A HISTORY OF THE COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY,
GAINESVILLE, TEXAS

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Council of the North Texas State Teachers College in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements For the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

By

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Olney, Texas

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIST OF TABLES</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF MAPS</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source of Data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. ESTABLISHMENT OF COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short History of Cooke County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short History of Gainesville, Texas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of County Library Law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petition for Cooke County Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merging of City and County Libraries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. GROWTH OF THE COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrowing System Adopted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrative Reports of Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tables Showing Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. THE LIBRARY STAFF</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lillian Gunter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Wayne Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olna Oatis Boaz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josephine Lee Edwards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrie Reeves Hudspeth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. LIBRARY MATERIAL</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference Books</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-fiction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Books</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural School Collection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspapers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodicals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamphlets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Aids</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. LIBRARY SERVICE</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Central Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Branch Libraries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Counties and States</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measuring the Library Service of Cooke County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-war Recommendations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations for Libraries of the Future</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIBLIOGRAPHY</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Services Rendered by Cooke County Library, 1921-1943</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Administration of Cooke County Library, 1921-1943</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Circulation of Cooke County Library, 1921-1943</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Financial Status of Cooke County Library, 1921-1943</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Income of Cooke County Library, 1921-1943</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Expenditures of Cooke County Library, 1921-1943</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Branches of Cooke County Library before Establishment of Camp Howze</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Branches of Cooke County Library after Establishment of Camp Howze</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER I

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this thesis is to present a brief, though fairly detailed, history of the Cooke County Library, and it is hoped that this material will be of interest to friends of the library and that it will serve, not only as a history of its establishment and maintenance, but that it will also be an inspiration for future achievements.

Source of Data

The facts herein assembled were taken from newspapers, professional journals, notes kept by the late Lillian Gunter, the records of the Cooke County Library, and by word of mouth from citizens of Gainesville, Texas, who helped in the establishment of the library.

Organization

The organization is chronological, beginning with a brief history of Cooke County and Gainesville, Texas, the county seat, which is the location of the library.
CHAPTER II

ESTABLISHMENT OF COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY

Cooke County, one of the thirteen counties in Texas having a county library, was created by the Texas Legislature out of a part of Grayson County in 1848. The present area of the county is 902 square miles. Gainesville, the present county seat of Cooke County, according to the 1940 census, ranks forty-third on the basis of population in Texas. The location of the county seat was at first on the site of Fitzhugh's Fort, four miles south of the present site, and was called Liberty. This name was abandoned because of the refusal of the United States Post Office Department to recognize it as there was another town of the same name in Texas.

The story goes that on a certain day the settlement gathered from far and near to decide on a location for the town destined to be the county seat of the newly organized political unit of Cooke County. A young man appeared on the scene at Fitzhugh's Fort with a demijohn of whiskey, and with this bait, aided by a persuasive tongue, tolled the crowd four miles farther north and influenced them to abandon Fitzhugh's Fort in favor of the present site. Later the town was christened Gainesville in honor of General Edmond Pendleton.
Gaines, who ardently espoused the cause of Texas liberty. The town was finally incorporated February 17, 1873, in the thirty-third year of its existence.

The first time "Gainesville" was used officially was in the deed recorded by Mary E. Clark, who is called the mother of Gainesville. It was she who gave forty acres of land for the town site, in what is now the heart of Gainesville and on which the court house now stands.

Gainesville is a historic town due to the fact that both the old Chisholm Trail and the Butterfield Trail go through the main thoroughfare running east and west, on what is now California Street and is a part of the old California Trail, followed by forty-niners in quest of gold.¹

From 1848 to 1894 many clubs and organizations existed for the upbuilding of the town and the promotion of its general welfare. Among them was the XLI Club which was organized in 1894. This club still functions and the oldest charter member now living is Mrs. W. O. Davis of 505 South Denton Street. This club established a library in the H. W. Stark building on the corner of Dixon and Broadway Streets and was kept open one or two afternoons a week by Mrs. Sue McGamey. Soon with the following volunteer workers it was kept open every afternoon: Mae Noble, Gladys Painter, Lillian Gunter, Rosa Gunter, Sue Kenie and W. L. Blanton. This library was soon moved to a room in the city hall and Miss Gertha Lakard

¹Ye Gainesville Towne, p. 6.
was chosen librarian and paid a small salary by the XLI Club. Making this room with its gray walls as attractive and home-like as possible, Gertha Lakard, whose interesting personality is still remembered by many people, did much to encourage the people of the town to use the library and felt it her duty to guide the minds of her young readers into proper channels. Sarah Davis Wilson tells of effort after effort when she was a child to read Pam's Daughter but was never able to do so, since, according to the librarian, it was always out.

The people of the town soon realized that this small library was inadequate and when Mayor John Puckett's son needed a particular book which was not available and complained to his father, making the statement that a better library was needed, the mayor immediately started a movement for the improvement of library service in Gainesville.²

Since the city was not financially able to support a library, an investigation was made of the Carnegie plan. This plan seemed to coincide with the needs of Gainesville and the people appreciated the fact that Andrew Carnegie was willing to give them the needed assistance. Carnegie gave as his reason for contributing so magnificently to the library movement the following:

²Statements by Mrs. W. O. Davis, Sarah Davis Wilson, and Rosa Gunter Beasley in personal interviews.
I choose free libraries as the best agencies for improving the masses of the people, because they give nothing for nothing. They only help those who help themselves. They never pauperize. They reach the aspiring, and open to these the chief treasures of the world -- those stored up in books. A taste for reading drives out lower tastes. Besides this, I believe good fiction one of the most beneficial relieffs to the monotonous lives of the poor. For these and other reasons I prefer the free public library to most, if not any, other agencies for the happiness and improvement of a community.¹

Plans were immediately made to put the idea before the people, and the following petition was presented, which was enthusiastically received. After the proper number of signatures were attached it was presented to the City Council.

The petition, with a partial list of signatures, follows:

We, the citizens of Gainesville would most respectfully show that we are now engaged in an effort to build a Carnegie Library in Gainesville.

Our experience with the small public library that we now have has convinced us that the people deserve and demand greater things along this line, something in keeping with the other educational facilities afforded by our town. This proposition interests our entire citizenship. A suitable lot will be furnished by the people and all other necessary assistance rendered.

As you are aware one of the conditions imposed by Mr. Carnegie upon these donations is that the city shall pledge itself to pay annually an amount equal to ten percent of his donations to be devoted to the maintenance of the building. Considering the size and needs of our city we desire to ask Mr. Carnegie to give the city of Gainesville $15,000.00 with which to erect a library building and we respectfully solicit the council to make the necessary appropriation and guarantees, as we know of no field in which the city could expend the like amount of money to such great advantage to all the people.

G. L. Lavieel  Edd Heath  J. H. Black
F. H. Schspurger  R. L. Petty  Lewis Rogers
M. F. Woods  J. C. Robertson  C. R. Carter

¹Ernest Antrim, County Library, p. 166.
The petition was acted upon favorably by the City Council and a committee made up of Lucien Hunter, Mrs. J. W. Midkiff, and Lillian Gunter was appointed to write Andrew Carnegie and to make preparations to establish a Carnegie Library. The necessary funds were soon forthcoming from Andrew Carnegie, and plans were made immediately for the erection of the building. A contract was made with a firm, headed by W. W. Williams of Fort Worth for the erection of the building early in 1914, and it was completed in a few months. The bricks used in the building were made in Gainesville and sold by Joe Boozer, who is now city secretary of Gainesville.⁵

The new building was opened to the public in October, 1914. The following article from the Gainesville Signal tells of its opening:

⁴“Notes on the History of Cooke County Free Library” (unpublished), in Historical File, Cooke County Library.

⁵Statements by Joe Boozer, in personal interview.
New Library Is Opened to Public

Gainesville's new $15,000 Carnegie Library, one of the most complete, best equipped and well arranged library buildings in Texas, was opened to the public Saturday afternoon and evening. From 3:00 to 9:00 o'clock large numbers of people were received at the building and shown through by various members of the XLI Club and other ladies who have worked for the erection of the building and are now proud of their achievement.

For many months the XLI Club headed by Librarian Miss Lillian Gunter, had worked unceasingly to make the proposed public library a reality and their joy and admiration was plainly noticeable Saturday when they welcomed the hundreds of people to the building and heard the many expressions of delight and surprise at what the new library contained and what it would mean for the future of Gainesville and Cooke County.

Besides the members of the XLI Club the following ladies, wives of city councilmen, received the visitors: Mrs. H. L. Frasher, Mrs. George Veck, Mrs. Lucien Hunter, Mrs. J. Z. Keel, Mrs. Rip Barrett, Mrs. J. C. Ford, Mrs. Ben Witt, Mrs. E. P. McAnany, Mrs. Phil Hooker and Mrs. J. W. Puckett, wife of Mayor Puckett. Other ladies assisting were: Mrs. W. H. Ainsworth, Dr. Jeanette, Mrs. Gus Mckemie, Mrs. William Cheaney, Miss Carrie Eldridge, Mrs. J. P. Brown, Mrs. Joe Boozer, Mrs. Robert Field and Mrs. James Beattie.

Following are the ladies of the XLI Club all of whom were present and everyone took pleasure in showing the visitors through the building and extending every courtesy to all who called: Miss Louise Ball, Miss Willie Beattie, Mrs. E. N. Blackburn, Mrs. W. L. Herblin, Mrs. Paul Bingman, Mrs. J. H. Caldwell, Mrs. Elizabeth Darwin, Mrs. W. O. Davis, Miss Pauline Davenport, Mrs. J. L. Embry, Miss Wolmuth Frashe, Miss Nell Garvey, Miss Lillian Gunter, Miss Irene Heaney, Mrs. W. L. Herblin, Mrs. Phil Hooker, Mrs. H. S. Holman, Mrs. L. B. Jenkins, Mrs. A. F. Jones, Mrs. Sam King, Mrs. J. D. Leeper, Miss Voncieal Liddell, Miss Valentine Maupin, Miss Carolyn McClure, Mrs. J. H. Midkiff, Miss Katie Lee Munday, Mrs. August Murphy, Miss Virgine Newton, Mrs. Ralph Bell, Mrs. Lewis Rogers, Miss Katherine Ross, Miss Ruth Ruby, Mrs. C. F. Rice, Mrs. A. C. Shappaul, Mrs. N. C. Snider, Miss Emma Gilcreest, Mrs. George Culp.

An Edison Diamond Disc Phonograph, provided through the courtesy of F. H. Turberville Music Co., furnished lovely music for the occasion and delightful punch was served to the guests, by the hostesses.
The interior of this beautiful building, with its furnishings of light oak, harmonizing perfectly, is strictly modern and convenient in every respect.

The curtain behind the stage in the auditorium is a splendid work of the artist brush and is a perfect reproduction of the beautiful City Park. This painting was done by A. E. Mathews of Mexico and Paul Gallia of this city.

The auditorium is arranged and is to be used for a place of amusement and recreation, for the people of Gainesville and Cooke County. The ladies of the XLI Club have their lovely club rooms adjoining the auditorium. They are elegantly equipped, and the pretty piano in the study room adds to its attractiveness. The tea room is very dainty with its rug and buffet and other furnishings.

Upstairs is the library proper. The interior and furnishings of this is also in light oak. In this room with its 3,500 volumes of literature, its shelves filled with the best and leading magazines of the day, being furnished from a yearly subscription list amounting to $50.00, the numerous desks, tables and comfortable chairs, make it a place of comfort to the body, a rest to the eye, and a feast for the intellectual mind. There is here, too, a children's department, so cozy and attractive that much time will doubtless be spent here that otherwise might have been wasted in playing on the street and other places.

Even the colored people of the town have not been forgotten. In the basement, in the rear of the building, is a room with a private entrance that has been fitted up with shelves, tables, a lavatory and drinking fountain. In here plenty of good reading material is furnished. No one has been neglected and the city is just in her pride of an institution of such a rare class. A much larger city could feel justly proud of such a library.

The reception Saturday afternoon was delightfully arranged. Each room was elaborately decorated for the occasion, with cool looking ferns, banks of palms, and a profusion of roses and other cut flowers, with loads of golden rod to add to the beauty of the room.

Between seven hundred and eight hundred visitors registered in the guest book presided over by Misses Ferrell Rogers, Anna Marie Beattie, Lillie Vaeth, Georgia McClasson, Lucile Beckham and Maggie Dean Vaeth. These young ladies also distributed from the table postal cards of the library building.

Special out-of-town guests for the occasion were Mrs. Royal of Cleburne and Mrs. Weems, Mrs. Wolford and Mrs. Hunter of Sherman, women who are connected with libraries and civic improvement work in their
city. They were surprised to find our library already supplied with books on Library Economy, Religion, Sociology, Fiction, Natural Science, Useful Arts, Fine Arts, Reference books, etc., and properly classified by Miss Gunter.

The following poem by Mrs. Quincy Huffaker, dedicated to the library, was read by Miss Voncille Liddell:

Our Library! Our fair town's pride!
Today its doors we open wide.
We bid you come, we welcome all,
The rich, the poor, the great, the small.

The children specially we greet;
We yearn to guide their tender feet
In wisdom's pleasant paths of peace,
Where joys do evermore increase.

Golconda's mines could not afford
Such treasures as herein are stored.
For precious stones, in truth, are naught
Compared with gems of human thought.

Come, make companions of the great,
Their virtue strive to imitate;
And win for your own mind and heart
All that a good book may impart.

This Library was founded here
To help us reach a wider sphere
Of culture; teach us what to read;
Supply our people's mental need.

And with our schools, work in accord,
The best instruction to afford
The children, who, some future day,
Shall be our town's chief pride and stay.

We thank Carnegie, noble giver,
Whose royal gift shall aye and ever
Lift us upon "a higher plane,"
And life's best things aid us to gain.

We ask the gracious God above,
The source of wisdom, light, and love,
That He this work will guide and bless,
And crown our efforts with success.  

6Gainesville Signal, October 16, 1914, special section devoted to County Library.
Lillian Gunter, a civic-minded Cooke County woman, was chosen as the librarian for the new library. This proved to be an excellent choice and for seven years she attempted to supply the people of Gainesville with the reading material they needed. She realized, however, soon after she began library work, that even though she was meeting the needs of the town, there was no plan whereby people in the rural areas could have access to a library of any type. Soon she began formulating plans to remedy this situation. She says:

My country breeding and love of books received a severe shock when I found that there was no legal way in which rural people could organize and support a public library for themselves. This knowledge came to me soon after I began library work in 1910. The folly and injustice of such a condition sank deeper and deeper into my soul, and it has needed all my philosophy to realize that it existed solely because the country people were sleeping on their rights. Thenceforth it became one of my objects in life to arouse them from their lethargy, but I never dreamed of the many wonderful possibilities in a statewide system of county libraries until many years later when they were unfolded to me by the state librarian [Elizabeth Howard West].

In 1914, a friend of unusual ability and progressiveness was elected representative from our county, so I gathered all the material available, including the pamphlet Two Questions Often Asked, The California Library Law, several letters and reports secured for the purpose from the Stanislaus County Free Library, which had been selected as more nearly typical of a Texas County, The Bulletin of the American Library Association, Antrim's County Library, and submitted them to this gentleman with the request that he prepare a bill on the subject for the incoming legislature. Being country born and bred like myself, George W. Dayton soon awoke to the desirability of such a scheme, and in consultation with our former state librarian, E. W. Winkler, prepared a very good law, modeled after that of California. Other people in Texas were interested in the same thing and another bill on the same subject was introduced in the state senate by O. S. Lattimore. These bills, though rather diverse in their demands, were both passed without opposition, thus necessitating a free
conference, which happened to be composed of men who knew nothing of the requirements of a county library. In spite of strenuous efforts on the part of the authors, these bills were combined and amended in such a way as to render the results useless, for its original purpose, but it proved a valuable peg on which to hang an argument and thus helped to create an interest in county libraries that swept the state. For now people heard of such a thing for the first time, and many more became fairly familiar with the benefits to be acquired in that way.

Before attempting anything further, it was necessary to be better informed as to the actual mechanism, administration and results of the county library plan. 1915 being a particularly interesting time, I made the trip half way across the continent to see for myself. And I may say here, that I found from personal inspection that the county library system does more than has ever been claimed for it. Besides the remarkable exhibit at San Francisco, more information was gained from a visit to the State Library, the Sacramento City and County Library, and of Contra Costa County Library, and from a number of librarians at the meeting of the library section of the National Education Association, held at Oakland, California.

That fall the Texas Library Association resolved to sit by no longer and let others plan legislation for library work, since such supineness resulted in delays and impractical laws, but to draft the new law themselves. A legislative committee commenced work at once, securing copies of other laws on County Libraries from other states, and advice from many librarians, including our state librarian, Mr. Kloerner. The plan of revision was sensibly reduced from a consideration of all our library laws to the county library law in particular.

In October, when the Texas Library Association held its annual session the bill was read to the body. After some improvements some three thousand copies were printed and distributed to club women and others thought to be interested. The Texas Federated Clubs met and fortunately adopted the bill in November and were largely responsible for the passage of the bill as four thousand letters were sent out by them.

The two authors of our former law had asked to be allowed to introduce the bill. The chairman of the legislative committee of the Federated Clubs, besides the library forces, were there to see that the bill did not linger too long in any one committee, for the time was short and the session stormy. The bill was introduced in the Texas Senate January 18 and passed as rapidly as possible to the House without an opposing vote. It
reached final passage in the House February 22 with only one dissenting voice, and the governor signed it March 5, 1917.

This bill was put through mostly by individual work with individual representatives, and while a great deal of publicity was done through the newspapers, class magazines, teachers' and farmers' institutes, and other public meetings in the state, that part of our work had just begun. We have made ourselves a tool for effective library extension work in the state, and God grant that we may acquire enough skill in its use to extend our work as rapidly and thoroughly as has been done in California.7

Gainesville was the scene of much rejoicing when the news was received that the library bill had been signed, as is shown by the following article printed in the Gainesville Daily Register:

The Register received the following telegraphic message today from Senator George W. Dayton at Austin: "Governor Ferguson has just signed the library bill in the presence of a delegation, with the pen to be presented to Miss Lillian Gunter of Gainesville." Miss Gunter is the librarian of the Carnegie Library in our city, and she, perhaps, has had more to do with preparing the bill signed today than any other person, and she is to be congratulated on the writing of that measure into the statutes, the passage of which was championed and fashioned by Senator George W. Dayton.8

This law provides for the establishment and administration of a county library which shall render free service to the whole county upon either the initiative of the commissioners' court or by a petition of a majority of the voters in the county who live outside of any incorporated city or town already supporting a public library. This library shall

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7 Lillian Gunter, "Growth and Usefulness of Free County Libraries," Gainesville Daily Register, October 21, 1922, special section, p. 4.

8 Gainesville Daily Register, March 5, 1917, p. 2.
be supported from the general fund of the county valuation
in a sum not to exceed five cents on the one hundred dollar
tax valuation.\(^9\)

Twenty-three years ago Cooke County had the same institutions which all counties had in connection with its political and economic life. There were individual organizations of various kinds for the benefit of local communities, but the real county spirit of cooperation and patriotism which today brings the people of the county into closer relationship had not yet developed. When, then, the idea of making the county a unit in library maintenance and service was advanced, it was regarded as an innovation. Under these conditions and with many problems peculiar to the situation confronting them, Lillian Gunter and the Commissioners' Court were dominated by the idea of making the library available and of real benefit to all the residents of the county and to this end devised plans for the operation of a county library and gradually worked out their own county library system. They met with some opposition at first, just as there is always opposition when anything new is suggested.

When people began to talk about the rural delivery of mail, many objections were raised. "Let country people come to the post office and get their mail as we do," said some of their city cousins who lived only a block from the post office. "Do you mean to say that the government can afford to take a letter ten miles out into the country for two cents? Ridiculous!" But farm organizations kept petitioning for rural mail

\(^9\)Thirty-sixth Legislature (Texas), Acts of the First and Second Called Sessions, Chapter 75, p. 219.
routes. Now 32,000,000 people get their mail daily on these rural mail routes. And who would think of going back to the old method?

Practically all social welfare workers now cover the entire county. The county library is an attempt to change the old type library of home-spun days into a modern library system covering the larger unit, the county. The county library is a part of this general movement from private charity to public support. 10

Public libraries are one of the most characteristic institutions of western democracy. It is typical of democracy that social reforms are first conceived and promoted by a small group of enlightened and liberal individuals who believe that the masses can and must be elevated. We find on looking over the ranks of the great reformers that they were in wealth, education, and social position far removed from the masses they strove to help. They did not need the benefits of universal franchise, compulsory education, the eight-hour day, and the free public library for themselves. We have only to refer to the philanthropists of the nineteenth century to see that this was the case -- to the aristocratic Brougham, Shaftesbury, and Wilberforce in England; and to successful public figures like Abraham Lincoln, Horace Mann, Emerson, Whittier, and Greeley in the United States.

The notable fact here is that the demand for social reforms did not come from the masses who most needed them. To the contrary, the attempts to ameliorate their lot were not infrequently opposed by the people themselves. It was the working-man of nineteenth-century England who opposed the abolition of child labour, on the ground that their families were being deprived of a wage-earner. They used the same argument in opposing the compulsory education legislation of the 'seventies. The same was true of the public library movement. It would be gratifying to suppose that the common people, bursting with a desire to improve their minds, rose in unison and demanded libraries; it would certainly not be historically true. . . .

We cannot reiterate too often the primary cause of this indifference on the part of the working classes to public libraries -- the cause of their illiteracy on the one hand and their economic condition on the other. It seemed to them, therefore, merely cynical to tax them

10 Julia E. Johnsen, County Libraries, p. 113.
for something they could not use -- for books they could not read. Moreover, they must have argued, those among us who want to read can do so.\textsuperscript{11}

Finally, early in 1920, sufficient interest was aroused to support a movement for a county library and acting upon the advice received from the California State Library, the people of Cooke County prepared a petition. This petition was slow in circulating due to a political campaign and other complications, and Dallam County secured the first county library in the state by acting upon the initiative of their commissioners' court. However, the following petition bearing 1,361 names was presented to the commissioners' court at their July meeting, by the Honorable George W. Dayton, author of the original county library law of Texas:

To the Honorable Court of Cooke County, Texas:
We the undersigned voters of Cooke County, who reside outside of the incorporated city of Gainesville, in said Cooke County, do hereby petition your honorable body to establish a county free library to serve all parts of this county, outside of the incorporated city of Gainesville, as provided by chapter 75, page 219 of acts of the first and second called session of the thirty-sixth legislature of Texas.\textsuperscript{12}

The number of affixed signatures, 1,361, was considered a good representation since, it will be remembered, this was before the women of Texas were allowed to vote except in the primaries. The court immediately passed an establishing resolution but deferred further action in the matter until the September court.

\textsuperscript{11}James Howard Wellard, \textit{The Public Library Comes of Age}, p. 3.

\textsuperscript{12}'Notes on the History of the Cooke County Free Library' (unpublished), in Historical File, Cooke County Library.
The City Council of Gainesville then decided to act under Section Eighteen of the Texas County Library Law and to merge the city library with the county library. This was done and the following contract was entered into by the City Council and the Commissioners' Court:

On this day came on to be considered a contract between the city of Gainesville and Cooke County, Texas, that the public library of Gainesville, Texas, be consolidated with the Library of Cooke County, Texas, and the court after considering the same hereby approves said contract and orders the same recorded in the minutes of said court.

CONTRACT

STATE OF TEXAS:
COUNTY OF COOKE:

It is agreed between Cooke County, Texas, by and through its Commissioners' Court and the city of Gainesville, Texas, by and through the City Council, that the County Library of Cooke County, Texas, and the City Library of Gainesville, Texas, be one and the same and are hereby consolidated, under and by virtue of Title 29C, Article 1498 to and including Article 1498 U of Vernon Sayles Revised Statutes of the State of Texas, relating to County Libraries upon the following terms: The said consolidated library shall be in the present city Carnegie Library building, and the said City of Gainesville agrees to pay the salaries of an assistant Librarian and Janitor, for the upkeep of said building, including water, sewer, lights, heat, care of grounds and trees, also repairs to the building.

The said City agrees to turn over to Cooke County the administration of said consolidated library, the use of the building for that purpose, use of books, magazines and pamphlets and such library supplies as may be on hand, for the use of the joint library.

The said City of Gainesville shall retain the use of the lower floor auditorium of said building for kindergarten purposes for the next two years, and longer if the room is not absolutely required for library purposes; and also allows the use of the present club rooms by the XLI Club until such time as said room becomes necessary for library purposes.
Should any of the $1,500.00 a year, which is required of the City for library support by its contract with the Carnegie Corporation, remain, after the above expenses have been met, such remainder shall be used for the support of the library.

The said City of Gainesville does not relinquish title to any of its library property, but only the administration of the library.

Said Cooke County agrees to employ a librarian, who shall administer the Cooke County Free Library from the present City Library building, under the supervision of the Commissioners' Court, as provided for in the Texas County Library Law. Said County also agrees to pay for all other help required in the administration of said library, except the janitor and assistant librarian as aforesaid. Cooke County agrees to purchase and place in said library not less than $1,000.00 worth of books, immediately upon taking charge of said library, and not less than $50.00 worth every month thereafter.

The County further agrees to bear all additional expenses of the library service over the whole County.

The books, magazines owned by the City, and those owned by the County Library and the same privileges with regard thereto shall be equally enjoyed by all the citizens of Cooke County.

Should it be desired to annul this contract, then the parties thereto shall give the required notice as provided by law, and in the event this contract is annulled, as aforesaid, and the City of Gainesville shall receive one-third of the books purchased since this contract went into effect, and Cooke County shall receive two-thirds of said books, and this shall be considered an equitable division of the joint property.

The County Librarian, upon taking charge of this library, shall make an inventory of all property belonging to the City of Gainesville, that has been turned over to her, or him, for library purposes, and shall provide a copy of the same for the City Council of Gainesville, and the Commissioners' Court of Cooke County.

It is further provided that this contract shall be signed by the Mayor of the City of Gainesville and by the County Judge of Cooke County, and that a copy thereof
shall be copied into the Minutes of the same for the City Council of Gainesville, and for the Commissioners' Court of Cooke County, Texas.  

The above contract was advantageous to both parties concerned. It assured the county a better, quicker, and more economical service, and gave the people of Gainesville a better service than they could ever have afforded from their own resources. The people of Gainesville and the entire county were sufficiently broad-minded and far-seeing to realize how much such an institution might mean. Therefore, on January 11, 1921, the Gainesville Public Library became the central office of the Cooke County Library, and the Gainesville branch of that institution and its services became at once available to any one in the county free of all charge. The next day the first book was issued under the new plan, which was *The Wealth of Nations* by Adam Smith.  

A few days later the following article appeared in the *Houston Post* concerning the establishment of the Cooke County Library:

> Austin, Texas, January 19, 1921 -- Word has been received from the State Library that the Cooke County Commissioners' Court has provided for the establishment of a County Library.  
> The action of the Commissioners' Court was taken in consequence of a petition by the majority of the voters of the county outside of Gainesville, which already has a public library. 1361 names were signed to the petition.  
> Cooke County is the first in the state to provide for the establishment of a county library on petition, which is one mode of establishment provided for by the

13 Dated January 10, 1921, and recorded in Volume 9, pages 402-404, Minutes of Commissioners' Court, Cooke County, Texas.  
14 "Notes on the History of Cooke County Free Library" (unpublished), in Historical File, Cooke County Library.
law. The Commissioners' Court of Dallam County, the first county providing for a county library, took action on their own initiative, which is the other method of procedure provided under the law.

It was Miss Lillian Gunter, a Cooke County woman, who first stirred up interest in county libraries for Texas, and it was Senator George W. Dayton, a Cooke County man, who put the present county library law through the legislature. Five hundred of the books which the American Library Association has intrusted to the state library will be given Cooke County.

The Cooke County Library was at last a reality and its value to the county is unquestioned. Its services have always been free to any one in the county who is willing to comply with a few simple policies made for the good of all library users.

15 Houston Post, January 9, 1921.
CHAPTER III

GROWTH OF THE COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY

The Cooke County Library has grown by leaps and bounds since its establishment in 1921 and its motto has always been "Service." A visit to any of its branches exemplifies thoroughly the value of a county-wide library service. One of the early problems of the library was the exchange of materials at the branches. This was often done by civic-minded people on a voluntary basis or sent by parcel post. Today a well-equipped bookmobile goes to every part of the county visiting schools and branches regularly and library service has been extended to every nook and corner of the entire county. The personnel of the Cooke County Library are of the opinion that only libraries maintaining a well-planned distributing service are entitled to be called county libraries.

When the city library became a county library, many of its policies were changed to fit the new situation. A great deal of time was given to the study of the borrowing system, for it was felt that the success of the venture depended to a great extent upon the system adopted. It was decided to eliminate the use of the borrower's card since much of the work was in the hands of untrained people. Many borrowers
came several miles to borrow books and if the card was, by chance, forgotten, it was a disadvantage to all concerned. After studying the borrowing system of many libraries, a modification of the Newark system was adopted. In this system the new reader is given two application blanks which, when properly filled out, are numbered, one being filed alphabetically, the other numerically. When a book is wanted, the borrower states his number; if he has forgotten the number, his name is given. Then it is a small matter to find the number when the name is given, or vice versa. The books are then charged on the book card and the date-due slip as in any other system. Two applications for each person are made out at the branches and numbered there. One is filed at the branch and the other is sent in to the county library office at the end of the month, where the whole county is indexed under one numerical file. Branch numbers are distinguished by a letter prefix and are filed behind their branch names.

After a satisfactory borrowing system had been selected, the following library policies were adopted:

1. Any book may be kept two weeks. If you want it for a longer time, bring it back to the branch from which you took it and ask to have it renewed. It may, then, be kept two weeks longer. A book may be returned any time in two weeks.

2. If a book is kept out longer than two weeks, and is not renewed, a fine of five cents a day is charged you every day the book is kept out, and you may not have another book from the library until the fine is paid.
3. If a book is lost while out in your name, you are held responsible for it and must pay for it.

4. You are responsible for any damage a book may sustain while charged to you, and will be charged accordingly.

5. Things not to do to your books:
   Do not turn down the leaves.
   Do not lay it down open.
   Do not put pencils or other bulky things in it.
   Do not leave it in the rain or dew.
   Do not spill things on it.
   Do not use it with sticky or dirty hands.

6. To secure a book from a Cooke County Free Library branch, go to your nearest branch on the day and hour it is opened and ask the custodian for an application blank and fill out according to his instructions. When your application has been filed and properly verified, you are a member of the library and can take one fiction and one non-fiction book on your card for home reading. Parents, guardians, and in some instances, teachers, must sign the children's applications.

7. When you do not pay a fine assessed you for a lost book, or do not return books charged you, or you mutilate a book, your membership is forfeited, not only in the one branch in which this occurred but for the entire county.

8. Sickness is no excuse for not returning a book on time, unless it is a contagious disease, when the book must be fumigated along with the premises where the disease occurred. It is well to report such cases if possible.

These policies were printed in the Gainesville newspaper, displayed in the main library, the individual branches, and a copy given to individual users when possible.

The library has grown steadily since its establishment in 1921 and the following narrative reports and tables taken from the records of the library files show something of its growth. As is shown, effort has always been made to meet the needs of the people; particularly has this been true in the establishment and elimination of branches. Growth is shown, both in increase of users and circulation.
January to July, 1921

The Cooke County Free Library was founded July 12, 1921, by the Commissioners' Court upon petition of a majority of the voters of that part of the county affected by this action. In October the city council voted to merge the Gainesville public library into the county library, retaining the title to all library property but turning the management over to the commissioners' court to administer for the whole county, along with the funds which the commissioners had previously agreed to spend for county library purposes; thus securing a better service for all concerned. The Cooke County Free Library opened its doors for work January 11, 1921. An assistant was employed, supplies were ordered, books were bought, accessioned and catalogued. The first branch library was established at Sivill's Bend, March 31, 1922. The commissioners' court decided that a county library was such an untried thing in Texas that each community should be willing to share the expense and trouble of installing its own branch, so they ruled that the burden of finding shelter, shelving and caretakers or custodians for the books should be borne by the community to be served. This, the people have gladly done, in many instances also transporting the librarian and books.

All our custodians give their services, their only pay for the time and trouble they take being the thanks of their neighbors and the county librarian, and a sense of public duty well done. The county and state should remember them for their pioneer work.

The Sivill's Bend branch of the library is located in the home of one of the commissioners, with his daughter, Miss Kenneth Pybas, in charge.

Valley View branch was established April 17, in the Mothershed drug store. Miss Ava Lovelady now has charge of it.

Hood branch opened April 25, in C. P. Davidson's home under his care.

Woodbine branch opened May 25, in Ware and Mitchell's drug store, with Frank Mitchell as custodian.

Era branch was established June 21, in the Dexter bank, with P. E. Cunningham in charge.

Callisburg was opened the same day in the office of I. N. Robinson with him in charge.

Marysville branch opened July 28 in Holcomb's general store, with E. W. Holcomb in charge.

Bulcher opened July 28 in Harvey's store with T. C. Harvey in charge.
Muenster opened July 28, in Dudley's drug store with Mr. Fisch in charge.

Myra branch was established the same day in Mr. Maxwell's drug store with Mr. Hoffman in charge.

In starting a branch library it has seemed best to send from seventy-five to a hundred volumes, about one fourth of which are class books, a little more than one fourth for children, and the rest assorted fiction. This is in no sense regarded as a fixed collection. The books are to be kept indefinitely, unless there is some special reason for recalling them, and so far, very few books have been returned to headquarters. The patrons of each branch are encouraged to ask for any additional books they may want. If these special requests are in the library they are sent at once to the branch requesting them; otherwise the request slip is a useful hint in selecting further purchases for the library.

One of our greatest helps in giving the people what they want to read is the privilege of borrowing books from the state library to supplement our small store of rare or expensive books.

Rules governing the use and return of books are the same in both branch and central libraries. A modification of the Newark borrowing system which omits the use of the borrower's card has been adopted. This system is used, primarily for the benefit of the farmer, who, from the nature of things often finds it more than ordinarily inconvenient to carry a library card around with him; but it has proven a great simplifier of the loan desk work, both in the branches and at the central library.

In June the first steps were taken toward making a museum collection of objects of local and historical interest for the library. Those contributing to it, so far, are G. O. Breeding, G. W. Lawrence, Pauline Cunningham of Valley View, Jack Beasley, Lon Greer, Mrs. H. L. Herblin and others.

The following people have made gifts of magazines or books to the library: Annie Bean, Mrs. J. L. Embry, C. P. Oliver, C. C. and E. C. Nichols, William Tyler, W. H. Dougherty, Maurine Paul, W. D. Murphy, Sam Gunter, Jesse Atcheson, Sara Davis, Mrs. R. S. Rose, Willie Lee Martin, Ishan Beasley, Mrs. Jack Hoerth, Lindsay Kelley, H. O. Breeding, Henry Ford, S. J. Kennely, Mrs. Oatis, Mrs. D. M. Higgins, Vernie Mays, Mrs. Joe Curtis, Mrs. John Caldwell, George Cassady, Mrs. W. L. Herblin, Dr. Bryant, and the Texas State Library.
September 1, 1921, to September 1, 1922

While this is the second annual report of the Cooke County Free Library, it is also the first full yearly report, as the first annual report was for only seven months.

The following new branches have been established:

Rosston branch established Oct. 12, with Mrs. C. E. Dickerson custodian, housed in C. E. Dickerson's general store.

Walnut Bend, Oct. 13, in T. M. Godfrey's store with Vera Godfrey custodian.

Hemming branch, Nov. 16, in the Riley home, Fred Riley custodian.

Lindsay branch, Nov. 19, in Mossman and Geib's store, Mrs. Mossman custodian.

Dye branch, Dec. 16, Mr. Farr's home, Melvil Farr custodian.

Van Slyke branch, May 16, in home of B. A. Hudgon, Miss Marie Hugon custodian.

Salem branch, May 23, in the home of Mrs. Kate Hancock, who also acts as custodian.

Bloomfield branch, June 26, in J. T. Robertson's store, Miss Robertson custodian.

Tyler Bluff branch, Aug. 9, J. D. Randall's store, Fay Randall custodian.

1922-1923

All our branch librarians do the work without compensation purely from a public spirit. Most of them are very busy people, so all details must be simplified to the last degree, as it is better to get all the circulation counted than to analyze it. The circulation has increased 7005 over that of the previous year. The county owes these custodians a vote of thanks for their excellent and unselfish service, without which the county library could not have become the force for good in the community that it has now attained.

Work with the schools was very much increased last year, although many of our teachers did not find out how easy it is for a teacher to secure material for her school use from the county library until late in the season. Books, magazines, government documents, clippings and pictures went to forty-four schools of the county.

Much satisfaction is constantly expressed over the group of five magazines subscribed for each branch, and the whole county is unanimously grateful in expressing
its appreciation for the Daily Register, the gift of the editor to each branch as well as the central library.

The outstanding feature of the library year was the exhibit at the fair at Dallas last October. The exhibit was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce in Gainesville. After the exhibit, requests for further information about the establishment of the library were received from four states and four counties in Texas. The exhibit pleased the editor of Farm and Ranch so much that a page was devoted to the work of the library in the November 24 issue.

More than all else, the library needs reference books. They are expensive, and it has not seemed quite fair, under present conditions, to buy them with county funds, especially as the City Council has not quite lived up to its agreement with the county.

Many gifts to the library testify to the generosity of Cooke County people as well as to their interest in the work of the county library.

1923-1924

Owing to a scarcity of funds only two new branches were established this year, Delaware Bend and Concord. The picture collection, a gradual accumulation of years, was classified, filed and much of it mounted. The clipping collection was also classified and filed. Upon request of the American Library Association, a smaller exhibit similar to the one used at the Dallas fair last year, was sent to Hot Springs, Arkansas, in April. The exhibit was also loaned to Wichita Falls for their county fair in November.

Our assistant librarian was sent to the Gainesville High School during March and April to organize and catalogue their new library of twelve hundred volumes.

1924-1925

The outstanding event in the library year was the first of June when the city council started the renovation of the Carnegie building, the first general repairs since the library was built in 1914. This work made it necessary to close the building for the first ten days in June. However, much mending and cataloguing was accomplished during that time by the librarian and assistant.

Eight changes in custodians of different branch libraries and six changes in location were made during the year.
Increase in school use of the library has been very satisfying.

In November much of the museum collection was loaned to the Daughters of the Confederacy for their "Pioneer Life Show." As a result our museum was presented with several valuable additions to our collection of relics of the early days.

Requests for material giving the county library law of Texas and account of the work of the Cooke County Library were received from Tucson, Arizona, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Mitchell, Grayson and Johnson counties, and the Texas towns of Lubbock, Denison, Collinsville, Denton and Graham.

1925-1926

The books circulated by the Cooke County Library from September 1, 1925 to August 31, 1926, would, if laid on their sides and places one on top of the other, make a tower one fourth mile high.

A new branch has been opened at Mt. Hope in the home of E. A. Ballinger, with Mrs. Wimberly as custodian.

The greater part of the books at the negro branch were destroyed by fire and water when the school building caught fire.

1926-1927

Sixty-two teachers from fifty schools got books for school use this year. These teachers visited the library three hundred and seven times.

(The remainder of the report for this year is shown in the tables.)

Narrative Report of Two Years' Work in the Cooke County Library

The circulation of books for the two-year period has increased from 53,520 to 72,957. This is a circulation of three books per capita at a cost of six cents per volume, and is an average of two hundred fifty books for each day the library was open.

The work with the community branches has been very gratifying, as new branches have been established and the report of all others shows an increased circulation. Three new branches have been opened, at Dexter, Era and Mount Hope. This makes a total of twenty-eight community branches and sixty-three school deposit stations. Some of the branches are open daily while others are
open only three hours per week. The people of the rural communities seem to find the library more indispensable each year.

The work with rural schools has grown more than any other division of work lately. The rural teachers seem to appreciate the use of the library more each year. The books may be kept for one month and may be renewed for another month. The rural schools circulated 27,604 books. Only twelve schools failed to borrow books this year.

All non-fiction books have been labeled this year. All loose literature, such as pamphlets, is classified according to subject matter.

We have never kept any record of the reference questions answered, but, I believe, more reference work has been done than ever before. Several new reference books have been added, including juvenile reference books.

1926-1927

(Included in above report.)

1927-1928

A total of 76,781 books were circulated by the Cooke County Library during the year ending August 31, 1928. This is the largest increase in the use of the library that has ever been reported.

There are 7,525 people throughout the county registered as members of the library, 4,277 belonging to the central library and 3,248 in the branches. There are 458 new members added to the central library and 500 to the branches.

The library has twenty-eight branches, and 3,559 books were sent to them during the year.

Eighty-two teachers from sixty-two schools borrowed 4,736 books.\(^1\)

While the narrative reports later than 1928 are not available, the following tables show the progress of the library through the twenty-three-year period.

\(^1\)"Notes on the History of the Cooke County Library" (unpublished), in Library File, Cooke County Library.
### TABLE 1
SERVICES RENDERED BY COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY, 1921-1943

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population Served</th>
<th>Total Agencies</th>
<th>Number of Days Open</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>296</td>
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<td>1926</td>
<td>25,667</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>307</td>
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<td>1927</td>
<td>25,667</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>25,667</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>25,667</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>305</td>
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<td>1930</td>
<td>25,667</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>303</td>
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<td>1931</td>
<td>25,667</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>25,667</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>24,136</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
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<td>27,500</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>27,500</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>27,500</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 shows the services rendered by the Cooke County Library from July 12, 1921, to September 1, 1943. The population served the first two years was estimated as 29,000 with an increase for the next three years to 30,000. The number then falls to 25,000 and continues from 24,000 to 27,000 in 1943. The average population served for the entire twenty-three-year period was 26,157.
As the table shows, the branches number from fourteen to ninety-one. Branches were closed from time to time due to lack of interest. As transportation improved and as better roads were built, many small branches were not needed as most people went to the nearest town once a week for supplies and could stop at the library at that time. Purchase of the bookmobile reduced the need for branches as patrons were served directly from it.

Since the library opened July 12, 1921, the library was open only 176 days that year. The average number of days the library was kept open for the next twenty-two-year period was 304.

The motto of the Cooke County Library is "Service," and it has lived up to that motto through the years. It has made an effort to reach out to the remote and isolated sections of the county. The maps on the following pages show the branches of the library and indicate just how well the library has served the county. With the establishment of Camp Howze, many communities and their branches were, of necessity, eliminated, finally reducing the number in 1943 to seventeen.

Table 2 shows another phase of service of the Cooke County Library. Item one shows that the central library opened with two staff members and continued with that number until 1937, when three staff members were added under the Works Progress Administration. In 1938 four were used and
Map 1
Branches of Cooke County Library before Establishment
Of Camp Howze
Map 2
Branches of Cooke County Library after Establishment of Camp Howze
TABLE 2  
ADMINISTRATION OF COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY, 1921-1943

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Staff Members</th>
<th>Letters and Cards Sent</th>
<th>Packages Handled</th>
<th>Visits Made</th>
<th>Talks Made</th>
<th>Books Mended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,294</td>
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<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,136</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>1,002</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>1,104</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>...</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>923</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>1,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>936</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>1,695</td>
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<td>1931</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>1,196</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>1,816</td>
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<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>874</td>
<td>1,244</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>1,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>1,346</td>
<td>55</td>
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<td>2,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>832</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>49</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
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<td>1,115</td>
<td>993</td>
<td>94</td>
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<td>2,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>807</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>2,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>2 (3 WPA)</td>
<td>935</td>
<td>917</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>3,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>2 (4 WPA)</td>
<td>1,227</td>
<td>1,061</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>5,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>2 (5 WPA)</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>2 (4-9)</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>907</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>3,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>2 (1 p-t)</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>3,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,029</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>3,004</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,393</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>2,591</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1939 five were used. In 1940 from four to nine were employed. When the Works Progress Administration was eliminated, the staff was reduced to two full-time librarians and one part-time librarian. In 1942 three regular staff members were employed and were kept in 1943.

In 1940 with from four to nine assistants who could carry on the routine work of the library, the librarian was free to do more important things. The summer program consisted of a
children's story hour and the awarding of certificates to the older children. One thousand four hundred eighty-four children attended the story hours during the summer and one hundred twenty certificates for reading twelve books or more were awarded. In the summer of 1941 the summer program was continued with 2,132 children attending the story hours, with over two hundred attending the final program. Thereafter the summer program had to be eliminated due to the increased population in Gainesville with no further additions to the staff.

A total of 21,149 letters and cards and 11,556 packages were handled in the twenty-three years. Seven hundred seven visits and ninety-three talks were made, forty-five of these being made in 1940.

There was a total of 35,972 books mended in the twenty-three-year period which was made possible, largely, through the Works Progress Administration.

Table 3 reveals the circulation of the central library during the twenty-three-year period. A complete record of the sub-station libraries is not available, therefore they are not included in the table.

The type of reading material preferred by the largest percentage of the readers was fiction, more than three times as many fiction books having been borrowed as non-fiction. The circulation of juvenile books has increased from year to year, jumping from 4,192 in 1921 to 9,481 in 1943. The total
TABLE 3
CIRCULATION OF COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY, 1921-1943

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fiction</th>
<th>Non-fiction</th>
<th>Juvenile</th>
<th>Periodicals</th>
<th>Clippings</th>
<th>Pictures</th>
<th>Total Circulation</th>
<th>Books to Branches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>6,546</td>
<td>1,693</td>
<td>4,192</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12,371</td>
<td>1,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>10,695</td>
<td>2,873</td>
<td>5,152</td>
<td>1,545</td>
<td>359</td>
<td></td>
<td>18,720</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>12,562</td>
<td>3,229</td>
<td>5,128</td>
<td>1,208</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20,919</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>11,713</td>
<td>3,690</td>
<td>6,405</td>
<td>1,562</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>21,808</td>
<td>3,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>11,959</td>
<td>3,297</td>
<td>6,396</td>
<td>2,219</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>21,652</td>
<td>6,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>10,908</td>
<td>5,553</td>
<td>9,985</td>
<td>1,386</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>26,446</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>11,609</td>
<td>7,960</td>
<td>10,394</td>
<td>1,180</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>29,963</td>
<td>2,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>12,548</td>
<td>5,161</td>
<td>897</td>
<td>1,204</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>18,606</td>
<td>8,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>13,557</td>
<td>5,382</td>
<td>7,987</td>
<td>1,789</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>26,926</td>
<td>2,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>14,583</td>
<td>4,848</td>
<td>6,655</td>
<td>2,357</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>26,286</td>
<td>3,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>17,046</td>
<td>5,120</td>
<td>6,798</td>
<td>2,709</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>28,964</td>
<td>3,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>18,037</td>
<td>5,219</td>
<td>6,688</td>
<td>2,770</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>29,844</td>
<td>3,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>17,179</td>
<td>5,405</td>
<td>6,926</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>28,676</td>
<td>3,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>14,561</td>
<td>5,278</td>
<td>6,654</td>
<td>3,543</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>26,493</td>
<td>2,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>14,140</td>
<td>5,128</td>
<td>6,606</td>
<td>4,771</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26,074</td>
<td>2,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>12,148</td>
<td>4,621</td>
<td>4,460</td>
<td>3,983</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>21,329</td>
<td>3,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>11,084</td>
<td>4,693</td>
<td>3,503</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19,080</td>
<td>3,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>11,359</td>
<td>3,902</td>
<td>2,700</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17,981</td>
<td>3,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>12,157</td>
<td>7,094</td>
<td>8,187</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27,438</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>17,340</td>
<td>12,512</td>
<td>8,065</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>37,917</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>19,189</td>
<td>7,076</td>
<td>6,600</td>
<td>5,840</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>32,865</td>
<td>2,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>18,009</td>
<td>6,161</td>
<td>6,313</td>
<td>4,937</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>30,483</td>
<td>2,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>23,129</td>
<td>5,454</td>
<td>9,481</td>
<td>4,164</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>38,064</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

circulation has been satisfactory, increasing from year to year in most instances. The item "total circulation" in this table refers to books only and does not include periodicals, clippings, pamphlets, or pictures. Interest has been shown in these, but an accurate record for many years was not kept.

Table 4 shows the financial status of the Cooke County Library from 1921 to 1943. The total value of the property, although not valued in some instances, was increased from year
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Value of Property</th>
<th>Volumes at Beginning</th>
<th>Volumes Added</th>
<th>Volumes Bought</th>
<th>Volumes As Gifts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>6,118</td>
<td>1,874</td>
<td>1,412</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>7,905</td>
<td>1,751</td>
<td>1,358</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>9,548</td>
<td>1,662</td>
<td>1,384</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>11,084</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>37,772</td>
<td>11,084</td>
<td>1,512</td>
<td>1,206</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>38,000</td>
<td>13,044</td>
<td>882</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>13,522</td>
<td>1,516</td>
<td>1,143</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>41,000</td>
<td>14,580</td>
<td>1,169</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>42,000</td>
<td>15,241</td>
<td>1,384</td>
<td>968</td>
<td>416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td>16,474</td>
<td>1,280</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>17,696</td>
<td>1,153</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>18,001</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>18,480</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>18,342</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>18,515</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>18,531</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>18,594</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>44,000</td>
<td>18,703</td>
<td>1,107</td>
<td>907</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
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<td>19,648</td>
<td>1,046</td>
<td>751</td>
<td>295</td>
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<td>20,643</td>
<td>2,505</td>
<td>2,005</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>...</td>
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<td>1,820</td>
<td>1,527</td>
<td>293</td>
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<td>...</td>
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<td>1,071</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>27,134</td>
<td>975</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>253</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 4 -- Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volumes Discarded</th>
<th>Volumes at End of Year</th>
<th>Pamphlets Added</th>
<th>Total Pamphlets</th>
<th>Periodicals Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>23,148</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5,303</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td>26,063</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>862</td>
<td>27,134</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td>28,109</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
to year as additions were made. The table shows that the evaluation has increased $14,000 from 1921 to 1940. No estimate of the value of the property since that time has been made. The table shows the number of additions made each year, both through purchase and gift, also the number of volumes discarded each year. Although pamphlets and periodicals are important, an accurate record has not been kept of them; however all available data have been included.

Table 5 shows the income of the Cooke County Library and sources of income during the twenty-three-year period. During the depression years the income from both the county and city was reduced and was not advanced until 1942.

The sum of $3,160.94 was collected in fines during the twenty-three-year period, and $1,088.64 from the pay collection.

The following table, which is number six, shows the expenditures of the library. Complete data were not available here, as accurate records were not kept. In some cases, under incidental expenses insurance and other items were included, while in others they were not. It is the opinion of the writer that these expenses were incurred but not included in the records. This table, although inaccurate, gives an estimate of the expenditures for the period.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Fines</th>
<th>Pay Collection</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>$3,500.00</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$55.42</td>
<td>$37.51</td>
<td>$5,092.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>3,500.00</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
<td>60.30</td>
<td>42.20</td>
<td>5,102.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>3,500.00</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
<td>121.76</td>
<td>36.94</td>
<td>5,158.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>3,500.00</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
<td>115.36</td>
<td>46.50</td>
<td>5,161.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>3,500.00</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
<td>150.12</td>
<td>46.20</td>
<td>5,196.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>3,500.00</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
<td>219.28</td>
<td>45.76</td>
<td>5,265.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3,500.00</td>
<td>1,387.00</td>
<td>255.98</td>
<td>64.73</td>
<td>5,208.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1,379.97</td>
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<td>61.55</td>
<td>4,705.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1,432.33</td>
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<td>4,992.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1,528.04</td>
<td>192.06</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>5,136.72</td>
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<td>1,859.28</td>
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<td>62.92</td>
<td>5,092.35</td>
</tr>
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<td>2,700.00</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
<td>140.35</td>
<td>35.82</td>
<td>4,376.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1,426.00</td>
<td>126.57</td>
<td>43.95</td>
<td>4,162.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1,449.21</td>
<td>99.95</td>
<td>34.10</td>
<td>4,083.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>2,574.64</td>
<td>1,431.91</td>
<td>101.10</td>
<td>40.60</td>
<td>3,948.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>2,174.83</td>
<td>1,519.19</td>
<td>102.29</td>
<td>22.92</td>
<td>3,819.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>2,307.73</td>
<td>1,517.37</td>
<td>102.95</td>
<td>32.42</td>
<td>3,980.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>2,338.98</td>
<td>1,702.38</td>
<td>78.25</td>
<td>30.16</td>
<td>4,349.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1,834.44</td>
<td>65.95</td>
<td>27.36</td>
<td>4,318.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>2,340.22</td>
<td>1,856.40</td>
<td>78.82</td>
<td>42.48</td>
<td>4,297.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>2,991.99</td>
<td>1,809.61</td>
<td>95.81</td>
<td>32.14</td>
<td>4,929.55</td>
</tr>
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<td>1942</td>
<td>3,030.00</td>
<td>1,841.00</td>
<td>110.00</td>
<td>40.43</td>
<td>5,021.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>3,746.22</td>
<td>1,871.47</td>
<td>228.02</td>
<td>138.53</td>
<td>5,984.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 6

EXPENDITURES OF COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY, 1921-1943

(All figures indicate sums of money)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Books</th>
<th>Periodicals</th>
<th>Librarians</th>
<th>Janitor</th>
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The preceding tables, discussions, and maps show the growth of the Cooke County Library and the effort made to reach the entire citizenship of the county. The central library is making an effort to reach the people there through its clubs, organizations, and schools, and with the bookmobile an effort is being made to reach people in the rural areas. The personnel of the library realizes that the main cause of the unsatisfactory condition of agriculture in the nation today is its failure to keep pace in its attractiveness and advantages with the other callings of the people and that supplying the farmer with the world's knowledge through library service is one of the means that will enable agriculture to take its place in the nation's activities.
CHAPTER IV

THE LIBRARY STAFF

In every case there are three features which determine the success of a library: service, materials, and personnel; for the staff of the average library maintains a place of high regard in the community. While perfection is not expected in any person, the model county librarian must have the following qualifications: a liberal education, library training, high ideals, administrative abilities, courtesy, tact, originality, health, vitality, a sense of humor, and a strong balanced personality capable of leadership. Salesmanship is also demanded: not only the art which sells the right book to the right person, but the knack of demonstrating the value of the library. Literature, education, science, international affairs, politics, and every legitimate community activity must be of interest to the librarian and should be demonstrated by writing, speaking, and attending community activities.

The Cooke County Library has been fortunate in its librarians, all of whom have been young women of ability and education and much credit is due them for the excellent results achieved. The nature of the achievements of each
librarian has necessarily differed according to the standards of the profession at that time and the needs of the library at the particular time of her incumbency, just as the nature of the work of future librarians will differ from that of today. Each has promoted the welfare of the library in a general way and, at the same time, rendered valuable assistance along specific lines. The Cooke County Library has always been noted for its friendliness and superior service. Beginning with Lillian Gunter, the founder of the library, and continuing through twenty-three years, this attitude has prevailed. The unselfish service of Lillian Gunter has served as a model throughout the years for her successors, as is shown in the short sketch of her life which follows:

Lillian Gunter, daughter of Addison Yancy Gunter and Bettie Ligion Gunter, was born and reared on a Red River plantation in Sivill's Bend, Cooke County, Texas. When twelve years of age she left the neighborhood school and attended the Sacred Heart Convent in Saint Louis, Missouri, for three years. Later, she attended the Wesleyan Institute at Stainton, Virginia. After her father's death in 1892, she managed her mother's plantation for ten years. In 1901 she moved to Gainesville where she lived in her mother's home with leisure to devote to her own interests.

Her first touch with libraries came through club work, soon after moving to Gainesville while a member of the XLI Club in which she served as treasurer, secretary, vice president, president, and chairman of the committee that secured a public library for Gainesville. The Carnegie Foundation complimented her on the plans she submitted for the building. Later, she became the librarian, and attended the 1913 summer session of the New York State Library School at Albany. Learning at the Texas Library Association meeting in 1914 of the county library plan, she went to California to make an investigation of its system, and began a campaign for a Texas county library law. She
became district chairman of the Library Extension Committee of the Texas Woman's Suffrage Association, and a member of the library committee as well as vice president of the local organization of Texas Farm Women. She persuaded several citizens and former citizens of Cooke County of state-wide prominence to endorse the movement. Certain papers published everything she sent them. At her own expense she attended state-wide and district gatherings, usually armed with a resolution.

Her first bill, carefully sponsored by Cooke County legislators, passed in 1917 with a county library tax. When threats were made to test the constitutionality of this tax, Lillian Gunter again went to California to study their system, had another bill drawn up, and again through her senator her bill became a law in 1919. The Gainesville Public Library was converted into a county library in 1921, being the second county library in the state.

In it Lillian Gunter set aside a small space for a local history museum. As a hobby she interviewed old settlers over the county, and took down in longhand their accounts of earlier days. She kept a diary of the county library, which she donated to the Library Commission.

Lillian Gunter was influential in the formation of the Southwestern Library Association, and she served on its committee for plans for Small Library Buildings for the Southwest. She served as treasurer of the Texas Library Association, 1914-1915; as first Vice President, 1915-1916; and as President, 1918-1919.

Lillian Gunter died at her mother's home in Gainesville on October 10, 1926. Unlike many persons who take library for granted, Lillian Gunter thought the problems through and worked out for herself the fundamentals of the need for library service. Her spirit was aflame with the desire to meet these needs of the Cooke County people, most of whom she called by their first names. The county library law, as much the result of her efforts as any law can be the result of any one person's work, is her living monument.¹

At Lillian Gunter's death, October 10, 1926, Cynthia Wayne Martin, who had served on the library staff for three years, was made chief librarian.

Cynthia Wayne Martin is the daughter of James Alex and Mollie E. Martin. She was a graduate of Oak Cliff High School, which is now Adamson High School, Dallas, Texas. She studied library science at Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College, Fort Collins, Colorado, and at Oklahoma State University, Norman, Oklahoma. She became interested in library work when she was living in Dallas through using the Dallas Public Library. This interest increased when she moved to Gainesville and became acquainted with the Cooke County Library and its services.

Many things were accomplished during the thirteen years that she served as librarian. Library service was extended through the establishment of more branch libraries and the improvement of the branches already established. The schools of the county pooled their book money with the county library, thus making it possible to serve the schools more economically and efficiently than was possible without this cooperation. Plans were made for the purchase of a bookmobile during the time she served as librarian.

Cynthia Wayne Martin had charge of the training of all library workers during the operation of the Works Progress Administration plan in Cooke County. Some of these workers are now holding important library positions.
Cynthia Wayne Martin served as librarian until her retirement January 10, 1939. Under her able leadership the library made great progress due largely to her untiring efforts and leadership. She was a conscientious worker and carried on the work started by Lillian Gunter in a very fine way. She now resides at her home at 733 North Taylor Street, Gainesville, Texas.²

The Commissioners' Court was fortunate in its choice of Olna Oatis Boaz as successor to Cynthia Wayne Martin. Olna Oatis Boaz was born December 15, 1903, at Gainesville, Texas. She was an outstanding student in the Gainesville public schools and was a 1921 graduate of the Gainesville high school. She attended the University of Texas for three years, finishing her college work at The Lady of the Lake College. She was also a student at Columbia University for a short session, where she made a special study of children's literature.

She then taught school in Wichita County for two years and in the Austin public schools for one and a half years.

Her deep interest in children and their literature led her to the San Antonio Public Library, where she took an apprentice's course in library work. At the end of the course she was made assistant children's librarian, serving in that capacity for ten years.

By this time she had made quite a name for herself in the library field, and on the retirement of Cynthia Wayne

²Statement by Cynthia Wayne Martin, personal letter.
Martin at the Cooke County Library in 1939, she was invited to serve as her successor as head librarian. She has served in this capacity since 1939, and her many accomplishments as librarian of the Cooke County Library have been mentioned elsewhere in this history. Her untiring efforts have endeared her to the people whom she serves, most of whom she calls by their first names. She keeps her fingers on the pulse of the entire county and it is in this way that she is able to determine their needs. Her success in the position she holds is due largely to the genuine liking she has for people.

Olna Oatis Boaz has served on the executive board of the Texas Library Association, and has been elected as incoming president of that association for 1944-1945. Her interests, like those of Lillian Gunter, are not confined to Cooke County, but to people at large, and she is carrying on the work begun by Lillian Gunter.\footnote{Statement by Olan Oatis Boaz, in personal interview.}

The assistants who have been associated with the work of the Cooke County Library have ably seconded the librarian's efforts, and they have been imbued with the true library spirit. They have worked together harmoniously and on the whole have been faithful and loyal to the best interests of the library. Much is heard today of the advantage of "team work" in the present conflict. This same "team work" is
necessary to the success of a library, where is found a diversity of talent, each individual possessing some needful qualification to a greater or lesser degree. But when the work of each person supplements that of the others, strength exists in the combination.

The Commissioners' Court was pleased to employ as assistant librarian Josephine Lee Edwards who had taken an apprentice course in library work with Lillian Gunter before her death.

Josephine Lee Edwards was born January 1, 1865, on a southern plantation in Tennessee. Since a son was expected, the name Robert E. Lee had been selected, in honor of their good friend, General Robert E. Lee. Plans for the name, of course, had to be altered, so the name Josephine Lee was selected, Josephine being for a brother Joseph who had died in the Civil War.

Her father, who was a lawyer by profession, and a colonel in the Civil War, was also engineer of the first railroad built in Tennessee. At the age of thirty-nine and with five children by a previous marriage, her father married her mother, who was nineteen. Since his new bride was gifted in music, one of his wedding gifts to her was a piano which had to be brought to their new home by ox cart. The second wedding gift was a Negro mammy and baby costing $1,500.

Josephine Lee attended school at Ward Belmont, Nashville, Tennessee, and later studied music and voice at
Beethoven Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. She then taught piano, organ, and voice for a time. After her marriage her full time was devoted to her home and children, of which there were two. After the death of her husband, she again began the teaching of piano, organ, and voice, which was continued until the first World War, when for financial reasons most of her students had to give up the study of music.

Josephine Lee had always been interested in books and had the remains of her father's library, which was very valuable. It was at this time that she decided to take an apprentice course at the Cooke County Library with Lillian Gunter. Six months was required to complete the course and no pay was received for work done. When Lillian Gunter's health failed and an assistant was needed, Josephine Lee Edwards was called. From October 10, 1926, to January 1, 1927, she worked for fifty cents per afternoon. On January 1, 1927, she was chosen by the Commissioners' Court as assistant librarian, at a salary of thirty-five dollars per month. Since that time she has worked steadily in the Cooke County Library, and is still doing active work at the age of eighty years.

She has learned in her connection with library work that every organization must have rules and regulations, but they must be elastic. She has also learned that every one, regardless of status, must be treated alike, and has found that friends are not made by waiving regulations. Exceptions have
been made recently, however, in regard to soldiers, since their time is not their own.

Josephine Lee Edwards knows and addresses most of her patrons by their first names and most of them stop for a friendly chat with her; in fact, she can probably call more people by name than any other person in Gainesville. She is loved and respected by the people whom she has served for eighteen years.  

Carrie Reeves Hudspeth, assistant librarian, bookmobile librarian, and children's librarian of the Cooke County Free Library, is a native of Cooke County, having been born and reared in the county. She attended public school in Cooke County and college at both West Texas State Teachers College, Canyon, Texas, and at North Texas State Teachers College, Denton, Texas.

Prior to her connection with the local library she was a rural teacher for fifteen years in Cooke County, and is well known throughout the county for her interest in the advancement of Cooke County and its educational activities. Since a great deal of her life has been spent with rural children, she is well qualified for bookmobile service, and her work with rural children.

Her work in the library field began as library supervisor for the Works Progress Administration project. From 1937 to 1939 she served in that capacity in Cooke County. In

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4Statements by Josephine Lee Edwards, personal interview.
1939 she was transferred to Grayson County and served in that area for eighteen months, going to Dallas County with headquarters in Dallas, Texas. In 1942 she came back to Gainesville, since her principal interest was there. During the time she was library supervisor, some twenty-five or thirty efficient workers were trained by her.

When the Works Progress Administration project was liquidated in 1943, she began her work in the Cooke County Library, which position she still holds. Her keen insight into the problems of rural children, her kindness, patience, and untiring efforts make her an ideal person for the position she holds.5

Somerset Maugham says, "Work done without selfish interest purifies the mind, and duties are opportunities afforded to man to sink his separate self and become one with the universal self."6 Thus, this is the ideal that inspired Lillian Gunter to provide library facilities to the people of Cooke County. This is the ideal that has inspired the unselfish service that has always been given by the staff of the Cooke County Library throughout the years. Helen Haynes says:

The province and purpose of the public library is to provide for every person the education obtainable through reading. This does not mean education in any narrow or formalized sense, but, rather, the culture of mind and spirit that books can diffuse in

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5 Statements by Carrie Reeves Hudspeth, personal interview.
6 Somerset Maugham, "The Razor's Edge," Redbook Magazine, LXXXII (April, 1944), 82.
life. Education in its ideal fulfillment is not simply fact finding nor the assiduous pursuit of information. It implies the use of books for spiritual and intellectual, as well as for material and vocational, profit — books for mental resource, reading for individual and personal joy: all elements in the diffusion, perhaps not of specific knowledge, but of culture, in Matthew Arnold's sense — "in becoming something rather than in having something, in an inward condition of the mind and spirit, not in an outward set of circumstances." This is the ideal that has inspired and directed the development of library service during the sixty years of the American public library movement.7

Each library user of the Cooke County Library is given individual attention and each name is not just a name on a card as was the case in the following description of a library in one of our best-selling novels:

A name on a card meant nothing to the librarian and since she never looked up into a child's face, she never did get to know the little girl who took a book out every day and two on Saturday. A smile would have meant a lot to Francie and a friendly comment would have made her so happy. She loved the library and was anxious to worship the lady in charge. But the librarian had other things on her mind.8

Later in the story we have the following statement:

The librarian looked up at Francie for the first time. "I've been coming here since I was a little girl," said Francie, "and you never looked at me till now." "There are so many children," said the librarian fretfully, "I can't be looking at each one of them. Anything else?"9

Each name means a person to the librarians of the Cooke County Library, and each person is treated as an individual with an individual problem to be solved, always in an individual

7Helen E. Haines, Living with Books, p. 15.
8Betty Smith, A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, p. 18.
9Tbid., p. 437.
The freedom that exists between the librarians and the library users is one of the outstanding features of the Cooke County Library. Since the librarians know the background of the users of the library and since they are quick to anticipate needs, a service is being rendered which cannot be valued in terms of dollars and cents. It is with such service that books and people are brought together and which provides the educational facilities due each person from his county library.
CHAPTER V

LIBRARY MATERIAL

One of the first tasks of the new library was the selection of the books which were to form the initial collection, for it was realized that much would depend upon the immediate popularity of the book collection. The character of the books chosen did not differ materially from that of any initial collection. They were chosen to meet the needs of people of all tastes and interests. Since fiction is assured of an immediate reading in any community, the proportion of fiction in the first orders was large. The best children's books were also included.

The book collection of any library should satisfy three social needs -- the need for information, the need for inspiration, and the need for recreation. The library is an educational institution in every sense of the word and teaches through the informal means at its disposal, and as such it owes an obligation to itself and to society. A library should never make the mistake of considering library techniques more important than book selection. It should guard against prejudice and should buy books because they will serve the needs of its patrons, not because of sales pressure or upon
the recommendation of a reviewer.

In the selection of books, the community, its industries, its geographic location, its recreational facilities, and its cultural background should have definite bearing on the selection of books. This means that a careful survey of the community to be served by the library should be made. This seems to have been done at the Cooke County Library where the book collection is made up of approximately twenty-eight thousand volumes. The books are selected by the librarian using the following tools for selection: Book Review Digest, Children's Catalog, Cumulative Book Index, Standard Catalog for High School Libraries, The Booklist, Bulletin of the American Library Association, The Hornbook, Library Journal, New York Times Books, and Wilson Bulletin. Suggestions from all magazines and newspapers are utilized and an attempt is made to keep in close touch with the public and to satisfy its needs.

Each library has a certain reference collection. In general, it includes dictionaries, encyclopedias, annuals, atlases, handbooks, literary and historical reference volumes, documents and indices. It is kept on special shelves, and its volumes are seldom lent. The purpose of a reference book, in general, is to answer a specific question in the shortest possible time and in the most direct manner. These books are usually geared specifically to the type of use for which they are intended. They are specially organized,
edited, and arranged, and differ from books which are written to be read, not necessarily in subject, but in the quantity of information and presentation of material. The editors try to pack as much information as possible into the given space. In a good reference book the arrangement is such that its use may be rapid and efficient. This often entails alphabetical or chronological arrangement by subject, compression with the use of symbols, detailed indices, abbreviations, and other similar devices. Testing the value of a reference book involves considering its usefulness in relation to the purpose for which it is intended.


In addition to the reference collection many books of non-fiction are available, including books of local interest, a Texas collection, books on philosophy, religion, sociology, vocational guidance, etiquette, languages, science, agriculture, homemaking, hobbies, art, music, and games for all occasions. Books of literature include recent plays, as well
as literature from all the standard authors, both American and English. Many books of travel, biography, and history are also included. Many high school and college students stop on their way home from school and make use of its many facilities, supplementing the school collection. Students are encouraged to do this by both the county librarian and their own school librarian, and it is hoped that the habit in the use of the county library will carry over after school days are completed.

About one third of the collection in the library is composed of fiction books and approximately sixty per cent of the circulation is fiction. The fiction books are of all types and selected to please every type of reader. The collection includes mystery, detective, the Zane Grey type, novels by standard authors, both American and English, and best sellers. These best sellers are placed in the rental collection for a time. Many current books are displayed attractively near the entrance in order that the person with little time may make a selection without going back and searching in the stacks.

The children's department which is housed in the basement of the library building has approximately six thousand volumes. A balanced collection is maintained consisting of travel, the latest easy reading material, including pre-primers and primers, a reference collection consisting of Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia, World Book Encyclopedia,
Book of Knowledge, Lands and People, Our Wonder World, and Chatter Box. The following periodicals are received: Child Life, Jack and Jill, Boy's Life, and Popular Mechanics.

On a table in the center of the room are three stereoscopes and about fifty stereograms and most children cannot resist stopping for a moment to look while on their visit to the library.

Books for adolescents are being stressed at the present time and the collection is gradually being built up in that field. The boy and girl scouts have asked for a corner or room in the library, and that project is being worked out. The collection for adolescents consists of books of adventure, romance, history, sports, and hobbies.

A separate book collection purchased with money from the local school funds in each district is maintained in a special room in the library. This collection consists of 3,462 volumes and has been chosen by the county librarian and the county superintendent. Suggestions may be made by any teacher in the county if desired. These books are circulated directly through the bookmobile service. Through this plan money is saved for the participating schools as the school does not have to buy materials which may be used only a few times. When the material is distributed from school to school, the books also receive more usage and the children have access to all the reading material they desire and the type of literature desired. They also have the advantage of a better
collection of books since they are selected by a trained librarian. This service is given gratis to the rural schools, since this service does not come under the county library contract. Forty rural schools participate in the service.

The Cooke County Library receives three daily papers: The Gainesville Daily Register, of which the library has a complete file dating back to 1912; The Dallas News; and The New York Times. In addition to the three daily papers, the library subscribes to three weekly newspapers, The Christian Science Monitor, The Southern Messenger, and the Camp Howze Howitzer. These papers are used constantly, especially by soldiers and wives who drop by to check up on the news in foreign theaters of war.

The library subscribes to thirty-eight periodicals for the main library, and the total expenditures in 1943 for magazines was $206.55. Magazines are selected to provide a well-rounded reading diet and include magazines of every type, from fashion magazines to scientific magazines. These magazines are not bound and all but current issues may be checked out for one week. Each branch of the library subscribes to several magazines. The total number now being received for the entire county is about two hundred magazines annually. The library subscribes to the Reader's Guide Service, which is used now more than ever before.

Over 36,000 pamphlets, which can be more up to date, specific and inexpensive than books, are housed in the Cooke
County Library. These pamphlets consist of many types, including government documents. Pamphlets are important and in times such as at present they should increase in number and variety. They are brief, and are frequently easier to use than long books. Sections of books are sometimes published in advance in this briefer form and adequately meet a reader's need. Pamphlets are not only available at the central library, but are also sent to the branches, and a generous supply is always included in the bookmobile.

The Cooke County Library maintains an extensive map collection, especially maps relating to Cooke County, including road maps, topographical, geographical, ownership and city maps. These maps, which are kept in a vertical file, are in use constantly and are of much value. The city map is in great demand, since there are many strangers in town due to Camp Howze, located nearby.

A special feature of the library is its collection of telephone directories from each locality in the county. The addresses of many people who reside in the county have been located through the use of these directories.

A visual education program is included with the bookmobile service. Various educational films are booked for a school year and every effort is made to correlate them with the school curricula. Films are listed in mimeographed form and given to each teacher at the beginning of the school year. Forty rural schools participate in this service.
Cooke County realizes that it is necessary for educators to set pace for the new generation, or our civilization will not continue to progress. They realize that we must give education wings and that we must streamline it in order that the process of learning can be speeded up. One way to do this is through the proper use of visual aids, the values of which have been demonstrated in the United States Army. It is an accepted fact that pictures tell stories more vividly than words and in a much shorter time. Visual aids contribute meaningful content to practically every subject in the curriculum. Observation always involves more than looking -- it means seeing plus interpretation.

The library also maintains a clipping file and a picture file which is considered of much value. Both the clippings and pictures are sent to all parts of the county when requested and much use is made of them by the rural schools.

While the book collection of the Cooke County Library is small, it is gradually being built up, for it is realized that new and attractive books and magazines will promote reading. It is also recognized that "a reading people are a leading people," and that "a free people have the right to know."

The directors of the Cooke County Library realize that there is nothing that takes the place of books and reading. Drab indeed must be the life of the person who never learned to read. Literature is meat and drink. It is full of calories and vitamins. It is a
tonic and a stimulus. Even to the sick it is not an opiate, but oxygen and blood transfusion, that precious life blood of master spirits of which Milton speaks.1

1 The Dallas News, April 30, 1944, p. 3.
CHAPTER VI

LIBRARY SERVICE

Service is the primary function of any library. Some of the basic factors for effective service are:
1. Adequate physical facilities.
2. Attractive accommodations.
3. Trained personnel.
4. Hours of business which meet the requirements of the community.
5. Definite but flexible regulations.
6. Effective individual work.¹

The many and varied services offered by libraries as a matter of course would come as a distinct surprise to the general public if it were but aware of them. To many patrons, the library staff consists of only the assistants behind the charging desk whose lives are made up of charging slips, daters and fine calculators. What goes on behind the charging desk in a library is, in most cases, an unknown and unsuspected world. It would not be amiss if libraries would occasionally shed their cloak of modesty and disclose to the public the indispensable roles they are frequently called upon to play in their varied services to the community, the rigid routine that must be followed, and the technical skills they must possess.²

To a certain extent each library must needs be a law unto itself. A university library must be large and well adapted to take care of all kinds of research work, a city library must be prepared to meet the varied demands of a


²Editorial, "What Sells the Library?" Library Journal, LXV (September 15, 1940), 748-749.
cosmopolitan people representing innumerable phases of city activity. The work done at the central library in so far as it has to do with the city of Gainesville is very similar to that of the average municipal library. No one at the opening of the library had any idea that it would grow and develop so rapidly. Its history is one of expansion in all directions in an endeavor to meet the increasing demands upon it.

The city of Gainesville has a remarkable number of clubs and other organizations. The library has always aimed to serve the needs of all of these clubs. At times shelves have been reserved for the books in use by certain clubs, and assistance is always given, when desired, in making programs based on the library collection.

Throughout the present world conflict the Cooke County Library has done everything in its power to aid the war effort and its opportunities have been many. In many instances it has served as a center for the "Victory Book Campaign" in Cooke County. When Camp Howze was established, a temporary branch was set up there until their own library could be established. Since many soldiers make their home in Gainesville, the county library is used by many instead of their own located at the camp. Its most frequent patrons, at present, are soldiers' wives, who, finding "time on their hands" that was never dreamed of, are taking advantage of the many opportunities of the library for self improvement.
The great function of the county library is to bring book service within easy reach of every resident of the county. This necessitates a well-planned, well-directed system of branches and stations. It was decided that no county library borrower should be required to go farther for books than for his most necessary groceries. It was further decided that a station be established in every village of the county wherever people gathered for one purpose or another, for their marketing, their mail, their necessary supplies, or for social intercourse. It was realized that the task of the county library should be to try to bring book service to the people. With this idea in mind it was decided that branches and stations offered the best opportunity for fulfilling this task. Therefore, branches and stations were established as rapidly as possible, an attempt being made to convert the county into a network of points from which county library service might be obtained.

On March 30, 1921, the first new branch of the county library was opened at Sivill's Bend, a rather isolated community twenty miles northwest of Gainesville. Under the ruling of the Commissioners' Court, any community desiring a branch library must furnish shelter, shelving and a custodian for the books. The Woodmen of the World lodge at this place granted the use of their chapter room and a citizen of Sivill's Bend gave the shelving, agreed to act as custodian, and even transported the librarian and the books out there.
The boys of the neighborhood agreed to cut and haul wood necessary to keep a fire on the days the library would be open. This branch has never failed to make a report and has never been closed or moved. The plan of circulating magazines directly from the branch was first tried in this community. The following people have acted as branch librarians at the Sivill's Bend branch: Misses Kenneth Pybas, Ava Lovelady, Inez Murrell, Marie Robinson, Vera Godfrey, Kate Chapman, Fay Randall, Marie Hugon, Nina Robinson, Mrs. C. I. Dickerson, Vaughn Floyd, Blanche Hardin, John Blanton, Kate Hancock, Messrs. P. C. Davidson, Fred Riley, Melvin F. Farr, F. B. Cunningham, J. O. Maddox, T. C. Harvey, C. E. Holcomb, T. M. Godfrey, Sam Gunter, J. P. Fisch, Charles Graham, Ulus Burns, Dr. I. N. Roberson, W. F. Floyd, Ware and Mitchell, Brewer and Ruth, and Mossman and Geib. The people of this branch have, from the beginning, taken much pride in their library and it has been a social center of the community.

The first year of its history, 2,500 books were circulated to 199 readers, in a community which never cast over ninety votes in any election.

The first nine libraries were established through the courtesy of Sam Gunter, Jack Shelton, R. M. Field, Sam Stansbury, and Mrs. A. C. Schappaul and Mrs. C. P. Sebastian. An automobile was purchased and devoted to the library projects as soon as possible, and the work was thereafter much more satisfactory and efficient. Prior to this time
books and other supplies had to be carried from one place to another by volunteers who happened to be passing in the desired direction. In the first year and a half of the library's history twenty-two community branches were established and thirty-one schools were given a direct service.

The Cooke County Library maintained at one time ninety-one branches and stations over the county. The chief librarian visited these branches frequently and on regular schedule, and books were exchanged often. Requests for books not in the branch collection were forwarded by mail to the main library and filled as quickly as possible. There were three places at one time where libraries were housed in post offices, the postmistress serving as custodian.

At the establishment of the Army's training center at Camp Howze, near Gainesville, many branches and communities were liquidated, and at the present time twenty-five branches are maintained. In one farming community the library is open to school children on week days and to adults every Sunday after church services. In two communities the branches are found in farm homes, and a busy housewife adds library custodian to her titles and duties. A surprising number of books are read from these two collections and one of the custodians spoke appreciatively of the enrichment of her home life resulting from the care of the books. One branch is in a bank and the Civic and Culture Club helps the custodian to make the branch a useful and attractive community center.
Another branch housed in a bank reports that travelers, waiting for busses or trains, seek out this delightful little branch and spend the time with a book or magazine. The custodian, who has cared for the library for ten years, speaks with keen interest of the gradual change in the reading habits and tastes of the community.

The branches maintained at the present time are Bloomfield, Bulcher, Burns, Callisburg, Concord, Dexter, Deleware Bend, Dye, Era, Hemming, Hood, Lindsay, Marysville, Mossville, Myra, Rosston, Salem, Sivill's Bend, Tipton, Tyler's Bluff, Valley View, Warren's Bend, Woodbine and the Negro branch.3 The people of the county are proud of their branch libraries and realize the value of them. They are also proud of their school library service, as has been pointed out by the county superintendent:

In the school year 1937-1938, twenty Cooke County schools pooled their library funds and established a circulating school library. The idea developed rapidly, and the next year there were thirty-nine participating schools. In November, 1939, a custom-built bookmobile was purchased on which to transport the books to and from the member schools. The idea behind the project was to make library service available to every boy and girl in Cooke County. The schools of the county contributed more than $1,600 for the first year's operation of the library after the bookmobile was purchased. For the remaining five and one-half months of the 1939-1940 school term, after the bookmobile was purchased, the Cooke County Circulating School Library made the following impressive record of service:

1. Forty-three schools served approximately every three weeks.

3"Notes on the History of Cooke County Free Library" (unpublished), in Historical File, Cooke County Library.
2. 13,296 books circulated to school children and teachers.
3. 5,100 miles traveled by the bookmobile.
4. 1,408 new books purchased.
5. 262 showings of educational movies.  

The people of Cooke County are very proud of their bookmobile. A Dodge chassis was chosen at a cost of $836.75. Taylor Body Works in Wichita Falls, Texas, built the body of the truck, which cost $475.00. The body is twelve feet long, six feet high, seven feet two inches wide, and has a three-and-one-half foot door in the back. The shelves around the walls are made of oak and will hold about 1,200 books. A generator was installed in the bookmobile so that the schools which did not have electricity could still have the benefit of the motion picture machine. The cost of the generator was $298.00, and the motion picture projector cost $399.00. A fire extinguisher, a chair and a heater were also added, costing $29.00, bringing the total cost of the bookmobile to $2,054.75. The bookmobile is up-to-date in every respect, and the people of Cooke County are justly proud of it.

The many advantages of the bookmobile service are obvious. More books, and better books, in greater variety, because of this privilege of constantly exchanging them at the County Library. The state-aid schools are the only ones required to use the County Library, but every school in the county has the right to the service if it desires. The use

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of the books is free to any school or community in the county, and the method of lending is simple. When the teacher selects the books for his school, the station cards of those books are filed behind the school file, which is arranged according to number of the school district, and filed alphabetically behind date due in the school file. This gives a double record of the book, telling where it is, the borrower, and date due. The teacher is expected to assume responsibility for the books loaned to her school. The teacher is furnished a small memorandum book in which a record is kept of books chosen by students of her school. The successful operation of such a system depends upon the cooperation of school trustees, teachers, librarian, and county school superintendent, which thus far has been all that could possibly have been desired.

The service to a school does not end when the school is supplied with a collection of books, for in every school there arises many times during the year need for special material which is not in the school collection. Every effort is made to supply any needed material. Complete library service to the children of a county can be offered only when, in addition to the children's books, which form a portion of the book collection at every community branch and station, a collection of well-chosen children's books suitable to the enrollment of the various children, is found in every school in the county. The following excerpt by Harriet Catherine
Long might easily have been a school in Cooke County before bookmobile service became available:

The average rural school is a dull affair. The books are sometimes bought by the school trustees, who unfortunately know neither books nor school library needs and are easily influenced by persuasive book agents. Teachers move about from one district to another, and give the library but little attention during their school term. They themselves, often do not know books. They are not experienced in book selection nor in book buying and so, too frequently, the same old volumes, ragged, soiled, unattractive, stand on the shelf year after year. The children do not look at them. They have seen the same ones there ever since they entered school.

A drab picture? Yes, especially when we consider that a recent study of children's reading in one state showed that sometimes scores of children in a given district read nothing but textbooks, and that not infrequently there are no readable books either in the homes or schools.

And yet to meet the expanding needs of our modern educational system the school of today should have a well chosen collection of books for the use of both teachers and pupils.

Moreover, a well-selected library is essential to the satisfactory use of the newer method in teaching. It is no longer considered sufficient for the pupil to memorize the facts in his textbook. He is expected to supplement this information by gathering from other sources all manner of interesting data related to the subject. This newer method of teaching unquestionably develops a technique of reasoning on the part of the child which was sadly wanting in the older question and answer method. But this type of teaching can be used only where the school has a library which is properly selected for its own needs. Books are essential tools in the modern school.

But the adequate school library contains many books other than those which are essential as tools to teachers and pupils. The best children's books -- books which will develop a reading habit, and a taste for the best in literature -- belong in the school library.5

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Today, with the county library and bookmobile service, proper reading material is available to every child in every school in the county. The county librarian has familiarized herself with the course of study in Cooke County, and the needs of children in general so that every child now has access to a selection of materials made by her. It is realized, of course, that the teacher is the avenue of approach, for it is she who must make the direct connection between the child and the book, but this can be done only when the proper book is available. The following report made by the county librarian to the state librarian in 1941 shows the progress made in such services:

The most important achievement in the Cooke County Free Library for the past fiscal year was the establishment of bookmobile service. The possibility of this type service was first broached in January of 1939. The librarian met with the county judge and commissioners and urged the benefits of such a program. The proposition met with the favor of the judge. The County Superintendent of Education began his work with the county board of education and the trustees of the rural school districts. Mrs. Journeay from the state library met with the librarian and the County Superintendent to talk over the advisability of such a step. The library service project of the W. P. A. promised to cooperate in its establishment and maintenance.

The need of this type of library service in Cooke County was acknowledged without question; financial arrangements, however, delayed action on the matter. The general fund could not take care of the expense, but each of the four commissioners agreed that one fourth of the purchase price of a truck might be taken from the road and bridge fund in his precinct. In November, 1939, permission was given for the purchase of a Dodge chassis for the use of the County Library and the county schools. The administration of the service was to rest jointly on the county librarian and the County Superintendent of Education.
Plans and specifications for the building of the bookmobile body were ready by the time permission was granted for its purchase. Inside service was decided upon as the most practical in this section of the country. Only two trips were necessary to the shop of the contractor during its construction, and in ten days from the time of leasing the contract the bookmobile was making its first trip to the rural schools.

Book selection is made from the angle of both public and school library. The Children's Catalog, High School Catalog, the reading list published by the Texas State Department of Education, Bulletin 400, that of the National Council of Teachers of English, are the guides used. Book orders are usually made by the county librarian and the county superintendent working together, but during rush seasons the one who has the first moment of leisure or the opportunity does the selecting. Professional books and reference material for the teachers are usually chosen by the county superintendent. Due to a careful check on the various age groups and the type of material needed, this haphazard buying has not resulted in any confusion. Several copies each of a number of magazines for the boys and girls and professional magazines for teachers are included. Classified and mounted pictures for classroom use are also circulated from the truck.

A visual education program is included with this library service. Various educational pictures are booked for a school year and every effort is made to correlate them with the school curricula and the pleasure-reading of the students. A copy of the list of films to be used this year and the suggestions made for their use is appended to this report. This film listing and the mimeographed library report form a part of the teacher's calendar given to each teacher at the beginning of the school term. Forty rural schools have contributed their state aid library money and are given bookmobile service. They range in size from the small one teacher school of none or ten pupils to the large consolidated independent school district of two or three hundred students. Only four schools are not served; one has only three pupils, the second has expended its entire budget on a new building, a third has insufficient funds, and the last is a Class A school with a movie projector of its own and a county branch library.

It is difficult to judge results of service given due to the shortness of time (eight months) it has been in operation. Every child in the forty schools served has had a book given to him at least once a month. The teachers are unanimous in their praise. Pupils who
have never read a whole book before are said to have become enthusiastic readers. The students themselves greet the truck with enthusiasm; but whether such delight is due to love of reading or to the prospect of missing school class, it is difficult to say. Both teachers and bookmobile assistants supervise the selection of books by the children as carefully as possible and special requests are filled if the material can be secured. The reading of best books is, of course, encouraged, but the results are a bit discouraging at times as the following incident will show. A boy of about fourteen with a worn-out cowboy hat on the back of his head charged into the truck. He stayed only a few minutes and came out with a disgusted look on his face. On being questioned by his teacher as to why he did not take a book, his answer was, "Aw, them books ain't no good. Why, they ain't a shoot-em-up in the whole car load." He did, however, take a book the next time the bookmobile came to his school. Fortunately such incidents are few and most of the children are delighted with what they find.

Bookmobile service to the rural communities would be greatly improved if a more definite schedule could be maintained, but road conditions and W. P. A. holidays make this impossible. A heavy rain keeps the truck in town for at least a day, and continued rainy weather makes a serious delay in the rounds that must be made. There are a number all-weather roads, but even then some one or two of the schools on that day's route cannot be reached. Then, too, there is that chronic malady of all libraries -- lack of attractive and interest-compelling books. An increased book budget is helping the latter complaint, but the poor roads will be a handicap to efficient service for some time.

The city schools, too, have had their portion of attention from the library. Every effort has been made to foster a friendly and mutually helpful relation between the library and the city schools. Three of the four elementary schools have W. P. A. librarians and are acting as juvenile branches of the county library. These three schools are near the edge of the town, making a branch library more convenient for the smaller children because of the distance from the central library. One of these branches sent in a circulation of 1,033 books this month for the four hundred children registered. The collections of books at these branches are kept in a constant state of change. The fourth school, which is temporarily without a librarian, is served directly from the main library. The teachers select a group of books to be sent.
directly to their classrooms.

The pupils are kept aware of the main library by classroom visits to the library during book week and assembly room programs on the library and reading. Two such programs were held in each elementary school and three in junior high during the past school year. The results of the junior high school programs in the increased use of the main library for both reference work and recreational reading was particularly noticeable. Pupils from the junior high school have come at the request of the English teachers to learn the use of the card catalog and the arrangement of books on the shelves.

During the past summer an informal vacation reading club program with the awarding of a certificate for the completion of twelve books was instituted. One hundred and thirty children qualified. Extra marks in English were allowed by the teachers on the presentation of the certificate. The summer of 1939 showed the beginning of the first series of library story hours ever held in Gainesville. It proved so popular that the P.-T. A. asked for a repetition of the program for the summer of 1940. It was even more popular the second summer. A total of 1,484 children attended these weekly story hours.

Work with adults has, perhaps, not been as intensive as that with children. In so far as the book budget will warrant, new books and book-reviewing periodicals needed by the various book-reviewing clubs have been supplied. Books on current topics are bought when the price is not prohibitive. A few new magazines have also been added to the subscription list. A display case of popular fiction has been placed well to the front of the library for the reader who is in a hurry and does not have time to browse. All assistants have been trained to give service immediately and in a pleasant manner. That they have succeeded in doing so is shown by a complimentary comment in the "gossip" column of one of the local papers. There has been no night service for the business people, but beginning Oct. 3, 1940, the library is remaining open until 9 p.m. every Thursday for the benefit of those who cannot come during our regular hours.

Work with the negroes is seriously retarded for lack of funds. During the past year, however, a fine new school was built and a large room in it equipped for the branch library. Some few new books, including the "Negro Year Book" were squeezed out of the book budget. On the resignation of the former colored librarian a college trained woman was secured to take her place. The one rural negro school is served from
the bookmobile. They do not have access to the regular bookmobile collection, but a large box of books was sent them from the county library. They are, however, given the advantage of the visual education program. The movie shown on the visit of the bookmobile this fall was the first that any of the students had ever seen. They were enchanted with it and could not rest until they had thoroughly investigated the machine and the screen. The second visit the bookmobile brought out the whole community -- fathers, mothers, grandfathers, grandmothers and all the babies.

The time consumed by daily routine, circulation, mending, shelving, cataloging, filing almost prohibits the making of some desperately needed library reforms. The library has, however, been entirely reshelved and rearranged for convenience and attractiveness. The children's section was in particular need of this as it was shelved by grade and not by subject matter. It is now arranged in the regular fiction--non-fiction--easy-reading manner. Two thirds of the card catalog has been re-alphabetted and will probably be completed during the Christmas vacation. As soon as time permits three other "musts" will be attempted: revision of the shelf list, inventory, re-registration.

The library has tried this last year to let everyone in Cooke County know that he has a library. To this end talks were made in every rural community on the benefits of library service. The librarian has been the guest of every club and school in the county, including the Rotary and Kiwanis. The County Fair Association donated a booth to the library for exhibits during the county fair. "Do you know" sheets of information about library service were handed out to all fair visitors. The two local newspapers are friendly toward the library and are glad to give publicity when there is time from library routine to work out material for the papers to use.

Growth of library service judged by circulation statistics has been satisfactory. The yearly reports for the past three years are: 89,228; 114,156; 122,57. The coming year has started well with 12,852 for the month of October in comparison with 5,497 for October, 1939. The total budget for 1939 was $4,281.82; that of 1940, $4,495.97. This increase was devoted primarily to the purchase of books. Little or nothing of what has been accomplished during the past fiscal year would have been possible without a library-minded judge, friendly commissioners, and a well trained and intelligent group of W. P. A. library assistants. 6

6Olma Oatis Boaz, "Report to State Librarian, 1941" (unpublished), in Library File, Cooke County Library.
Some of the special services performed by the County Library have consisted of the preparation of bibliographies on special and timely subjects for individuals, clubs, and other organizations.

The library is a medium of communication between the United States Government, the Congressional Library, the State Library, the extension loan library of the University of Texas, and every library in the United States.

Among the many services rendered is that of giving information to various counties and states on the establishment of a county library. The following counties have written for information in regard to the establishment of a county library: Dallas, Travis, Wichita, Potter, Montague, Hidalgo, Wharton, Collin, Grayson, Denton, Baylor, Johnson, and Lubbock. The same information has been given to the following states: Arkansas, California, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. The library is always glad to give any information requested.

The best publicity for any library is the service rendered. Prompt, courteous, and interested service over the library desk at every branch of the library and at every station, with attendants at each distributing point eager to share the library's wealth with the community, must be backed by even more prompt and more interested service from the county headquarters. Without this interested service, no county library can fulfill its function of bringing the complete book service which results in an educated citizenry in any county.
CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In tracing the history of the Cooke County Library from its establishment to the present time, we have seen the library through each step of its development. Normally, there are three principal ways of measuring the degree of satisfaction given by a library to its patrons: circulation records, direct testimony of individuals, and the frequency of visits by its users.

The satisfaction of the reader as measured in terms of gross turnover of books in the Cooke County Library has been satisfactory, and a steady increase in circulation is shown. Records also compare favorably with those of other libraries, but records alone are not an accurate measurement, since a title does not represent a constant amount of reading material. A comic book carries the same weight as Anthony Adverse. Furthermore, withdrawals give no indication of whether the book has been read by one or more people, or whether it has been read at all.

In addition to circulation records, direct testimony of individuals in terms of complaint or praise should be utilized in measuring the success of the venture. It has been
the privilege of the writer to discuss the Cooke County Library with patrons throughout Cooke County, and complaints have been few but praise forthcoming in large measures. The people unquestionably realize the importance of their library and would not want to do without it.

The frequency with which readers visit the library is a good index of the reliance they place upon it. Few people continue to patronize an institution which gives them little in return. One has only to visit the library for a short period to find that there is a steady stream of patrons making use of the library, using its reference sources and current periodicals, neither of which are included in circulation records.

Wise county commissioners who serve as trustees of the County Library have done their best to meet the financial needs of the library. The librarians, too, have done their part. In these days of swift change and of sincere desire to think through the difficulties confronting us, new books have been added to help people form intelligent opinions. The librarian has kept the eleventh commandment of the profession, "Keep on learning," and the entire staff tries daily to bring books and people together.

At present both the Commissioners' Court and the librarians are thinking of the library in relation to the post-war period, and when leading citizens of Gainesville were meeting with experts making post-war plans for the city of
Gainesville and for Cooke County, the library was not forgotten. Post-war plans submitted to the committee by Olna Oatis Boaz, chief librarian of the Cooke County Library, follow:

POST-WAR PLANS,
COOKE COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

Budget

| Present budget -- | $4,000.00 to $5,000.00 |
| Proposed budget -- | $25,000.00 |

| Salaries | 55% -- $13,750.00 |
| Books | 25% -- 6,250.00 |
| Other | 20% -- 5,000.00 |

"In libraries serving areas with a population under 25,000 the per capita measures should be increased to $25,000.00 minimum income standard of support." -- Post-War Standards for Public Libraries, A. L. A.

For limited or minimum service $1.00 per capita.
For reasonably good service $1.50 per capita.
For superior service $2.00 per capita.
Spent in Cooke County $0.17 per capita.

Building

The present building is entirely inadequate even for present needs. It is recommended that a new building be planned for or the old one reconstructed to give at least twice the space now available. The lighting is antiquated and there is very little work space. Books are now shelved on tables because the shelf space is insufficient. There is no office and less than one fourth of the storage space needed. There are no public rest rooms and this seems an absolute necessity in a public building. The floor covering is worn and the inside steps are unsafe. At least ten people have fallen on these steps in the last five years.

Minimum cost per capita for library building -- $6.00. -- Post-War Standards for Public Libraries, A. L. A.

Population of Cooke County -- 25,000
New Library Building -- $150,000.00
Finances

County General Fund ........................................... $3,000.00
City General Fund .............................................. 1,500.00
Fines ................................................................. 144.65
Pay collection ....................................................... 68.73
Total ................................................................. $4,713.38

Expenditures

Books ................................................................. $1,144.07
Periodicals .......................................................... 404.01
Supplies .............................................................. 144.83
Postage ................................................................. 7.00
Drayage and freight ............................................... 16.61
Furniture .............................................................. 44.50
Heat ................................................................. 41.84
Light ................................................................. 79.95
Telephone ............................................................. 27.65
Street paving ......................................................... 104.16
Sewer ................................................................. 18.00
Repairs ................................................................. 176.98
Janitor ................................................................. 560.00
Librarian and assistants .......................................... 1,920.00

Books sent to branches ........................................... 2,577
Books returned from branches ................................... 1,115
Books now in branch libraries ................................ 2,727

Staff

Present staff -- one librarian and two assistants.
Staff needed --
   Trained
      Librarian
      Assistant librarian
      Cataloger
      Children's librarian
      Bookmobile librarian
   Untrained
      One assistant for routine (mending, shelving, etc.)
      One man for bookmobile and motion picture machine
      One full-time janitor

Book stock

Present stock -- 25,000 volumes, at least half of which are out of date and useless.
Stock needed -- community served (according to A. L. A. minimum standards) requires 70,000 volumes.
Expansion Program

County
Complete bookmobile service to all communities at regular intervals. The bookmobile should carry an adequate stock of books for all types of readers. Stops should be made at all schools with books for recreational reading and books for correlation with school work.

The moving picture machine should be put in use again in the schools and should also be available for adult education by other agencies such as home demonstration agent, county agent, Red Cross, etc.

Branches should be reorganized in the larger communities. These branches should be housed in attractive quarters with an adequate stock of books and be administered by a paid custodian. They should be open at least eight hours per week and the days of service well publicized throughout the county.

City
Longer hours at the main library. Better book collection and more staff members to attend the public, help club members, answer reference questions, etc.

Time, information and material for participation in all educational, civic, and cultural pursuits and interests of the community.

A trained children's librarian with no duties other than work with children. These duties would include school visits and talks, story hours, sponsoring hobby clubs, work with boy and girl scouts, educational activities for boys and girls, educational movies, help for students in learning the use of books and libraries.

A trained librarian for the negro branch and a well-rounded stock of books relating to the needs and problems of the negro people.¹

These plans show that much thought has been given to the post-war period and that the importance of the library has

¹Olna Oatis Boaz, "Post-War Plans for Cooke County" (unpublished), Library Files, Cooke County Library.
not been overlooked. If Cooke County is to keep pace with the post-war era the above plans must be adopted. The library is an active agent for assembling accumulated knowledge which may be applied to the solution of many of the pressing problems that will confront us in the future.

On May 10, 1933, 25,000 books were burned in Berlin. Germany realizes that the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Books are weapons in the war of ideas," are true. When this catastrophe happened in Berlin, our President said, "Books cannot be killed by fire. People die, but books never die." He also said, "A free people has the right to know." Our enemy realizes the value of books. It is high time that we, in America, realize their value by reading more than we do, and by doing everything in our power to provide adequate library facilities within reach of every man, woman, and child in America.

It is true that three-fourths of the nation's population in rural areas, numbering approximately thirty-five million Americans, are entirely without access to libraries. This is astounding when the cost of maintaining a library is so small. The national minimum for support is one dollar per capita, which is about the price of three movies, or a few packages of cigarettes. The real task of America today is informing the public. Easy access to books, periodicals, and newspapers is necessary for the working out of our governmental problems of the post-war period.
When our boys come home from the four corners of the world, they will not be the same lads who left us a short time ago. In the words of Captain Eddie Rickenbacker:

Those glory-eyed boys -- now men who have stared death down on the seven seas and the fronts of the world, who, in the confidence of their strength and skill, have hunted down our evil enemies and killed them, who have won the perspective to look back and the courage to look forward -- those men know what it's all about now better than we do. Don't think for a moment they are coming back to the old stands. We've put knowledge in their heads and tools in their hands. And on the battlefields of the world they have learned more than a class in ethics could ever teach them about values and virtues, fortitude, perseverance, initiative, vision, knowledge, and cooperation. They know you must think fast, drive hard, and live bravely to survive in battle or at home.

When this war is over, the oncoming generation must not be permitted to deteriorate. Every boy in America must have the right and the incentive to school himself, through practical experience, in the crafts and sciences of our people -- the new tools of our greatness. Such schooling will be useful education only for peace, but for protection against enemies who debase science for the purpose of destruction. What I am proposing is compulsory self-fulfillment.  

Many of these boys will return to school, and colleges all over the nation are making plans to care for their needs. But many of them will not return to school. The work of the classroom will seem drab after lessons from the school of life in far-flung fields of battle. Many of these boys will seek self-education through the use of the library. It is our duty as American citizens to see that a library is in reach of all who would seek knowledge therefrom. The

questions which must be decided today are questions for which books and books alone provide an adequate forum. Books are being, and will continue to be, written; but it is not enough to provide books -- they must be placed in the hands of people. Here, then, is a task for librarians, specialists who know books and know people, and who have the ability to bring the two together, and who have the desire to devote time and energy to the task. Greta Largo Potter says:

Librarians should help strike down the enemy of ignorance which caused the war and which will bring us the wrong kind of peace unless it is destroyed.

The dissemination of knowledge is one of the most important ways of safeguarding democracy, our American way of life, of procuring a place which will mean the sharing with the rest of the world the good we have enjoyed.

Readjustment of peacetime living, new problems of transportation, absorption of manpower after the war, substitutes for materials not longer available, plans for security, plans for financing, plans for aiding starving Europe and China are a few of the post-war problems for which it may be well to look for ideas.

If victory were to mean a return to normal, or pre-war conditions, the library might not be so much needed, but the whole world with every community in it is going to be changed. Nations of widely different ideologies must learn to live together, just as many nationalities have been fused quite successfully in our land. Therefore it is necessary that we all understand each other.

The things that are written and the things which are read by the right people in great numbers will help to determine the success of the post-war world. Every library, urban or rural, and every librarian has an important role to play in this total war and the peace which is to follow. His role is to help make all our people so well informed that they will not allow a second failure of the democracies to provide for the less fortunate people of our globe. Right reading can preserve our civilization and carry it forward.  

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