

The editorial page has a new face with this issue. And we hope you like it.

# TH

VOLUME XXXVIII

## Whose Our Librarian? Public Is Puzzled As Tongues Buzz

### A COLUMN More or Less

By Scoop

AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED, the rumored dismissal of the college librarian did not stay out of print, despite the repeated assertions that no employees had been discharged by the board of regents. As has been pointed out in this column before, the policy of suppressing news is bound to end in embarrassment for the administration. We have known of Mrs. Hand's case for some time, but have not chosen to investigate the rumors or to print the story, since the institution apparently desired silence on the facts. The O' Collegian is a college publication. Though not the official organ, its first consideration always should be for the college and its well being. I have adhered to that policy rigidly while editor of this sheet, often disregarding big stories because the administration preferred that they be disregarded or because, in my judgment, they would be bad publicity for the institution. In fairness to the administration, President Bennett has never said that we could not print a story. There has been no faculty domination of the O' Collegian since he came here as president. The same cannot be said of all college employees and deans, but as many of them could tell you, we have never left out a story because a dean or a house mother or a professor asked it. The college's well being has been the only standard by which we have judged stories. Which brings us back to the case under discussion. The college would be better off had the story been released through regular channels, with the press passing the accurate and complete facts on to the public.

It is impossible to suppress news. It will leak out regardless of efforts to prevent it.

Newspapers should be given the same cooperation which is expected from them. Frank and open dealings with the press is more satisfactory for the papers and the persons concerned.

EFFECTIVE THIS ISSUE, THE O' Collegian is inaugurating an editorial experiment. The editorial board, consisting of Messrs. Oliver, Wallis, and Thompson, makes its bow to the public. Members of this board will write the editorials, the board determining the paper's policies on all pertinent matters. The editor's personal column will be continued, the only change being its new home on the front page.

This is frankly an experiment. If it proves satisfactory, it may be recommended to the board of publications as a permanent plan. Its chief advantage, to my mind, lies in the fact that it gives promising members of the staff an opportunity to write editorials, experience which heretofore has been possible only to the editor. The publications board appoints an editor, turns him loose to get along as best he can. The editorial pen needs training.

Another advantage of the editorial board is that the paper's policies can be shaped by more than one individual. Since the publication is the official student publication, no one person is capable or should be expected to form the policies without advice and assistance of other students. The new board makes this possible.

FOR MANY YEARS THERE HAS been a crying need for a summer directory. We dumb yaps sat around and didn't do anything about it. Now some bright boy has issued the dern thing and made some money on it—and during a depression summer, too. That expression on my face is chagrin and my fingers are bleeding from excessive nail chewing.

### Regents Say She's Out But Mrs. Hand Says She's Still in

### —AND RUMORS FLY

In or out—with apparently authentic stories declaring she has been ousted and with printed denials most vehemently saying she has not—the status of Mrs. Elsie D. Hand remains a subject to keep the public guessing.

There appears to be no doubt that the state board of agriculture voted to dismiss the college librarian at a meeting a month ago. The dismissal was not announced, and Mrs. Hand has been reporting at her office since that time, giving rise to the rumors that she intended to fight the action in court. Harry B. Cordell, president of the board, said yesterday that a request of the ousted librarian for a hearing before the board had been denied, and charged that her dismissal had been made at the order of Governor Murray. On the other hand, Mrs. Hand in a statement to the Daily Press, which first printed the story of the board action, said: "Nothing but the best relations between Doctor Bennett, the board of agriculture, and me have existed . . . what little friction there may have been has been ironed out."

Reputed reason for declaring the librarian's position vacant was that she approved a claim for purchase of books which met with the board's disfavor. The books referred to include the complete set of Samuel Johnston's works, 110 volumes, and a rare copy of his dictionary, one of the few extant. The senior class of 1932 voted to buy these books as a

(Continued on Page Two)

## CHILDRENS' PLAY WELL ORGANIZED

### Enrolment Twice That Expected Early in Season; Handi- craft Is Started

The summer playground program in which 462 Stillwater youths are participating has leveled off to a well-balanced play, swim, and recreational activity.

Because of an enrolment of over two times as many as was anticipated, the directors were faced with a serious group of problems at the start and fear for the program was held in several instances. The problem of adequate leadership was paramount in the face of such an enrolment, but with the enlistment of a group of mothers as well as a most efficient staff of volunteer junior leaders, the program is now running as well as could be expected.

A misunderstanding between the management of Crystal Plunge and the committee as to age of participants has been settled to the satisfaction of both. Since all publicity about the program stated that it was for children up to 16, a number of swimmers over thirteen years enrolled and concern was expressed by the management. All participating above 13 years have been restricted to two periods per week instead of three. Although this caused 26 to withdraw from the program, both groups seem thoroughly satisfied.

The large enrolment also presented a problem as to recreational facilities and space at the Crystal Plunge park. With the city commissioners cooperating, additional space has been obtained just south of Crystal Plunge in which there is room for a ball diamond, volley ball and croquet courts, and space for several horseshoe games.

Friday will mark the opening of the handicraft program under the direction of Mr. L. E. Elledge. Extra tables and tools have been taken to Crystal Plunge and the west end of the building has been converted into a real craft shop.

# WHOSE LIBRARIAN

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(Continued from Page 1)

memorial at a cost of \$500, though their value was estimated at several thousand dollars. The class intended to make the payments through a \$1 assessment on all members of the class. Other books evidently are included in those which caused the board's ire, however, the cost of the rare books mentioned by Cordell and A. L. Clinkenbeard in speaking of the action, totalling \$22,000.

Neither Mrs. Hand nor President Bennett could be reached for a statement last night. Rumors on the campus were that Miss Margaret Walters had assumed the duties as librarian.

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