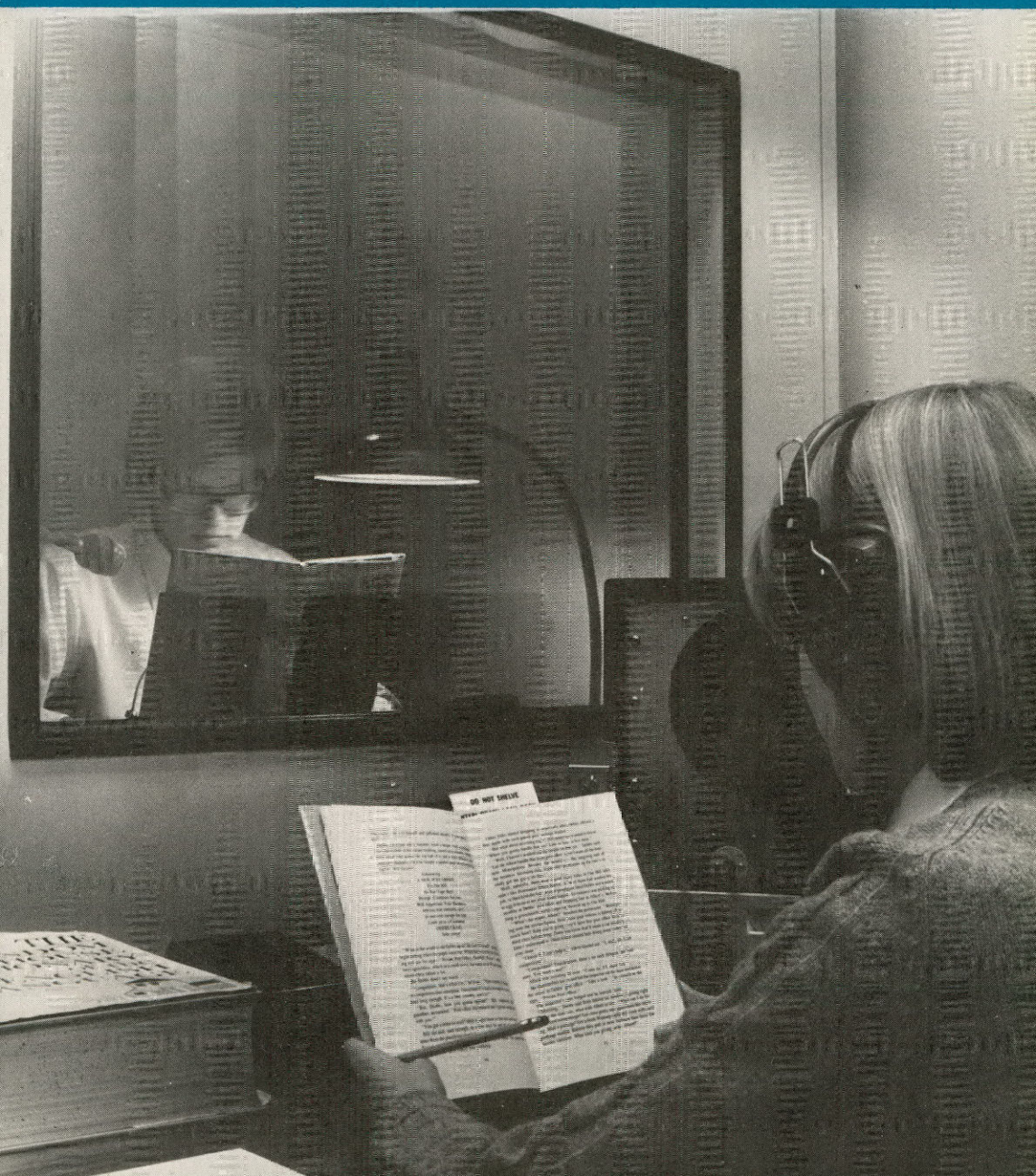


FALL 1977

VOLUME 39

NUMBER 3

# TEXAS LIBRARIES



TEXAS LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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# TEXAS LIBRARIES

- 99 Task Forces Selected for  
 Texas Conference on Libraries
- 103 Aggie Archives New But Origins Old David L. Chapman
- 109 The Making of a History for Dallas Public Library Ervin Eatenson
- 113 Oral History Association Has New Advisory Service
- 114 Library Examiners Approve Certificates for 192
- 116 New Magazine Added to Collection for Handicapped
- 118 New Machines Aiding Services to Handicapped
- 121 Dallas Hearing Held on Humanities Conference
- 122 Libraries in 26 Cities Participating in Video Project
- 124 Family and Child Statistics Available from TDCA Pam Autrey
- 129 Lillian Gunter County Librarian Margaret I. Nichols

Editor: Millicent Huff

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Because so many public libraries in Texas have their roots in either the Carnegie library movement soon after the turn of the century or the drive to establish county libraries during the 1920's, many are observing significant anniversaries during the 1970's. With the observance of a fiftieth or a seventy-fifth anniversary a library discovers that what happened during the early years is no longer a part of a living person's memory. The historian — whether preparing a formal book-length presentation or a short article or talk — must depend upon the written record. It seems somehow ironic that many libraries that have devoted much care and devotion to preserving the records of others have made only limited attempts to preserve their own history.

Records are not only important for the writer producing a history of the library but also for the increasing number of persons producing histories of cities, counties, areas of the state, and the state itself. Strong public libraries have a significant impact upon the cultural life of the communities in which they are located. They are not only the source of materials for these histories but also a part of the history themselves.

Rather than regret the failure to preserve adequate documentation of the early years, many libraries can now begin to do something about establishing a records management program that will enable writers half a century from now to know what happened in the 1970's. Oral history programs may fill in some of the gaps for recent decades. An effort to collect the papers of former board members, librarians, and others associated with the library may turn up materials that they have kept.

Man differs from lower animals because he can verbally communicate what has happened in the past. Literate man differs his counterpart in non-literate cultures because he can pass information from one generation to the next.

Although much has been lost of the early years of public libraries in Texas, we are fortunate that Dallas Public Library has published an account of its first 75 years and that Lillian Gunter kept a journal of her early efforts to establish a county library in Cooke County.

## **Task Forces Selected for Texas Conference on Libraries**

Forty-two persons have been named to the advisory committee that will be planning the Texas Conference on Libraries to be held November 16 and 17, 1978, in preparation for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services scheduled for September, 1979, in Washington.

The planning committee will hold its first meeting in Austin on January 10 and 11, 1978, to begin plans for the program and determine how the 200 delegates for the Texas Conference will be selected.

The Texas State Library, which is coordinating the Texas Conference on Libraries, welcomes comments from all Texans. By including the views of as many individuals and groups as possible, the resolutions formulated by the Texas Conference and forwarded to the White House Conference will present a complete range of Texans' hopes for their libraries.

The White House Conference at which there will be 19 delegates from Texas is the first such conference on libraries and information services. It comes at a time when library materials are expanding rapidly to include not only traditional printed ones but also films, videotape, and other audiovisual materials; microfilm and microfiche; and computer-generated data transmitted among libraries by way of telephone and telegraph.

At the same time that the library user with sophisticated information needs is seeking new kinds of materials, libraries are recognizing their obligation to those with other special needs: persons confined in hospitals, prisons, and other institutions; those who can't read ordinary printed material because of a physical problem such as poor vision or muscular problems; and those who can't read ordinary books because of limited reading skills.

As a result of the diverse library needs of individuals and groups of individuals, libraries in recent years have developed a variety of

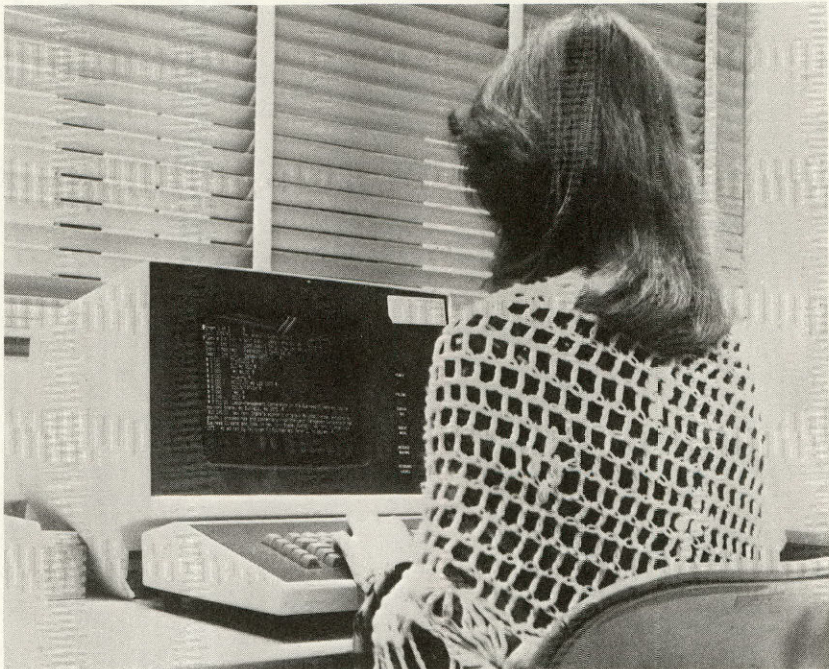
cooperative programs. The most familiar to library users are inter-library loan networks, but these represent only one possibility.

The conference is also being held at a time when decisions are being made about the source of funds for libraries. At the present time local, state, and federal governmental agencies are all involved in the funding of public, school, and academic libraries. As libraries develop an increasing number of cooperative activities to improve service, there are many questions about who should provide funds for what.

The legislation that gave the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science authority to plan a White House Conference on Library and Information Services vested great decision making in the public rather than in the library profession by specifying that two-thirds of the delegates be members of the public.

In the months before the 1979 White House Conference, persons from throughout the United States will be wrestling with questions about what libraries should be. The national conference will provide an opportunity for persons from throughout the United States to meet together to voice their concerns about library service.

Members of the committee planning the Texas Conference include Roy Bass, mayor of Lubbock; Ann Bowden, associate director of Austin Public Library; Mary Boyvey, media program director at the Texas Education Agency in Austin; John Corbin, associate director for technical services at Library for Stephen F. Austin State University at Nacogdoches; Donald Cowan, president at the University of Dallas at Irving; The Honorable Wilhelmina Delco, House of Representatives; Mrs. John C. Gramstorff of Farnsworth; Mary Harding of Fort Worth; Robert Haynes, interim director of M. D. Anderson Library at University of Houston; Joe Johnson, county commissioner at Odessa; John Hyatt, librarian at Rosenberg Library in Galveston; Ray Janeway, director of library services at Texas Tech University in Lubbock; James Kennedy, executive director of AMIGOS Bibliographic Council in Dallas; Mary D. Lankford, director of library and media services for Irving Independent School District; James Love, chairman of TLL Temple Memorial Library in Diboll; Carolyn Meanley, president of Texas Special Library Association; Gary Menges, assistant director for public services, General Libraries at University of Austin; Mary Miller, dean of the School of Continuing Education at Southern Methodist University in Dallas; John Minter, Graduate School of Library Science at Texas Woman's University in Denton; Haskell Monroe, dean of faculties at Texas A&M University in College Station; Peggy O'Donnell, continuing education coordinator for SWLA/CELS; Richard O'Keeffe, director of Fondren Library at Rice University in Houston; Juan Patlan, executive director of Mexican-American Unity Council in San Antonio; Herbert D "Skip" Pedlar of Dallas; Mary Pound, publications coordi-

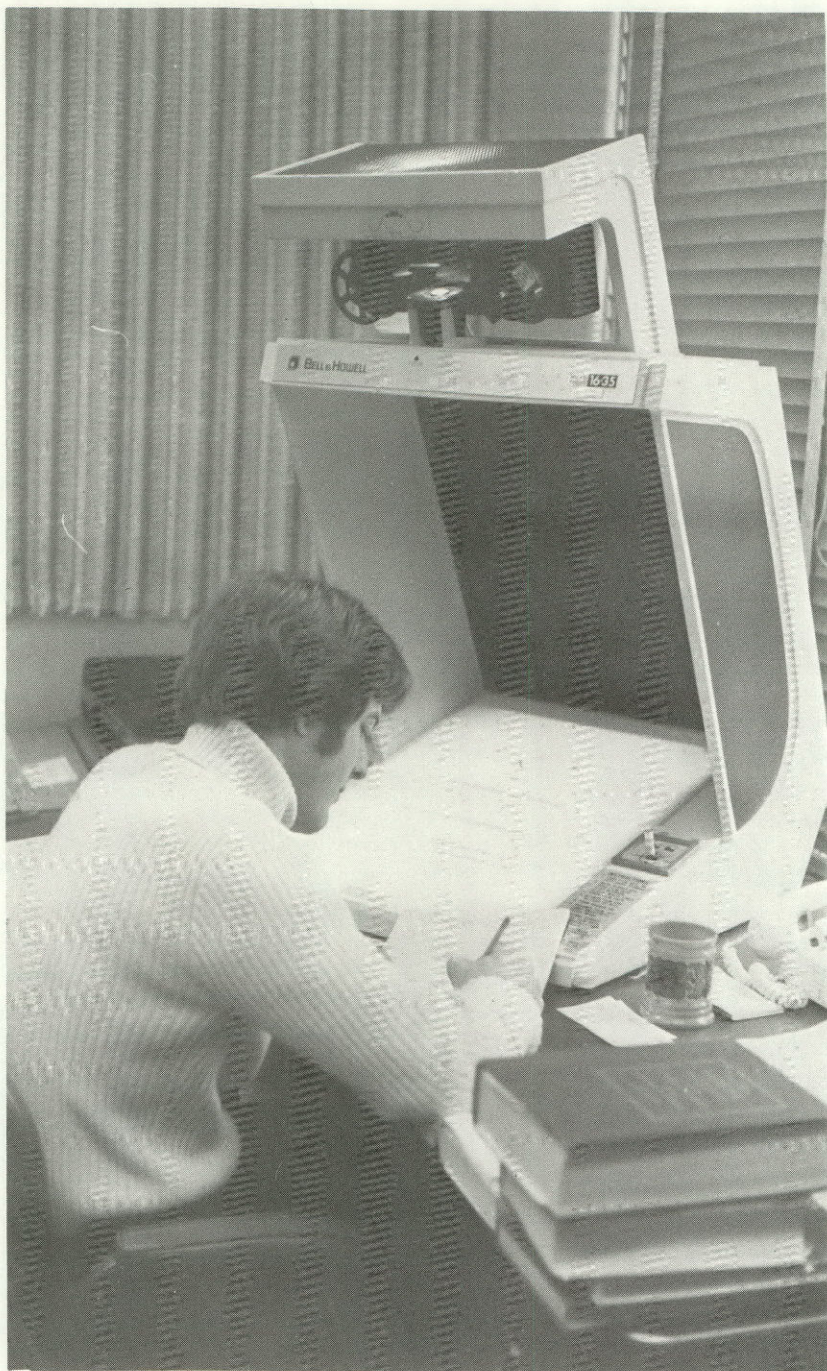


*Automated cataloging is only one of many activities that are making libraries more interrelated. This computer terminal links the Texas State Library with the data base of the Ohio College Library Center.*

nator for General Libraries at the University of Texas at Austin; Pat Pound of Austin and James H. Pratt, city manager of Cuero.

Anita Saxine, director of libraries at St. Mary's University in San Antonio; Charles A. Schultz, university archivist at Texas A&M University in College Station; Brooke Sheldon, director, School of Library Science at Texas Woman's University in Denton; Kay Stansbery, coordinator of technical services at Tarrant County Junior College in Hurst; Norma Stanton of Irving; Nancy Tissing, librarian at Texas Medical Association in Austin; Gail Tomlinson, information officer at Dallas Public Library; The Honorable Henry H. Vollentine of Gonzales; Dick Waters, associate director of public services at Dallas Public Library; Joe Weismiller of El Paso; Sam Whitten, associate professor at the Graduate School of Library Science at the University of Texas at Austin; Christina Glass Woll, school library supervisor for El Paso Independent School District and George Woolfolk, chairman of Department of History at Prairie View A&M University.

Mrs. Walter S. Moore of Austin and Alvin C. Cage, librarian at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, will serve as liaisons with the Texas Library and Historical Commission and Texas Library Association.



*David Gill, a member of Texas A & M's German Document Retrieval Project, prepares abstracts on synthetic fuel production from captured German documents.*



# **Aggie Archives**

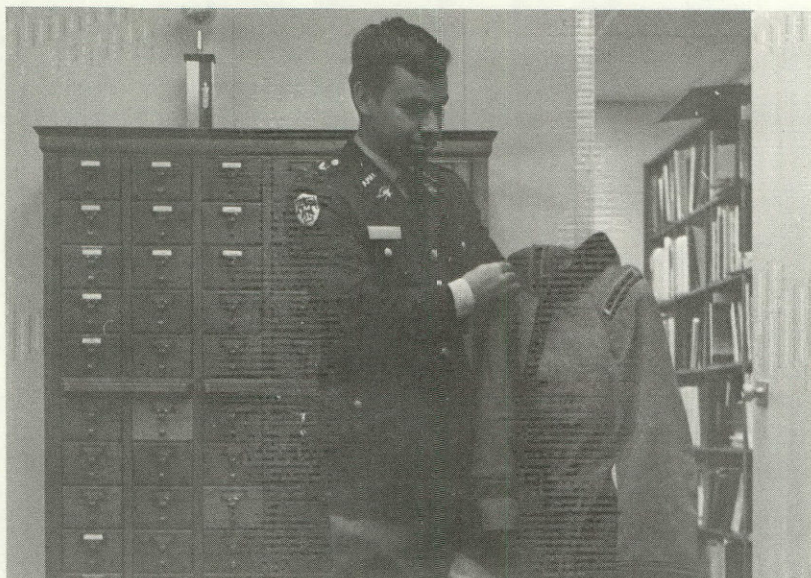
## **New But**

## **Origins Old**

by David L. Chapman

What year did Texas A&M first play the University of Texas in football? Who was offered the first presidency of the University but declined? Who was the first woman to graduate from Texas A&M? For many years these "Cush Questions" (a unique form of Aggie "campusology" employed by the Corps of Cadets to indoctrinate freshmen) or a look at one of the old *Aggieland* volumes for pictures of Granddad were the only type of inquiries made into the holdings of the University Archives. In fact, it has been just six years since the establishment of a full-time archival program at Texas A&M University. While scholars and researchers now come from many parts of the United States and occasionally from foreign countries, such was not always the case. The original archives program was established in 1950 as a part-time venture into the collection and preservation of the history of the University. At the time Texas A&M, or the Agricultural and Mechanical College as it was known, was all male and all military. It was then, as it is today, a unique and distinct institution with strong traditions and a long and storied past.

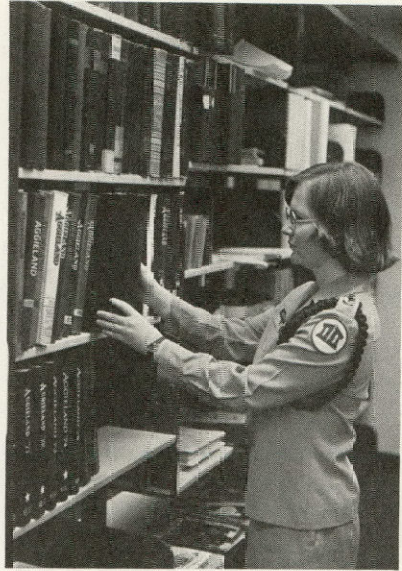
One of the traditions that arose was a form of "campusology" that incorporated both the historical and the trivial and became, after a time, an institution all its own. Somewhere in the now forgotten past, a



bright upperclassman hit upon the idea of asking underclassmen questions pertaining to the history and traditions of the College. These questions were asked either before or during the evening meal where the cadets ate family style seated around large wooden tables. Failure to answer one of these questions correctly led to the forfeiture of the offender's dessert, or "cush" as it is known in a special language spoken only by Aggies. It was of little importance that a correct response to a "cush question" only elicited another question until the poor freshman lost his dessert. It became a great game as freshmen learned more and more of the answers, and the upperclassmen were forced to formulate more and more questions. This remained an oral tradition for many, many years up until the time the University Archives was established. With the initial interest being placed on the University's history, it seems only natural that the Archives became a depository and clearing house for such types of information during the first years of operation.

Today's University Archives is vastly different in breadth and scope from the fledgling program established in 1950. Under the direction of Dr. Charles R. Schultz, the University Archives has grown from a few filing cabinets to over 4,000 linear feet of records and manuscripts. It is only natural that this growing mass of material reflects heavily on historic academic strengths of the University in agriculture, science, and technology. Collections in other fields such as modern politics, as well as the addition of the Texas A&M Oral History Collection and participation in the Regional Historical Resources Depository Program administered by

*The Archives remain a storehouse of Corps tradition. On the left, Albert Castanon examines a Corps of Cadets uniform from the turn of the century. On the right, Joy Aschbacher looks for pictures of relatives in an old yearbook.*



the Texas State Library, have helped to stimulate ever increasing faculty and student research interest.

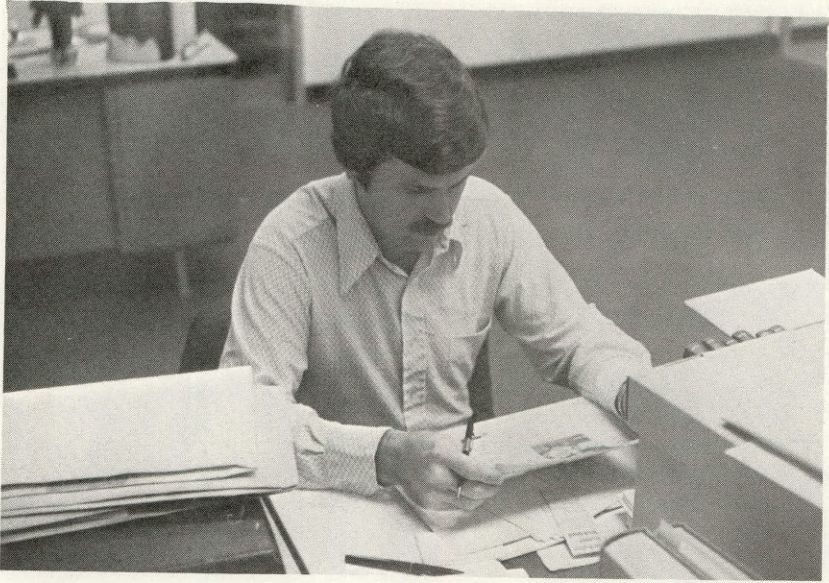
One example of the expanding scope of the Archives has come in the area of modern politics. The papers of Congressmen Olin E. Teague, Graham Purcell, and Robert Casey provide valuable insight into the work of these men in Congress and the perceptions of their constituents. One dissertation on the creation of the Big Thicket National Park has already been completed using material from these collections. Also a dissertation of the life and work of Congressman Teague focusing on his tenure as chairman of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs (1955-1972) and the House Committee on Science and Astronautics (1973- ) has been completed. There are, however, countless research possibilities remaining within these papers. For those whose interests lie in Twentieth Century American agriculture or rural life, there are the Texas Cotton Association papers (1930-1960), the Texas Pecan Growers Association Records (1924-1973), the Southwest Animal Health Research Foundation Records (1962-1972), the Hockheim Prairie Farm Mutual Insurance Association of Texas Records (1916-1976), and the Texas Seedmen's Association Papers (1949-1964). A thesis has already been completed using only a very small portion of the Texas Cotton Association Papers that shows the effect of government intervention on Texas cotton merchants. This is only a small sample of the agricultural or agriculturally related records that are available to scholars.

Two related collections that provide valuable insight into the land tenure history and genealogy of deep South Texas are the

Hicks, Hicks, Dickinson and Bobbitt Papers (1920-1930) and the Mercurio Martinez Papers (1900-1960). Also there are many research possibilities in the field of science and technology, including the papers of a noted atomic scientist, Paul C. Aebersold (1935-1966), and a former chief of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads and director of the Texas Transportation Institute, Thomas H. McDonald (1919-1960). Two collections which exemplify the diversity of the Archives holdings are the papers of M. "Buddy" Benz (1950-1970), a noted floral designer and teacher of floral design, and the E. M. "Buck" Schiwetz Collection, which includes letters, prints, magazine reproductions, and a few original sketches depicting the varied talents of this noted Texas artist. In addition, there are over a thousand color slides within the Schiwetz Collection which record numerous historic sites and landscapes throughout Texas and the Southwest. The recent acquisition of the William A. Owens Papers has helped to add yet another dimension to the Archives' collection program. The manuscripts of this well-known Texas folklorist and author are currently being processed and when completed, will provide a rich source of primary research for many years to come.

These are but a few of the many papers and documents that are housed within the University Archives. In fact, the greatest bulk of archival material is contained within the records of the University. The Archives also holds the most complete collection of University publications to be found in one place. However, the Archives does more than just collect, preserve and retrieve documents and manuscripts for research. A sizable collection of photographs and numerous items of memorabilia help to provide visual verification of the University's history. These items are used in displays to attract attention to or compliment various functions around the campus and can include such activities as adding nostalgia to the color of a home football weekend or class reunion.

A recent project initiated by Texas A&M's Center for Mineral and Energy Research has given the Archives a unique opportunity to make the past more relevant to the future. The project focuses on the production of synthetic fuels from coal by the Germans before and during World War II. Hundreds of thousands of long forgotten captured documents have been located and brought to Texas A&M so that researchers can investigate and evaluate a technology that made wartime Germany independent of foreign energy sources. The type of information contained in this collection of records, coupled with modern technology, may be of real value to a world rapidly running short of petroleum. The Archives has provided expertise in designing storage procedures and retrieval systems for the mass of docu-



*Dr. John R. Jameson, director of Sam Rayburn House at Bonham, examines agricultural collections for details of early Texas farm operations.*

ments being collected by the project's field team. When the information from these records has been abstracted and indexed, it will be placed on a computer data base of the Energy Research and Development Administration. The University Archives will then provide access and copies of the documents to any interested researcher.

Experience has shown, however, that it is not enough to merely collect significant material and organize it in a manner that makes it easily accessible to the patron. While the faculty is often aware of the value of the types of primary research available in the Archives, many graduate and undergraduate students are seldom cognizant of the research opportunities that make the difference between a term paper or thesis that meets minimum requirements for completion and one that shows true scholarly pursuit. Obviously archival collections are only of potential value until they are used. Thus it also became a function of the Archives to provide education and guidance into the many kinds of research material available. Curiously enough, it was the "Cush Question" which first sent many students scurrying to the Archives to locate some nearly forgotten tidbit of the University's history. Upon discovering the answer to their questions, many students remained to find out just what it was that an archives did, and even better still, what it could do for them. Another great stimu-



*Leesa Foster and Doyle Raymond examine prints from the E. M. Schiwetz Collection with the assistance of Associate Archivist David L. Chapman.*

lus of student interest has been Texas A&M's centennial celebration, an event that focused much attention on the University's colorful history. Numerous books, including the official centennial history, and newspaper articles, produced largely from material contained in the Archives, have spurred student curiosity and provided countless topics for research papers. A third and more direct type of contact comes from faculty members who have assigned archival research problems to entire classes. Thus, over the past six years, students have become increasingly aware not only of the existence of the Archives, but also of the services that it could provide.

The services provided in the Archives are unique in that they are based on a close one-to-one relationship between the researcher and the archivist. Such contact is mandatory in providing the researcher with only the pertinent sources within the Archives, as well as information on the location of material that may be found at other agencies or institutions. With this mass of material and the guidance of the Archives staff, it is possible to provide sources which can answer a "Cush Question," yield a Ph.D. dissertation, or help to solve the energy crisis.

Dallas Public Library: The First 75 Years, published by the Dallas Public Library in 1977, may be purchased for \$10.50 (plus \$1.00 handling charge) from Friends of the Dallas Public Library, 1954 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas 75201.

## The Making of a History for Dallas Public Library

by Ervin Eatenson

At the beginning, some members of the 75th Anniversary Committee wondered if the Dallas Public Library should presume to produce a book about the Library's first three quarters of a century. A brochure of landmarks was suggested as a more realistic alternative, considering the really old libraries in the world and the great collections. We might have settled for that idea had not staff members' sense of history over the years guided them to acquire, document, clip, and otherwise preserve pertinent materials toward that day when historians would assume that the presence of such information was a matter of common sense and basic professional responsibility. That notion, it should be said, is easier assumed than realized.

Once the hunt was on, there was no question but that the Library's history would be of interest to more than the library community; Dallas citizen efforts on the public library's behalf could be traced as far back as 1872, and those individuals and families of the public and private sectors who dreamed and planned and worked so well through the years are now a part of the city's cultural history.

In approaching the history project, the chairman of the 75th



*Main Street in 1899 from Dallas Public Library: The First 75 Years*

Anniversary Committee, Mrs. John W. Anthony, a member of the Municipal Library Board, suggested that established writers with Dallas backgrounds be invited to apply for the Friends of the Library commission to author the book. Five finalists were considered by the Anniversary Committee, in terms of background; training and published works. Larry Grove, a seasoned Dallas newspaperman and member of the journalism faculty at SMU was selected, and, in consultation with the staff Library History Committee, proceeded to research and write, revise and restructure, rewrite, reduce, expand, and produce the text. Oral history emerged as a prime element to supplement the documented information available. Past and present staff members provided reflections, interpretations, and explanations which would not otherwise have been available; speculations for the "Tomorrow" section could only have been fashioned in this form.

Many of us knew that the idea for a Friends of the Library organization was introduced by former Assistant Librarian Violet Hayden Dowell, but how much better to have Dallas critic and



author J. Lon Tinkle recall the charter meeting of 1950 when it was determined that the organization "was simply to be the Library's friend, without meddling into its business operation." Unfortunately, everyone who had contributed vision, sound direction and crucial support in the course of the institution's five administrations could not be adequately recognized in the history. Limits were essential if a ponderous, obligatory "official history" was to be avoided. In its review of the book, *Texas Library Journal* perceived our intention admirably: the reviewer called it a birthday cake.

Photographs are one of the book's principal assets. How fortunate to be able to include a picture of the first free art gallery in the state, the "Art Room" of the 1901 Carnegie Library; the first library auditorium, called Carnegie Hall; the formidable first charge desk staffed by very proper library ladies in dark, floor-length skirts, white blouses with high collars and appropriately subdued hair styles; President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the 1936 Texas Centennial Exhibition in Dallas; and pictures of three DPL buildings; the original Carnegie structure (ca. 1901), the present contemporary building (1955), and an artist's rendering of the Central Research Library now under construction. Photographs were gathered from a vast range of sources — administrative archives, the History and Social Science Division's Local History collection, the Denny and Johnny Hayes Photography collection, a recent acquisition of over 100,000 area news photos of the past half century, The Dallas *Morning News* Library, new photos taken for the book by Dallas photographer Robert Shaw, and others.

Art direction was provided by Courtney Tolson, including the selection of typefaces, paperstock, and photographs to be used, and over-all design. Ms. Tolson's expertise as an accomplished advertising agency artist assured the visual style for the publication which we wished to achieve; and DPL exhibits head Paula Barber executed the necessary lay-out work under Ms. Tolson's direction. Printing and binding were in the capable hands of Dallas printer John Brodnax.

Library Director Lillian Bradshaw and the History Committee chaired by Frances Bell made content decisions and over-all publication judgements, but members of this group did not purport to have the know-how which the totality of the project required. For every responsibly produced book there are areas of specialization (not by any means limited to one person per area) which must be addressed, those of publisher, author, editor, copyreader, proofreader, research, typographer and designer, printer, and binder. Financing, marketing, and promotion are

also part of the publisher's responsibility and basic to the successful distribution of the product. The local and national press must be effectively apprised of the product, and attractive packaging should be provided for bookstores and other distributors. Display containers for our publication were designed by the Library's exhibit staff for the purpose of calling attention to the publication in a competitive bookstore environment. For a large printing, a well-financed campaign to promote the book with professional know-how should be figured into the budget. Since ours was a limited printing of 1,000 copies, advertising was minimal and handled in house.

In the past 25 years, Maxine Holmes has served the last two administrations as Assistant to the Director; her resourcefulness (including where to find those minutes, photos, letters, et al.) was priceless as were her proofreader's skill, her editing sense, and her instinct for clarity in semantics. Her personal resourcefulness, then, must be recognized as a major element of continuity for the purpose of this project.

The lesson of this experience for DPL staff is clear. Library staffs should share the sense-of-history responsibility in seeing to adequate documentation of library events, but a resident historian should have the charge and be given the means to coordinate the work so that significant developments are properly identified in advance and handled competently when the events occur. Photographic equipment should be of excellent quality, and a knowledgeable photographer should be behind that lens.

Minutes of Library Boards, Friends and other major decision-making bodies are valuable; however, they are necessarily selective and produced as expedients, often not the best historical records. Tapes and transcripts serve history better. And there should be some agreement as to what constitutes meeting proceedings which warrant taping as distinct from minutes taking. The value of the personal resourcefulness of staff and others who have been associated with the library's work over substantial periods of time cannot be over estimated.

Ample lead-in time should be projected in the planning of such a project for the research and related work that is so important in the total writing, editing, design and publishing process.

Finally, there is no question but that publishing is a fascinating enterprise; however, to produce one book well is to bring into play a vital complexity which includes time, talent, professional skills, wise budgeting, a creative environment, and well considered direction.

## Oral History Association Has New Advisory Service

The Oral History Association announces the inauguration of an advisory service to assist individuals, institutions, foundations or groups beginning an oral history program or for those desiring help in assessing the progress of an ongoing project. The Advisory Program was organized by the Association's Committee on Evaluation which was appointed in 1975 by then President Alice Hoffman of Pennsylvania State University, to explore new ways to help the growing number of oral history programs started each year.

The Council of the Association has appointed thirty-six experienced oral history practitioners from all parts of the country, representing many kinds of programs, to serve as Advisors who will use their professional expertise and the Association's Goals and Guidelines as standards for evaluating oral history. While no charge is made for the services, requesting groups will pay all expenses (travel, food, lodging, and any other legitimate expense) of the evaluation.

After an on-the-spot consultation with the contracting person or group, the Advisor will send a confidential, written report to the

requesting agency and to the chairman of the Oral History Association Evaluation Committee for permanent filing. The Evaluation Committee, chaired by Enid Douglass of the Claremont Graduate School in California, will continue to work to develop improved ways to upgrade oral history sources by devising better means of evaluation.

Enquiries should be addressed to the Oral History Association, Evaluation Service, North Texas State University, P. O. Box 13734 NT Station, Denton, Texas 76203.

Oral history is a method of gathering and preserving historical information in spoken form and the Association encourages those who produce and use oral history to recognize certain principles, rights, and obligations in the creation of authentic, useful, and reliable source materials. Allan Nevins, at Columbia University, developed the first organized oral history program in 1948. The idea caught on, and in 1977 the Oral History Association has memberships in forty-eight states, the District of Columbia, two territories, and twelve foreign countries.

## Library Examiners Approve Certificates for 192

At its meeting on December 5, 1977, the State Board of Library Examiners approved certification of 192 persons who applied for temporary certificates or for the Grade II and Grade III certificates that are steps prior to the granting of permanent certificates.

County library laws giving counties authority to appropriate funds to support public libraries call for the establishment of a Board of Library Examiners. In addition to three librarians who form a self-perpetuating board, the State Librarian serves as *ex officio* chairman and the librarian at the University of Texas serves as *ex officio* secretary.

All persons who head county libraries as well as those who head municipal libraries that receive county funds must hold either a permanent or a temporary certificate.

Permanent certificates are given to persons who have graduated from a library school accredited by the American Library Association and have two years successful library experience or who have graduated from an accredited college or university with a major in library science and have four years successful library experience.

A Grade II certificate, which is valid two years from date of issue, requires either graduation from an ALA-accredited library

school or graduation from an accredited college or university with a major in library science and two years library experience.

To qualify for a Grade III certificate, an applicant must be a graduate of an accredited college or university. Like the Grade II certificate, it is valid for two years from date of issue.

Temporary certificates are valid until December 31 of the year in which they are issued. The basic requirement is graduation from high school and completion of 30 semester hours in an accredited college or university or equivalent. Renewal depends on attendance at professional meetings, workshops, etc.

At the 1977 meeting of the Board, 116 temporary certificates were renewed, and 35 new temporary certificates approved. A total of 22 new Permanent Certificates were approved. One Grade II certificate was renewed, and five new ones approved. One Grade III certificate was renewed, and twelve new ones approved.

Members of the Board are Mrs. Katherine Skinner Brown of Houston, Mrs. Hazel Richardson of Bryan, and John Wayne Smith of El Paso. Dorman H. Winfrey serves as chairman. Harold Billings served as secretary while acting director of the General Libraries at the University of Texas at Austin.

## New Magazine Added to Collection for Handicapped

With the arrival of the November, 1977, issue of *Texas Parks and Wildlife*, Texans who can't read ordinary printed material because of poor vision or a physical handicap that prevents their reading ordinary printed material will have access to a third Texas magazine.

During the past year *Texas Monthly* and *Texas Highways* have been made available as part of an effort by the Texas State Library to make a wider range of regional material available to users of this special service. This effort is possible because of a contract with the Midland Tape Lending Library to record materials and by the development of a volunteer program in Austin to record materials at the Texas State Library. In addition, Taping for the Blind in Houston is producing regional materials that are being duplicated at the State Library.

Although the regional materials are produced primarily for persons in Texas, they can be made available to readers in other states through the Library of Congress' network of regional libraries.

"We particularly appreciate the cooperation that we are receiving in obtaining permission to reproduce copyrighted regional materials," said Dr. Dorman H. Winfrey, director of the Texas State Library. "By allowing the reproduction of magazines and books on recordings, these writers and publishers are making the content of their publications available to many person who would not otherwise be able to enjoy them."

The major portion of materials for the national program to serve the blind and physically handicapped come from the Library of Congress. The allotment for each regional library is determined by the number of readers served. Two Texas studios record materials for the national program. They are the Taping for the Blind in Houston that is also producing regional materials and Dallas Taping for the Blind.

Recording for the Blind in Austin is one of a network of studios that record textbooks. Although requests for new recordings by this group can be made only by students or by persons who need the recorded materials for their jobs, all persons who are eligible for the special service may use the recorded materials once they are available.

The process that transforms a printed book to a recorded one is a complex operation. It begins with selection. In age, readers range from

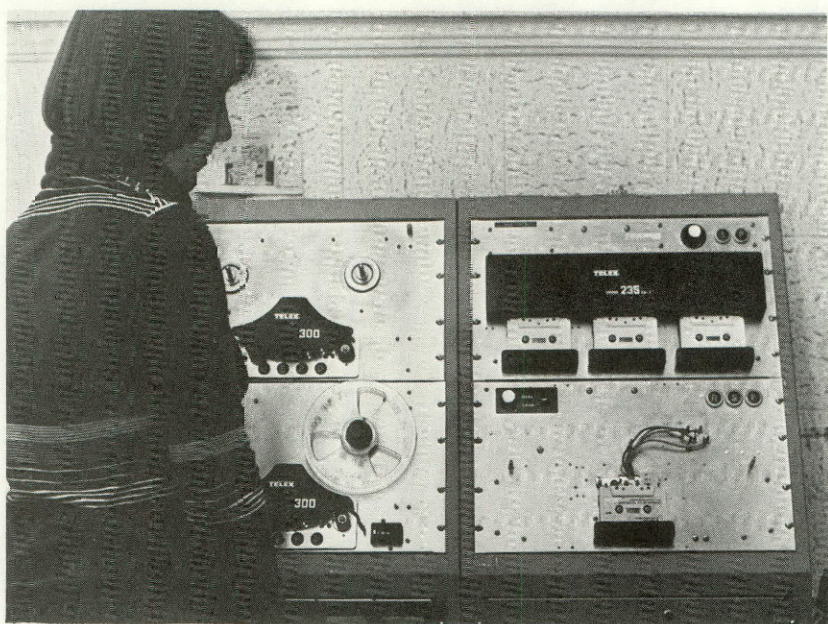
# THIS RECORDING BOOTH WAS PURCHASED WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DBPH PATRONS

*Over the years users of the service to the blind and physically handicapped have made memorial and other contributions. These funds were used for the purchase of the recording booth that will be used by volunteers at the State Library.*

young children to elderly persons. Their interests span the entire range of literature. In order to record a title, the studio must obtain copyright clearance and must obtain two copies of the book or magazine — one for the narrator and one for the monitor. Since the copyright holder is already making a significant contribution by allowing reproduction, Library of Congress regulations prohibit studios from requesting free copies for the recording process. For this reason an increasing number of books in libraries will be carrying a label saying that they have been recorded for persons with poor vision or other physical handicap. Personal libraries of those associated with the program are also being tapped for materials.

It is estimated that the production of one hour of taped narration requires about three hours of work. In addition to the narrator, there are also monitors and proofreaders whose efforts are essential. The person with a well-trained speaking voice is only one of those whose talents are vital.

Because of the ease of editing open-reel tape, the original or master is recorded in this format. Subsequent copies that are circulated to readers are reproduced on cassette tapes that play at the 7/8 inch-per-second speed available on the special machines made available by the Library of Congress to readers.



## New Machines Aiding Services to Handicapped

Automated circulation systems and cataloging processes, teletype communication, and microform publication have all played important roles in changing the nature of service in public, school, and academic libraries.

Library service for Texans who can't read ordinary printed material because of physical limitations is also changing. What began as providing a few embossed books for the blind in the early 1920's now encompasses a wide range of services not only to the blind but also those with poor vision (not correctable to better than 20/70) and other physical handicaps.

Many of these changes have been made possible by technological changes. Improved fidelity of recorded materials at slow speeds has made disks and tape practical. While these can be played at slow speeds, they can be reproduced at high speeds. Even microwave telephone transmission has assisted in service by bringing the cost of Wide Area Telephone Service within the budget of the State Library to ease users' communication problems.

During the past five years, several developments have taken place to improve service to persons who need the special materials. Three WATS lines that are answered daily from 7:30 a.m. to





*Two kinds of tape duplication are underway at the State Library. On the left cassette tapes are being duplicated for circulation. To the right the operator is converting open-reel tape to cassette tape.*

5:30 p.m. link readers instantly with their reader-consultant. Since the same handicaps that prevent reading ordinary printed material may make writing letters impossible or difficult, this link is extremely important. Although new materials are sent automatically to readers in the subject areas they have selected, the telephone calls permit special requests and enable readers to give the reader-consultants a "feel" about what they want to read.

The development of high-speed duplicating equipment has made more individualized service feasible in another way. First, it enables the Library of Congress to furnish masters of titles which can then be duplicated in the numbers needed to meet local demand. A 30-minute tape can be reproduced in 4.5 minutes. Since tapes are smaller for the amount of material contained and require less packing, the tapes cut the bulk of the mail. And when they are at the State Library between use, they require less shelf space — a growing problem in a crowded building.

The high-speed reproduction on cassette tape of materials originally recorded on open-reel tape has facilitated another operation. During the early 1960's a significant number of titles were circulated on open-reel tape. The handicaps that make reading ordinary printed material difficult may also make handling

this tape difficult. Grants from Texas foundations have funded a program to convert the open-reel tape to cassettes for the users of the service.

What makes the individualized service possible is the automated circulation system. When a reader registers for service, he or she decides what kinds of books are to be sent. One may select from a number of general areas. Several books are sent in an initial shipment. As each one is returned, the mailing is taken from the carton and run back through the computer, which automatically selects another book. Because titles are constantly en route from the reader to the State Library and from the State Library to the reader, a patron is never left with nothing to read.

While some of the patrons of the Texas State Library's service to the blind and physically handicapped have never read an ordinary printed book or magazine, many were active users of their local libraries until illness, accident, or age left them with handicaps that prevent reading ordinary printed material.

Eligibility for service does not require total blindness or complete paralysis. The person whose vision can be corrected to not better than 20/70 may lead a perfectly normal life hampered only by dim vision that makes reading ordinary printed material impossible. Because the hands may be as important as the eyes to ordinary reading, persons with crippling arthritis or some other disability that affects their hands are also eligible although their vision is excellent.

The librarian is often in a position to identify possible users of the special service. Many of these persons do not consider themselves handicapped. Certainly they are not blind. But a problem that makes it difficult or impossible for them to read an ordinary book or magazine may cut them off from the world of information and recreation that books contain.

Many people are cooperating in efforts to acquaint potential patrons with the special services. Radio stations are carrying spot announcements. Newspapers have been generous in publishing articles on the services. Physicians, nursing home administrators and other health professionals provide information.

Librarians who want printed material on the service can obtain it from the Texas State Library. It can be requested by calling the toll-free number 1-800-252-9605 or by writing Texas State Library, Box 12927 - Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

## Dallas Hearing Held on Humanities Conference

Anti-intellectualism and an emphasis on technology may endanger the humanities in America, several notable educators concluded in Congressional hearings conducted at the Dallas Public Library November 14.

Testifying at the first of five Congressional hearings to be held around the nation, about two dozen individuals lent support to proposed legislation calling for a White House Conference on the Humanities and Arts in 1979.

The hearing was chaired by Rep. John Brademas (D-Ind.), Chairman of the Select Education Subcommittee of the House Education Committee. The legislation under discussion has been proposed by Brademas and Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R. I.), Chairman of the Subcommittee for Education, Arts, and the Humanities of the Senate Human Resources Committee.

Joseph Duffey, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, made his first public appearance as chairman of the Endowment as lead witness at the hearing. He said the hearings provided an opportunity to seek regional opinion helpful in formulating the future direction of the Endowment.

Duffey stated that a national humanities conference is needed because the humanities field has fallen short of the publicity of other programs such as the National Endowment for the Arts. The term humanities includes the study of language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism, theory, and practice of the arts; and the study of human environment.

Representing public libraries was Lillian Bradshaw, director of Dallas Public Library. She stressed the importance of libraries in providing humanistic materials to the people and said the public libraries should have a key role in planning a White House Conference on the Humanities and in the preparation of legislation pertaining to the humanities. "By working together we can provide a humanized response to the future," she commented.

Additional hearings will be held in New York (Dec. 16-17), Miami (Jan. 9), Atlanta (Jan. 10), and Chicago (Jan. 13).

## **Libraries in 26 Cities Participating in Video Project**

During the coming year public libraries in 26 Texas cities will be using 3/4 inch videocassettes made available through a federal Library Services and Construction Act program administered by the Texas State Library. The collection of approximately 859 videocassettes is being provided for programming by libraries that have purchased video playback equipment in order to give Texas libraries experience in using this medium.

Each participating library will receive a collection of 2 videocassettes on a six-month loan. These will be rotated among libraries so that each will receive a second collection for the second six months of the project. In addition, participating libraries as well as others that purchase equipment during the year will be able to book videocassettes from a collection that will be circulated from the State Library.

In September workshops on the use of video programming were held in Garland and in McAllen to acquaint librarians with maintenance of equipment, programming, and selection of materials. Peggy Pavolski of the California Video Resource Project conducted the sessions. A second workshop will be held in the spring for participating libraries.

Participating libraries are Amarillo Public Library, Brownsville City-College Library, Dallas Public Library (Dallas West, Audelia Road, and Hampton Illinois branches and the Martin Luther King Library/Learning Center), Denison Public Library, Temple Memorial Library in Diboll, Ed Rachal Memorial Library in Falfurrias, El Paso Public Library, Farmers Branch Public Library, Nicholson Memorial Library in Garland, Graham Public Library, Grand Prairie Memorial Library, members of the Hidalgo County Library System (Edinburg Public Library, McAllen Memorial Library, Speer Memorial Library at Mission, Pharr Memorial Library, and Porter-Doss Memorial Library at Weslaco), Houston Public Library, Irving Public Library, Kleberg Public Library at Kingsville, Marshall Public Library, Mesquite Public Library, Gladys Harrington Public Library in Plano, Richardson Public Library, Sherman Public Library, Victory Public Library, and the South Waco Branch Library in Waco.

The collection includes the following. Abbreviations indicate age level: k - kindergarten, e - elementary, jh - junior high, sh - senior high, and ad - adult.

*Big Thicket Holler* (46 minutes - color - jh, sh, ad)

An investigation of the battle over the "Big Thicket," a Texas wilderness area in the southeast corner of the state. This documentary explores both sides of the argument over the future of the area, which is blessed with a rich variety of natural habitats representing everything from desert to jungle.

*A Bit with Knit II* (series - color - sh, ad)

A series for the home seamstress that deals exclusively with women's clothing made from easy-care knit fabrics.

*Follow the North Star* (47 minutes - color - jh, sh, ad)

This exciting story is not only a suspenseful adventure drama, it also gives the flavor of the troubled and dangerous times when America was split over the slavery question.

*The History of the Beatles* (56 minutes - color - jh, sh, ad)

The camera follows John, Paul, George, and Ringo, from their first U.S. concert through all the years of Beatlemania.

*I'm Dependent, You're Addicted* (51 minutes - color - jh, sh, ad)

This cassette takes a long, cool look at the scientific facts about drugs. Based on the latest medical evidence from both England and America, it analyzes their effects from the level of an individual brain cell up to the whole human psyche.

*In Search of Ancient Aviators* (24 minutes - color - jh, sh, ad)

Ancient man may not have mastered the technology necessary to fly, but it is conceivable that some creatures may have. Only this can explain certain prehistoric earthworks and pictographs shown in this cassette.

*The Little Mermaid* (25 minutes - color - k, el)

This is a lavishly animated version of the story by Hans Christian Andersen. The youngest daughter of the Mer-King falls in love with a prince whom she rescued from a shipwreck.

*NFL Football Follies* (30 minutes - color - jh, sh, ad)

It's vaudeville and slapstick, chaos and comedy. This is a collection of the weirdly absurd plays that are part of pro football.

*Women, Money and Power* (29 minutes - color - sh, ad)

Author Phyllis Chesler discusses the need for women to educate themselves about the nature of the American economic system before they can attain real power.

## **Family and Child Statistics Available from TDCA**

**by Pam Autrey**

The Early Childhood Development Division of the Texas Department of Community Affairs has recently developed a new information service to provide statistical data to Texas communities on the young children in their counties.

Local and regional planners, interested citizens, and service providers require these statistical data for many purposes including proposal writing, service or program planning, public education and advocacy. These people have for some time been forced to seek out data concerning children in their area from various government agencies, published documents, and any other sources they could locate.

In order to facilitate the efforts of these local communities on behalf of young children, the Early Childhood Development Division has for several years collected data on children and provided manual searches of the reams of materials in which the data were located. The growing number of requests for these information services prompted the agency to automate the data so that requests could be filled on a more timely basis. The computerization of the system also allows the data to be retrieved in a variety of formats and has provided the additional capability of performing statistical analyses with the data.

The Family and Child Statistics (or FACS) Information System contains approximately 200 data items on each county in Texas and for the State as a whole. The data cover a broad range of subject topics relating to young Texas children and their families,

such as population, ethnicity, income, livebirths, health and medical facilities, etc. Approximately thirty sources of data were tapped for input into the system including both published and non-published sources produced by agencies such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the Texas Department of Public Welfare, the Texas Department of Health Resources, the Texas Medical Association and others. (See Appendix A for a complete list of sources.)

FACS will be updated annually to reflect new data issued by the agencies. There are, of course, some items such as those from the U.S. Census which are not updated annually by county. Therefore, data in the system currently range between the years 1970 and 1975.

There are two primary formats in which data are retrieved from the system at the present time. They are as follows:

1. The first and most commonly requested format is a comprehensive report called a county statistical profile which contains all the data in the system on a particular county. The data are arranged by broad subject categories with a brief introductory paragraph preceding the actual figures for that subject. This paragraph fulfills the function of relating the statistics on the subject to some of the known research findings on the topic and also suggests some possible program implications of the data. In order to facilitate comparisons and provide further contextual information by which users can weigh data on their own county, state data are provided alongside county data. The county profile

report contains a table of contents and an index in the front and a list of sources at the end. A number at the end of each data factor description in the report refers to this list of sources. (See Appendix.)

2. The second form of retrieval is a computerized search performed in response to special requests. These searches simply retrieve the data contained in the county profiles in different formats. Examples of specialized retrievals using a data factor such as "infant death rates" follows:

- a. List infant death rates for each county in the state.
- b. List all counties with an infant death rate greater than the national average.
- c. Rank all counties from high to low by infant death rate.
- d. What is the range (i.e., highest and lowest figures) of infant death rates in all Texas counties.
- e. Did any county have an infant death rate greater than 20.5? If so, list those counties.

The FACS Information System is located on the Control Data Corporation 6600 computer at the University of Texas at Austin. A general data base management software package, System 2000, is used with FACS. This software package was chosen because it affords a great deal of flexibility in producing the type of generalized retrievals for data needed by users at the community and regional levels. A data base management package also obviates the writing of a new program every time a different type of retrieval is requested.

The FACS information service has been received extremely favorably by local, regional and state planners. Over 600 county profile reports were distributed in June, 1977. The county profiles seem to fill a need for a balanced compilation of data derived from many sources. The number of items selected to be included in the county profile seems to be sufficient to provide a fair indication of need without overwhelming the user with an undigestible amount of figures.

Through this centralized system converging major data sources relevant to young Texas children and their families, the statistical informational needs of local planners and other citizens can be provided in a timely and efficient fashion. There is no charge for information provided by FACS and it is available for use to any interested Texan.

Further information or assistance may be obtained by calling toll free WATS 800-252-9642 or 512-475-6118; or write Texas Department of Community Affairs, Early Childhood Development Division, P. O. Box 13166, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.



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## **Lillian Gunter: County Librarian**

**by Margaret I. Nichols**

The issues that confronted Lillian Gunter, Cooke County, Texas, librarian from 1921-1926, not only are typical of those faced by her colleagues in other sections of the nation, but also are problems which vex librarians today. Among major issues, she fought public apathy, contested budgets with an unsympathetic County Commissioners' Court and an equally parsimonious City Council, denounced those who did not want to share the library or its books with blacks, and negotiated with a foreign ethnic group which feared the Americanization of its culture. Almost daily she had to pass judgment on minor problems of a personal, professional, or civic nature. But who was Lillian Gunter, and how did she become involved with county libraries?

She was born on September 15, 1870, at Sivell's Bend, Cooke County, on the Red River, the daughter of Addison and Bettie Gunter. By the standards of her day, she received a better education than most Texas women, despite her rural beginnings. Leaving her plantation home at the age of twelve, she spent three years at the Sacred Heart Convent, St. Louis, Missouri, and later

attended the Wesleyan Institute, Staunton, Virginia, for two more years. With the exception of the five years spent at school, she lived on the plantation until 1901, when she and her mother moved to Gainesville, the county seat.<sup>1</sup>

Miss Gunter's interest in libraries dates from 1906, when she became chairman of the Gainesville Library Association. Two years later she helped to transform a small subscription library established by the XLI Club, a local women's literary society, into the Gainesville Subscription Library (later public), which she headed from 1910-1920. She also chaired the committee which appealed to the Andrew Carnegie Foundation for aid in constructing a suitable building for the newly founded library. The campaign for a Carnegie grant gained momentum in 1912, when the City Council voted unanimously on March 5 to establish a free public library. Having now met all requirements, the Foundation in November granted Gainesville \$15,000 to construct the building which was formally opened on October 10, 1914.<sup>2</sup>

When Miss Gunter became librarian of the Gainesville Subscription Library in 1910, she had had no formal library training. During the summer of 1913, however, she spent a six-week term at the New York State Library School in Albany. At the end of this brief session, she received a certificate.<sup>3</sup>

During her tenure as a public librarian, Miss Gunter became interested in making library services available to rural areas. At that time, however, no legal way existed for rural people in Texas to organize and support a public library. After a trip to California in 1915 to interview State Librarian James L. Gillis, the architect of the California county library law, Miss Gunter drafted the County Free Library Bill, but numerous amendments made it impractical. For the next two years she advocated a revised law, again modeled after that of California; and this campaign culminated in passage of the 1917 library law. After the Cooke County Commissioners' Court challenged its constitutionality, Miss Gunter again fought successfully for an amendment in 1919.<sup>4</sup>

With her dream of a workable and constitutional county library law now a reality, Miss Gunter hoped to found the first such library in Texas; but Dallam County, which met with fewer problems than Cooke, claimed this distinction. On April 14, 1920, the Dallam County Commissioners' Court, on its own initiative, established a county library.<sup>5</sup>

#### The Petition

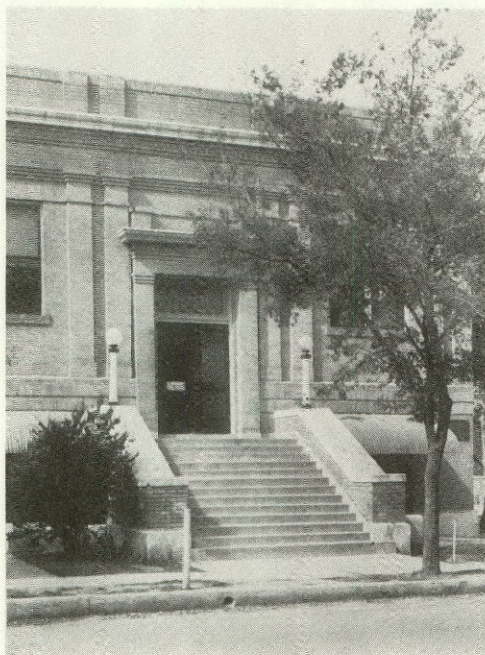
In Cooke County after 1919, newspaper publicity and the activity of women's clubs emphasized to the public the need for a county library, but the appeals won few converts. Some interest was

aroused when the debate team of the Canady rural school took the affirmative side of the question and offered to debate anyone who opposed a county library. Despite general apathy, a small group of Gainesville citizens, headed by Miss Gunter, organized early in 1920 to request the Commissioners' Court for a county library, since that body would take no action. The county school teachers seemed to be the logical group to circulate a petition in rural communities; since the library's function was educational, the school should be its ally, and the teacher its herald. Copies of a petition for a county library were sent to rural teachers, who were expected to explain its purpose to parents and friends and to secure signatures. This plan failed, however, for the teachers did not wish to commit themselves on a controversial issue. Women, moreover, could not vote, and men were less interested in a library than they. Finally, the library issue was overshadowed by the gubernatorial race in which two local men were candidates. Unshaken by initial failure, Miss Gunter and her friends distributed the petition to leading citizens, war veterans, and known library supporters.<sup>6</sup>

Having obtained 1,361 signatures, a bare majority of the electorate, the petition for a county library was presented at the July, 1920, session of the Commissioners' Court by George W. Dayton, the local State Representative from Cooke County who authored the original county library law and amendments.<sup>7</sup> The Commissioners' Court passed a resolution establishing the Cooke County Library on July 13, but deferred its organization until September 13, when it appointed Miss Gunter librarian for a two-year term. Her salary was \$110 per month, "which included all expenses" incurred in discharging the duties of the position; and her bond, as required by law, was set at \$500. An appropriation of \$1,000 was made from the General Fund to purchase books. The Court provided quarters for the library in the county courthouse and contracted for 200 feet of shelving and twenty cabinets. Although Dallam County had founded the first county library in Texas, Cooke was the first to establish a library by petition.<sup>8</sup>

#### City-County Merger

Giving a month's notice, Lillian Gunter tendered her resignation as librarian of the Gainesville Public Library on September 21, 1920. At first the City Council refused to accept it, but reconsidering at its October meeting, the Council voted to release her and to merge the city with the county library under Section 18 of the library law. Miss Gunter now was free to accept the county librarianship and to return to California for further study of county libraries before assuming her new position in January, 1921. She confided to her diary:



The Commissioners . . . [were] willing to let me do as I pleased to get rid of me, and the City Council . . . [was] willing to let me have charge of the city library in order to get rid of the library. . . . [For it is] something they have long suffered to please the women.<sup>9</sup>

A contract consolidating the two libraries was approved by the City Council on January 4, 1921, and by the Commissioners' Court on the 10th. The City provided the Carnegie building as well as its collection and equipment and continued the \$1,500 annual appropriation which it had agreed with the Carnegie Foundation to contribute toward the city library's support. Salaries for the assistant librarian and janitor and cost of utilities and maintenance of the building and grounds were paid from the City's contribution. All that remained from the fund could be used to buy books. The City relinquished administration of the library to the Commissioners' Court, but retained title to the library property. Cooke County contracted to spend \$1,000 for books at the time of merger and to give no less than \$50 each month thereafter for expanding the collection. In accordance with the 1919 library law, the county librarian was responsible to the Commissioners' Court, which paid his salary. If the contract were annulled, Gainesville would receive one-third of the collection and the county two-thirds.<sup>10</sup>

### Opening of the Library

On January 11, 1921, the city-county library began operation with an annual budget of \$3,000, 6,118 volumes, and an adequate, well-equipped building. All books circulated on the day of its opening were to local readers, but on the following day, the first book was issued to a county borrower, a boy from Lindsay, who checked out Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*.<sup>11</sup>

Miss Gunter assumed her new position with some apprehension, for the experience as librarian of a small city library ill prepared her to administer a county library. In her diary, she asserted:

My [second] trip to California to 'learn how' is as great an asset in prestige as in really knowing how. The prestige will have to carry me over the dangerous places where I do not know how, for one cannot learn everything in six weeks.<sup>12</sup>

One of the problems which faced Miss Gunter was finding a suitable assistant. Great care had to be exercised, since the assistant librarian would be in charge of the library when she visited the branches, and it was impossible to obtain a trained librarian. Her choice was Willie (Wayne) Lee Martin, who received the approval of the Commissioners' Court on February 2, 1921. Miss Martin began work as an unpaid apprentice in March but became salaried the next month.<sup>13</sup>

### The Problems of Expansion

The decisions and problems which faced Lillian Gunter during the first five years as librarian of the Cooke County Library were as varied as they were complex. Transportation difficulties, the indifference and provincialism of many rural communities, the ethnic exclusiveness of German settlements, and chronic lack of funds all obstructed the expansion of library service. Even when a town was persuaded to accept a branch library, adequate quarters and a capable custodian had to be located. Sometimes Miss Gunter could find neither. As she solved these problems, she emerged as an authority on the county library system, not only in her native area, but also throughout the Southwest.

In February, 1921, Miss Gunter made her first community visit to interest citizens in creating a branch library.<sup>14</sup> A picnic dinner and meeting was arranged at Burns following Sunday church services. After explaining the branch function, she, at the suggestion of those present, appointed a committee to obtain quarters for a branch and a custodian for its care. An incident then occurred which illustrates the problems with which she had to contend. She was rebuked by a man who wanted to know why, if it were

to be a community affair, she had named all Methodists and no Baptists. Since she had not known the church affiliation of any of the persons appointed, and belonged to no church herself, she was not guilty of bias. She asked the disgruntled citizen if he would serve on the committee and was relieved when he accepted, but she vowed never again to name a community committee.<sup>15</sup>

During March, 1921, Lillian Gunter toured the county, discussing branch libraries. At Valley View she helped to organize a woman's club and suggested that one of its projects be a branch library. At Myra she took advantage of a request to participate in a local school program to urge a branch library there. These efforts bore fruit on March 30, when Sivell's Bend, her birthplace, opened a branch housed in the anteroom of the Woodmen-of-the-World lodge hall, on the second floor of a general store which also housed the post office. It contained one hundred volumes: twenty-five non-fiction, thirty-five juvenile, and forty fiction. Sam Gunter, a cousin, took charge of the library.<sup>16</sup> Establishing the first branch in her home town moved her deeply, as the following extract from her diary reveals:

A dream realized. . . . Tomorrow I carry free reading matter to my old home people. Step by step. First the law, then the revision, then the final amendment. The petition of . . . a majority of the voters of the county. The court action. A trip to California to learn how to do it. Three months of getting ready, and now the little community that I love best of all is to have books to read.<sup>17</sup>

Miss Gunter decided that each branch collection should contain from seventy-five to a hundred books. Since the custodians were unfamiliar with libraries and their procedures, she followed the advice of the Sacramento County (California) librarian and adopted the simplest means of recording circulation statistics, which was to record borrowed items according to the general categories of fiction, non-fiction, and juvenile. The charging system was the same as that used by California's Pasadena County Library. Application cards were made in duplicate, one for the branch and one for the central library; each borrower was assigned a number which bore a distinguishing letter for the branch. No borrower's card was used, since "farmers often come to the community center on a load of cotton just from the field in work clothes, and the nature of their work prohibits them from carrying a pocket full of papers and library cards."<sup>18</sup>

Four new branches were established during April and May, 1921.<sup>19</sup> In Woodbine the library was located in Ware and Mitchell's



Grocery Store, and at Valley View, in Mothershed's Drug Store. These merchants, however, were not motivated by a noble wish to disseminate culture, but a mundane desire to stimulate sales. Many businessmen, nonetheless, regarded a library in a place of business as a nuisance, an attitude which caused some branches to be located in homes, where a member of the family could serve as custodian. This combination was not easily found, because the house was rare which was designed to accommodate library traffic without interfering with privacy. Even if one were available, there might not also be a capable person with adequate time to supervise circulation. Although the county library furnished printed post cards for branch custodians to report their monthly circulation, some of them, not knowing the difference between fiction and non-fiction, did not send in accurate reports; and some did not bother to report at all.<sup>20</sup>

Transportation was another problem during the early days of the Cooke County Library. Since a limited budget prevented the library from paying delivery costs, it was necessary to find other means of sending books to and from the branches. Usually they were entrusted to a citizen of the branch community who was coming to Gainesville for business or social reasons. When Miss Gunter visited the branches, she, too, had to provide her own transportation. Frequently she rode on the dairy truck or with the county agent, or hired (at her own expense) a car and driver. Even after she bought a car in October, 1921, visiting the branches during the winter was still a problem, since ice and mud rendered the roads impassable.<sup>21</sup>

By the end of August, 1921, branches had been opened at five more locations, making a total of thirteen branches that had been established since the Cooke County Library had opened in January.<sup>22</sup> Volumes in the collection totaled 7,905, an increase of 1,874 since the library had opened, and 149 magazine subscriptions were carried. The Texas Library and Historical Commission contributed 500 books to Cooke County as an award for being the second county in the state to establish a library. In her report for January-August, 1921, Miss Gunter announced with pride that the library and its branches had circulated 12,371 books (6,546 fiction, 4,192 juvenile, and 1,633 non-fiction), during this seven-month period.<sup>23</sup>

Between September, 1921, and December, 1922, eight more branches were established. In Rosston a branch was opened in the C. E. Dickerson General Store with Dickerson himself as custodian. One year later, Rosston's registered readers had achieved an impressive record by borrowing 553 books from a collection of only 122 volumes.<sup>24</sup>



*Portrait of Lillian Gunter from the Historical Collections, North Texas State University*

During the first calendar year of the Cooke County Library's history, a total of eighteen subsidiary libraries were established. Their locations were distributed from the smallest and most remote to the largest community in the county. Although the majority of those served expressed delight that books now were available, many people boycotted the library and complained that it was "foolishness, teaching people to waste time reading untrue things."<sup>25</sup> Miss Gunter's answer to this obscurantist attitude was to stump the county on behalf of its library system, making eleven speeches between September, 1922, and August, 1923.<sup>26</sup>

Miss Gunter had many more requests for branches than she could establish, due to lack of books. To correct this situation, she asked the Commissioners' Court in February, 1922, to increase the book fund, but met with a negative response. Not until May were enough books available to open four additional branches.<sup>27</sup>

By September, 1922, the demands of the branches had so depleted the central collection that only three of eleven petitions for a branch could be granted. The largest towns and those most distant from Gainesville had priority.<sup>28</sup> The only answer to the exigencies of a rapidly expanding system was a larger appropriation, but Miss Gunter's pleas to the Commissioners' Court in February, 1923, and again in January, 1924, fell on deaf ears.<sup>29</sup> Apparently, the Commissioners were unaware of the urgency of the situation or were unwilling to spend more money on a project whose value they questioned.

Nor was the City of Gainesville a cheerful giver; moreover,

its contributions were frequently late. In April, 1924, when the Commissioners' Court protested the City's delinquency in contributing its share of the library's funds, the City Council asked its attorney if the City were bound to this support. On May 6, the attorney replied that the City had contracted with Andrew Carnegie to donate \$1,500 for the maintenance of the library building and grounds and that this money could not be spent for any other purpose. Reluctantly, the City Council authorized the payment of its delinquent pledge.<sup>30</sup> The parsimony of the County Court and the forced support of the City Council reveal how little sympathy either had for a free county library system and how great was Lillian Gunter's accomplishment in compelling them to sustain it.

Despite the admonition of numerous California county librarians that service to rural schools was not the responsibility of the county library, which was designed for the whole community, Miss Gunter sympathized with rural teachers who were unable to obtain books for their students. As early as October, 1921, she had placed collections in two schools, and by September, 1923, 1,465 county library books had been distributed among 44 rural schools. She justified this move on the grounds that these schools did not have access to a community branch, and also that when collections were placed in schools, extensive use usually was made of them. As an example, she cited the case of a teacher in the Eliot school who returned to the central library in January, 1923, eight books which had been read 258 times since they had been checked out in September.<sup>31</sup>

Because of her policy of establishing deposit stations in schools, a delegation from Sivell's Bend requested Miss Gunter in December, 1924, to move its branch library to the school, hoping thereby to meet the mandate of the law that a school must spend \$25 per teacher for books to be eligible for state aid. Although Miss Gunter refused this petition, she offered to provide enough books for the school to comply with the law, if the teachers would come to get them. She suggested, too, that they frankly admit the maneuver and ask: "Why not? since, as citizens, they paid taxes for library service." They should emphasize that the system was cheaper and more efficient, and that the collection could be exchanged periodically for new titles.<sup>32</sup>

The books were loaned, and a test case made later in December, when Miss Gunter was visited by the State Aid Inspector. At first the Inspector did not agree that the law had been complied with, but Miss Gunter reminded her that Sivell's Bend paid for the books from its contribution to the County General Fund. Upon seeing the quality and quantity of the books, the Inspector

became convinced that the requirements of the law had been met, but she questioned whether some teachers would come for the books. This problem was referred to the County Superintendent of Schools who required each teacher to take the necessary number of books from the central library each month before receiving a pay check. After the Sivell's Bend case was settled to everyone's satisfaction, most of the county's rural schools followed the precedent.<sup>33</sup>

From September, 1924, to September, 1925, six branch libraries had to be relocated, due to public apathy. Among the branches closed was that at Meunster, established on July 28, 1921, and one of the oldest in the county. The community itself was predominantly German and Roman Catholic. When Miss Gunter picked up the collection in October, 1924, the local priest assured her that he had not instructed his communicants to boycott the library. They had done so voluntarily, he asserted, to preserve their transplanted, old-world culture from the encroachment of American civilization, symbolized by the library. There was nothing for Miss Gunter to do, except to withdraw with as much grace as possible until the climate of ethnic exclusiveness changed.<sup>34</sup>

In the first five years of its history (1921-1925), the Cooke County Library collection had increased from 6,118 to 12,162 volumes, and the circulation, from about 12,300 to about 45,000. During the same period, twenty-five branches and fifty-nine school-deposit stations had been established.<sup>35</sup> More could have been established had money and books been available. This expansion in so brief a time, and despite many adversities, is a tribute to the energy, determination, and insight of Lillian Gunter, not only in rural areas, but also in the county seat, where one of its manifestations was racial prejudice.

#### The Negro Branch

Since 1914, Miss Gunter had worked in vain to provide library service for blacks; indeed, the Carnegie building provided for a reading room with its own entrance in the basement so that it could function as a separate unit. On September 25, 1923, she petitioned the City Council to permit a reading room in these quarters to provide service to Negroes. At last on November 6, the City granted her petition and appropriated forty dollars for two tables, a bulletin board, and a filing cabinet. The Commissioners' Court, however, immediately protested against blacks using any part of the library building, a complaint referred to the City Library Committee for study.<sup>36</sup>

On December 4, 1923, County Judge George W. Dayton and

the County Commissioners attended the City Council meeting. Alderman Davis read the city-county library contract, observing that the Commissioners' Court controlled the library building, and that, consequently, the City Council, indeed, had exceeded its authority in authorizing a Negro reading room in the Carnegie building. The City Council thereupon retreated and unanimously rescinded its resolution of November 6. To save face, the Council explained that their action should not be construed to mean that they did "not favor the use of said room for the purpose stated," but that their hands were tied by the city-county contract which vested "the administration and control of said room . . . in the Commissioners' Court."<sup>37</sup>

Not until June, 1924, was the issue of library service to blacks finally settled when the County Court established a branch in the Gainesville Negro School, and the City Council agreed to pay the custodian a salary of \$10.00 a month to keep the library open two hours a day. This branch, which opened on June 27, was the first Negro branch of a county library in Texas, an achievement which prompted Miss Gunter to declare: "A beginning . . . [has] been made. . . . We wil give these Negroes something worthwhile yet."<sup>38</sup>

#### Building a Reputation

As Lillian Gunter became recognized as an authority on county library legislation and organization, she received requests to write numerous articles on the subject. Her first articles appeared in *Texas Libraries* for October, 1919, and in the *Sierra Education Journal* for June, 1921; and during 1921 and 1922, she published essays in the *Southern Agriculturist*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Holland's Magazine*, and the *Organized Farmer*. Although her time was urgently required for the operation of the library, Miss Gunter recognized the value of publicity and accordingly complied with as many requests as she could.<sup>39</sup>

She received, too, inquiries on the ways and means of establishing a county library from several sections of Texas (Collinsville, Denton, Denison, Graham, Lubbock, and Grayson, Johnson, and Mitchell counties), and from outside the State (Tucson, Arizona, and Santa Fe, New Mexico). Pro-library groups in Cleburne, Childress, Whiteright, Mercedes, and Cass counties asked for her advice on obtaining signatures for their petitions. Mr. Rankin of the Nebraska State Department of Agriculture requested material on the county survey preparatory to founding a library as described in her article in the *Sierra Education Journal*. Miss Gunter commented that:

I did not really do any of the things I talked about,

at least not consciously, perhaps all of them subconsciously, and personally I do not believe in too many preliminaries for any undertaking. To do a thing one must just start and then peg away until it is done. Tolstoy's phrase about 'the snare of preparation' quoted by Jane Addams in her *Twenty Years in Hull House* has meant more to me than all the preliminary surveys in the world. There is no gain-saying the value of a thorough knowledge of working conditions in any undertaking, but it is so very difficult to properly evaluate these conditions that after all one must trust largely to a sixth sense, flair, luck, or what you will to carry through.<sup>40</sup>

Librarians frequently came to observe the Cooke County Library. Arthur Curry of the University of Oklahoma made several trips to Gainesville for that purpose during 1921 and 1922, while preparing a paper on county libraries for the Oklahoma State Library Association convention. The librarian of the Potter County Library, which opened later in 1921, came to Gainesville to study the methods used by Lillian Gunter; and a member of the Dallas Public Library staff<sup>41</sup> spent the month of May, 1922, observing the operation of the County Library. Miss Murchison, a library science student at the University of Texas, worked in the library for a month in order to gain experience. Both Miss Rebecca Royall and Miss Elizabeth H. West from the State Library inspected the Cooke County Library annually. Several persons asked Miss Gunter to train them as apprentices, but she refused at the time (April, 1922), pleading lack of time and formal training herself. Not until May, 1923, did she accept the first apprentices: Mrs. Robert Dillard, Miss Mary Martin, and Miss Ruth Blake.<sup>42</sup>

At the Texas Library Association convention in November, 1921, Miss Gunter was program chairman of a session on county libraries.<sup>43</sup> Since four county systems had been established within the preceding two years, she believed a progress report from each would be of interest to the Association. The librarians from Harris, Potter, and Dallam counties discussed their libraries, and Willie Lee Martin reported on the Cooke County Library, because Miss Gunter was the moderator of the program. It appeared that Cooke County had made better progress than the others, and Miss Gunter attributed her own success to the confidence received from her California study. After the Association meeting, she also addressed the Texas State Teachers Association on county libraries.<sup>44</sup>

The Texas State Fair Association in 1922 invited Cooke County to contribute an exhibit on the function of a county library. In

answer to Lillian Gunter's request for assistance, the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce in July provided \$100 for the expense of the project. The time and money required to prepare the fair exhibit were well spent for it achieved its purpose of stimulating interest in county libraries. The exhibit consisted of a large map of Cooke County on which the branch libraries were located with pictures of each library, and a sand table in front of the map contained models of a town and farm community and helpful books for the various activities portrayed. Miss Gunter sat near the booth during the fair to answer questions. Persons from seventy-two towns and counties made inquiries and more sent letters afterward.<sup>45</sup>

The exhibit was so successful that the American Library Association requested its appearance at the convention which met in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in April, 1923. The display was shown again in November of the same year at Wichita Falls, Texas.<sup>46</sup>

#### A Retrospect

In the fall of 1925, Lillian Gunter fell victim to cancer, and by the spring of 1926, she had become too weak to work. On October 10, 1926, she died at the home of her mother, Mrs. A. Y. Gunter, in Gainesville. She was buried in the family cemetery at Sivell's Bend on October 12.<sup>47</sup>

During Miss Gunter's illness, the Cooke County Library marked time.<sup>48</sup> Her mission had been accomplished and her monument erected. In solving the problems of founding the second county library in the state (the first by petition), she gained recognition throughout the southwest as an authority on library administration and organization. So many sought her advice so often that she might well be called the matriarch of the Texas county library system.

Lillian Gunter, pioneer Texas county librarian, reached the zenith of her career at a time when trained librarians were few throughout the nation, but particularly in Texas. Her limited formal training, therefore, was not as serious a professional handicap then as it would be now. Aware of this deficiency, she relied upon her understanding of rural people, imagination, experimentation, political acumen, and foresighted concept of the function of library service. It is a tribute to her ability and perspicacity that she accomplished so much with so little.

#### References

<sup>1</sup>Lillian Gunter, "Memorandum of Miss Lillian Gunter" (Type-written MS, n.d., in the Historical Collection, Cooke County Library, Gainesville, Texas), p.1. After her father's death in 1892, Miss Gunter successfully managed his estate.

<sup>2</sup>XLI Club, "Minutes," October 6, 1906; March 9, 1907; November 20, 1909 (MSS, XLI Club Papers, Cooke County Library, Gainesville); Gainesville, Texas, City Council, "Minutes," September 1 and October 6, 1908; April 5, 1910; March 5, 1912; October 6, 1914; 5:424, 429, 514; 6:228, 235 (hereafter cited as GCC); L. Gunter, "Sketch of Lillian Gunter" (Typewritten MS, n.d., Lillian Gunter Papers, Historical Museum, North Texas State University, Denton); "New Library Is Opened to Public," *Gainesville Signal*, October 16, 1914; Bengta A. Culp, "A History of the Gainesville XLI Club and Its Relation to the General Women's Club Movement" (M.A. thesis, North Texas State College, 1951), pp.13-19, 54-74.

<sup>3</sup>The files of the library school, which have been transferred to the Columbia University School of Library Service, do not reveal the courses studied by Miss Gunter (letter from Lucy M. Crissey, assistant to the Dean, Columbia University School of Library Service, to Margaret I. Nichols, August 20, 1957). Syllabi in the Lillian Gunter Collection in the Cooke County Library, however, not only provide the answer, but name the instructors: Classification, Jean Hawkins; Reference, Frank W. Walter; Documents, James I. Wyer; Work with Children, Mrs. Edna L. Scott; Cataloging, Jennie Dorcas Fellows.

<sup>4</sup>Cf. Irby C. and Margaret I. Nichols, "Lillian Gunter and Texas County Legislation, 1914-1919," *Journal of Library History* 8 (1973): 11-17.

<sup>5</sup>Texas, Library and Historical Commission, *Biennial Report, 1918-1920*, p.13; *Gainesville Register* (Special Library Edition), October, 1922, p.1.

<sup>6</sup>Entry for January 11, 1921, Lillian Gunter, "Diary" (Microfilm of typescript, n.d., in Lillian Gunter Papers, Archives, Texas State Library, Austin), pp.3-4. (The original manuscript diary and Miss Gunter's own typed copy are not identical, since the latter contains retrospective *addenda* and *obiter dicta*. She wrote the diary between 1921 and 1924.); *Gainesville Register* (Sp. Lib. Ed.), October, 1922, p.1.

<sup>7</sup>Every man in Sivell's Bend, Miss Gunter's home community, signed the petition.

<sup>8</sup>Cooke County, Texas, Commissioners' Court, "Minutes," July 13 and September 13, 1920, 9:316, 327, and 348 (hereafter cited as CCC); *Gainesville Register* (Sp. Lib. Ed.), October, 1922, p.1.; entry for January 11, 1921, Gunter, "Diary," pp.3-4. At that time, members of the Commissioners' Court, presided over by Judge H. S. Holman, were B. N. Bugg, J. B. Wilmeth, Ira Cook, and Ben Pyrus.

<sup>9</sup>Entry for January 11, 1921, Gunter, "Diary," pp.1, 4; GCC, "Minutes," September 21, 1920, 7:69.



<sup>10</sup>Ibid., January 4, 1921, 7:104; CCC, "Minutes," January 10, 1921, 9:402-404; entry for January 11, 1921, Gunter, "Diary," p.4.

<sup>11</sup>Entries for January 11 and 12, 1921, *ibid.*, pp.1, 4; Hazel Self, "A History of the Cooke County Library" (M.A. thesis, North Texas State College, 1945), p.37.

<sup>12</sup>Entry for January 11, 1921, Gunter, "Diary," p.1.

<sup>13</sup>Entry for February 24, 1921, *ibid.*, p.8; Cooke County, Texas, Library, "Report," January-August, 1921.

<sup>14</sup>The term, "branch library," is not used in the modern technical sense, but rather in the meaning Miss Gunter gave it: a deposit station with a custodian.

<sup>15</sup>Statement of Mrs. Rosa Gunter Beasley, personal interview, Gainesville, Texas, July 9, 1957 (The late Mrs. Beasley was Miss Gunter's younger sister); entry for February 7, 1921, Gunter, "Diary," p.5.

<sup>16</sup>Entries for March 3, 25, and 29, 1921, *ibid.*, p.8.

<sup>17</sup>Entry for March 29, 1921, *ibid.*, p.8.

<sup>18</sup>Entries for February 10 and March 29, 1921, *ibid.*, pp.6, 9.

<sup>19</sup>The new branches were at Valley View, Woodbine, Warren's Bend, and Hood.

<sup>20</sup>Entries for April 3, 14, and 25, May 26, and August 6, 1921, Gunter, "Diary," pp.11-13, 20.

<sup>21</sup>Entries for July 28 and October 20, 1921, *ibid.*, pp.17, 24; *Gainesville Register* (Sp. Lib. Ed.), October, 1922, p.1.

<sup>22</sup>The new locations were at Era, Meunster, Myra, Bulcher, and Burns.

<sup>23</sup>Entries for June 14, July 28, and August 5, 1921, Gunter, "Diary," pp.16-18; Texas, Library and Historical Commission, *Biennial Report, 1918-1920*, pp.13-14; Cooke County, Texas, Library, "Report," September, 1921-August, 1922.

<sup>24</sup>*Ibid.*; entries for October 20, November 12, and December 17, 1921, Gunter, "Diary," pp.26-27, 30.

<sup>25</sup>Entry for October 20, 1921, *ibid.*, p.23.

<sup>26</sup>Entry for December 17, 1921, and January 11, 1922, *ibid.*, pp.30-31; Cooke County, Texas, Library, "Report," September, 1922-August, 1923.

<sup>27</sup>Entries for February 14 and August 9, 1922, Gunter, "Diary," pp.33, 44. Branches were opened at Van Slyke, Salem, Bloomfield, and Tyler's Bluff.

<sup>28</sup>The towns chosen were Delaware Bend, Concord, and Tipton.

<sup>29</sup>Entries for March 6, April 9, May 5, 1923; January 1 and February 1, 1924, Gunter, "Diary," pp.63-64, 66, 67, 88, 91; Cooke County, Texas, Library, "Report," September, 1922-August, 1923.

<sup>30</sup>GCC, "Minutes," April 15 and May 6, 1924, 7:316-317; entries for January 1 and February 1, 1924, Gunter, "Diary," pp.88-91.

<sup>31</sup> Entry for January 6, 1923, *ibid.*, p.61; Cooke County, Texas, Library, "Report," September, 1922-August, 1923.

<sup>32</sup>Entry for December 7, 1924, Gunter, "Diary," p.135.

<sup>33</sup>Entries for January 7 and February 4, 1929, *ibid.*, pp.138, 141.

<sup>34</sup>Entries for June 1, 1922, and October 20, 1924, *ibid.*, pp.40, 132.

<sup>35</sup>Cooke County, Texas, Library, "Report," September, 1924-August, 1925.

<sup>36</sup>"New Library is Opened to Public," *Gainesville Signal*, October 16, 1914; entry for September 25, 1923, Gunter, "Diary," p.75; GCC, "Minutes," November 6 and 20, 1923, 7:293, 295.

<sup>37</sup>*Ibid.*, December 4, 1923, 7:296.

<sup>38</sup>Entries for June 24 and July 1, 1924, Gunter, "Diary," pp.110, 112; GCC, "Minutes," June 3, 1924, 7:317. When asked whether the branch should be named the Negro, Colored, or Mill Street Branch, the custodian replied, Negro Branch, "because . . . [Negroes are] what we are."

<sup>39</sup>Entries for October 5, 1921; April 22, September 5, and December 6, 1922, Gunter "Diary," pp.22, 36, 52, 60.

<sup>40</sup>Entry for September 22, 1961, *ibid.*, p.21; Cooke County, Texas, Library, "Report," September, 1924-August, 1925.

<sup>41</sup>Referred to only as "Miss B" in Miss Gunter's "Diary."

<sup>42</sup>Entries for August 2, September 7, 1921; February 2, April 2, May 2, 1922; May 14, 1923, Gunter, "Diary," pp.19, 21, 32, 34, 37, 69; Cooke County, Texas, Library, "Report," September, 1922-August, 1923.

<sup>43</sup>Miss Gunter was an active member of the Texas Library Association from the time she became librarian of the Gainesville Public Library in 1910. She held the offices of treasurer and vice-president in 1915 and 1916 and president in 1918-1919. She also was one of the founders of the Southwestern Library Association in 1922, and was that organization's first treasurer.

<sup>44</sup>Entry for November 22, 1921, Gunter, "Diary," p.28.

<sup>45</sup>Entries for March 6, April 9, and May 6, 1923, *ibid.*, pp.63-64, 66-67; Cooke County, Texas, Library, "Report," September, 1922-August, 1923.

<sup>46</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>47</sup>"Miss Lillian Gunter, Librarian, Dead," *Gainesville Register*, October 11, 1926, p.1; "Lillian Gunter," [Texas Library Association] *News Notes* 3 (January, 1927): 3; Beasley interview, July 9, 1957.

<sup>48</sup>Willie (Wayne) Lee Martin, the assistant librarian, ran the library in her absence. The Commissioners' Court continued Miss Gunter's salary, but deducted \$25.00 from her monthly check and added that amount to Miss Martin's salary.

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