

# Messenger

Oregon State University Libraries

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## MarVHIN

The Marine Valley Health Information Network, or MarVHIN, is a consortium of 15 health science libraries from Newport on the coast to Lebanon in the Cascade foothills and from Salem in the north to Eugene in the southern end of the Willamette Valley. The libraries are of all types and sizes. Included are libraries in small hospitals such as the Lebanon Community Hospital, large urban hospitals like the Salem Hospital, three community colleges, the Corvallis office of the E.P.A., a U.S. government agency, and the Hatfield Marine Science Center. The smallest libraries in the consortium can fit their entire collection in one room while the largest, the Kerr Library at Oregon State University, has more than a million volumes in its collection.

The network was organized by Stan Ruckman, the former librarian at Linn-Benton Community College. He applied for and received a grant from the National Library of Medicine to organize a local health science library consortium. Charlene Fella was appointed the network coordinator and has been the organizing force since then.

A major task of the network has been an assessment of the collections of the member libraries. The findings showed that the libraries generally collect the same subject material. This practice has created information gaps for the area's health care community. A primary goal of the network is to coordinate library purchases to fill those gaps. A second goal is to have each library publish its collection aims. The Kerr Library, for example, has chosen toxicology as its network collection goal; other network libraries have chosen subjects such as psychiatry or obstetrics for their specialized area.

The Kerr Library at Oregon State University is the largest of the network libraries. Its position is primarily as a resource library for all the smaller hospital libraries. However, the Kerr Library also makes use of the materials which are in these libraries. Many students and faculty at OSU find information in fields such as clinical medicine in the local health libraries of the Corvallis Clinic and the Good Samaritan Hospital. Consortia such as



*Arlene Libertiné is the librarian at Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis. Good Samaritan Hospital Library is one of 15 health science libraries in the Marine Valley Health Information Network (MarVHIN).*

MarVHIN are becoming a common feature of the library world's exchange and delivery of information. Their primary advantages are the rapid location of a particular book or journal and the cooperation among libraries in collection development and subsequent channeling of resources into non-duplicating library collections. The Marine Valley Health Information Network is a good working example of the efficient organization of a library consortium.

The goal of MarVHIN is to make "state of the art" information available to every health care professional, regardless of hospital or community size. The network has provided a weekly courier service,

monthly meetings to exchange information, journal exchange lists, consultant support, cooperative collection assessment and development, and access to online information searches. The network has taken two concrete steps to improve the resources in each library. All network libraries now have institutional borrower's cards that will give them equal access to all member libraries. The most welcome result of network membership was the \$4,000 which each library received to purchase current books and journals in the area in which they have chosen to specialize. This grant was matched by an additional \$1,000 from each library's parent institution.





Dr. Melvin George, Director

## Notes From the Library Director

If you have tried to alphabetize a few hundred names of friends and relatives for a holiday card list, you can imagine the difficulties encountered by staff members in Kerr Library's catalog department. They must maintain a card catalog in which more than 4,000,000 cards are alphabetized using an author's name, the title of a book, or the subject of the book. If we placed the drawers of the catalog end to end, they would stretch the length of 12 football fields. The cards laid end to end would stretch, following I-5 and I-84, from Corvallis to Hermiston.

Such a large file causes difficulties for library users as well as library staff. To keep everything straight, the Library must use filing rules which appear to users as pretty arcane. "Smith, Adam 1723-1790" as a subject is filed after "Smith, Adam 1723-1790" as an author, with cards relating specifically to Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, which the Library calls *An Inquiry Into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, tucked confusingly somewhere in the middle. Cards which begin with "U.S." occupy 95 separate drawers, all of them filed tortuously in alphabetical order using filing rules based on those established by the American Library Association.

During the 1987 legislative year, legislators have the opportunity to ease the lives of both library workers and library users. The Chancellor's office has proposed an automated system which would put records of all eight libraries in the Oregon State System of Higher Education (OSSHE) online into an integrated file which would make possible simultaneous searching of the catalogs of all eight libraries. For 2% of the current value of the state's investment in academic libraries (nearly \$250,000,000 invested in books and library buildings), the legislature can simplify the use of OSSHE libraries and expand access to the more than 2.3 million volumes, held by the libraries, to new users throughout the state of Oregon.

Through an integrated online library system, users with their own personal

computers will be able to "dial in" to search for library holdings on subjects in which they are interested or for authors and titles they know. Many users who do not have their own equipment (a surprising number of business and professional people do) will be able to go to their local library, whose staff will be able to dial into the OSSHE library system through that library's equipment.

In the online file the user will be able to identify holdings of all eight OSSHE libraries, as well as to identify the circulation status of the item wanted. The system will reveal whether a book is checked out and when it will be due so the user can avoid unnecessary and costly trips to a sometimes distant library. The online system will permit automatic holding and notification of the borrower when a book returns from circulation. The online system will integrate other information files such as the items on reserve or those sent to the bindery, the check-in record for current journals, and the items currently on order for each library.

This computerized file will permit searching in many ways which are not possible in the current card catalog. A user will be able to restrict searches to materials in certain languages or to materials published within a given range of years. Keyword searching will permit users to find materials using any word in the item's title or subject heading as well as in the descriptive material which makes up a part of the bibliographic record for that item. Keyword searching will allow sophisticated searches of strings of qualifiers so that a user eliminates materials from the search which are not wanted. Thus a user can avoid the confusion created by 95 drawers of material beginning with "U. S." by qualifying the search with additional words such as "State Department," "fiscal," "budget," etc. The search strategy will even allow the user to rule out titles which contain unwanted materials by allowing the user to write "but not" statements. Such a strategy might be handy for a marine scientist to search terms related to moving water but not standing water by allowing her to search "river," "stream," "brook," "but not" "pond," "lake," or "slough."

While the utility of such an online system is readily apparent, it cannot become a reality until the legislature supports the request for approximately \$6,000,000 in the next biennium. The Oregon Library Association has identified the proposed OSSHE online system as one of its highest funding priorities for the 1987 legislative session. The libraries need support from users across the state. If the proposed system would benefit your research or business or professional practice, legislators need to know that. Legislators are often far removed from the organizations which propose to spend state dollars, and only those who would benefit from such expenditures can give them a clear picture of the value of proposed investments.

## Memorandum from: Nancy Powell

Oregon State University  
William Jasper Kerr Library

Hugh Franklin and the College of Engineering are to be commended on the establishment of an "Engineering/Library Information Exchange." Hugh writes a newsletter on a quarterly basis to keep the college informed about services, collections, and changes taking place in the Library. It is imperative that effective communication channels exist between librarians and the colleges/departments for which they are responsible. Then the Library can build and maintain collections, and provide the services which reflect curricular and research needs of the University.

Thanks, Hugh, for a job well done.

Below is a reprint of one article from the October issue of "Engineering/Library Information Exchange."

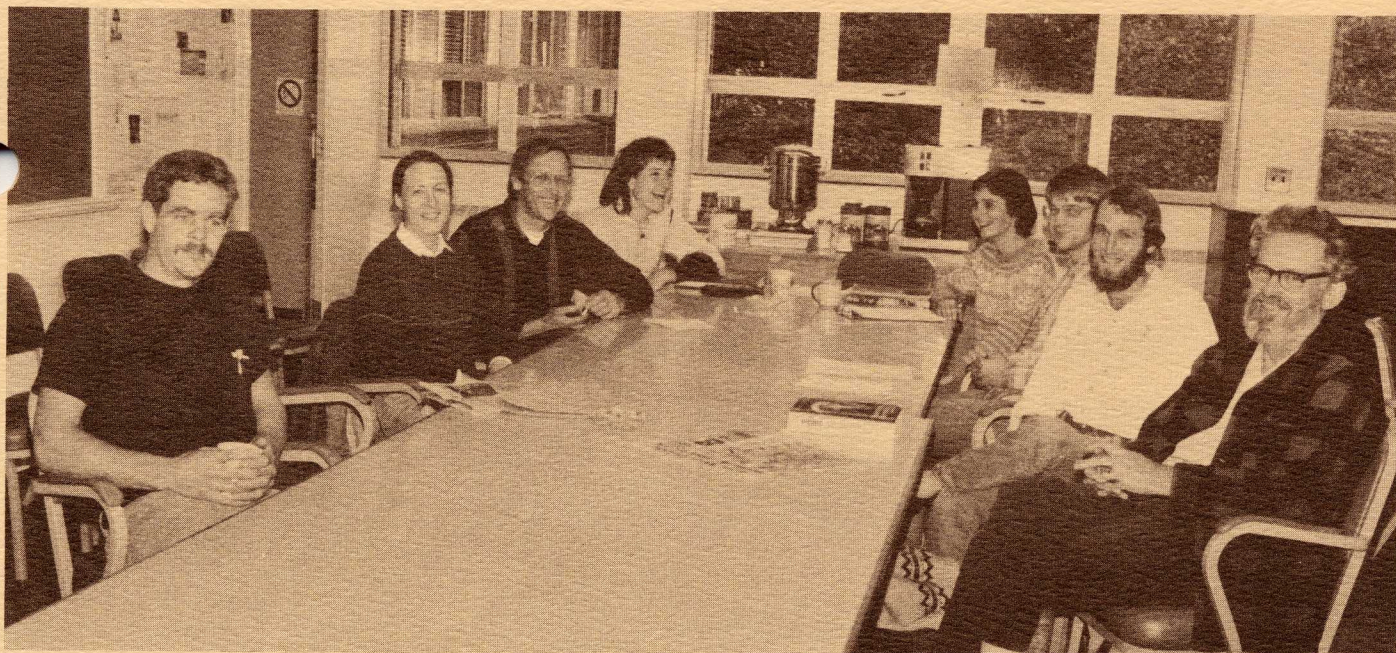
### The New Sci-Tech Reference Area

Old-time users of Sci-Tech services will be surprised at the many changes which have been made this summer. First, all materials in microfiche or microfilm have been combined on the First Floor, including readers and reader/printers. Many Sci-Tech materials pertinent to engineering are among them, including federal specifications and standards, energy and robotics microfiches, SAE papers, SME papers, EPA documents, and DOE documents. This is expected to unify the management of these materials and the service and maintenance of the equipment, and give reference librarians more time to help users identify the information they need by not handling and maintaining the microform and associated equipment. We think you will get better reference service.

Secondly, Sci-Tech reference books (dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, directories, and bibliographies) have been shifted into the space next to the Sci-Tech Reference Desk vacated by the microforms. At the same time, most of the reference books previously behind the desk (Red Dot) have been shifted into the reference stacks. Finally, almost all journals previously housed behind the desk (Red Dot) have been moved into the Sci-Tech Display Area, and the Display Area shelves have been rearranged to tie the area together more effectively. These changes are all expected to result in more effective reference service and less crowding.

In conjunction with moving the materials around, large new green and white and brown and white Sci-Tech signs from the Communication Media Center now identify the various Sci-Tech reference areas much more clearly than before.





Organization for Sustainable Agriculture: pictured here are Pete Gonzales, (anonymous), Mike Hessel, Maria Finckh, Libby Bailey, Chris Keaton, Chris Mundt, Bill Denison, faculty advisor.

## Student Group Supports Library

Although the Library exists in large part to serve the informational needs of the University's students, the students occasionally reciprocate by adding to the Library's resources. A recent example is a gift from the student group called the Organization for Sustainable Agriculture (OSA). The OSA consists of both students and faculty who believe that conscientious land stewardship can create self-reliant agricultural systems. One of their goals is to provide information on agricultural practices that conserve non-renewable resources. In short, they hope to provide a sustainable agriculture through education.

Their gift to Kerr Library consists of a subscription to the journal *Integrated Pest Management Practitioner*. The Library did not formerly subscribe to the journal, and the student group, seeing a lack of information in this area, came to the library with their generous offer. This is but one recent and visible way in which students continue to support their Library. Thanks to the members of the OSA for their concern and gift.

## Stack Maintenance

Stack Maintenance is a part of the Access Services Department which also includes Photocopy and Circulation Services. The department was formed in 1985 and represents one part of the reorganization which has been taking place in Kerr Library. The immediate purpose of Stack Maintenance is to combine shelvers into a single unit. Previously, these student workers were assigned to either the Social Science/Humanities Department or to the Science/Technology Department. The hope is that by bringing all student shelvers together into one unit, the reshelving of library materials will take place more quickly and more efficiently.

While the return of materials to the stacks is the department's primary duty, it also has the responsibility for maintaining the photocopy machines in the absence of the full-time staff and for overseeing the physical arrangement of the Library. This latter could mean something as simple as moving a table from one area to another or it could mean making a major shift in the Library's collection.

The supervisor for this department is Jane Maule, a nine-year veteran of the Library. Ms Maule has worked in the Circulation Department and the Science/Technology Department of the Library and has provided a broad understanding of the flow of materials within the Library. With this experience she has developed methods which are producing a more workable pattern for the quick return of library materials to the shelves. She currently supervises 27 students. This number increases to 30 for the rush which always comes at the end of each term. Asked what is one of her biggest concerns in terms of the Library, Ms Maule notes that student workers almost always want fewer hours during the time before finals' week. This is the time when she needs them the most!

## Les Bibliotheques

The usual tourist pleasure stops were not the only environments enjoyed by staff member Linda Rober on her recent tour through France. Her itinerary included visits to six libraries:

U.S. Information Service Library .....	Paris
La Villette, Sci-Tech Information Center .....	Paris
University of Perpignan .....	Perpignan
University of Grenoble .....	Grenoble
Bibliotheque Municipale de Perpignan .....	Perpignan
University of Paris XI .....	Orsay.

(The following are some observations made by Linda Rober.)

For either scientific cooperation or scientific competition, science-technology libraries in France acquire, organize, retrieve, and disseminate sci-tech information to French scientists. They come for the same reasons our OSU scientists come to the library—in the race for sci-tech breakthroughs, or patents, or university publications. They see libraries as the link between the research that has gone on in the past and what they hope to discover in the future (the near future, preferably). There are three major research topics in France with significant worldwide applications. These are AIDS (which they call SIDA), aerospace technology (centered in Toulouse), and continuing agricultural research.

Some of the libraries visited resembled something out of the Dark Ages, but one was so new and science-fiction-like that it surpassed avant-garde, ultra-moderne, and even surrealist. The only down-to-earth, mundane item seen in this whole information center was a poster of a little girl dressed in a spacesuit standing on the moon. The poster read, "Science is for little girls, too!"



## Serials Department to Automate

The Serials Department of Kerr Library is about to step into the 20th Century. Automation of serial records with the Faxon MicroLinx system will increase dramatically the resources of Library planners and reference area staff. Most importantly, this long-awaited development will mean improved services for users of some of the Library's most sought after titles.

Serials are defined as publications that are issued in successive parts. They may be journals, newspapers, or bound volumes such as annual reports. Although popular magazines like *Newsweek* are always in high demand, in an academic setting the scientific and scholarly journals assume primary importance. The latest research techniques appear first in the latter. For this reason, greater efficiency in the way which the Library manages its serials will benefit the entire University.

At present, Kerr Library has approximately 15,000 active serial titles. Detailed records of each title are kept in a card file in the Serials Department. It is this huge, complex file which will be put into the computer. The card file is a flexible tool, capable of describing accurately any type of publication but it has limitations. Analysis of data is labor-intensive, time-consuming and expensive. Any changes in the way records are kept must be made manually. Although it accommodates easily the changes in individual titles, there is a great deal of inertia built into the card file system as a whole. It is hard to analyze and it is hard to revise.

These problems will diminish with the advent of automation. For serials, the system chosen is Faxon MicroLinx. MicroLinx is a software package designed for microcomputers. MicroLinx features easy-to-read screens, flexible record formats, report generating capabilities and time-saving features. One much desired time-saver is automatic claiming of missing issues. Although publishers are obligated to supply issues not received by their customers, many publishers place limits on the length of time in which they will honor claims. Issues claimed after the time limit must be purchased, or they may not be available at all. Automatic claiming will enable Library users to receive missing issues more quickly. It will save money for the Library by reducing the number and cost of replacements.

Perhaps the most longed-for aspect of serials automation is the service it offers to the reference areas. The card file is not portable. Due to staffing limitations, the Serials Department is only open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After 5:00, the office is locked and the information in the card file becomes inaccessible. The Serials Department receives over 400 calls each month, mostly from reference area personnel trying to answer patrons' questions. "Has this title been ordered yet?" "Number 25 is

not on the shelf. When do you expect it?" Library staff, eager to serve their clientele, have long been frustrated by the fact that they cannot answer these questions after five o'clock. With MicroLinx, the file could, if so desired, remain open on a 24-hour basis.

Automation will not happen overnight. It will take at least two months, beginning in November, to input the card file and to learn to use the new system. Online check-in of incoming serials is not planned until 1987. Access to the serial record by the reference areas must also await the perfection of the MicroLinx Local Area Network software. Even without the LAN, paper copy reports will be available, and other analytical tools will improve serials management. The processing, claiming and routing of serials will be done faster. The bottom line is that automation offers enhanced services. As one library administrator observed, "It is long overdue."

## Continuing Education in the Library

A Team-Building and Decision-Making Workshop kicked off a yearly calendar of continuing education for classified and academic staff within the Library. The sessions were a half day in length and all staff participated in one of the individualized, small-group presentations.

Barbara Hein, an organizational development consultant from Portland whose clients have included Digital Equipment Corporation, General Electric, Pacific Northwest Bell, and Tektronix, presented the workshop. She is a soft spoken, petite but dynamic speaker who is able to mold her audience into an efficiently operating team in a minimum amount of time. "I like to leave people with skills. People have different styles and this can create conflicts. When we can understand the place for each style, then we can work harmoniously together," said Ms Hein.

The participants of the Team-Building Workshop saw it as one approach to improve service to the library patron. With more fully balanced staff participation in handling common problems, more tasks can be accomplished and present human resources can be utilized to their potential. Other positive effects include better communication and an improved working knowledge of individual team members as they approach problems that arise on the work site. Improved staff moral and increased job satisfaction are other positive consequences of the workshop. Evaluation forms from each work session indicated a high degree of satisfaction by the participants.

This workshop was presented, in cooperation with the Communication/Education Committee (CED), as part of a calendar of continuing education to be offered library-wide during the upcoming year. CED is an

intra-library committee which investigates and implements effective means to promote education. The CED, in cooperation with other committees and task forces, is to encourage staff development within the Library.

This very active committee has been in existence a little over a year and is chaired by Elizabeth Mannarino. "I can't say enough about how hard-working and involved everyone on this committee has been," said Ms Mannarino. "We will be getting some new members soon and I think it is a credit to everyone on this task force that there are so many volunteers for the positions which will be vacated. Library staff apparently love hard work." Other members who have worked with this committee since its inception include Randy Basa, Susan Gilmont, Melissa Hartley, Marjorie Knittel, and Joanne Perry.

Another resource for continuing education within the Library is Barbara Thornburg, personnel assistant, who also serves as an ex-officio member to the CED Committee. The personnel assistant position is newly created and Ms Thornburg's background includes experience in both personnel and education. She is currently working on a master's degree in adult education with an emphasis in training and development at OSU. Ms Thornburg commented on the future programs of the CED Committee: "Utilization of knowledgeable library staff for training on topics such as resource sharing, quality circles, time management, and change will provide low-cost educational opportunities for other members at various levels. Additionally, it will provide the opportunity for individual staff members to perform as speakers in an area where their public speaking abilities might not otherwise be utilized."

Another area for one of CED's future programs will be the coordination of a joint Oregon State University/University of Oregon library issues program in the spring of 1987. This is felt to be a major undertaking but one in which staff members will rise to the challenge of accomplishment. With CED working as a contributing and coordinating factor and with library staff participation, continuing education in the Library will definitely flourish in the future.



## Picnic 1986

Sunday, September 14, dawned like many a misty fall day in the Willamette Valley. The organizers of the Friends of the Library picnic were a little apprehensive! After a showery day on Saturday, would the sun shine on the new venture?—If not, at least there was the house at Peavy Arboretum in which to keep dry.

By 10:30 a.m., the gods were smiling down, the mists had risen, and the sun was beginning to burn through the clouds; at noon it was warm and bright. The drive to Peavy Arboretum made one think summer was still here and after parking the car and unloading food baskets it was most enjoyable to sit on the porch and chat informally until everyone was gathered. The tables were bright with red check cloths and bowls of dahlias out on the lawn in front (2 in the sun and 2 in the shade). A table on the porch was filled with hot dishes and a variety of salads, which proved more than enough to feed the group of twenty or so people who came. Punch and coffee, cookies, cake, and other sweet things rounded out an enjoyable meal.

The tables were cleared. It dissuaded the yellow jackets to remove the odors of meat balls, chicken, and fruit! The group reformed in the shade and Dr. Melvin George, Director of Libraries, looking completely westernized in plaid shirt and jeans, gave a short talk.

Dr. George introduced Karyle Butcher and Robert Lawrence, members of the Library staff, and went on to speak of his hopes for the future of the OSU Libraries and the part which the Friends can play in the development. With the need for continual increase in materials and an always-inadequate supply of funds to meet that need, it is becoming increasingly clear that automation must be the next step in Kerr Library's improvement. By automation, Dr. George explained, he meant the ability to look into a personal computer, not only on any floor of the Library but in any office on campus or place of business or home in Corvallis, and find the whereabouts and status of needed materials. This would save useless trips to the Library for books or other information which were not available. It could inform on return dates and even allow "hold" requests to be made in advance.

In addition, the automated system would link the libraries throughout the whole state university system. Public, school, special, and private academic libraries will have access through their own computer terminals. Already there is a good link with more than 5,000 university and other libraries across the nation by a computerized system for interlibrary loans. Meanwhile, \$6 million is the funding needed to make the statewide network. This may sound like a large sum, Dr. George said, but it is small in ratio to the more than

\$225,000,000 which the state already has invested in public academic libraries. The additional \$6 million will make that investment available to a much broader segment of the state's population for the first time. It also will reduce needless duplication of some materials which are required on a very limited basis by a few library patrons. With the continued proliferation of information this duplication factor will become more and more costly in future years.

The Friends of the Library are very important people, Dr. George remarked, not only for their donations of money, materials, and time, which will always be needed, but because of the people whom they know. Informed discussion by Friends with state and federal legislators and their associates does much to encourage the right funding for the University and its library requirements.

The informal presentation proved very informative for many. In answer to one question, Dr. George said he could not see a future without the hand-held book. Microfilm and other such compact storage of knowledge was only one useful tool in libraries but reading on the beach, for example, could only be achieved with materials impervious to sand!

Many thanks must be given to Alice Doty who made possible the whole delightful occasion. Her own patio furniture was much appreciated and her artistic talent and organization gave the Friends of the Library another enjoyable gathering. Let us do it again next year and bring more guests who will learn that our organization is a good one to join!

## News of Selected New Books at the OSU Library

Some of the books that have been added recently are relatively expensive, some have been quite interesting, and perhaps a few have been expensive AND interesting.

An expensive set, in eight volumes, is **SYSTEMS AND CONTROL ENCYCLOPEDIA: THEORY, TECHNOLOGY, APPLICATIONS** published by Pergamon. It is "the most complete reference source in the field of systems and control ever compiled. An indispensable source book for the specialist and the nonspecialist." So, if you want to control your system, take a look at this set.

**BIOMECHANICS OF RUNNING SHOES AND FOOTPRINTS: COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION** really sounds quite intriguing and interesting. One hardly knows just what to say; anything would simply be putting one's foot in one's mouth.

**CRITICAL SURVEY OF DRAMA: FOREIGN LANGUAGE SERIES** is a six-volume series which joins some thirty-nine earlier volumes on short and long fiction, poetry, and drama in English and foreign languages.

There are 19,550 pages of text with discussion in depth of some 1,649 authors, including Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian writer who is the most recent winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature.

In 1958 the Book Club of California published **THE VOYAGE OF THE RACCOON: A SECRET JOURNAL OF A VISIT TO OREGON, CALIFORNIA AND HAWAII, 1813-1814**. The vessel had been sent by Great Britain to seize John Jacob Astor's fur-trading post at the mouth of the Columbia during the war of 1812. Arriving in 1813 the ship's company was disappointed to find that no fighting would be necessary since the post had been sold to a Canadian firm. The journal, intended for the author's eyes alone, presents a vivid picture of the period of Britain's greatest naval glory.

The **JOHN MUIR PAPERS** (fifty-three of them) were acquired recently in microfiche and microfilm. Muir was an outstanding naturalist, writer, and explorer of California and the Sierra Nevada. Our collection has not been cataloged yet, but when it is, it will be one of the few in the West. So far, only the universities of Utah and Wyoming seem to have purchased these papers.

Of special interest to Oregonians would be **LET 'ER BUCK: THE HISTORY OF THE PENDLETON ROUNDUP**. Published last year and purchased just recently the interesting book has many pictures in black and white, and some in color, of the excitement of the rodeo and the parades—the clowns, the wild horse races, bulldogging, calf roping. The cowboys ride the bucking broncs, reaching for the stars, and frequently seeing them as they fall.

Particularly fascinating for Stanley Swanson, our Acquisitions Librarian, was the purchase of **SEND US A LADY PHYSICIAN: WOMEN DOCTORS IN AMERICA, 1835-1920**. The chapter on medical missionaries is devoted to Dr. Anna S. Kugler, a pioneer missionary doctor in India for forty-seven years. The hospital she founded now bears her name. Dr. Kugler is Mr. Swanson's great aunt.

## Friends of the Library Fund

As a result of a major gift, the University Foundation has announced that the total challenge for the National Endowment for the Humanities Grant has been met. Our thanks go to all the Friends who contributed last year to our part in this project.

For 1986-87, the Friends of the Library have a new project in the Special Collections Division of Kerr Library.



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Contributions by Dr. Melvin George,  
Jane Maule, Anne Merryfield, Linda Rober,  
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Mike Kinch, Karyle Butcher, Susan Gilmont

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