



JANET SPAHN and Dr. Garry Warren, dean of Library Services, flip through "Electricity Simplified," a library book approximately 54 years overdue. Photo by Charles E. Butler.

Book finally returns to Collier after a slight (54 year) delay

By **JAMES L. RHODES**
Executive Editor

UNA Dean of Library Services, Dr. Garry Warren, had a pleasant surprise on July 19 when a book was returned to Collier Library that had been checked out in 1934.

Janet Spahn returned the book which had been found in a hallway upstairs in a New Bethel home. When the book was found, Spahn and her sister had been clearing the attic of the house which had belonged to their mother, Nellie Spahn, who had died in 1985.

"I had gone to town. When I got back my sister looked at me and told me we had a big bill to pay," said Spahn.

The book, "Electricity Simplified," was stamped Florence

State Normal College and Florence State Teachers College. According to the date on the inside of the book, it was purchased by the library on October 3, 1932.

Warren said that it was difficult to pinpoint exactly when the book was checked out from the library, but he said that 1934 was a pretty good guess.

According to Spahn the book had probably been on the shelf in the attic since 1934. Spahn said that she knew the books had not been touched since 1947 when she and her mother had moved back into the house.

Spahn said that the person who checked out the book was more than likely one of her uncles, one of which was an electrician by trade, and another who had run electricity into his home before

TVA was in operation in the area. The book was written in 1899 and was written by Professor T.O'Connor Sloane.

Because of its age and the fact that it was an outdated technical manual, Warren said the book would be kept in the library archives.

Warren said that it was an exceptional case, and could not remember a book being returned after so long.

"It is very rare that you have a book returned after 54 years," said Warren. "Obviously, we're pleased."

Spahn was not asked to pay the overdue fines on the book which, at the current rate of ten cents a day, came to the grand total of \$1,971 without interest, according to Warren.