Your basic home reference library will be determined by who you are, what you do, and where you live. Lawyer, banker, doctor, writer, realtor, housewife; east, west, north, south; each will need his or her own books of reference. Is there such a thing as an average man or woman college graduate and a library to suit? I think not. Individual differences in taste and need are infinite; regional interests are extremely varied.

So any choice of 25 basic home reference books is arbitrary. My selections are mostly orthodox, although I have salted in a few eyebrow-raisers. Alice in Wonderland and Andersen's Fairy Tales, for example—just to make you ask, How can he call them reference books? I'll tell you. Because I've found myself referring to them again and again through the years since boyhood, using them in the aging process as touchstones, measuring sticks, and lodestars. Isn't that good enough definition of a reference book?

I have suggested locations for these books—living room, kitchen, study or den, and bedroom. You may prefer to shelve the Modern Home Medical Adviser in the rumpus room. Some people read in the bathroom, if not actually in the tub. I don't. But I do keep a few reference books in my car, to read when tied up on the freeway.

The secret of a good reference library is to have the books always there. Lend not your books. Don't try to compete with the public library. The paperback revolution has brought thousands of good books down to purse level. Architects, particularly of tract houses, seem to be unaware that people are buying books as never before. Although I own hundreds of paperbacks, my reference books are all in hardbound copies for the hard wear they get.

All of the 25 reference books in the following list are in print and can be bought at, or through, your local bookstore. If there isn't a bookstore in your community, you are lacking one of the hallmarks of civilization. Church, school, library, park, bookstore—the essentials for cultural living.

The basic things in life are of the brain, the stomach, and the heart, and my reference books relate to all three. He who lives and reads not is no more alive than he who reads and lives not. I remember what that great public librarian, Joseph L. Wheeler, retired head of the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore, said when queried as to why he had thousands of books shelved in every room and on the stairs of his home: "Books are cheaper than wallpaper." And who was it who said, "Books! Next to mother's milk the best food."? See item 5. Use your reference books!

LIVING ROOM
1. WEBSTER'S NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. Third edition unabridged. G. C. Merriam Co. $47.50, plus $32.50 for the little wheel-ed truck to hold it.
Along with stove and bed, this is basic household equipment. Keep it centrally in the house, with smaller dictionaries in the other rooms.
If you haven't shelf and purse for one of the great multi-volume encyclo-
dias, this is the best single-volume work. When things get strained domestically, gather the family in front of the fireplace and read aloud from the encyclopedia. It soothes and dis-
A witty gloss on words and phrases, good and bad, which can be used as a tool by writers and as a conversation piece by readers.
4. THE READER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA. An Encyclopedia of World Literature and the Arts. Edited by William Rose Benet. Crowell. $7.95. Includes all manner of things, themes,
ence Clark Powell, dean of the U.C.L.A. school of library services

people, and places, encountered in reading, with 19,608 articles on 1,270 pages. Excellent for students' homework.


Who, where, when.


This famous annual originated as a newspaper office handbook. If you are addicted to quizzes and contests, chain this book to you.

7. DOCUMENTS OF AMERICAN HISTORY. Edited by Henry Steele Commager. Appleton-Century-Crofts. $6.50.

Here, in full, are the fundamental sources of American history, from the time of Columbus to the present, which are more read about than read.


First published in 1912, this massive compilation of familiar and conventional poetry is arranged in broad subject divisions such as Love and Death. I have an early single-volume edition, given to me by my mother on my ninth birthday, and it doubles nicely as a doorstop when it’s windy in my study. Companion volume is Stevenson’s HOME BOOK OF MODERN VERSE. $10. The compiler, who died last year in very old age, was librarian of the Chillicothe, Ohio, Library.


“I should like to rise and go where the golden apples grow,” wrote Robert Louis Stevenson in A Child’s Garden of Verses. A good atlas is just as poetic a book. If you have traveled, it will show you where you went; if you plan to travel, it will guide you. There are many atlases; this one is excellent for its large, clear maps and its wealth of continued


ioe Lottinville, director of the University of Oklahoma Press


Here is the whole panorama from 1880 to 1910, offered from the original photographs made during that period by Mr. Prettyman, revealing the Indian character of the original territory, its gradual settlement, and its emergence as a prosperous young state.

7. SEQUOYAH. By Grant Foreman. University of Oklahoma Press. $3.75.


In the years since it was first published, this book has become a classic, not simply for the people of Oklahoma, but for readers throughout the United States. One chapter, “My Battle With the Boys,” telling of Seger’s first days as a schoolteacher in the Cheyenne and Arapahoe country in western Oklahoma, is a universal favorite and has been reproduced often in anthologies. The book is exciting reading.


From its first epic page, through the 75 years of the Plains Indian wars—Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, Cheyenne and Arapahoe—to its close in our time, the story is a model of its kind. Heavily illustrated.


Oklahoma history is customarily told in men’s terms. But Alice Marriott, continued
A Basic Home Reference Library

statistical and supplementary data.

KITCHEN
10. THE JOY OF COOKING. By Irma Rombauer and Marion Becker. Bobbs-Merrill. $4.95.
Flip a coin for this or FANNY FARMER, and whichever comes up, you will get one of the best cookbooks according to la cuisine americaine. This is another book to be chained— to your wife, of course, who is already secured to stove and sink.

Imaginative and appetizing recipes for barbecuing meats, fowl, and seafoods, in a volume that was chosen by the American Institute of Graphic Arts as one of the year's most beautiful. Incidentally, the Browns agree that the best cooks are of the male sex— outdoor cooks, that is.

The first English translation of this huge French classic. The accent is on the finest rendering of oral history from the French leadership in the world of food. The articles and illustrations cover everything relating to the subject, including places, plates, partridges, and parsley.

Includes all countries and their drinks, with advice on how to store and serve.

This is a revised and enlarged second edition of the classic American work on green growing things. If you are lucky, you will have a kitchen garden with lettuces, parsley, herbs (and snails), and HORTUS will be your bible.

15. MODERN MEDICAL ADVISER. Edited by Morris Fishbein, M.D. Garden City Books. $4.95.
Written under Dr. Fishbein's direction by various medical authorities, this is a good book to have around just in case.

16. ALICE IN WONDERLAND and THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS. By Lewis Carroll. Grosset & Dunlap. $2.75.
The older one grows, the better it reads. This edition includes the original illustrations by John Tenniel. The author, whose real name was C. L. Dodgson, was a professor of mathematics who lived for 45 years in the same bachelor quarters at Christ Church, Oxford, none of which accounts for this work of genius.

17. FAIRY TALES. By Hans Christian Andersen. Grosset & Dunlap. $2.75
Here again its a coin flip as to whether it be Andersen or Grimm. I flipped, and the great Dane won. This edition has illustrations by Arthur Szyk.

18. ISLANDIA. By Austin T. Wright. Rinehart & Co. $5.95.
This is a long utopian novel, written in secret by a law professor and published posthumously. Throughout the world a body of readers have organized and called themselves Islandians, sans dues or by-laws. This novel is the standard reference by which they live.

19. THE PORTABLE EMERSON. Edited by Mark Van Doren. Viking Press. $2.95
Though he lived and wrote a hundred years ago, he is still a &quot;useful&quot; philosopher to the &quot;useless&quot; young people of today.

A Special Book List for the Oklahoma Family

one of the most widely known Oklahoma writers today, wisely chose to tell the century of Kiowa tribal history largely from the memories of its older women members. She has not neglected the tales of Kiowa men, and the account as a whole has a breathtaking quality which is altogether rare.

This is a big book, but it contains the finest rendering of oral history from any American tribe. Written in simple, easily understandable terms, it abounds in adventure and is likely to be a strong motivating force among people studying the history of their state and region.

Our Comanches spoke the lingua franca of the plains area and ranged its extent, from Nebraska to Mexico, often in warlike fury. This is the great account of their life and times.

14. INDIAN REMOVAL. By Grant Foreman. University of Oklahoma Press. $6.00.
The "Trail of Tears" is so closely associated with Oklahoma history that no one who pretends to have knowledge of his state can afford not to know in detail just what happened on that trail a century and a quarter ago. Grant Foreman wrote the definitive account.

This is a fine account of one of the Five Civilized Tribes, whose history in the 19th century is intimately connected with Oklahoma's development.

This tribe and the Chocataws, Chickasaws, Chickasaws and Creeks formed the Five Civilized Tribes, whose affairs dominated Oklahoma history until after the opening of Oklahoma Territory in 1889.

17. THE CHISHOLM TRAIL. By Wayne Gard. University of Oklahoma Press. $5.00.
An accurate, interesting history, adequately mapped, has long been needed. Here is probably the last word on the subject.


A Home Library

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red years ago, he is more modern than we are, his prose seeded with time bombs, set to go off in succeeding generations. If you are timid, conservative, and a slave of the status quo, don’t let this book in your house.

20. THE PORTABLE THOREAU. Edited by Carl Bode. Viking Press. $2.95. Here is another Yankee radical who whipped progress, conformity, togetherness, and all the other dogmas which bite our heels. This too is a subversive book which should be given to the young and kept from the old.

21. THE PORTABLE MELVILLE. Edited by Jay Leyda. Viking Press. $2.95. Includes the best of the novels, stories, poems, and letters of the great mariner-mystic, who won popular fame, and lost it, and won it again—posthumously. Melville was born and died in Manhattan, and that island community has yet to erect an appropriate memorial to him.

22. THE PORTABLE WHITMAN. Edited by Mark Van Doren. Viking Press. $2.95. The good gray Quaker poet’s Leaves of Grass stays forever green through the years which wither most things. “Who touches this book, touches a man.”

23. THE PORTABLE MARK TWAIN. Edited by Bernard de Voto. Viking Press. $2.95. Includes Huckleberry Finn, that revolutionary novel which points to the ultimate reconciliation between white and black.

24. SHAKESPEARE’S COMPLETE WORKS. Edited by W. J. Craig. Oxford University Press. $4.50. Next to the Bible, and counting out the dictionary, this is the most basic book in English. I have chosen this from among many good editions simply because I have lived with my copy for 30 years and worn it beautifully smooth.

25. THE HOLY BIBLE. King James Version. Oxford University Press. $9.75. Choice of a Bible is a personal matter. You may prefer a modern translation. I don’t. Give me the organ music of the King James. This edition is leather-bound, a handy size, with concordance and index. Keep it by your bed, to be read first thing in the morning and the last thing at night.

A Special Book List for the Oklahoma Family

Continued from Page 14

Oklahoma Press. $4.00.


21. LAND HUNGER: David L. Payne and the Oklahoma Boomers. By Carl Coke Rister. University of Oklahoma Press. $4.00. This is the story of the attempts to settle Oklahoma Territory before the area was legally opened to homesteading.

22. DESERTS ON THE MARCH. By Paul B. Sears. University of Oklahoma Press. $2.75. This Oklahoma book remains the most sought-after account of man’s relation to his natural environment, fields and meadows, range land, the forest, the sky, rainfall and living things, simply and beautifully written by a master of English prose.

23. A TOUR OF THE PRAIRIES. By Washington Irving. University of Oklahoma Press. $2.00. This handsome edition from the Western Frontier Library is an obvious classic and should be read by every Oklahoman.

24. THE OIL BUSINESS AS I SAW IT. By W. L. Connelly. University of Oklahoma Press. $3.75. Here is the intimate story of an Oklahoman, still living, during his fifty years in oil in the state.

25. LIFE AND DEATH OF AN OILMAN: The Career of E. W. Marland. By John Joseph Mathews. University of Oklahoma Press. $3.75. Written by one of the best-known authors in Oklahoma, this book is a revealing account of success and failure in one of the state’s largest industries.

December, 1962

CONVERSATION PIECE

What college course do you feel is the most valuable for all students to take?

BYRON B. SEARCY, '58bus
Ferree-Jennings-Searcy real estate
Fort Worth, Texas

SEARCY—The two courses I believe benefitted me most were speech and business composition. In business the most important thing you have to do is to be able to convey your thoughts either in writing or in personal conversation, and I have found in my business—real estate—that those two courses have given me more confidence in expressing myself... The overall academic program gave me insight as to find the information to communicate... I always shied away from foreign languages. If I have any regrets, I believe it would be there... I think foreign languages would have helped me in understanding the English language better. I did take one course in the history of the English language. It has helped me in my outside reading. There have been several occasions when a foreign language would have helped me... I'm taking a reading improvement course now offered by the Book-of-the-Month Club from Columbia University that I feel is very important. It is extremely helpful in increasing the comprehension of what one reads... I really want to pass out the roses—if any are being passed out—to a course called "English J". I don't remember the name of the lady who taught it, but she really helped me... I should have taken more courses in the field of communications. I guess I was a typical college student. I wasn't really serious about what the future held for me. I didn't realize it was so important. I remember from the counseling I got that I was told it would be important. As with a lot of other things, I passed over it. The courses I had in these areas have certainly been a big help to me... I don't know how much counseling at the freshman and sophomore levels would help in convincing students of the value of these courses. This should be pointed out to them. Every course I have mentioned that I took was a requirement, except maybe speech. I would recommend that business composition be required of everybody in the University—and one or two courses in speech.