

## REPAIR AND BINDING

To find experienced people in the art of repairing manuscripts and binding manuscript volumes is one of the most difficult personnel problems at the Hall of Records. It is, insofar as the State is concerned, a dead end so far as advancement and increase in salary are concerned. There is just no place to go except here and young women are not tempted any longer by a position which has no future and pays very little. We have had at times, stable staffs but that was at times when there were dedicated craftsmen still around.

In the fiscal year upon which I am reporting, we started with three fairly good workers. Then Kenneth Thompson, who was an excellent bookbinder, died; we replaced him with a young, inexperienced but willing young woman, who has since left our employ. Mrs. Boettcher proved to be a good binder, so she was put in Mr. Thompson's place and the other young woman was taught the art of laminating documents. Then Mrs. Boettcher, as young married women will, applied for maternity leave and was away for four months. Another young woman replaced her temporarily, but since her interest lay rather in the research room, we transferred her to that duty which needed another hand badly. All of this accounts for what appears to be a minimal output in the Repair Department.

Mrs. Boettcher managed to bind twenty-eight volumes. She found herself at times getting ahead of the laminators and so able to do some of the laminating, having been schooled in this work previously at the Hall of Records.

The one person who worked at the job all the year was Mrs. Schoenfelder. Her output in quantity does not seem too great, however much of her work was with Land Office Certificates of Survey, which were badly in need of attention and were difficult to handle.

One other thing should be emphasized in regard to our repair room. The employees there are assumed to be our handy-men as the list of duties below will demonstrate:

Documents deacidified, repaired, prepared, laminated and trimmed 16,244 pages

Books Bound — 28 volumes