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Salida, Colorado, U. S. A., July 17th, 1905.

Honorable Andrew Carnegie,
~~Skibo Castle, Scotland.~~

5 West 51st St.
New York N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Having knowledge of your far-famed philanthropy, and knowing the great good that has come to some communities of our acquaintance through your beneficence in founding libraries, the Library Association of Salida, Colorado, which is also the Tuesday Evening Club, an organization of women, begs leave through me, their president-elect, to ask a place in your consideration, to the end that possibly you may find us worthy of your help in the establishment of a library for our little City.

I understand that a few years ago, the President of our Society addressed some letters to you on this subject and you answered favorably, but at that time our conditions were so incomplete that we could not proceed to anything definite. We wish to call your honorable attention to the library conditions of our place to-day, as follows:-

Our Library Association is a chartered organization. We own, free of debt, over two thousand volumes of books in good condition, in good cases or shelves. A small portion of these books is for reference, the others are for the purpose of loaning. A library ticket costs two dollars (\$2.00) per year. We have worked for eleven years with the intention of sometime making this into a free, public library to be deeded to our City.

Salida was started as a little Denver and Rio Grande Railroad station twenty-five years ago. It has steadily grown to be a town of over five thousand inhabitants, the increase in population during the

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A-C-2-

last five years, being over twelve hundred.

Railroad shops and Round Houses were soon established here and it became a division point, one line of road going via Leadville, the other via Marshall Pass. Salida, meaning "Open View", is the only natural opening into the great San Luis Valley and adjacent mining camps. Our population is composed, by about two-thirds, of Railroad families, who mostly own their little homes. There is a large, independent smelter one and one-half miles out of town, which, while not included in the corporation, has a community of people employed that could receive the benefit of a free public library in Salida. There are between three-hundred and four-hundred people in this smelter suburb, and many of the families own their homes.

The enrollment of school children the last year in Salida was somewhat over nine hundred.

The following facts, I have recently received from our County Assessor:

The property valuation of Salida for 1904 was seven hundred and eighty three thousand, one hundred and nine dollars (\$783,109.00) which is only about 33 1/3 % of the real valuation. The estimated increase for 1905 is \$100,000.00, caused by **new property** and an increase of valuation on lots.

Agriculture and stock-raising have been carried on in this region for over forty years and both are still unsuccessful.

Our Library Association has a fund started for purchasing a lot on which to build a library. This work we intend to push industriously until completed.

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A-C-3.

As to securing an income from a City tax, we feel much encouraged. We have an intelligent, moral and progressive Mayor, together with several Aldermen of the same kind, elected for a term of two years. These gentlemen, we have good reason to believe, are favorable to our project of establishing a library.

If we could have some assurance that you still look upon our situation favorably as a point where your efforts and your generosity might be expended, we believe the impetus for securing the fund for a building site would be doubled.

And if we are lacking any other conditions for securing your favor than these of a site and the guarantee of the tax income, will you be pleased to so inform us? Then will it be to our greatest interest and pleasure to work along the lines you may dictate.

Thanking you in advance for the trouble of reading my letter, and hoping for your favor in this great good for our town, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth H. Spray,

President-elect of the Tuesday Evening Club of Salida, Colorado, And by virtue of office, also President of the Library Association of Salida, Colorado.

Dict. to L. C. B.

ALBERT R. MILLER
CITY ATTORNEY

copy

Salida, Colorado, July 17th 1905.

Honorable Andrew Carnegie,
Skibo Castle, Scotland.

Honored Sir:-

I wish to add my indorsement to those that may come to you in support of the application of The Salida Library Association in the matters pertaining to a public library in this city. I have been acquainted with the work of this Association from its inception as The Tuesday Evening Club, and can testify to the enterprise and self-sacrifice of these public spirited women. The matters with reference to our city are conservatively stated in their letter; and many of us believe with this Association that there has been no more opportune time for the establishment of a public library at this point. We therefore wish to add our petition to theirs: that this laudable enterprise which they have been fostering these years may be consummated through your assistance.

I might add in this connection that Mrs Ruth H. Spray, the President-elect of this Association, is one of the Vice-Presidents of The American Peace Society, and was a delegate to the recent meeting of that Association held in the city of Boston. Any enterprise with which she is in sympathy is most worthy of our best support.

Trusting that you may see your way clear to grant our reasonable request, we beg to remain,

Your obedient servants,

Albert R. Miller

Deputy District Attorney.
City Attorney, Salida.

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Salida, Colo. July 18th, 1905

WHEREAS, it has come to our notice that The Tuesday Evening Club, through its President, Mrs. Ruth H. Spray, is and has been endeavoring to build a free library and secure lots and money for said purpose. We also have listened to the reading of a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Carnegie requesting his financial assistance in the above matter.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That it is the sense of this Board of Trade, herein expressed, that we heartily and unreservedly endorse the movement and greatly commend the efforts of Mrs. Spray and the Club.

W. H. Rollers

President.

Salida Board of Trade.

O. J. Kennedy

Secretary--Board of Trade.

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Office of City Clerk
Salida Colorado

Office of City Clerk
Salida, Colorado.

Salida Colorado
July 26 1905

To Whom it may concern:-

We the undersigned, do heartily endorse the action
taken by the Salida Library Association.

Louis Wenz, Mayor

N. W. Meigs, City Clerk

Theo. C. Bode)
Frank Churcher)
J. W. Lodge)
F. D. Granger) Aldermen
J. U. Mock)
V. C. Davenport)

F. T. Hersinger, City Marshall

Copy

Salida Colorado
November 1, 1905.

Honorable Andrew Carnegie
5 West 51st St
New York

Salida, Colorado,
November 1 1905.

Dear Sir:-

I beg your pardon for addressing you the second time without having heard from you, but the occasion seems, to my mind, to allow it.

I beg permission to say that the matter of our Library effort rests thus:-We believe we can get the money for making the first payment on a suitable lot for building, if the parties who have promised to contribute can be assured that you look upon our petition favorably: and if you can let us know if there is anything else lacking on our part except the building site, we can better know what to work for.

We are sadly in need of a Library Building and there are not three people of considerable means amongst us.

My letter to you of date July 17th sent to New York, set forth the facts, I think quite clearly; although some of the business men and city officials who endorsed it, told me I stated matters too conservatively.

Hoping sincerely that I am not imposing on your time and patience, and begging an answer at your convenience,
I am,

Very sincerely yours

Mrs Ruth H Spray Pres Tuesday
Evening Club and Salida Library Associati

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November 6 1905

- 1 Town?
- 2 Population?
- 3 Has it a library at present?
- 4 Number of books(excludinggovernment reports)?
- 5 Circulation for the past year?
- 6 How is thelibrary housed?
- 7 Number and measurements of rooms and their uses?
- 8 Finances according to last yearly report-

<u>Receipts</u> :	<u>Expenditures</u>
City appropriations?	Rent?
Bequests?	Salaries?
Receipts (miscellaneous)?	Books?
" from loans of books?	Miscellaneous?
Total revenue for year?	Total expenditure?
- 9 Rate at which Council will pledge support of library yearly(levying tax for purpose)if building is obtained?
- 10 Is requisite site available?
- 11 Amount now collected toward building?

To facilitate Mr Carnegie's consideration of your appeal of July 17 '05, will you oblige, by filling in the above blank and returning with statement of any other particulars likely to assist in making decision?

It is necessary to give explicit answer to each question, as in absence of such there is no basis for action, and the matter will be delayed pending further communication.

Respectfully,

Jas. Bertram secretary.

Signature _____
Designation _____

The original blank was filled *in* with the following answers to the eleven questions and returned to Mr Carnegie with the letter which follows.

Copy

- 1,- Salida, Colorado.
- 2,- A little over five thousand.
- 3- Yes, belonging to an association.
- 4,- 2000, at least.
- 5,- 2400.
- 6,- "City Hall" or Town Council room.
- 7'- One room in which the City Council meets and the police magistrate holds his court.

8,-	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
	City appropriations?	none	Rent?	none
	Bequests	none	Salaries	none
	Miscellaneous receipts	\$3.20	Books	\$85.00
	Receipts from loans of books		Miscellaneous	5.00
		<u>\$36.80</u>	Total expenditure	<u>90.00</u>
	Total revenue for year	40.00		90.00

\$50.00 of the expenses was taken from the general fund of the club that forms the Library Association.

- 9,- One mill on the dollar annually; Tax valuation for 1905 is eight hundred eighty three thousand one hundred and nine dollars (\$883,109.00)
- 10,- There is a good site we can get an option on, We have not quite \$100.00 in our fund for site.
- 11,- Nothing

Copy

Salida Colorado
December 1905

Honorable Andrew Carnegie,
2 East 91st St New York

My Dear Sir:-

Our expenses were greater before the Town Council allowed us to move into their head quarters, wherer we have no rent to pay, but the circulation of our books has fallen off, as it is embarrassing to some patrons to appear in a room where the police magistrate is holding his court.

As implied in my letter of July 17th, we have spent most of the money we have collected from membership fees and dues and from entertainments in buying books and good bookcases.

We have a small fund started and some prospect of getting a thousand dollars toward the site from one of our citizens; but if that plan does not materialize, we are thinking of calling a mass meeting for the purpose of raising the sum, \$1500.00 necessary to purchase the lot or two lots on which we hope to get an option.

It is the intention of the Tuesday Evening Club, which owns the books and cases and is chartered as The Salida Library Association, to deed the site that may be purchased to the town of Salida as soon as we can have the building assured on such condition.

Thanking you truly for response to my letter of July 17

I am

Most sincerely yours,

Ruth H. Spray Pres. of Tuesday
Evening Club and Salida Library Associati

ANDREW CARNEGIE
2 EAST 91ST STREET
NEW YORK

December 23rd, 1905.

Mrs. Ruth H. Spray,
President, Library Assn.,
Salida, Colo.

Dear Madam,

Responding to your communications on behalf of Salida, - If the City agree by Resolution of Council to maintain a Free Public Library at a cost of not less than Nine Hundred Dollars a year and provide a site for the building, Mr. Carnegie will be glad to give Nine Thousand Dollars to erect a Free Public Library Building for Salida.

Respectfully yours,



P. Secretary.