

Biology Students Will Use Text Written by Teacher

Miss Ella Thea Smith, Widely Known For Her Observations, Authoress of Class Book

A textbook and laboratory manual, written by Miss Ella Thea Smith, member of the Salem High school faculty, will be used in studies in biology classes at Salem High during the 1932-33 term, Earl S. Kerr, superintendent, announced today.

Copies of the book, now being completed by Miss Smith, widely known throughout Ohio for her knowledge of plant and animal life, will be typewritten and mimeographed for use by pupils and will replace texts formerly used in the

school.

Marks New Departure

It is the first time in Salem High school history that a book written by a local teacher is used in classrooms here.

The book, entitled "Biology, The Science of Life," will be composed entirely of Miss Smith's original observations of plant and animal life. A native of this city, Miss Smith graduated from Salem High school and the University of Chicago, specializing in sciences, and has been chief instructor in biology at Salem High for 12 years.

Miss Smith started work on the book at the close of school last June spending the entire summer on the arrangement of material, completion of experiments and various research work. Now busy writing closing chapters, Miss Smith estimated that, after being typewritten and mimeographed for use by students, it will probably be composed of 300 pages.

Approval of the book for study in classrooms was given by Supt. Kerr who lauded Miss Smith for her

TUBBS, M'ADOO LEAD AT POLLS

**Former has Battle on His
Hands: Latter Wins
In Landslide**

(By Associated Press)
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BIOLOGY CLASS GETS NEW BOOK

Miss Ella Thea Smith Is Authoress of Text For Students

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work. The authoress plans to present the book for publication after this year.

Stresses Importance

The text opens with discussions of biology and the importance of its study to the high school student after which three are detailed studies of plants and animals, their relation to each other and all other living beings, human diseases and their prevention, animal and plant diseases, laws of heredity, biology as related to human welfare and other interesting topics.

To Miss Smith biology is one of the most important studies placed before the high school student and she has attempted to bring all of her observations in accordance with late scientific discoveries, spending many hours in research and experimental work. She closes the book with a chapter discussing vocations and professions which relate to biology and the qualifications necessary for the attainment of success in them.

The new biology course will be submitted to sophomores, juniors and seniors and is expected by Supt. Kerr to provide greater interest for students. It will also result in a saving of money for those signing for the course as pupils will not be required to purchase books as in past years, but will merely be called on to pay for the cost of mimeographing.



AROUND OUR TOWN

By PUD SMITH

The textbook, "Exploring Biology", which is used in classes at the high school, is now in its sixth edition and is one of the finest available — and it was written by a prominent Salem teacher whose husband did the illustrations and photography. She is **Ella Thea Smith Cox** and she taught here for many years until her retirement and departure from Salem in 1954.

The book started with a dissatisfaction, as many improvements do, as a manual which was mature and accurate, unlike the current textbook. Superintendent of Schools Kerr bragged about her book in 1935 to a publishing house salesman who took a copy of it with him and notified her within a scant four weeks that her text would be published.

Although retired, Mrs. Cox is still very active and involved with the board of education at Cave Creek, Ariz., where she now lives, with revisions of her book which now has a co-author, and the Biology Science Curriculum Study on a national level.

A native of Salem, she graduated from high school here in 1916 and went to Wooster College and the University of Chicago. She has been called a "brilliant woman" by her co-workers.

Of Quaker ancestry, her mother was the model in 1925 for the Salem High Quaker lady whose profile appears on the class rings.

Ella Thea Cox Dies; Retired SHS Teacher

Mrs. Ella Thea Cox, 75, a retired Salem High School biology teacher whose textbook, "Exploring Biology," is still in use by the local schools, throughout the U. S. and in five foreign countries, died of a heart attack Wednesday in her home in Cave Creek, Ariz.

Mrs. Cox and her husband, Marion, were working on a new biology text and a history of Salem at the time of Mrs. Cox's death.

Her mother was the model for the "Quaker Lady" symbol used by the Salem schools as an official emblem.

Born April 28, 1897, in Smyrna, Guernsey County, O., a daughter of George Kirk and Anna Doudna Smith, Mrs. Cox lived in Salem from 1900 until her retirement in 1954, when she moved to Arizona.

After graduation from Salem High School in 1916, she was awarded the Alumni Association scholarship and attended Wooster College from 1916 to 1918.

She received a bachelor of science degree in botany in 1920 from the University of Chicago, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the national scholastic honorary society.

Mrs. Cox taught biology at the high school from 1920 to 1924, and from 1927 to 1954. She was also a laboratory technician for Salem City Hospital and the Central Clinic from 1927 to 1940.

In 1933, she was married to Marion A. Cox. He illustrated her textbook, four editions of which were published by Har-



Mrs. Ella Thea Cox

court, Brace and Co.

Mrs. Cox was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the National Association of Biology Teachers; the National Science Teachers Association; the National and Ohio Education Associations, and was a charter member of the Salem Historical Society.

Survivors include four nephews, Robert Starbuck and Dr. Ralph Starbuck of Salem, Don Starbuck of Barnesville, and Edgar Smith of Arizona, and a neice, the former Wanda Smith of Canton.

A sister, Mrs. Albert Starbuck, also preceded Mrs. Cox in death.

Funeral arrangements are pending in Arizona.