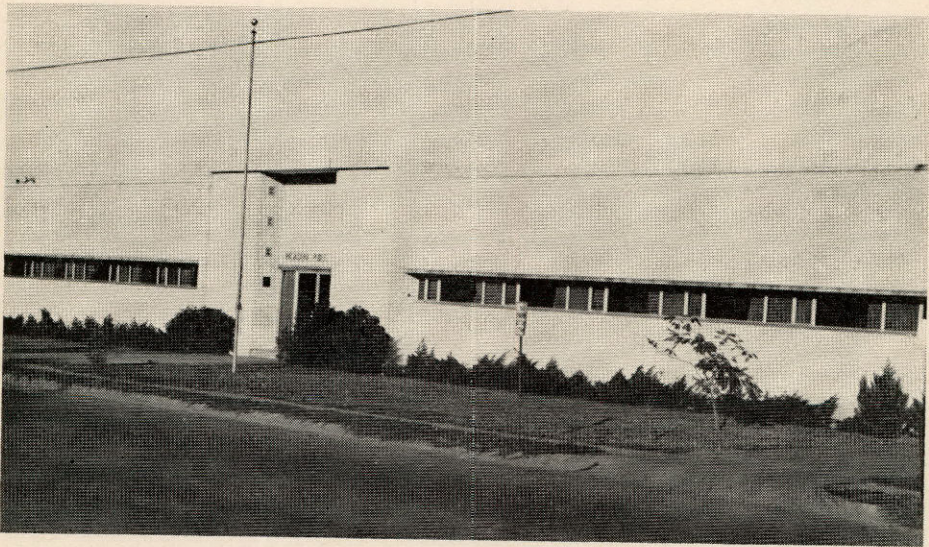


Texas Libraries



Pasadena Public Library, Pasadena, Texas

VOLUME 18 - NUMBER 10 - DECEMBER, 1956

Texas State Library

Texas Library and
Historical
Commission

Texas

Libraries

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VOLUME 18, NUMBER 10, DECEMBER, 1956

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TEXAS STATE LIBRARY

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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.

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.

Action Manual for Library Recruiters

Sponsored by
The Joint Committee on Library Work as a Career
Written by John F. Harvey

Editor's Note:

The Library Services Act has brought in its wake almost frantic concern about the plan by which Texas will implement the Federal program.

During the next few years there could be an acceleration in Texas' public library program—an expansion in a field which is even now understaffed. Again the Texas Library Association has set a fine pattern in the form of its Committee on Recruitment. This group, however, needs the assistance of everyone who believes in libraries.

The Manual "was planned to offer practical advice and to secure action from busy librarians interested in recruiting" and "is a how-to-do-it manual written to stimulate action by the individual librarian. Space does not permit reproducing the complete manual. A section on library school and association activity has been omitted, and only that part directed to individuals or local groups is printed here.

*John Harvey, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Library Work as a Career, is Head Librarian of Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg. He says: "This amateur recruiter would like to acknowledge assistance and valuable advice in preparing this *Manual* from several of the outstanding library recruiters in the country: Helen Focke, Elsa Freeman, Isabella Jinnette, Alice Rider, Alice Ruf, Francis St. John, Irene Strieby, Sarah Vann, and Eugene Watson. The ideas of many others have been used also. Without the advice of these recruiters, the *Manual* would be much poorer. Finally, the major contribution of The H. W. Wilson Company, Howard Haycraft, Marie Loizeaux, and the *Wilson Library Bulletin* in making this *Manual* freely available to so many, deserves our sincere appreciation."

The Need!

Librarians face a crisis. We must act before it is too late. Our crisis is the acute shortage of library school graduates, and we must redouble our recruiting efforts before the supply of educated librarians goes any lower.

Thousands of library positions are now vacant with little possibility of being filled. Library school enrollment is down and shows no signs of increasing. Yet we have programs of expansion announced by many libraries. Their budgets are higher than ever before, their programs of service are more ambitious, yet manpower is lacking. With such a shortage, how can we do our part in creating an enlightened democracy and in contributing toward a burgeoning economy? How can we provide good library service to the ever-increasing numbers of children? How can we carry out the program of development envisioned by the Library Services Act? And how can we serve urgent research needs?

The Competition. In every high school and college we have stiff competition for students. Most college and professional departments and schools recruit actively through their alumni and through faculty visitation teams. Some departments, e.g., athletic, have men working full time the year around on recruiting. Large corporations with full-time recruiters pay students' tuition when they are especially interested in them. The pressure for students increases each year as the rewards of size, pres-

tige, and larger departmental budgets become more and more attractive to departmental chairmen and deans. Other professional associations and military groups are spending millions on recruiting.

This is our competition, working hard and outdistancing us. We must work even harder to obtain our proportionate share of promising recruits. We must improve our position or the crisis will continue.

Nothing More Important. Nothing that you do as a librarian is more important than recruiting qualified personnel. Every librarian must recruit or the crippling paralysis of our shortage will become worse. You must spend some time each month, each week, each day, recruiting. Do some recruiting today. Not just 10 per cent, or 50 per cent, but 100 per cent of us must recruit! *This means you!*

Recruit!

Be Proud of Librarianship. To be a successful recruiter, you must like your job and your profession. If you are ashamed of being a librarian, ridicule your occupation, and complain about your job, you should leave it. Otherwise, you will be a liability rather than an asset.

Show your student assistants and clerks that you enjoy library work. Successful recruiters, such as Willa Boysworth of Huntingdon College and Thelma Hoffman of Shell Development Company, show us that much of their success can be attributed to their own enthusiasm for librarianship. Obviously, pride in your work and an interest in sharing your enjoyment with others are characteristics of the successful recruiter. Make your enthusiasm contagious.

Affiliate With a Recruiting Group. Most of our state library

associations have recruiting committees. Contact a member of your state library association committee and volunteer your services. Offer to spend some time each week on recruiting. Contact the Joint Committee on Library Work as a Career which can put you to work. Your state association of school librarians should have a recruiting committee with which you can work, and the Special Libraries Association has twenty-nine local chapter recruiting committees. One of the national library associations—such as the American Association of School Librarians, the Special Libraries Association, the Association of College and Reference Libraries, or the Catholic Library Association—would appreciate your cooperation. Of course, the first thing a recruiting committee will tell you is to start recruiting in your own library!

If you don't care to affiliate with a state or national recruiting committee, then form your own local committee. In Detroit and Long Beach, local recruiting committees include school, public, college, and special librarians. University, public and special librarians have held cooperative meetings and teas in Philadelphia. In New York the state library association scholarship and recruiting committee has Library Career Councils set up in cities and towns throughout the state which conduct recruiting through local public, college, schools, and special librarians, and through local guidance men. They act as clearing houses for vocational information, provide speakers bureau service, and distribute kits of materials. Form such a committee and go to work in your own town. Make library work a popular vocational choice locally.

Set a Quota For Yourself. Challenge yourself with a quota! Send at least one person to library school each year. Those working with young people should find a quota of one or two recruits each year easy to fill.

Here is the challenge. Inform ten students to find one who will actually attend library school. "Each one, recruit one" should be our motto. Have one apply for entrance to library school each year, and our crisis will be over.

Consider Good Library Service Essential. Patrons judge your library by the quality of its service. What do *your* patrons think of librarianship? Among many others, Ralph Ellsworth of the University of Iowa Library believes that good service is the best recruiting device we have, our best advertising. Providing such service is the least you can do for the recruiting effort. The quality of service in elementary school libraries is just as important as research service later on, because we are laying the ground work for later recruiting. Good instruction in book and library skills is also important in making patrons feel at home in the library and competent to use library facilities. The more at home the patron feels, the better he will like librarians.

Good Library Publicity Is Important. Let your library community know of the important services that you provide. Let them know that the library is an active and alert institution in the community or organization. Build up your relations with business and newspaper men, with radio and TV men. Subscribe to the *Public Relations Planner*, and get the special June 1956 recruiting issue which has folders, posters, press

release, and suggestions. Good public relations will bring favorable community attention and opinion for the library and will encourage career interest.

Radio and TV spot announcements (available free from ALA) should not be forgotten. Both can be effective. Let the local radio and TV announcers read your commercials. They'll be glad to do it free. The Philadelphia Chapter of SLA has had radio programs for local audiences.

Raise Salaries—Improve Working Conditions. When we talk to recruits, one of their first questions relates to salaries. And our answers are often embarrassing. The solution is to raise salaries until they are comparable to those in other fields requiring the same amount of preparation and offering equally challenging work. You must work to improve salaries in your own library; librarians should be satisfied with poor salaries no longer. Unless we can raise them, how can we fill our vacancies with well prepared and talented people?

Working conditions in many libraries leave much to be desired. Don't talk to potential recruits about evening work, week-end work, lack of staff rooms, lack of retirement benefits, and dirty, crowded buildings. These prospective recruits know they can go elsewhere and find organizations which value their welfare and provide good working conditions. The solution must be to improve our libraries and to provide better working conditions; or we will obtain no recruits.

Make Jobs More Interesting. Give every assistant, professional and clerical, some interesting, challenging task to do, something

that will let him use his imagination and his store of information. See that he enjoys working in the library! The deadly dull routine of many library jobs is enough to drive anyone from the profession, and one research study found that it *had* discouraged many college students.

Let your professionals do some book selection. Let them work on public desks; let them participate in administration, such as budget determination, personnel recruitment, and subject cataloging. Use their good judgment often. Reduce the dull clerical work and instead give them stimulating intellectual work. Then they will speak with pride about their profession.

Let your clerks and student assistants make decisions for which they have been trained. Let them work with the public, select an occasional book, do elementary cataloging, supervise less experienced clerks. In the Fort Scott, (Kansas), Junior College Library, for instance, the student assistants do much of the processing and circulation work. Give your assistants just as much responsibility as they can handle—they will enjoy their jobs more if you do.

Personal Contact Is the Key to Success. For every recruit won by pamphlets on library work as a career, a dozen can be won by personal contact. Sit down and talk in a friendly way to your students and clerks in a pleasant social situation. Make them like you and they will like librarianship. A personal chat will win more recruits than a lecture. Take an interest in them and show that you like them and are interested in their problems. A recent survey of library school students revealed that the personal influence of a librarian

or teacher was frequently the reason for choosing a library career.

You are a walking ambassador for librarianship. Every person you meet forms an impression of librarianship from you. Many library patrons whom you meet over the loan desk are potential recruits, so see that they like you and your library.

Establish a Library Club. Organize a library club among your clerks and student assistants so they can become better acquainted and can enjoy some social life connected with their jobs. Suggest that they have regular meetings, select officers, and devote one of their meetings each year to librarianship as a career. They could even form a future librarians association or associate with a teenage library association. Many states (e.g., Georgia, *Texas*, and Indiana) have statewide associations of high school library assistants, valuable recruiting devices. Such a club will also enable you to make a better evaluation of the students' potential as librarians by allowing you to see them in new situations.

Perhaps you would prefer to form a club of library school alumni to promote recruitment for your alma mater. Promote your library school and urge students and clerks to attend it. Or, promote enrollment for the *nearest* library school, whether or not it was your school.

Establish an Internship. Jack Dalton and Irene Strieby, well known library recruiters, among many others, think the internship (as it is popularly called) is the most effective method of recruiting, and have used it successfully, as has the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore. The Youngs-

town Public Library has "cadet librarians" working about two-thirds time whose work assignments are increased in difficulty with increased experience, and the Brooklyn Public Library has a training program for college graduates which produces many librarians.

Establish in your own library an intern's position which calls for work of near-professional caliber; then fill it with a promising clerk, preferably a college graduate. In most cases, you will soon have a library school applicant.

Organize a Speakers Bureau. Set up a speakers bureau among your staff or local association members. Ask several to visit schools and colleges and speak to interested students.

Such a speakers bureau should volunteer its services to school library clubs and other groups. Talks should be entertaining and should occasionally slip in some information about librarianship as a career. Talks should stress the interesting aspects of the speaker's own job and the opportunities to choose from a great variety of library positions. If time permits, a good short film on libraries can be used to conclude your program. Several recruiting films are now being prepared. Needless to say, the speaker must show that he likes his work, or he will not be successful. Send a photogenic beauty just out of library school, or a handsome young man who can sell our product well. The North Carolina Library Association and most SLA chapters have such bureaus, why not your group?

Establish a Scholarship or a Loan Fund. Your library or its sponsoring institution should establish a scholarship or loan fund

for aspiring librarians. This scholarship would be awarded annually to a staff member and would serve to attract many of your clerks and student assistants to the profession. Librarians should ever be on the alert for a source of funds—be it club women, service clubs, or individual donors—for scholarships to be used by local aspirants to library work as a career.

The Louisiana and New York Library Associations and the Kansas and Indiana School Library Associations, to mention only a few examples, have such scholarships and award them on a state basis, thereby calling statewide attention to the profession and to the winner. The Akron Public Library awards a scholarship each year to a promising librarian. The Lima, Ohio, Public Library has a loan fund. Many other libraries offer similar opportunities.

Library school deans say that most of their applicants need assistance in some form—a scholarship, a loan, or a job. Even partial scholarships, so that more students may benefit, are used. Help out the deans by providing some financial assistance where it is badly needed.

Emphasize the Many Job Opportunities. Recently the president of the American Library Association said the library profession had 10,000 vacancies. And the situation is rapidly getting worse. That would mean 10,000 vacancies for which 30,000 librarians must recruit. Few occupations have such a high ratio of vacancies.

Tell your potential recruits about our vacancies and about the job opportunities they will have. A school or children's librarian with a master's degree can have his choice of three dozen good jobs. A

well qualified chemistry librarian can obtain an equal number of offers. Other occupations also have vacancies, but how many have such a high ratio? Every capable person graduating from library school will have several job offers.

The Guidance Officer Is Your Ally. If there is a guidance officer on your campus or in your city, by all means cultivate his acquaintance. He can send many potential recruits your way. Talk to him about librarianship as a career and sell him on the idea of recommending it. He is one of the best friends a recruiter can have, so ask for his cooperation. Explain to him the requirements for entering librarianship and leave some literature for prospects. Visit him often.

In many schools a portion of class time, often beginning at the junior high level, is spent each year on vocations, with the school guidance man as advisor. See that librarianship is represented, and follow up any interest shown.

Recruit For All Types of Library Service. Librarianship has room for persons with many different kinds of education. The following are some of the types of libraries for which you can recruit: elementary schools, junior high schools, high schools, colleges, universities, corporations, government, public and county libraries. The potential librarian may work in many fields, such as: cataloging, circulation, library school teaching, serials, state library extension, reference, medicine, art, chemistry, biology, music, commerce, physics, newspaper, film, bookmobile, foreign language, journalism, agriculture, technology, airline, bank, documents, acquisitions, armed forces, divinity school, gifts and exchanges, drama,

children's, young people's, adult education, archives, personnel, hospital, rare books, the blind, binding, nursing, institution, and public relations.

Encourage people to enter the branch of librarianship for which they are best qualified. Don't stress one aspect of the field at the expense of another because in any typical group several persons will be found who are interested in each of the major types of library work. But no doubt you will talk most enthusiastically about the type of work that you know best, and no doubt certain of your listeners are better qualified for one type of work than for another.

Go After Quality. There are many vacant positions in librarianship, but none should be opened to the maladjusted, the escapees from reality, the poorly educated, or the stupid. We must demand quality first, then quantity. This means that many clerks and students are not worth our attention. Prospects should be above average in scholastic record and emotional maturity. And if they show promise of being hard workers who can organize their work well, are capable of doing graduate work, and work easily with people, then they are worth going after.

You should give preference in hiring student assistants and clerks to those who have good grades and have social integrity, as does the University of Washington Library.

Don't sell your profession short or encourage mediocre prospects. Go after the best. There is no finer profession for them to enter.

Make a Poster, Distribute Leaflets, Set Up an Exhibit. The least you can do is to use posters and displays and distribute leaflets.

These devices may attract the attention of some student who has not yet decided on an occupation. Use leaflets and displays as ammunition in the battle for recruits. Make a big splash! Attract attention! Invite questions!

Admittedly posters and leaflets are not so effective as personal contact, but they can be used to attract initial interest, to supplement conversations, and to provide detailed explanations. After the exhibit, the poster is the most effective of the printed media, and the book least effective—though a novel on librarianship should interest certain patrons. Try *Miss Library Lady* by Ann Pfaender, or *With a High Heart* by Adele De Leeuw.

Give a Tea or Dinner. In Detroit recently, the citywide recruiting group held a tea, after which the high school seniors all received information about librarianship. Why don't you give a tea or a dinner for potential recruits?

Remember that you must win the respect and admiration of the potential recruit and a social occasion may be the best opportunity for this. A tea with beautiful china, lovely tablecloth, and dainty cookies is sure to appeal to the feminine students. For their inspiration, the young men should be allowed to talk with male administrators.

Have a Career Day. Put on a career day at your library and invite potential librarians to attend. This is a popular way to recruit, the American Library Association having supplied as many as ten packets of material for such days in one month alone. Helen Wahoski of Wisconsin State College at Oshkosh did this, had a program of speakers, exhibits, tours, lunch,

and entertainment, and drew a crowd of 350 high school students and student assistants.

Does your college have a career day in which all departments participate? If so, invite small groups of high school library student assistants from your area to visit the campus and library and to participate in bulletin board or book-mark contests. Or set up an exhibit and distribute leaflets at the College Career Festival as the Minnesota Chapter of SLA did.

Perhaps you would prefer to hold a public or special library career day and open house, provide speakers and entertainment from the staff, and invite interested persons to attend. These speakers should emphasize the challenging aspects of their work; and tours of the various departments should be provided as well as job descriptions. Make your show appealing, and sell librarianship to your audience. Among others, the Brooklyn Public Library and special libraries in the New York City and Southern California areas have had such days.

Or you may prefer to establish a library career information desk in the lobby, man it for one week, and give it wide publicity, as did the Queensborough Public Library.

Promote a Librarian-For-A-Day Program. Invite student assistants from the surrounding area to visit your library, hear a talk about library work as a career, have free lunch and entertainment, and then work behind the scenes. See that they enjoy it!

Such a librarian-for-a-day experience in a college, public, special, or state library should arouse the interest of many young people. It should show them how interesting library work can be and how challenging is such a career. Among

others, the Louisiana Library Association has used this recruiting method.

Potential Recruits

So far, this manual has urged the individual librarian to recruit and told him how. Now for some good targets for his efforts.

Library Clerks and Student Assistants. Your library clerks and student assistants are your best recruiting prospects. The professional library world includes large numbers of persons who began library work in such positions. These clerks are already working in a library and can see what goes on there, so little persuasion should be necessary. They are also easily available for conferences. A private talk with each person is desirable, a talk in which library work as a career is discussed and questions about it answered. Library school catalogs and leaflets should be available for him to read. This group has already been mentioned frequently, so no further discussion is necessary. Needless to say, at least a fourth should be going to library school each year; no lesser proportion can be called satisfactory.

Booklovers. While a relatively small proportion of the whole, booklovers are everywhere and merit our attention. Run a contest to pick the best private library belonging to a student; check the steady customers of bookstores, browsing rooms, and rare book rooms; or look up the local book collectors club; and you will be able to identify local booklovers.

Such people often can be interested in librarianship since it involves work with books. Some have become outstanding bookmen in the library world. Take an interest in this group and let them know about the opportunities offered.

Such types of work as reference, rare book room administration, reading guidance, and subject department work should appeal to them. A liking for books and reading is a distinguished characteristic of most library school students. Go after this group of good prospects!

Persons in Other Fields. We need more subject specialists. Go after the subject department major who does not care to teach or to practice in his field. Go after the successful college instructor with a strong interest in the bibliography of his field or with skill in administration. Go after the research man who would rather be a reference librarian. Bring in the nurse who objects to giving hypos, the chemist who dislikes laboratories.

Student assistants and clerks who have demonstrated ability in a subject field should be encouraged to go to library school with the expectation of utilizing their talents.

Subject specialists are needed in all fields. A peculiar characteristic of librarianship is that it needs many people trained both in its own field and in other areas.

You should hold exhibits and have speakers at the meetings of other professions. Try to interest persons from other fields in sending their subject specialists into librarianship for our many positions which require subject knowledge. Kate Ornsen and Irene Strieby of SLA have spoken to the American Chemical Society about chemical librarianship. The Washington Chapter of SLA had a recruiting exhibit at the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping.

This sort of recruiting should appeal to many librarians, them-

selves possessing training in a subject field and active in a special library group, such as agriculture, art, education, or pharmaceuticals. Many do this sort of recruiting already. These people usually have contacts with professional groups in subject fields to whom talks can be made and leaflets distributed; often the contacts are with the deans and chairmen in charge of advisement in professional schools and departments who can bring before students the possibilities of work in librarianship.

Be sure that the "refugee" from another field—the ex-school teacher, ex-lawyer, or ex-whatever—is

really suitable for library work and not just a "refugee" from everything.

Convert the Parents. In many recruiting situations, the parents are more important in determining the young person's vocational choice than he is himself. Talk to the parents of every good prospect; convert them as well as the prospect on library work. Do not leave a stone unturned to get a prospect to apply for library school admission. Other recruiters will tell you that the final decision to attend a particular school is often made in the prospect's living room with parents in attendance.

Our Public Libraries

Pasadena Public Library

Parker Williams, Librarian

Less than four years ago, the City of Pasadena was handed the keys to a new but empty \$101,000 library building and challenged to fill it with books.

All the shelves of that building and more that have since been added would now be overrun if all the books on loan were called in—but still the city's library facilities are inadequate.

The city's population at the time the building was dedicated on January 7, 1953, was about 32,000. Today it is near 50,000, and there is no apparent end to its rapid growth, brought about by an empire of vast petroleum and chemical industries constructed along the Houston Ship Channel.

The library is only one of many city programs that have been un-

able to keep up with the population growth. Despite a number of large bond issues passed by its citizens, Pasadena has not been able to build streets fast enough, lay enough water and sewer lines, or install a completely adequate traffic control system.

The most immediate library need is more space. The library has been obtaining an average of 4,000 books a year since it opened and there is no reason to believe that the current rate of purchases can not be maintained if space can be provided. A total of \$6,000 has been set aside for books from this year's budget of \$31,780 which went into effect on October 1, 1956.

The budget for the current fiscal year is more than \$10,000 high-



Children's Section

er than the \$21,260 budget for the 1955-56 year. In 1954-55 it was \$15,052 and for the first year of operation it was only \$10,400.

In addition to the regular budgets, a \$25,000 bond issue voted in 1953 has been spent for books.

The present air conditioned, T-shaped building is of modern design and covers 4,500 feet of floor space. It was a gift from Shell Oil Company and Shell Chemical Corporation which have plants outside the Pasadena city limits.

Dr. M. L. P. Love, then manager of the Shell Oil Plant, told city officials in 1952 that since most of the company's employees lived either in Pasadena or nearby Deer Park that Shell wanted to do something that would benefit them. He told Pasadena's mayor that he had a "gift" of \$50,000 from Shell for the city. A survey, however, showed that it would cost more

than \$100,000 for the library, and Shell agreed to cover the entire cost.

At the dedication, Dr. Love told officials "we have furnished you with the shelves and it is now up to you to furnish the books."

The city has since put 15,200 volumes on the shelves. They are divided almost evenly between fiction and non-fiction. Sixty percent are children's books. The others are books for adults.

Although it is less than four years old, the popularity of the library has grown rapidly.

The average circulation after its opening in 1953 was 3,057 books a month. That increased to 4,476 per month in 1954, and to 5,806 during 1955. For the first ten months of 1956, the average circulation was 8,772, and in June it jumped to an all-time high of 12,675. Thus, the circulation has



Circulation Desk

almost tripled since the opening of the library.

A total of 3,363 new borrowers were added to the library's rolls during the first ten months of this year, bringing the total to 9,855. One reason for the rapid increase in circulation during the last year has been a program of cooperation with Pasadena's schools. Each teacher in the school system is allowed to check out one book for each student, and, if necessary, keep it as long as six weeks. The librarian, Miss Parker Williams, frequently talks to classes, and encourages teachers to bring classes to the library for instruction in its use and to hear phonograph records.

The library encourages individual reading by students through a record and award program. Each student is given a booklet in which to list the books he reads. Each

time he reads ten he is awarded a pin with different colors denoting the total number read. During the summer months the library cooperates with the Parent-Teacher Association in having a weekly reading program.

When the library opened, it subscribed to only 10 magazines. It now subscribes to 71. In addition, the librarian has an arrangement with two local super markets to give the library all its non-current magazines. Magazines the library does not keep for binding purposes are given to schools.

A number of patrons and organizations in Pasadena have donated books and money to the library. The Pasadena Music Club gave the library a 3-speed record player equipped with six earphone in 1954. Other clubs donate funds annually for books and records.

The library is open to the public 40 hours a week. The schedule is:

Monday—Closed

Tuesday and Thursday—12 noon to 9 p.m.

Wednesday and Friday—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday—9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The library staff is composed of one full-time librarian, three full-time assistants; two part-time assistants, and a full-time custodian.

In addition, members of the Rho Sigma Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi

sorority donate their services two hours a month at the library. There are three other women who work voluntarily during the winter months and about six or seven students work during the summer months.

The library has an advisory and policy making board made up of eight members appointed by the City Commission. Much of the success of the library program has been a direct result of the support given it by the Library Board.

Texas History

Louis W. Kemp, 1881-1956

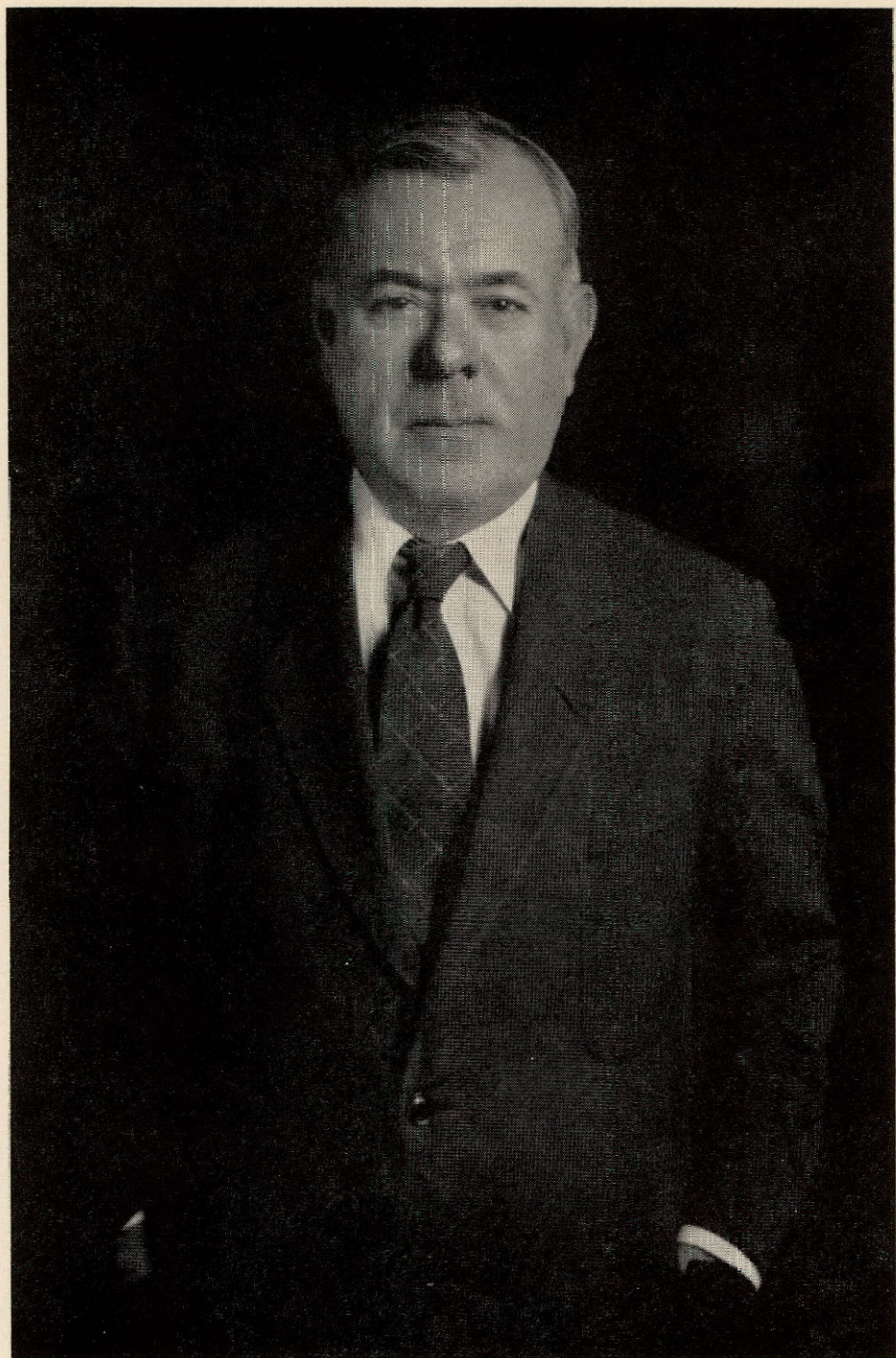
Virginia Taylor, State Archivist

No words of praise and commendation can be spared in writing of Mr. Louis W. Kemp both as a man and an historian. He was recognized in his lifetime as a leading authority on Texas history, and newspapers, magazines, and encyclopedias accord him this special honor. The medium of paper and ink, however, does not sufficiently portray Mr. Kemp's greatness. His true memorial is inscribed in the minds and hearts of the people who knew him and saw him at work.

In his thorough and painstaking way Mr. Kemp gathered and assembled information, not section by section, but piece by piece, until he brought together a complete and accurate picture. He wanted the correct spelling of a man's name, he searched for the exact location of his grave, he looked for facts, not legend, and he continued the quest until the time of his death. Only recently Mr. Kemp remarked that he was not satisfied

with the story about Ambassador Saligny and Mr. Bullock's pigs, that it was not likely that those pigs would have strayed quite so far as the distance between Congress Avenue and Mr. Saligny's residence on San Marcos Street. Other popular beliefs or mysteries concerned him. Did a man named Rose actually escape from the Alamo along with Mrs. Dickinson and her infant daughter? Did General Houston spare President Santa Anna's life because he was a Mason? Did Crockett die a hero's death or did he surrender and beg for mercy as Mexican historians have said? Mr. Kemp solved many such questions. He became the ultimate authority for the actual facts in controversial cases, and he contended that the truth of Texas history was more colorful and dramatic than any of its tall tales or myths.

Mr. Kemp was born in Cameron in 1881. He finished high school there and studied engineering at



LOUIS W. KEMP

the University of Texas. He was employed by the Texas Company in 1908 and was head of the asphalt sales department until his retirement five years ago. His research in Texas history was centered in the Republic, and he spent many years in locating and properly marking the graves of Texas statemen and soldiers of the revolutionary army. As chairman of the historical advisory committee of the Texas Centennial Commission he supervised the placing of hundreds of monuments and markers at historic spots throughout the state. He was the moving spirit behind the establishment of the San Jacinto Monument and was later chairman of the San Jacinto Museum of History.

Mr. Kemp wrote and published *The Heroes of San Jacinto* (Dixon and Kemp) and *The Signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence*. Both contain biographical sketches of the men who participated in those two events. He had a fine library of rare Texana and his files were filled with data on Texas pioneers which he had gleaned from land grants, court

records, muster rolls, military claims, and from personal correspondence and interviews. Further, he always had time to help the student in his search for elusive details, and he made his great store of knowledge available to all who were interested.

Mr. Kemp was appointed to the Texas Library and Historical Commission in September, 1938, and it was in this capacity that the members of the Texas State Library knew him best. He was, of course, a friend of the Archives, and always visited them on his trips to Austin. In the years before he retired from business, he donated the travel expense money allowed him by the State to the Archives. It was placed in what was called "Mr. Kemp's box" and was used to purchase special books which the small appropriation would not cover. It was this devotion, as well as his friendly charm, that endeared Mr. Kemp to all who knew him. It will perpetuate his memory equally with the great historical legacy he has left for Texas and Texans.

Libraries Over the State

Another branch of the Austin
AUSTIN Public Library was opened in a brief ceremony October 19 at 5927 Burnet Road. The branch will serve the people of Allandale and other areas in Northwest Austin.

The City Council has under study recommendations of the Austin Public Library Commission that property at the northwest corner of Exposition Boulevard and Bowman Road be purchased as the site for a permanent branch library.

Friends of the Baytown
BAYTOWN Library plan to join forces with the League of Women Voters in helping to obtain the new library building which Baytown eventually must have.

A tentative date of January
BRYAN 7, 1957 was set for the annual meeting of Friends of the Library at an executive board meeting held in November. Membership in the

Friends of the Library for Bryan has climbed over the 300 mark.

COMMERCE The Commerce Public Library held open house October 14 to celebrate the second anniversary of its organization. Approximately 100 citizens called to view the progress of the library. The library, which had 100 volumes when it opened its doors in 1954, now has a total of 3,000 volumes.

CORPUS CHRISTI A donation of historical microfilms to the La Retama Public Library was announced at the bi-annual meeting of the Friends of the La Retama Public Library. The first microfilm donation to the library includes the census of Texas in 1850, and the 1830 census of Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina, and old Galveston newspapers. Donors of the films are prominent citizens and the Nueces County Historical Society.

GALVESTON Bill Holman, Librarian, Rosenberg Library, has announced the November, 1956, publication of Ruth G. Nichols' *Samuel May Williams, 1795-1858*. (Rosenberg Library Press, 331p. front., \$10.00. Limited printing, 200 copies.)

The book, which was four years in preparation, contains a brief biography of Williams together with a detailed calendar to the collection of nearly 4,000 papers of Samuel May Williams in the Rosenberg Library archives. This Texas pioneer, patriot, and secretary to Stephen F. Austin was instrumental in financing the Texas revolution, having furnished the infant Republic with both money and supplies.

Mrs. Scott Robbins, of the New Orleans Public Library, has been retained by the Rosenberg Library to conduct a survey of the library's technical processes and make recommendations for

implementing a program of reorganization.

The Harris County Library **HOUSTON** moved to new quarters on the fourth floor of the County Court House in October. The new quarters provide much larger working areas and reading room.

Harris County's newest battlewagon of culture is now on the roads with a full supply of literary ammunition. The 11-ton bookmobile has begun a monthly schedule of visits to 43 county schools. The bookmobile was especially constructed for Harris County at a cost of \$17,196, and is air conditioned and equipped to carry 2,600 volumes.

Plans for the expansion of Houston's Central Library in 1957 are developing rapidly according to Harriet Dickson Reynolds, director of city libraries.

Two additions are being added, a five story wing to be erected on the west side of the building and a two story addition on the south. The cost of the new structure combined with air conditioning has been estimated at \$500,000.

With 1,920 borrowers registered at the Dawson County **LAMESA** Library, a drive was made to pass the 2,000 mark during November, the month being observed locally and throughout the nation as "Know Your Library" month.

Members of the new **LAMPASAS** Friends of the Library group, and members of the board of directors of the Lampasas City Library met with a representative from the State Library to discuss the needs for a good library and some of the means of building one. The Library Services Bill recently passed by Congress was outlined and discussed.

The formal opening **MARBLE FALLS** of the Lois Anderson Memorial Library and Museum was held in Novem-

ber. The library room has been enlarged and improved and a number of items were on display in the museum.

An increasingly popular spot for winter visitors in McALLEN has been the McAllen Memorial Library. Of special interest to visitors spending the season on

the border are the special collections of volumes concerning Texas and Mexico.

Waco Public Library board discussed the necessity of getting plans and specifications for a future new library building into the long-range master plan for Waco. The master plan for the city is expected to be completed by next September.

American Library Association

Librarians and all citizens interested in extending library services to 27,000,000 Americans in rural areas now totally lacking libraries are urged by the American Library Association to seek Congressional action for a full appropriation to implement the Library Services Act which was passed by the last Congress.

Under the Act, \$7,500,000 of federal funds were authorized each year for five years to be matched by state funds for bringing library services to rural populations. However, only \$2,050,000 was actually appropriated for the first fiscal year, July 1, 1956 to June 30, 1957.

Mrs. Loleta D. Fyan, State Librarian of Michigan, and Chairman of the ALA Coordinating Committee for the Library Services Act, said:

"It has been decided to seek the full appropriation for the second year of operation of the Act—fiscal 1958 rather than press for the balance of the full appropriation for 1956-57. We will later seek the additional amount which can be spent to greater advantage when the program gets under way in the various states. The appropriation came so late in the fiscal year of

the states that in most instances state funds were already expended in other extension work, and were not available for matching the federal monies.

"Therefore, we urge all citizens—particularly librarians, trustees, and friends of libraries—to ask their Senators and Representatives to vote for the full appropriation under the Library Services Act."

Four regional conferences for the heads of state library extension agencies have been held in Washington, D. C., Nashville, Tenn., Sacramento, Calif., and Kansas City, Mo. The conferences were called by the U. S. Commissioner of Education and presided over by Ralph M. Dunbar, Chief, Services to Libraries Branch, Office of Education, who is Director of the Library Services Act program.

At the regional conferences, the librarians were given an opportunity to discuss fully the tentative documents prepared by the U. S. Office of Education and to offer suggestions before these documents became effective. The documents were "Regulations," "Guide for Submitting State Plan," and

"Forms for Use in Submitting State Plan."

Among questions raised by the state library extension agency people were whether for matching purposes the law could be interpreted that the state could be considered as a whole rather than as part of a series of separate geographical areas. Dunbar announced that the Office of the General Counsel determined the state could be considered as a whole.

Other problems concerned what constitutes supervision of local agencies by the state library agency. The law specifically requires that the state agency administer the plan itself or else supervise the administration of it by the local agency. In many sections, local autonomy is quite strong. As the regulation now stands, supervision is defined as "guidance with the authority necessary to assure the observance of policies and methods of administration adopted by the state agency."

Under the Act, a basic grant of \$40,000 is made to each state; the remainder of the appropriation is divided on the basis of the rural population. The federal funds must be matched with state and/or local funds on a ratio based on the per capita income of the state as compared to the national per capita income. In other words, the states with high per capita incomes must pay more for the federal money than those with low per capita incomes.

The Public Libraries Division of the American Library Association announced the publication of The

PLD Reporter, No. 5, titled "Cooperative Practices Among Public Libraries."

Available now from the ALA Publishing Department (\$2.25; or \$1.85 on series order) the 70-page publication was prepared with the cooperation of the PLD Library Extension Section under the Chairmanship of Verna Nistendirck, Florida State Library, who said:

"This practical guide was inspired by the revised standards for public libraries, 'Public Library Service' which set forth as its 'most important single recommendation' the cooperative approach on the part of libraries. In this *PLD Reporter* are detailed descriptions of cooperation in action and we believe every public librarian should study them in the light of the new standards and his own library situation."

Included are 27 narrative examples of 12 different kinds of library cooperation, giving details of actual library programs which cover reciprocal borrower's privileges, interlibrary loans, cooperative book evaluation and selection plans, centralized purchasing of books and supplies, cooperative purchase and use of books and supplies, union catalogs, centralized cataloging, rotation and exchange of materials, cooperative consultant service, planned referrals, cooperative publicity, and duplication of catalog cards.

In addition, there is a Directory of Cooperative Practices in Libraries; and a Bibliography.

