

Library

W H. Hodson has accepted a position as agent for a circulating library and will canvass this county and Yakima--Yakima Herald, Nov. 23, 1899.

Library

The public library has for the first time in its history paid current expenses from its membership fees during the last quarter.

The library now contains 1,500 volumes. Over 100 volumes have been added recently. It is open Wednesday and Saturday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

A membership ticket costs \$1 and the annual dues are \$1. Among recent additions are the Warner Library of the World's Best Literature, 30 volumes, purchased with funds contributed by the Knights of Pythias...

The trustees are now able to add new books from time to time and will usually be glad to send for any book for which a social demand may be made. They would like 50 new members during the coming year.

This number would make the library self supporting--The Yakima Republic, Friday, January 27, 1899.

Library

Rev. H.M. Bartlett is making an effort to secure funds sufficient to remove the public library from its present unsatisfactory location to the room on the ground next to the postoffice. He wants to fix up a reading room which will be attractive and convenient. It will be furnished with several dailies and the leading magazines.

Mr. Bartlett thinks if the library is more easy to find it will be patronized by more people. The churches and most of the business men have contributed to the fund that is necessary to maintain the library in the new quarters and make the desired improvements. The library now contains 1,500 volumes. Mr. Bartlett thinks that if it is put in the room above mentioned the people will take an interest in it and in a short time the number of volumes will be increased to 4,000 or 5,000. The Yakima Republic, January 19, 1900.

The movement to establish a free public reading room in connection with the public library is now fully assured of success having received hearty and generous support from the business men and churches of the city. Its opening, however, will be delayed a short time until some needed repairs in the Syndicate building have been made. It is hoped to have the reading room opened by the 15th of February. The reading room will be absolutely free.

It will still be necessary as heretofore to charge an annual fee of one dollar for use of books when carried home.

The library is not a free public library and cannot become so without having ~~one of the~~ a city tax or an endowment for its support. In time it will doubtless have one or the other of these resources or both...Yakima Republic, Feb. 3, 1900.

High School Library

The high school library received a substantial gift from W.L. Steinweg last week.

The donation included 90 volumes of the best books, including which are encyclopedias, histories, standard fiction and a number of leading magazines in bound form. The gift also includes a compound microscope, large framed portraits of Holmes and Longfellow and a herbarium of 200 Yakima valley flowers. These flowers were gathered and mounted by Mrs. Steinweg and are very valuable.

In the plans for the new school building the architect has provided a room 15 x 18 feet to be used exclusively as a library.

The gift of Mr. Steinweg's leads those in charge of the schools to hope that others will be moved to follow the example and that the high school library will grow to proportions worthy of its new home--The Yakima Republic, May 11, 1900.

Library

The public library has received a large number of books during the last week or two from Congressman W.L. Jones. The collection includes several volumes of the house and senate journals, six volumes of the geological survey and fourteen colored maps. The maps are quite valuable, showing as they do the distribution in this state of timber and varieties of soil, besides many important geological facts--The Yakima Republic, May 4, 1900.

Library-

WCTC reading room

The W.C.T.U. ladies of the reading room at 10 South First street will give a social Wednesday evening consisting of games, music, coffee and cake.

All are invited to come and enjoy a pleasant evening - The Yakima Herald, March 11, 1902.

Library

The library building is undergoing some changes, the hallways being widened.

The owners of the building served notice on the trustees of the association that others wished the room and were willing to pay \$25 per month. The trustees promptly came to the scratch and will submit to the increase in rental rather than change to other quarters.-Yakima Herald, July 22, 1902.

Library

The Twentieth Century club of this city have undertaken a most commendable work.

At their last meeting it was decided to create a fund for the purpose of purchasing books for the new Carnegie library.

The work was placed in the hands of two communities, one committee for for the summer months and the other for the winter.

Each committee is to settle on its own wave and means of (copy) raising funds.

The first undertaking by the ladies will be in the nature of a strawberry festival for the evening of June 12. A small admission will be charged and ice cream, strawberries, home made cakes etc. will be served. The committee having this affair in charge is composed of Mrs. Larson, chairman and Mesdames Krutz, Coleman, Barge and Rigg. The Yakima Herald, May 27, 1903.

Library

city council meeting..Rev. H.M. Bartlett addressed the council on the subject of a public library for the city. He spoke of its untold value to ^a the town of this size . Of its influence upon the social and moral development of any community. Of how, the fact of a fine library would enhance in value the property of the town; of its advertising advantages and of how such an institution when fairly started and figuratively speaking"put on its feet and given a boost" must prove lasting and closed his remarks by showing how the securing of this institution can be made possible.

By the city's agreeing to appropriate \$1,000 each year as a 10 per cent maintenance fund on an investment of \$10,000 to be donated by Andrew Carnegie and \$3,500 to be subscribed by the citizens , of which \$2,500 has already been subscribed for a site, North Yakima may safely look forward to the time in the near future when it is to be the proud possessor of a fine library.

It is now up to the council to decide whether or not the efforts of Rev. Bartlett are to be rewarded and this fast and prosperous city made the benefactor . The council will surely express the wisest judgment in this matter..The Yakima Herald, May 20, 1903.

Library

Editor Herald; It has occurred to me since the new library is almost a certainty that a most desirable and slightly location for the new building would be the north end of the little park south of the depot and fronting on Yakima avenue.

The Northern Pacific railway is the owner of the property and might be induced to part with it for a nominal sum for such a worthy purpose.

The location is an ideal one in that it is central. The beauties of the building would be seen by hundreds of passing strangers every day besides adding not a little to the attractiveness of the park and the surroundings of that locality. It would certainly do no harm to investigate the matter and cost of this site.. A Citizen. The Yakima Herald, Jan. 10, 1904.

..(city council meeting) ..Rev. H.M. Bartlett addressed the council in relation to the public library, stating that he had always \$3,810 already pledged by subscription for the purchase of a site and could easily increase the amount to \$4,000. The books of the library could easily be increased to 10,000. He said that the books could not legally be turned over to the city, he said, before April and he urged the city to appropriate the \$1,000 yearly made necessary by the terms of Mr. Carnegie's gift of \$10,000. The matter was turned over to the city for an opinion as to the legality of the appropriation-- The Yakima Herald, January 20, 1904.

There was an abortive attempt to throw cold water upon the library plans at the city hall one evening last week. A small "bunch" gathered there to denounce the proposition but they got disgusted with themselves before it was over. This question is one

in which the entire city is vitally interested and star chamber sessions of self-constituted public censors will not accomplish any result. It may be that it would be a good plan to submit the question of the library endowment to a vote of the people but the whole people and not a small gathering of "knockers" should be allowed to express public sentiment--The Yakima Herald, January 20, 1910.

The Twentieth Century club entertained in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett on Naches avenue last Friday evening. Mesdames L.H. Dills and A.E. Larson having the affair in charge. The ladies realized \$20 from this social event which goes into the fund set aside by the club for the purpose of purchasing books for the new library--The Yakima Herald, January 20 27, 1904.

The city of North Yakima sustains a distinct loss in the determination of Rev. H.M. Bartlett to change his place of residence to Kannewick. Mr. Bartlett has long been identified with the moving public spirits of the city and his efforts were always freely offered to advance the interest of the town. It was only through his intelligent and untiring efforts that the question of an up-to-date public library will shortly be among our latest achievements. In addition to the loss of a good citizen and splendid speaker in the person of the rector, society will generally regret the removal of Mr. Bartlett who has added so much to the social success of the city... The Yakima Herald, Jan. 27, 1904.

Library

The Herald has received a number of inquiries lately as to the status of the Carnegie library movement, the inquiries being fearful that the delay in complying with the terms of Mr. Carnegie's bequest might result in his donation being withdrawn.

Mayor Fechter was approached by a reporter and asked what was delaying the acceptance by the city of the terms of the library association which are that it will turn over its books and subscription list of some \$30,000 and \$3,800 raised for the purpose of purchasing a site when the city votes a tax of \$1,000 raised for the purpose of purchasing a site when the city votes a tax of \$1,000 per year for the maintenance of the library.

The mayor replied that the city council could take no action on the proposition until after the annual meeting of the

library association next year. Under its by laws he says they can only vote at their annual meeting to dispose of the property of the association. "When that is done," continued Mayor Fechter, "and the association asks the council to vote the tax, I am in favor of taking immediate action. That is, I favor, the tax being voted by the council without waiting for a special election if such action is legal. Whether it would be or not I am not prepared to say but I would like to see the library established at the earliest possible date; it is a movement which should be encouraged in every manner possible and the association certainly deserves credit for the good work it has done in interesting Mr. Carnegie and raising the funds to purchase a site." The Yakima Herald, March 9, 1904.

Library

Mayor O.A. Fechter, after deliberating several days, has at last appointed the fifth member of the North Yakima Public Library commission.

F.C. Hall is the completing member. The board is now composed of the following prominent people: Rev.H.P. James, Attorney J.J. Rudkin, Richard Strobach, Mrs. W.W. Robertson and F.C. Hall. Prof W.F.F. Selleck by virtue of his office as superintendent of the city schools is the sixth member--The Yakima Herald, July 20, 1904.

John J. Rudkin was chosen chairman of the new library commission which held its first meeting in the library room last Thursday evening.

Lots were drawn for the various terms with the result that Mr. Strobach will serve one year, Mrs Hall two years, Mr. James three years, ~~MOGO~~ Mr. Rudkin four years and Mrs. Robertson five years.

It was decided to collect in the funds subscribed by the citizens for the new building site. The salary of the librarian was raised to twenty dollars a month. Plans for the future work of the committee were outlined in a general way--The Yakima Herald, July 27, 1904.

Library

More than six hundred tickets have been sold for the grand ball to be given by the ladies of the city in the interests of the public library and as the ball is to be given on Friday evening February 17th, this may be looked upon as merely a starter.

The tickets are selling for \$2 for the admission of a couple or \$1 for single admission. The free list has been suspended, as the theatre managers say and everyone who goes to the ball will play...The Yakima Herald, Feb 8, 1905.

Library

At a meeting of the board of library commissioners held Saturday night to consider plans for the Carnegie library building, one of several sets of plans submitted by Bebb & Merdell, the Seattle architects was accepted.

The architects agreed to make some alterations in the plans considered best which will be done at once. As soon as these alterations are made, bids will be advertised for and the work on the building well started before the winter weather can interfere. The building is to be built at a cost of \$15,000. It will be located on the corner of Third and A streets and will greatly improve the appearance of the locality--The Yakima Herald, August 23, 1905.

Miller Building
Library

M.C.H. Bebb, the architect from Seattle while here last week stated that he had about completed plans for the new Alex Miller building.

Mr. Bebb stated also that there were a few necessary changes to be made in the library building. The stock room will not be erected for the present but will be when needed.

The plans allow sufficient shelf room for the present, however, with opportunity for enlargement later.

The plans for the Alex Miller block are very modern. It will be constructed at once and will be five stories high. There will be two electric elevators. Pressed brick and terra cotta will be the principal material used. The ground floor is designed to be occupied as store rooms and the floors above for offices.

Mr. Bebb expects to visit Yakima quite frequently to look after the construction work he has in hand here--The Yakima Herald,
March 14, 1906.

Library

"hen completed the Carnegie library is going to be a fine structure for the purpose and one that the city can be proud of.

On account of the delay in getting the materials last spring the building will not be done until January 15, 1907/ although the time when the contractor to finish was two weeks earlier.

Coming in from the east side of the building the rotunda is first entered. Opening on to this are the other rooms of the first floor of the building and directly in front of the main entrance will be the librarian's desk. On the north will be the general reading room while on the same position to the south will be the room devoted to children. Besides these two main rooms there will be on this floor a reference a librarian's and a ladies' waiting room.

In the basement will be rooms for a heating plant and storage, the main space being taken up for an assembly room. The Yakima Herald, Oct. 17, 1906.

Library

By the first of the year the new public library will be ready for the reception of the reading public. The books from the old library rooms will be moved to the new building and for the first year will be all that there will be to choose from as the large expense incident to the furnishing of the building will use up most of the available funds to start with.

The present equipment of the city library is 1,700 volumes of up to date fiction and some of the most valuable reference works.

During the year ending 1906 the library was brought to a very sound acondition and was widely patronized. During that year (copy) the rooms were open to the public 362 days or an average of 42 hours a week. Over five thousand persons visited the reading room and the total circulation was 7,800. Even if no new books are secured there need be no cause for complaint as the number of volumes and the variety of the subjects covered by them makes the present stock as complete as the city will require for at least one year.

The financial condition is very gratifying. From taxation, gifts and fines \$1825 was received for the maintenance of the institution and \$148.60 was expended in the purchase of new books and \$475 was paid out for salaries and current expense

The librarian, Miss Bessie C. Hall thinks that everything will be transferred to the Carnegie building by the first of the year--
The Yakima Herald, Oct. 24, 1906.

Library

In all probability the new Carnegie library building will be ready for public use about March 1.

Contractor A.F. Switzer is rapidly bringing the structure as near completion as it will be this year. Next week the steps will be placed and the following few days will be used in painting. The interior ceilings will be a delicate cream and the walls a pale green, the combination being considered the least injurious to the eyes.

The library board is made up of Rev. H.P. James, Mrs. W.W. Robertson, F.C. Hall John B. ~~Quinn~~ Rudkin, Superintendent Reed and Mr. Campbell.

Dedicatory exercises will be arranged when the building is opened to the public and it will probably be turned over to the city. The board has made no definite arrangements as to the time of opening the structure--The Yakima Herald, Feb. 20, 1907.

Library

Exercises of the formal opening of the North Yakima public library were held ^{April 26, 1907} Friday evening at 8 o'clock in the Presbyterian church. H.P. James, president of the board of trustees presided. About 100 people were at the beautiful library, the gift of Andrew Carnegie.

The program follows:

Selection, orchestra; reminiscence, C.H. Lombard; address, Rev. H.M. Barekett; vocal solo, Mrs. Horsley.

After the selection by the orchestra H.P. James gave a few short remarks regarding the library and told of its great benefit to the city and community. He stated the library building is new but the library had been established several years ago by several prominent women who gave their time and devoted considerable interest to its upbuilding.

C.H. Lombard told of the early history of the library and said that 20 years ago the circulating library was organized by several prominent women and has brought forth much fruit.

He said the meeting was held in the Yakima hotel, then a two story meeting building. At this meeting it was decided to perfect the organization and Mrs. W.L. Steinweg was elected president. ... When the library association was first organized it had 65 members and \$140 was collected in subscriptions in the first month. It was open Saturday afternoons only. The women associated divided their time in distributing the books during the hours the library was open.

Shortly after this 280 books were purchased and it was necessary to move their quarters. Then the library was open Saturday and Wednesday afternoons. Later the association incorporated as the Yakima Library association. At that time there were 800 volumes in the library.

In 1902 it was open every day and had 1,000 volumes. Today it has 2,000 volumes. In 1904 the library was turned over to the city as a public library.

Rev. H.M. Bartlett in his address, said the production of literature is the greatest influence of man and the most valuable to man.....

Starting today the library will be open daily from 2 to 6 and 7 to 9 p.m. daily Saturday morning 10 to 12. Sunday the reading rooms only will be open from 3 to 6 p.m.

During the evening H.P. James president of the board turned the keys over to Mayor Hechter and made a few fitting remarks. In accepting the keys the mayor gave a short talk.

The library building was built at a cost of \$15,000 and was constructed by A.F. Switzer. It is located at 4th and Third streets. The city council has provided for the maintenance of the building.

It was about four years ago that North Yakima started its efforts to secure a free public library and it was mainly through the efforts of Rev. Bartlett that the Carnegie fund was secured.

The board of trustees, composed of H.P. James, president; Mrs. W.W. Robertson, secretary; J.J. Rudkin, F.C. Hall, N.V. Campbell, ... Superintendent D.C. Reed and Bessie C. Hall, librarian, have worked untiringly to make the library a success... The Yakima Herald, Wednesday, May 1, 1907.