

In the Spring of 1865 a circulating library was started by J.S. Boughton in the Hartmen building which stood at 735 Mass. St. Mr Boughton had about \$150 worth of books and loaned them out at ten cents a week, or furnished an annual ticket for \$5.00. The movement was popular and many times the shelves were empty when closing time came. Soon the need of a reading room was felt and in December the little library moved to rooms over the Leis drug store at 740 Mass. Mr. Boughton, while thoroughly in love with his library, work, soon found that he would be unable to finance the growing institution. Accordingly on March 7, 1866, he had a meeting called at the library rooms for the purpose of organizing a library association. This was finally accomplished. Mr Boughton was paid \$600 for his books and equipment. Mrs Helen M. Griswold was made the first permanent librarian. The library was supported through donations, lectures etc. In Sept.

In September, 1871, the library had a collection of 1500 volumes. It was at this time that the city took over the organization and it was moved over to the Lawrence National Bank building where it occupied three rooms on the second floor. The librarian at the time was Mrs. Rhoda Trask, who succeeded Mrs Griswold when she married Mr Goerge A Banks in 1870. In 1885 Mrs Mary F Simpson took up the work and in 1902 was succeeded by Mrs Nellie G. Beatty the daughter of Mrs Griswold the <sup>early</sup> librarian of.

The library had been growing all of these years and now possessed 6000 volumes. Patrons paid one dollar a year for the use of books and as the income was rather uncertain the librarian was not always <sup>sure</sup> certain of her salary, and fortunately for the little association Andrew Carnegie was at this time making his generous donations for libraries. Through the aid of Peter Emery and other citizens the gift from Mr Carnegie was received. This amounted to \$27,500 which paid for the present building. This necessitated the organization of a free public library under the state law and the promise of the city to provide \$2700 each year for its maintenance. This has been met each year with increases necessary to meet the growing needs.

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Mrs Charles P. Grosvenor donated the lots where the building stands. The question of a free public library was submitted to the voters at an election held April 7, 1903 and carried by a large majority. This was under the administration of Mayor A.L. Selig. A board of <sup>eight</sup> Directors was appointed by the Mayor, ~~two~~ of these first directors are still serving us, Mrs. Henley and Mr. Bromelsick. \*

Each August when our commissioners meet to fix the levies for the different departments a library levy is made.; at present we are receiving .45 of a mill which, at the present valuation, should bring us in about \$7200. This forms our maintenance fund, and must cover all expenses of the library; salaries, heat, light and janitor service, repairs, furniture and equipment, supplies, insurance, periodicals, books and binding. We have a little help with our book fund. We have two endowment funds, wish we had more. Mr. L.H. Perkins left us \$1000 and Miss Virginia Edwards, the librarian who succeeded Mrs Beatty and who was my predecessor left us \$1000. The interest from these funds, \$60 each a year, is spent for the very best of non-fiction. We have another book fund that most of you have a share in. This is known as the Duplicate Pay Collection Fund. It derives its name from our small collection of pay books which are duplicates of our latest fiction, and are rented out at five cents per week. Our library is strictly a free one and the first copy of new fiction is placed on the free shelf and extra copies bought with this money where there is a demand for the book. Country patrons pay one dollar a year for privileges, books lost or damaged are paid for, lost cards are paid for and this money goes into this fund. But the source of income for this fund that you are most familiar with and which brings us in the most money is the two cents a day fine on overdue books. I can imagine that most of you have at some time received a postal notice saying your book was several days overdue. If you have kept a book a week longer than your due slip says, then you will have .14 fine plus .02 for the notice, and if you do not respond you may receive another notice, with an additional .16 and if another week elapses a messenger will call upon you, this will mean

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another .14 plus .25 messenger fees. It will pay you to watch the date on the slip in the back of the book. But should you have these fines to pay, I hope you will pay them cheerfully knowing that we are glad to get them, and when you remember that your money goes right into the purchase of a new book, you will feel quite like a philanthropist. *Question asked \$1.00 per copy, no, 59, we are spending your money justly.*

Last year we spent for books periodicals and binding \$2220.50. We include binding in this Budget as the life of a book is increased three fold by rebinding early. Then we bind our periodicals for permanent reference which adds to our book collection. We purchased last year 1316 books, 173 were donated making a total of 1489 books added to our collection, which on Dec 31, 1923 numbered 18549. We receive currently 123 periodicals a number of these are gifts.

We have two distinct departments. The adult department which occupies the main floor and the Juvenile department which, through the generosity of Mrs Henley, has the large room down stairs. In the adult department are the circulating books, the reference collection which contains 3203 volumes the magazines, and newspapers in the reading room and the circulating magazines which are issued for three days. Then we have a pamphlet file, a clipping file, which contains much material of local interest. This department is used by the student, both H.S. and K.U, also, Business C and Haskell Institute. Business men, club women and professional people all come to us for information.

Our Juvenile department has a collection of very carefully selected books, 3066 in all. *We serve a population of 15000* This includes a very attractive easy corner filled with books for the little tot. There is also a reference section here with encyclopedias, year books, Who's Who, Dictionaries, atlas etc. This department is used by children all the way from the kindergarten ton through the eighth grade. Over ~~2000~~ <sup>2500</sup> children are now card holders. The children's librarian gives instruction each semester to the beginning classes in the Junior H.S in the use of the catalog, ency etc.

A Vacation Reading Club has been wanted for the past two summers

We hope another year will find a large number enrolled in this class.

I want to take this opportunity to speak of our Children's Book Week which opens Nov 9. We are planning a display of books which will be open each day and one evening we will be at home to the parents and we want you to watch the papers for the date and be sure and come as we are planning a very pleasant evening.

We serve a population of 15000. We have over 6000 registered patrons, which is considerably more than one third as several members of the family often read books issued on the same card. Our books circulated nearly 74000 times last year. This means 4.2 books per capita. If you have not all read your share I am sure it has been evened up in the family for Johnny and Susie are reading their ~~four~~ books and more.

We are doing what we can for the schools and hope to do more as we are able. We are glad for the splendid cooperation we are getting from the schools for we can serve the children better when as the teachers become familiar with our resources. In the absence of branches, which our finances do not justify, we have a plan that has been working quite satisfactorily for several years. We issue to the teacher ten books for school room use. These are given for the usual two week period, then if she desires we will renew upon request, unless they have been previously spoken for. ~~We~~ It is not necessary to bring the books back to renew them, but we do want the ten cards and a list of books, both author and title.

We have lists of books posted in both departments which have been recommended by <sup>Supervisors</sup> teachers of various grades for outside reading. There is no reason why they student should not have desirable books, for we have many of them and any book in the Juvenile dept. is perfectly safe for your son and daughter. I cannot say as much for the Adult dept. But children under the ninth grade are not admitted to that dept. and if the parents do not give them their cards they cannot get books there. And as far as the the H.S. is concerned if they follow the lists posted and parents will discourage young people from selecting from the seven day shelves there is little

*of their getting harmful literature at our library*