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A HISTORY OF

CLACKAMAS COUNTY LIBRARIES



Compiled by the Workers of the Writers' Program
Of the Work Projects Administration
In the State of Oregon

A HISTORY OF THE CLACKAMAS COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

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SPONSORED BY THE CLACKAMAS COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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F O R E W O R D

Clackamas County is a typical example of the ebb and flow of library activities in the West. The Federal Government, to take care of the library needs of the educated who came West a hundred years ago, started a Federal Library in Oregon City. Through various changes of administration and government, it was allowed to become extinct.

Now, one hundred years later, the Federal Government again comes to the aid of Clackamas County in establishing a WPA system of libraries throughout the county.

It is a pleasure for the County Library Board to join the WPA in sponsoring this history of library endeavors in Clackamas County. The Oregon Writers' Project of the WPA has done a very wonderful job in collecting all the necessary data.

Clackamas County Library Board

Fred C. Inkster, President
Mrs. Reva Case
Herman Ledding
Mrs. William Hammond
Mrs. Raymond Cauffield

A HISTORY OF THE CLACKAMAS COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Nearly a century ago, when Oregon was in its infancy, and even before a civil government was formed, Clackamas County had a library. Aside from a collection of books maintained at Vancouver by employees of the Hudson's Bay Company, for their own use, this was the first circulating library west of the Rocky Mountains.

From the early 1840's the book-ward trend continued nearly a decade; then for almost half a century, during the era of growth and expansion, little attention was given to the library movement. In the late 1890's, however, women interested in both the practical and cultural value of reading banded together in clubs and library associations to provide reading facilities for their communities. Strangely enough, this revival of interest in reading rooms did not occur in the thickly populated centers of Clackamas County, but in the more isolated regions. Many of these early attempts at library establishment found the difficulties of securing funds, adequate housing, and competent attendants almost insurmountable, and many failed to survive.

Oswego maintained a Free Reading Room and Library from 1893 to 1906, then was compelled to discontinue, distributing the books among the library members. In 1900 Molalla opened a library which has since given continuous service. Molalla proudly boasts "the distinction of giving the longest uninterrupted library service in the county".

It was not until the middle 1930's, however, that a really successful effort was made to bring books to the people. Starting without funds in 1934, a county-wide system has developed into a fully organized institution under supervision of the county government.

The first circulating library, located at Willamette Falls (Oregon City), was called the Multnomah Circulating Library and was probably formed just prior to or during one of the historically famous "Wolf Meetings", two meetings held in the spring of 1843 ostensibly to discuss ways and means of controlling depredations by predatory animals, especially wolves, but actually to formulate plans for organizing a civil government.

W. H. Gray in his History of Oregon writes the following in connection with the forming of this library: "A consultation was held at the house of Gray to consider the expediency of organizing a provincial government..... the conclusion that no direct effort could succeed, as it had already been tried and failed.....two plans were suggested; one at least might succeed. The first was to get up a circulating library, and by that means draw attention and discussion to subjects of interest to the settlement and secure the influence of the Methodist Mission, as education was a subject they had commenced. We found no difficulty in the library from them, only they seemed anxious to keep from the library a certain class of light reading which they appeared tenacious about. This was not a vital point to the original movers, so they yielded it. The library prospered, finally; one hundred shares were taken at five dollars a share; three hundred volumes of

old books were collected and placed in the institution which was called the Multnomah Circulating Library. One hundred dollars was sent to New York for new books which arrived the next year." Gray, it would seem, either initiated the organization or, at least, had considerable to do with its coming into existence. He fails to record the exact date of the meeting or the names of the others attending but he indicates it was during the period mentioned above.

Charles H. Carey, in his General History of Oregon, states, "Organization about this time (Couch's second trip to Oregon in 1842) of a circulating library and debating society, contributed to the general welfare, Multnomah circulating library was created by donation of a few books, then in possession of the residents, and a fund was collected and sent to New York for the purchase of others."

Multnomah Circulating Library was incorporated by an act of the Oregon Provisional Legislature, August 19, 1845, being the second corporation authorized in Oregon. The petition asking incorporation has been identified as being in the hand writing of W. H. Gray and was signed by the foremost men in the Willamette Valley, among them J. W. Nesmith, later U. S. Senator; A. L. Lovejoy, co-founder of Portland; Sidney W. Moss, author, businessman and philanthropist; Dr. Elijah White, sub-Indian agent; Hugh Burns, founder of Multnomah City, (a ghost town in West Linn); and William Holmes, of "Rose Farm" at Mount Pleasant. When this library passed out of existence is not known. The last mention of it is found in the Federal census of 1850.

Clackamas County's next library was made possible by the enabling act passed by Congress and signed by President Polk, August 14, 1848, creating Oregon a territory and appropriating \$5,000 for a library to be maintained at the seat of government which then was Oregon City. Later in the same year, having been shipped by sailing vessel, books valued at \$3,000 arrived in the rapidly growing settlement located at Willamette Falls, and the Territorial Library began to function. It remained in Oregon City until 1852 when it was moved to Salem, the new capital. An inventory of books in the library at that time disclosed 450 volumes of court reports and legal text books; and 750 volumes of art, science, history, travel, poetry, and fiction. This entire collection was destroyed when the capitol burned December 29, 1854.

With the exception of those of Church and Sunday School libraries, there is no record of a circulating library in the county from 1852 until near the twentieth century, when Oswego and Molalla revived library interest. Oswego experienced a dormant period starting in 1906 but Molalla was able to give continuous and uninterrupted service up to the present time.

The next library was established in Oregon City in 1909. It has always been independently financed and has functioned continuously. Gladstone has had a library for the past quarter of a century, but until the county-wide system was started, its services were discouragingly irregular and at times ceased altogether. Milwaukie had a library in 1889, but after a few months of operation it was destroyed by fire. It was revived again in 1910 and continued six years until a new grammar school was built, when the books

were turned over to it. A third library was formed by a group of interested people in 1926, but after a short time became dormant.

After the opening of the Oregon City Library, at least three attempts were made to start a county system. All came to naught, allegedly because of opposition in the rural districts.

In 1913, Miss Cornelia Marvin (Mrs. Walter M. Pierce), State Librarian, headed a determined campaign for the county-wide system. She personally appeared before the County Commissioners and sent a paid worker to canvass the entire county giving detailed information concerning the proposition. Nevertheless, it was voted down at the polls.

Twenty years elapsed. Then Mrs. William Hammond, of Gladstone, suggested the present system, not with the idea it would materialize into a county-governed institution, but as a means to extend SERA employment to girls and young women.

"The depression," Mrs. Hammond relates, "sobered people down and they began to think. When they began to think they began to ask for reading matter. Consequently a demand for libraries with their storehouse of information became insistent. Our library in Gladstone had for years given intermittent service, then it became completely dormant. We in Gladstone who were interested in our library now realized the imperative necessity of bringing this 'sleeping sickness' to an end.

"It was impossible for our little community to supply sufficient money to make the library self-supporting, and in desperation we appealed to the

works division of the SERA for help.

"When L. C. Stoll, Clackamas County Works Manager, learned of our plight, we began to go places. He provided us with girls from the relief rolls to act as assistant librarians. The girls were efficient and they enabled us to keep the library open daily, both afternoons and evenings. With regular hours the demand for books increased beyond our expectations."

A few weeks later Mr. Stoll mentioned, in a conversation with Mrs. Hammond, that he had been instructed by the County Relief Committee to establish a project for girls and women whose training and environment unsuited them for the women's projects then in operation. He said he was completely at a loss as to what to do and was looking for somebody who could suggest a solution to the problem.

Mrs. Hammond reminded him of the Gladstone library's success with the girls he provided, and wanted to know why it would not be a good idea to secure from the relief rolls assistants to all the libraries in the county. The idea impressed Mr. Stoll and he and Mrs. Hammond called on Miss Harriet Long, State Librarian, and explained the situation. Miss Long offered enthusiastic help in putting the machinery in motion and in supervising the operation of the projects. Her interest in the Clackamas County experiment in a large degree contributed to the growth which has resulted in its becoming a county-governed institution.

Mr. Stoll made the library projects a hobby. He assigned girls to the four libraries then existing, and followed this with a systematic campaign

for more libraries. He said he was going to try "to get a library in every community in the county". By January, 1935, he had induced three more towns, Sandy, Clackamas and Canby, to start libraries. These seven gave employment to 25 girls and women.

By March, 1935, the libraries had developed to such a stage that it became necessary to have centralized control of operation. Consequently, the projects were consolidated under one management with Miss Long as director, and Mrs. Ida G. Slawson, librarian of the Oregon City Library, as consultant and supervisor. Mrs. Slawson's services were contributed without charge by the Oregon City Library Association, though it was not a part of the new system. It also provided desk space in the library as headquarters and shelf room to house 1,000 (now increased to over 2,500) volumes sent by Miss Long from the State Library to be rotated among the libraries of the county system.

The formation of the county-wide project was discussed with the sponsors and library assistants of all the libraries at a meeting held in the Oregon City Library. Among those attending, besides Miss Long, were Burton Palmer, State head of the WERA Works Division in Oregon; Joseph E. Hedges and Percy E. Caufield, president and secretary of the Oregon City Library Association; City Commissioner L. O. Harding of Oregon City; Mayor A. D. Paddock of Gladstone; Mrs. M. J. Brown of Gladstone, president of the Clackamas County Parent-Teacher Council; Fred Perrine, secretary of the Oregon City Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. Lucia A. Bliss of Oswego, secretary of the Clackamas County

Libraries Association; Mrs. William Hammond, of Gladstone; and Mrs. George Case, of Molalla.

Mr. Palmer told the library workers that so important was the pioneering they were now engaged in, that the SERA was watching the experiment, and its success or failure would have large influence on the State Administration as to whether it would start similar projects in other parts of Oregon.

Miss Long declared no other county in the state had utilized the SERA so effectively as had Clackamas County in spreading library opportunity. "Too much credit cannot be given Mr. Stoll for his untiring efforts to bring books to the people," she said.

Mrs. Sarah Evans, one of Oregon's most noted women, through whose personal efforts the library laws of Oregon were enacted, declared that words could not express the importance of the movement. She believed the SERA should set up a library in every county in the state, as it had in Clackamas County.

Mrs. William Brown considered it the best thing the SERA had ever done.

Heading a series of interviews it published in the spring of 1935, the Oregon City Enterprise asserted the SERA Library project was far-reaching endeavor not only in providing employment for deserving women and girls but in adding to the social and cultural life of the county.

Later, Miss Long wrote from Salem that she had told the National Convention of Librarians at St. Louis about the Clackamas County experiment and its success. Her letter said the Clackamas County Library System was

the only one in the United States, operated by the SERA.

SERA operation continued without serious interruption until that agency was succeeded by the Works Progress Administration in the fall of 1935. Financing the project then became an uphill task. Authorization of the WPA library project was for short periods, necessitating repeated renewals. Mr. Stoll and a few others kept the project alive. A resolution of gratitude in the minutes of the Clackamas County Libraries Association records an appreciation of his efforts.

The Works Progress Administration continued to provide librarians until April, 1936, when its assistance was cut off for a month as allotted funds were depleted. The federal subsidy was continued after June 1, but within a few weeks announcement was made that a curtailment would probably be necessary in the fall because funds were insufficient to carry the WPA in full stride until Congress met. M. S. Shrock, representing the Milwaukie Library Association, called a meeting held September 16, 1936 of the heads of the libraries and others interested in their continuance. Miss Long was among those invited to attend.

The group organized the Clackamas County Library Committee with Fred C. Inkster of Oswego, chairman; Mrs. William Hammond, vice-chairman; Mrs. Lucia A. Bliss, Oswego, secretary; and A. D. Paddock, Gladstone, treasurer. This committee, later permanently organized as the Clackamas County Library Association, finally induced the Clackamas County Court to establish a County Library Board, thus practically insuring permanency of the county-wide system.

Discussion at the organization meeting definitely favored continuance of the library system. Miss Long believed equal attention should be given to planning a permanent system and to immediate financing. She said that WPA and community financing served the purpose for the present but that some day a permanent method of financing would be necessary. Suggestion was made that a committee be appointed to see the County Planning Board, a necessary preliminary to securing support of the County Commission. This was approved and the committee instructed to suggest two propositions to Mr. Stoll, one combining community and WPA contributions, as then existed, with the county adding financial support. The other was to petition the County Court to establish a permanent library system, with local and county contributions supplemented by WPA assistance as long as it was available, and carrying the burden independently after Federal funds were withdrawn. The committee secured a petition in support of its propositions signed by 800 taxpayers from all parts of the county and presented it to the County Court, which not only firmly but abruptly turned it down.

The committee bided its time for several months, during which WPA assistance was cut off for November and December, 1936, because of the general curtailment program. Though this was a staggering blow, the various communities kept their libraries operating after a fashion, resorting to every conceivable means to raise money. In addition, they campaigned to promote sentiment in favor of the library movement.

WPA contribution was resumed in January, 1937, but a new difficulty,

which was beyond the control of the communities, presented itself. Mrs. Ida Slawson of the Oregon City Library found it necessary to discontinue her activities with the committee and resigned, leaving the position of supervisor vacant. WPA was willing to provide a paid supervisor. Regulations, however, required that any supervisor it furnished must be a certified worker on its lists and at that time no one was eligible. It was over three months before one was appointed.

The Library Committee resumed its activities in April 1937, re-organizing on a permanent basis as the Clackamas County Libraries Association. The officers of the committee were continued by the new group. They have been reelected at each election since, with the exception of Mr. Inkster, who was replaced as president by W. D. Rowe, of Milwaukie, Mr. Inkster resigning after being named chairman of the County Library Board when it was created in 1938.

Plans were at once laid to insure continuance of WPA assistance for the fiscal year, 1937-1938, and to prepare a constructive program that would insure permanency of the library system, county-wide in scope, with or without WPA contribution.

With these objects in view, the association prepared a budget calling for \$14,000 to be provided by the communities and the county in case WPA funds were withdrawn. The ways and means committee, the fighting front of the association, was instructed to ascertain what amount the County Court would be willing to contribute, and to endeavor to enlist the County Planning Board in

its behalf.

The committee met a more cordial reception on the part of the County Court, but all signs of friendship ended when the contribution of money was mentioned. The board admitted that its members as individuals were in sympathy with the library movement, but officially declined to shoulder entire responsibility for using county money in its support.

The County Planning Board favored submitting the whole library question, including a millage tax, to the voters of the county at the May 1938 primary election, settling the question one way or the other once and for all.

Legal advice was to the effect, however, that a measure such as this could come before the voters only at a general election. An elaborate campaign was outlined to put the question on the November 1938 ballot, but it proved too costly and was abandoned.

The rejection of the \$14,000 budget was the first of many obstacles the ways and means committee encountered. It secured endorsements from civic organizations, school boards, granges, parent-teacher associations, churches, and community clubs, but still the Court remained unconvinced.

Desperate but still determined, the committee decided on a new attack. It appeared before the Court demanding exactly what endorsement would change the continual "no" to "yes". Failing to sidetrack the committee, the County Court finally announced that it would create a county library board if a majority of the city councils in the county favored the idea.

The committee not only secured the required majority, but got endorse-

ments from all the city councils in the county, and for good measure, presented the approval of all the mayors in the county.

The County Court surrendered. It agreed to create a library board, and carried out its promise on July 9, 1938. As board members the Court named Fred C. Inkster, Oswego, Chairman; L. O. Harding, Oregon City; Herman Ledding, Milwaukie; Mrs. Reva Case, Molalla, and Ivan Barker, Sandy. The Court designated County School Superintendent, Errol C. Rees, to act as secretary to the board.

Under the state law the County Library Board is a permanent division of the county government. Though it created the Board, the Court cannot abolish it. The Board can be discontinued only by vote of the people at a general election.

The Libraries Association expects to place a measure on the 1940 election ballot, providing an annual tax not to exceed one mill for library purposes. It is estimated that county-wide library service, including all schools, will require not over four-tenths of a mill tax, so long as WPA assistance is continued. Until a tax is voted, the County Court will set apart funds necessary for library support.

The Libraries Association, with its main objective achieved, has begun a campaign to extend library service to all parts of the county where it is now lacking. So far, it has supported the setting up of libraries at Clackamas and West Linn. It is acting in an advisory capacity to the county board, and as a stop-gap in case any emergency arises.

At the meeting of the association following the appointment of the members of the County Library Board, Mr. Inkster retired from the presidency of the association. He was succeeded by Wilbur D. Rowe, of Milwaukie, who served until January, 1940, when Mr. C. O. Paddock of Gladstone was selected.

All members of the county-wide system have worked tirelessly in advancing the interests of the library movement. If there is any group entitled to mention for outstanding efforts, it is perhaps the ways and means committee: A. D. Paddock, chairman; Mrs. William Hammond of Gladstone; Herman Ledding of Milwaukie; Mrs. G. Howard Pettinger of Oswego; Mrs. George Gabriel of Canby. The president, Mr. Inkster, bore the brunt of the battle to secure the County Library Board.

The county-wide library movement started in 1934, practically without funds. In 1940 budgeted expenditures called for over \$25,000. Official figures of the circulation for 1934 are not available, but it was probably not much over 15,000 volumes, not including the Oregon City Library. From the year 1934 and until 1939, circulation has increased from 15,000 volumes to over 113,859 volumes and it is more than probable that the 1939 circulation would have reached at least 115,000, had it not been for the forced "vacations" of library assistants, required by the Federal law of 1939, under the 18-months ruling.

A short account of the activities of the County Library Board, though not history, strictly speaking, is included herein to show how well the tireless efforts of the Libraries Association have been rewarded.

During the 18 months, after it was organized, the board opened 50 stations convenient for rural residents not provided with library facilities, serviced as well the schools in the county, opened a library in West Linn, and furnished a "bookmobile" service.

In January, 1939, as soon as county funds became available, the board began setting up a county library which now contains between 3,000 and 3,500 volumes. These are housed in the Oregon City Library, along with the 3,000 volume deposit of the State Library. More books were added in 1940, but the number was limited because of the cut of \$1,500 made by the County budget committee in the board's estimated expense. The board had \$4,000 budgeted for book purchases.

The "bookmobile" was provided by the WPA and is being used to facilitate the distribution of books to all libraries, schools, and stations. This car, the body of which was constructed by WPA mechanics, has a capacity load of 1,500 volumes. The bookmobile has headquarters at the Oregon City Library. It makes regular trips over scheduled routes at stated intervals, leaving new books and picking up returns. The machine is accompanied by a library supervisor and driver familiar with library work. The body of the car is of attractive exterior design. On each side of the interior and at the rear end are book shelves, beneath which are compartments for magazines, pamphlets, and other unbound publications. There is plenty of "elbow room" left for convenient handling.

Clackamas is one of the two counties in Oregon (Lane is the other) having

the use of a WPA bookmobile. The bookmobile was loaned to the county for demonstration purposes in 1939 and made its first trip on September 27 to the Carver school. Since that date it has served the people of the county in school, personal, and branch libraries, traveling approximately 8,400 miles and distributing 17,441 books.

During the school year service to the 93 rural schools of the county, each of which was visited 4 times, was the most important branch of the truck's work. Over 8,000 books were circulated to these schools. Rural school funds have been pooled to purchase 1,000 books which would be available to all schools through the transportation furnished by the truck.

Since the close of school, adult service has been the center of the book truck's activity. Stops along the road were made as well as the regular monthly visits to the branch libraries at Canby, Clackamas, Estacada, Gladstone, Milwaukie, Molalla, Oswego, and Sandy, and the six deposit stations at Damascus, Jennings Lodge, Stafford, West Linn, Willamette, and Wilsonville. Localities visited were Colton, Mulino, Welches, Brightwood, Rhododendron, Viola, Boring, Harmony Point, and Fisher's Mill. Approximately 9,000 volumes were loaned to the branches.

The chief advantages of the truck are that it furnishes economical distribution, prevents duplication of buying, and serves rural districts more efficiently.

The County Library owns 4,000 books and it has 3,050 State books, a total of 7,050 books.

During August 1940 the Clackamas County Library circulated 2,078 more books than were circulated for the month of August, 1939. Total number of books circulated was 15,755.

The first budget prepared by the County Board, that for the year 1939, called for the expenditure of \$25,000. The county contributed \$4,500, cities and towns \$8,300, and the WPA was scheduled to contribute \$12,500, but the sum was considerably reduced by WPA enforced "vacations".

The budget for 1940 as approved by the County Library Board totaled \$25,000. Expected contribution from the WPA was approximately \$13,000, from the county \$4,500, and from the cities and towns \$8,000. Clackamas County's share of the state's library fund for third class schools amounts to about \$900 annually. This amount is turned over to the County Board to assist in the centralization of library activities.

Highly important in the history of the library movement in the county is the effort which the various cities and towns made to provide free reading matter to their localities. The uncertainty of income was always a menace to success. Irregularity of service often was the cause of more or less interrupted operation. In spite of all the setbacks, the library movement in Clackamas County refused to die. The experiences of the different libraries from Oswego and Molalla down to Wilsonville, tell a story of success through persistent, united, and intelligent effort.

COMMUNITY LIBRARY HISTORIES

CANBY LIBRARY by Mrs. E. P. Shewey

Early in 1880 Canby had its first library. At a small schoolhouse two of Canby's early pioneer women, Mrs. C. Wait and Mrs. Philander Lee, brought books for the children to read--books that were different from their school books. These books were loaned to the children and under promise of taking the best of care, they were permitted to take them home.

The next exchange library was conducted by Mrs. Cynthia Hasford and books were loaned by her and she borrowed books from others to pass on.

In 1896 Mrs. L. T. Batton had a small store in which she sold different novelties, also groceries. She started a library and loaned books, charging five cents a week.

In 1900 the Loyal Temperance Legion had a library at the Methodist Church with Mrs. Charles Creese, the pastor's wife, in charge. This library continued until the Creeseys were transferred from Canby.

Later a store operated by Mr. J. Sias had a library and loaned books without charge.

During the next few years Canby was without a library, but in 1919 a Mr. Gray started a jewelry store and later put in a library. He also sent to the State Library for the accommodation for his patrons.

In 1922 the Women's Civic Club was organized and a library started at

the old City Hall. Books were borrowed from the State Library. This library was open Tuesday afternoons of each week. The ladies took turns as librarians.

In three or four years this was discontinued through lack of interest.

About five years ago a group of loyal women headed by Mrs. C. P. Shewey, Mrs. George Gabriel, and Mrs. Curtis Johnson interested themselves again in the library movement. These women, profiting by earlier experiences, laid the ground work for the present library. Their untiring efforts soon aroused sympathetic cooperation from others and actual plans crystallized.

A house to house canvass was made soliciting aid--new books, old books, and cash were accepted. As a result of this drive, a tidy sum of cash was raised and 643 books collected, many being new.

Upon completion of the Canby City Hall a large room was made available, and on September 16, 1937, the Canby Library was formally opened. Since then it has become a part of the County Library System.

The present board consists of Harvey Everhart, Frank Cutsforth, George Gabriel, Mrs. Curtis E. Johnson, and Mrs. Charles P. Shewey. Miss Doris Wilbourn is librarian.

CLACKAMAS LIBRARY HISTORY

by

Mrs. William Haberlach

The Clackamas Public Library has had a short but rather dramatic history. In the year 1937, through the Parent-Teachers' Association, arrangements were made with the Gladstone Library Board whereby books could be borrowed for the

Clackamas residents on a weekly basis with Mrs. J. B. Jackson being the responsible party assuring collection and transportation. The demand increased so much that the people of Clackamas felt they could maintain their own library.

In August a silver and book tea was held at the home of Mrs. Wm. Haberlach. With the proceeds the old manual training room in the back of the playshed on the school grounds was cleaned up. New fiber board was placed on the walls and ceiling and a book shelf made. Desk, table, and chairs were donated.

On December 5th, 1937, the library was opened for service, with Mrs. H. J. Anderson acting as librarian. The library had about 500 books to start and was open two afternoons a week.

The first opening day in the new year 1938, Miss Louella Young (N.Y.A.) took charge. In February a rummage sale and coffee and cake sale was held which netted a neat sum. During the year other needed cash was raised by card parties and teas, etc. In the fall Miss Young was given an assistant, Miss Madaline Dones (N.Y.A.).

On December 5, 1938, tragedy struck and fire wiped out the library and play shed, which now housed the upper 4 grades of the school. A new school was then erected.

Through the tireless efforts of Mrs. Wm. Haberlach, Mrs. J. B. Jackson, and Mrs. Paul Peters, the library committee, an appeal was put through the radio stations and newspapers for books, and a house to house

canvass for financial aid to build a new library. A penny carnival was held to help swell the building fund. All this gave us nearly \$250.00.

Through a special election called by the school board, permission and a twenty-year lease was given for the building site on the southeast corner of the school land. Here a 20' x 26' wood building was built with all labor donated under the guidance of Mrs. James Erickson and Mrs. H. J. Anderson. Men of the community donated labor. Upon completion nearly one thousand books were ready for the shelves. Dedication of the new building was on August 8, 1939, and circulation again started with Mrs. Grace James (WPA) as librarian and Miss Joy Randall (N.Y.A.) as assistant. From that day on the circulation has increased as well as borrowers, and Clackamas Library is now in the running with its fellow libraries.

In May 1940, all debts were paid off and everything in the clear.

ESTACADA LIBRARY
by
Mrs. Aimee Upton

The Estacada Library originated as other libraries in the county did. First a group of women exchanged books with their friends. Then in 1913 these women met in the home of Mrs. A. E. Sparks and organized the Civic Improvement Club. For a permanent meeting place they rented a room in Mrs. Mary Adams' store, which also was a convenient place for books that had been donated. The first written minutes of this organization are dated May, 1916. In them mention is made of an enrollment of thirty-two members with Mrs. Jess Bartlett

as secretary.

The records throughout the year of 1916 show that the club members were very successful in planning ways and means of raising money with which to buy new books. Some items of interest are: "May 27, receipts from a tea \$5.50. June 24, Mrs. McCurdy donated thirty-two volumes to the library. July 8, the decorated automobile entered by the club in the 4th of July parade won second prize. There was an automobile robe which the members auctioned off at their next entertainment, the money to be used for buying more books."

May 13, 1919, the Civic Improvement Club became the Estacada Library Association and on July 8, 1920, the by-laws were approved. July 1, 1923, the balance of the mortgage on the library lot and building was paid. Mrs. W. J. Moore served as president of the Estacada Library Association from 1921-1930, and Mrs. Nina Ecker was librarian from 1921-1937, with the exception of a short period when she was employed elsewhere.

The first officers of the Estacada Library Association were: President, Mrs. Daisy Robley; Vice-President, Mrs. Mae Q. Reed; Treasurer, Mrs. Ella Stephens; Secretary, Mrs. Mabel Lovelace. Prior to SERA, the Estacada library was maintained by membership dues of \$1.00 a year. Members had free use of the library; all other borrowers paid 5 cents per book. The librarian, Mrs. Ecker, was provided with free living quarters in two rooms of the library building. She was also allowed about \$45 a year to help pay for fuel and lights. Since June 1937 these two rooms have been improved

by association members and WPA help, one into an attractive reading-room, the other, which was at one time a kitchen, into a convenient workroom. The library now has the use of three good sized rooms, a small storeroom, juvenile reading room, a lavatory, and of two lots in the downtown district.

There are 1,810 books on the shelves. Hundreds of county and state books, as well, circulate through this library each month. The total circulation for 1939 was 8,080 of which 75 per cent was outside the city. The librarian, Mrs. Nellie Carson, is paid by WPA. The city of Estacada allows \$150 each year with which to buy books.

GLADSTONE LIBRARY
by
Mrs. William Hammond

In 1922 the Willamette Valley Chautauqua Association erected a building on its grounds at Gladstone to be used as a library during the annual two weeks session of the Chautauqua. The State Librarian, Miss Marvin, now Mrs. Walter M. Pierce, supplied the books.

The Euterpean Club of Gladstone inquired of Miss Marvin as to the possibility of securing state books for Gladstone on a yearly basis and was informed that the State Library would supply books to any properly sponsored organization. The Club, on the receipt of this information, formed a library association, electing Mrs. William Hammond, president, and Mrs. F. S. Oswald, librarian. Permission was obtained to use the room in which the City Council met. Interested citizens renovated the room, built book shelves, and covered

the floor with a mill canvas.

The Euterpeans then sponsored an entertainment with the price of admission, one book. Two hundred books were secured which later augmented by gifts brought the total to over 600 volumes. Additional state books were exchanged every three months.

For several years the library was able to operate with volunteer help. Then the sponsoring Euterpean Club disbanded and the library closed. It reopened in 1936 under SERA with Mrs. Grace Eby, librarian, and Miss Margaret Thompson, now Mrs. Sam Nixon, and Miss Mary McMahon, assistants.

In 1938 the Gladstone Library owned 1,433 volumes. The circulation for that year was 21,681. Figures for 1939 are not available.

The present board (1939) consists of Mayor A. D. Paddock, Mrs. M. J. Brown, Walter Kraxburger, and F. C. Burdly. Others who have been prominent in library work include Mrs. Richard Howell, Mrs. Frank Nelson, Mrs. Hayward, and Mr. M. E. Turner.

MILWAUKIE LIBRARY
by
W. D. Rowe

In 1889, Alfred Lewellyn is said to have started Milwaukie's first circulating library. A number of books were placed in the law office of Thomas Lakin, Justice of the Peace, located in the Good Templar's Hall, which stood on the southeast corner of Main and Washington Streets. This library was in operation only a few months as the building burned and with

it Milwaukie's library.

The second attempt to have a public library in Milwaukie was in 1910. A group of women belonging to the P.T.A. conceived the idea of organizing a library for the young people of the city.

A committee consisting of Mrs. G. Wissinger and Mrs. James Reid was appointed to meet with the city council and ask permission to use a room in the old city hall. This permission being granted, steps were taken to collect books and magazines; and in September a library was opened. The library functioned until the new grammar school was built in 1916 when the books were turned over to the school.

Traveling library stations, supplied by the Oregon State Library, were placed in a few homes around the community to supply books for small groups of people. The most successful of these was the traveling library station conducted in the home of Mrs. Mildred Eisert of Evergreen.

On September 17, 1926, a group of people met at the home of Mrs. Edith Hazen for the purpose of planning a free library for Milwaukie and adjacent communities. Miss Jessie Hodge Millard of the Portland Public Library gave a talk suggesting how Milwaukie could have a public library. Among those present were William B. Perry, C. F. Richardson, M. S. Shrook, Maggie Johnson, Mrs. I. S. Beaupre, Mrs. Eisert, and other representatives of local organizations. Mrs. Hazen was the chairman of the committee. At this meeting plans were made for the opening of the library in the Perry Pharmacy, lumber for the shelves being furnished by C. F. Richardson. Mr. L. D. Shove, manual

training instructor, and his students made the shelves for the library. Two hundred books were received from the State Library.

The formal opening was at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon, November 6, 1926. More than sixty books were distributed between the hours of 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. the first afternoon. Mayor Cowell received the first book issued from the library. The library hours were set at Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

In September, 1934, L. C. Stoll, Secretary of the Clackamas County Relief Committee, suggested that Milwaukie could get relief funds to provide wages for a librarian. Wilbur D. Rowe, Superintendent of Schools at Milwaukie, was consulted. On September 26, 1934, Mr. Rowe presented a plan to the Milwaukie Business Men's Club. A committee of the club was appointed to organize a library in Milwaukie. President E. B. Stanley appointed Wilbur D. Rowe, chairman, Charles Dean and Mayor-elect J. M. Mason. Through the efforts of Mr. Dean and Mr. Mason, the City Council gave the use of the Council Chamber for a library. They also furnished the materials for shelves and tables. R. M. Rivers, in charge of relief projects in the Milwaukie area, was in charge of the construction of equipment for the library.

Through the aid of the SERA, Maggie Johnson was appointed librarian.

Miss Harriet Long, State Librarian, was consulted about the establishment of the library and offered the aid of the State Library--loan of books as well as professional advice.

Mr. Rowe organized a book drive in the Junior High School. The pupils

of the room bringing in the most books were to have a party at the Oaks Skating Rink.

So many magazines were collected in the first two days of the drive that the magazine collection was stopped and only books were collected for the rest of the week; 2,893 magazines were collected in the first two days while 4,289 books were called in. Over 2,000 of the books collected were found to be usable and were catalogued and placed on the shelves.

The library was officially opened December 9, 1934, with a circulation of 502 books by the end of the month. The library staff consisted of Maggie A. Johnson, librarian, Orpha Applegate, Dorothy M. Winters, Carol Jean Cravat, Violet Skagen, Helen Swolgaard, Marian Huffman, Francis Krober, and Evelyn Brune, assistants. Mrs. Dorothy M. Winters became librarian in September, 1935, with Mrs. Bessie E. Bruechert, Violet Skagen, Helen Swolgaard, and Marian Huffman, assistants, under the sponsorship of the City Council and the advisory direction of Mr. M. S. Shrook. Circulation for the year 1935 was 12,428.

In June, 1936, the Milwaukie Civic League delegated Herman Ledding and Wallace Miller to present a petition to the City Council, asking them to appoint a library board to assist in the administration of library affairs. The Council complied with the request and appointed: 1. Mrs. Rosa B. Eokenberger; 2. Mrs. C. F. Richardson; 3. Mrs. Edgar B. Piper; 4. S. L. Burton; 5. Mrs. E. B. Kirkpatrick; 6. J. Earl Jones; 7. Jessie Hodge Millard to the library board.

In 1937, a new city hall was built. In the plans space was provided for both a city jail and a library, but the Council found that the funds available were not sufficient to build both. On a canvass of the opinion of the members of the Council, it was decided to build a library and omit a jail.

The library was moved to the new city hall in 1937 and has continued to grow and to serve the community. Funds for buying new books have been raised by silver teas given by the different local organizations, and many private library collections have helped to increase the number of books, until at the end of the year 1939 the library had 3,255 volumes, and a circulation of 20,620.

The present library staff consists of Mrs. Dorothy M. Winters, librarian; Miss Virginia Marthaller, assistant; with two N.Y.A. workers, Miss Irene Kent and Miss Lorene Farlow. The present library board members are: Chairman Mrs. Rosa Eckenberger, Mrs. Marshall Dana, Mrs. O. D. Byers, Mrs. Elmer McClure, Mrs. George Cooper, Mr. J. Earl Jones, and Mr. S. L. Burton.

MOLALLA LIBRARY
by
Mrs. George Cabe

In the summer of 1900 Molalla became somewhat book-minded and an organization called the Book Club was formed. Shortly afterward a small shipment of books arrived from Portland consigned to Mrs. Willard Robbins. Under the sponsorship of the Book Club a library was installed at Mrs. Robbins' home and she became Molalla's first librarian.

The library remained at Mrs. Robbins' for a little over three years and was then moved to Mackerel's Harness Shop with Mr. Mackerel being librarian, custodian, janitor and all around repair man, a position he held for more than thirty years.

In 1906 a traveling library service was received from Portland. The Civic Club now became the sponsor of the library and with the aid of the Artisans' Lodge, which paid all transportation charges, maintained uninterrupted library service until 1936 when SERA took over the Molalla unit in the county-wide system. By its continuous library operation Molalla has the distinction of giving the longest library service in the county. Circulation figures are not available.

The chief source of books, which constitute Molalla's splendid library, has been donations. Among the larger was the collection given the library by Mrs. Joy, a former school teacher. It included over 200 carefully chosen titles in excellent condition.

OREGON CITY LIBRARY
by
Mrs. E. P. Rands

In 1906 some representative citizens of Oregon City banded together and organized a free Reading Room for the purpose of furnishing comfortable quarters in which men and other citizens might spend their spare time instead of loafing in some of the sixteen saloons Oregon City supported at that time.

This free Reading Room was located on the south end of Main Street where

the Electric Hotel now stands.

Henry Wall, an Englishman, ex-minister of a Congregational Church had charge of this reading room. He was well educated and took a great interest in the Reading Room.

This free Reading Room grew in popularity. Papers and magazines and some books were donated. Finally, a meeting of the committee was held for the purpose of organizing a free Reading Room Association, to be supported by the Oregon City business men and citizens. Mr. B. T. McBain, now of Portland, then superintendent of the Willamette Pulp & Paper Company, was the first president. Mr. E. G. Caufield was vice-president, Kenneth Stanton, secretary, and the Bank of Oregon City, Treasurer. Mr. Eugene Hedges, our present president of the Oregon City Library Board, was a charter member.

At this meeting it was decided to organize a library, and the third floor of the Masonic Building was selected as a suitable location. Plans were made to furnish the room with shelves, tables, chairs, etc. Mrs. Truscott was the first librarian. Books were purchased and donated, and on the opening night, December 13, 1909, there were 469 books, 14 weekly and monthly magazines, and 26 newspapers, the latter all donated. This library was financed by monthly subscriptions. When the subscriptions proved inadequate, the Association had a hard struggle to raise funds to buy books.

When Mr. W. A. Proctor, minister of a Congregational Church in Washington, was transferred to Oregon City, he said, "Why not make this a Carnegie Library?" Mr. Proctor supplied Mr. Carnegie's address and our

present library is the result of that letter to Mr. Carnegie.

November 7, 1911, an ordinance was presented to the voters of Oregon City providing for a $\frac{1}{2}$ -mill tax to assist in maintaining a free library. Up to this time books had been circulated to anyone in Clackamas County, but owing to the increased demand, this privilege was withdrawn and only residents of the city were allowed use of the library free of charge.

In 1912 an application for a Carnegie Library was made, and \$12,500 was given, provided the Association equaled the sum. After due consideration, a site was selected and our one story brick building was erected and furnished. On April 17, 1913, the books from the free Reading Room, in the Masonic Building, were moved to the present building, then classified, catalogued and placed on the shelves. On June 13, 1913, the new library was opened to the public with a grand celebration, including speeches, music, and refreshments.

The library has continued to grow. The annual report for the year 1939 shows that there are 10,426 volumes in the book collection and that the circulation for the year was 66,179 volumes.

OSWEGO LIBRARY

by

Mrs. Lucia A. Bliss & Mrs. G. H. Pettinger

Residents of Oswego first attempted to form a library in the winter of 1892-93 through the efforts of an organization known as Free Library and Reading Room. Only a few books were on hand, probably about fifty, and they were loaned out free. Later a small charge was made. Expense of the library

was met by entertainments and subscriptions. Members of the first reading room committee were: Mrs. Eleanor Mentie, Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. C. B. Hall, Mrs. Ann Russell, Mrs. S. A. Evans, President, Mrs. Gardiner, Mrs. Garfield, Mrs. Kelsey, Mrs. Ella Worthington, Mrs. Nellie Courter, Mrs. Albert Walling, Mrs. Rossiter, Mrs. Rees, Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Dena Prosser, and Mrs. Herbert Gill. Mrs. Mantie was secretary. The organization disbanded in 1896 and the books were distributed among the members.

It was more than twenty years before another library was started. In 1917 Mrs. G. A. Kyle, through Mrs. Fred Morey, presented a well balanced collection of several hundred volumes to the Oswego Women's Club. Additional gifts brought the total number of books to over 800. Financial difficulties became insurmountable and the library plans failed. However, in August 1924 Mrs. A. King Wilson offered the City of Oswego a library consisting of over 600 volumes which had belonged to her late husband.

Shortly after Mrs. Wilson's offer was made, on August 12, 1924, the Oswego Library Association was formed with the following officers: Mrs. Nixon, President; Mrs. D. Jackson, first Vice-President; Mrs. S. E. Prosser, second Vice-President; Miss Erma M. Voxx, Secretary; Mrs. Chas. J. Sadilek, Treasurer.

The library now had achieved a permanent basis and six years later on December 1, 1930, the city took over the entire library collection. The SERA gave service in 1936. The last two years the WPA and the County Library Board have operated the Oswego Library.

SANDY LIBRARY
by
Mrs. Robert Jonsrud

The present Sandy Library is the first institution of its kind in the town and was established in the latter part of 1934 as a part of the SERA County-wide Library System.

The project was sponsored by the Women's Club of Sandy in November, 1934, and a library committee was appointed consisting of Mrs. Robert Jonsrud, chairman, Mrs. George V. Williams, and Mrs. Lewis Hall. The Committee enlisted the aid of schools and local newspapers in conducting a book drive. Within two weeks the required number of books was secured and the library became a reality. Miss Harriet Long, State Librarian, rendered valuable assistance in organizing and standardizing the project.

Four workers were given employment for a time under SERA. Later this was reduced to one when a curtailment was ordered after the program came under the WPA. Mrs. Lois Shearman became the regular librarian until in 1939 she became eligible for the enforced "vacation" under recent WPA regulations. Miss Theresa Seuscher, a N.Y.A. worker succeeded Mrs. Shearman. The change in librarians necessitated a revision of library hours as under N.Y.A. only fifty hours of work a month is permitted as opposed to 130 hours allowed under WPA.

The library owns 780 books, donations accounting for a large portion. The Sandy Commercial Club has made several cash donations. Other funds were raised by presenting public entertainments. The Sandy City Council voted \$50

for library purposes for 1940.

The total circulation of books and magazines during the year 1935 was 2,833. In 1939 the total jumped to 8,196 with approximately 70 per cent of the borrowers living outside of the city of Sandy.

As a special service to the county schools, it is possible for teachers to borrow twenty-five or thirty books at a time for supervised reading.

LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS (1939)

CANBY

Mrs. Curtis Johnson
Mrs. E. P. Shewey, Pres.
Mr. Frank Cutsforth
Mr. Harvey Everhart
Mr. George Gabriel, Sec. Treas.

CLACKAMAS

Mrs. J. B. Jackson
Mrs. Wm. Haberlach
Mrs. Peters

ESTACADA

Mrs. Birdie Giligan, Pres.
Mrs. Olive Mehl, Vice-Pres.
Mrs. Aimee Upton, Sec.
Mrs. W. E. Hugh, Treas.
Mrs. A. W. Botkin

GLADSTONE

Mr. A. D. Paddock
Mr. F. A. Burden
Mr. W. Krazberger
Mrs. M. J. Brown

MILWAUKIE

Mrs. Elmer McClure
Mrs. Rosa Eckenberger, Chair.
Mrs. Dorothy M. Winters
Mrs. Marshall Dana
Mr. J. Earl Jones
Mrs. O. D. Byers
Mr. S. L. Burton
Mrs. George Cooper

MOLALLA

Mrs. P. K. Stafford, Chair.
Mrs. George Case
Mrs. Fred Henrickson

OSWEGO

Mrs. V. H. Sadilek, Pres.
Mrs. Lucia A. Bliss, Sec.
Mrs. G. H. Pettinger
Mr. George Rogers
Mr. F. C. Inkster, Treas.

SANDY

Mr. Robert Jonsrud, Pres.
Mrs. Lewis Hall, Sec.
Mrs. George Williams, Treas.
Mrs. Charles Sharnke
Mr. Ralph Harper

DEPOSIT STATIONS

DAMASCUS

Mrs. Mabel Westcott

JENNINGS LODGE

Mrs. Hottel

STAFFORD

Mrs. O. Z. Holton

WEST LINN

Mrs. Walter Buse
Mrs. Clarence Scheer
Mrs. J. L. Gary

WILSONVILLE

Mrs. D. G. Iron

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Alden Miller,
Percy P. Cauffield and
Mrs. Gertrude Brumbaugh, of Oregon City, and
Miss Nellie Pipes, of Portland.

All regarding early libraries of Clackamas County.

Miss Cora Anderson, Portland,
Mrs. Helen Spliid and
Mrs. Gertrude Brumbaugh, Oregon City, and
Mrs. Lucia A. Bliss, Oswego.

All regarding operation of library system.

Fred C. Inkster, Oswego.

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