

Conclusion

THE HISTORY OF THE SALIDA PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 1897 the Tuesday Evening Club of Salida, Colo. started the Public Library. for 12 years the members of the club took turns serving as Librarian three afternoons a week, they also served as janitor. It was a struggle to raise the money to pay the rent for the room where they had established their first Library.

At last the city recognized their efforts and gave them quarters in the City Hall over the fire department.

Later the Music and Art Department of the club raised the money to purchase a piano for the club.

In 1906 Mr. Wm. P. Harbottle passed away and willed his property to the Tuesday Evening Club, with the stipulation that the income from the property was to be used to purchase Reference-Non Fiction books to be placed in a room of the Library, when such Library should be an accomplished fact, such room to be called The Juliana Reference Room, as a Memorial to his mother.

Mr. Carnegie gave the Club \$9,000.00 towards the Library building fund. Mary C. Ridgeway donated \$1,200.00 for the lots, the balance of funds needed was raised by entertainments and subscriptions, the total sum raised being \$14,071.95.

The corner stone was laid in 1908 and the building was completed and turned over to the city in May 1909 with 1,000 volumes.

Mrs. Gravett was the first Librarian and served two years. Then Mrs. Helen Cook was appointed as Librarian and served twelve years. She resigned Jan. 1923 and Mrs. Monto Fezenbeck was appointed but, served only a short time, Then Mrs. Nedderman was appointed in Jan. 1924 and served until Aug. 1960, when she was forced to retire because of age and ill health.

Mrs. Catherine Latimer succeeded Mrs. Nedderman and is the present Librarian.

Reference-Non Fiction books are purchased each year from the rental received from the Harbottle property, the Juliana Reference room is constantly being used by study groups and High School students.

The Tuesday Evening Club still continues to have an active interest in the Library by donation magazines subscriptions and in the purchase of childrens books.

From the rental of the club room in the basement of the Library, retained for the use of the Tuesday Evening club, additional funds are raised and given for the purchase of other books, in return for the free use of the hall. the club maintains and keeps the premises in good repair and pays the Library Board all net revenues derived from said rents from other organizations.

To properly assume the obligations there was organized the Salida Library association of the Tuesday Evening Club.

This Organization also becomes the natural guardian of the Harbottle property and as such was appointed by the board of Trustees of the Salida Public Library to act as its ~~agent~~ agent in supervision and rental of the property.

The Co-operative relationship which has existed for many years between the Board of Trustees of the Salida Public Library and the Salida Library association of the Tuesday Evening Club, is regarded in other locations as unique, However, there seems a well united opinion that the arrangement may continue indefinitely as a most amicable and satisfactory way of best promoting the cultural interests of our community while also honoring the expressed wishes of the donor of a fine memorial Library for the use of all who care to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by an exceptional collection of reference books.

The Salida Public Library is rated as one of 85 outstanding Libraries in the United States.

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