

## Salida Public Library

In giving you a short talk about our public library, it will take me back a number of years. Our club was organized in 1894, and in our year book of that time, article "11" of the constitution reads as follows:

"The object of this club shall be mutual improvement, upon all subjects pertaining to literature, history, home education, current-events, music and art. To gain facility in the use of parliamentary rules, and to establish a good city library. I think it was six years later, in 1900, when the club started, what we called at that time, "The Reading Room" in a room of the school house which is now "The McCray building". From there we moved to a small room, where "Nevens and Koster" now have their office. Next, we moved to a room where the Y. & R. garage is, it was called Mr. Eddy's office." and then we moved to the upstairs of the "City Hall." The member who at this time had charge of the library as we then named it, was called the "custodian" and each member of the club acted as librarian in alphabetical order. The rule was "any member failing to perform her library duties was fined one dollar, which the custodian had to collect."

The custodian of the library was responsible for the care of the library. She superintended the librarians, had charge of all library expenses. She rendered a written report of all money transactions for the library to the "Board of Directors" once in three months, and a full report to the club at its annual meeting. I was custodian when we moved the books from the Eddy room ~~the~~<sup>to</sup> the upstairs of the city hall, we packed the books in wash tubs and carried them over.

The librarian was her own janitor, she had to make the fires take care of the ashes and clean. When we moved to the city hall room, we were relieved of most of that work. At that time the library was



kept open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, except holidays from 2 to 5 and through the summer months from 2:30 to 5:30 P.M. Each active member was privileged to have a ticket in the library free of charge, all other persons had to pay \$2/00 a year/ If any member left town, she gave her ticket to the custodian who destroyed it. I think now some of you are wondering where we got our first books to start with. To begin~~x~~ the club gave book parties, we would come dressed to represent a book and the price of admission was a book, and later when Mrs. Helen Cook was custodian she wrote a number of prominent people in the state asking for books and money and ~~to~~ this added to the number of books/

Then we commenced in earnest to work and raise money for books and a library building. For some time we gave a big entertainment every year in the opera house. I think the first one was a play. "Mrs. Quilps Tea Party" The second a minstrel show by the club ladies in Jan. 1897. The third in 1898 was a <sup>S</sup>German Entertainment in two parts, the first "The Farewell Tour of Fritz and <sup>K</sup>Matrina, mit de Leedle German Band". and 2nd part "The Duzenberrys keep hotel in up to date German style".

There were other programs and entertainments given for the library and we had packed houses. At the minstrel show I remember we wore white canton flannel skirts with fuzzy side out, faces blacked and wigs of black hair that is used in upholstered furniture, I was one of the end men and had a tambourine, I think my name was Dina Dewdrop. I also did the stuttering act. The interlocutor asked me the way to the postoffice and when ~~we~~ doing my best <sup>to</sup> stutter, to answer him (or her) purposely getting mixed up in my directions, Mr. Carl Ridgway called out- "Spit" I did not take his advice but with considerable self control I ~~stuttered~~ <sup>stuttered</sup> to the end of my stuttering act/



Later we became interested in the Carnegie Libraries <sup>arrives</sup> and commenced writing about them. I think Mrs. Ruth Spray did most of the correspondence. We found out that the first thing required of the club was to furnish a site, and our first President Mrs. <sup>S</sup> Carl Ridgeway bought the lots where our library now is, and gave it to the club, the Bronze Plaque in our library is in <sup>HON</sup> ~~our~~ honor of our first President, and given <sup>R</sup> ~~to~~ the library site, Mrs. Mary C. Ridgeway/

Later when we were successfully in securing the Carnegie money for the library, the amount given us, ~~now~~ was based upon the taxable property of the town, and, <sup>HAD</sup> and received our plans from the architect and the bids from the ~~local~~ contractor, we found we did not have enough money to build it according to the plans. I recall many meetings <sup>of the building committee</sup> we went over the plans many times, deciding what we could do without so as to reduce the cost of the building, and then we made one big effort to raise enough money by giving "The Kermis, July 1909 under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Flint/ Mr/ Flint was a dancing master. It was given in the opera house and the Kermis Bazaar was given in the rink four nights. It was a big success/ <sup>clearing about \$380.</sup> The corner stone was laid in 1908. The library was finished and given to the city about May 1909 with 1000 volumes.

Mrs. Gravett was ~~one~~ of our first librarians for two years then in 1911 Mrs/ Helen Cook was appointed and remained 12 years resigning Jan. 5, 1923. Mrs. Monte Fesenbeck of Powell Wyo/ was appointed to succeed Mrs. Cook but did not remain long and our present librarian Mrs. Nedderman was appointed.

She has proven very successful in her management and work of the library. On Jan. 6, 1906 Mr/ Wm. P. Harbottle died and willed us his home on the corners of 6th and G streets, and from the income of the property we were to buy reference books for the Juliana Reference Room which was named after his wife. On the clubs 30th anniversary 1924 Mr/ Buchanan in a brief address recalled the time when as Mayor of



Salida, received as a gift the library from the Tuesday Evening Club and said we are all proud of our library both of the building and the splended assortment of books/ He read statistics showing the cost of the upkeeps of libries in other dities comparable with Salida to be from two to three times as great as that of our library. This is not due to inferiority of our library, but because of the great assistance rendered by the Tuesday Evening Club, which furnishes the reference books most of the magazines and by the rental of their club rooms, helps to defray other expenses. Such a library is a wonderful asget to any city and the club is justly proud of this lasting monument of their service to their community. To bring the library up to date. I want to give you th the Librarians report for 1933:

Money for fines and pay books received at the desk           \$260.80

There were 20,348 adult books circulated

"       "       6,733 Childrens books circulated

"       "       3,502 magazines circulated

30,583 Total prices circulated

193 new books added

10,000 books cataloged

5,102 people used the reading room

35,685 people used the library.

These figures do not include persons coming into the library for other purposes that to draw books or read, as school children, coming in classes or to have reading certificates signed, book agents, persons looking for a book not available, persons asking favors, getting a drink or accompanying a friend, who was getting a book/

A number of new shelves have been added and shelves put up in the magazine room in the basement where the old magazines are kept on file. all together the club raised with entertainments subscriptions and other work including the library buttons we had made and sold for 25 cents

as follows:

From Carnegie fund	\$9,000
Mrs/ Ridgway for the lot	1,200
City tax assesment for 1907	859.35
By subscriptions	2533/00
Tuesday Evening Club Kermiss	379.60

and later the club raised what was still due making the total over \$14,000.

Our library is rated by librarians as one of the best in the U/ S. for a city of this size. It has the ~~ea~~ largest magazine department of any library in the state outside of the big cities, and I think you will agree with me that all this work through storm and strife as well as pleasure and profit has proven the truth of our club motto

"It is ~~soth~~ worth while."

Martha J. Jones

Oct. 30, 1934