



Valentine Public Library

Centennial Newsletter

Vol 1 | Spring | 2021

*2021 is the "Year of the Library"
Happy 100 Years to us!*

Valentine Public Library is 100 years old! A proclamation approved by Board of Trustees of the Valentine Public Library, the Valentine City Council and the Cherry County Commissioners declares 2021 as the "Year of the Library". Thank you to the Valentine City Council, the Cherry County Commissioners, the Valentine Public Library Board of Trustees, Staff, and Volunteers for the many years of dedication and support for the library.

Proclamation

In recognition of the
Valentine Public Library's 100th Anniversary

WHEREAS, in April 1921, members of Chapter CA PEO, responding to the needs of a young and growing community, met with the objective of establishing the first public library in Valentine; and

WHEREAS, with enthusiasm, energy and dedication from volunteers and 500 donated volumes, the Valentine Public Library opened its doors on April 15, 1921; and

WHEREAS, from these modest beginnings the Library's collections grew along with the community, to the point that it was turned over to the city in 1935 with 3,000 volumes and moved to the upper floor in the newly built City Hall. A new library building was erected across from City Hall. It was dedicated in August of 1968, it is the current location and now contains 30,000 volumes; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the library has offered programs for all ages, outreach services, literacy initiatives, job seeker and small business resources, expanding information services, computer training, Internet access, and other means of community support and enrichment; and

WHEREAS, through times of recession and prosperity, war and peace, and pandemics the Valentine Public Library has continued to serve all people of Cherry County as a place of learning, culture and community.

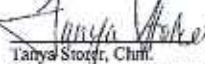
NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Valentine City Council and the Cherry County Commissioners, by the virtue of authority vested in us as the governing bodies in Valentine and Cherry County, in the State of Nebraska, do hereby proclaim 2021 as the "Year of the Library" in honor of its 100th Anniversary, and extend sincere gratitude to its trustees, staff and volunteers, past and present, for their accomplishments, commitment, and dedication to the City of Valentine, Cherry County and its residents.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of the City of Valentine and the seal of Cherry County to be affixed this 8th day of April, A.D., 2021.


Kyle Arganbright, Pres.
Valentine City Council

Attest:

Deanna Schmit, Valentine City Clerk


Tahya Storer, Chair
Cherry County Commissioners



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The Valentine Public Library began in 1921. The Chapter CA P.E.O. was the visionary force for the humble beginnings of our current library. P.E.O. member, Sylvia Quigley suggested consideration of a library during her term as president in 1920-1921. An organizational committee of Minnie Adamson Bates, Mary Quigley and Emma Haley interviewed the County Commissioners and where space may be available. Some of the instrumental Chapter CA P.E.O. members are pictured below.



Sylvia Killian Quigley



Minnie Adamson Bates



Margaret Kincaid



Florence Morris



Adele Hoeing

They hosted multiple fundraisers including a three act comedy on November 20, 1920. It was called "The Trials of a Hostess". It earned \$100 to be used to purchase books for the coming library.

**The Valentine
Public Library**
 BY ARRANGEMENT
"The Trials of a Hostess"
 A Three-act Comedy
 AT THE
Auditorium
Nov. 30, 1920
 AT 8:15 P. M.
 GIVEN BY CHAPTER CA, P. E. O. BREWSTER
 Tickets: 50 and 25 cents plus war tax.
 On sale at Fry's Drug Store, Monday morning.

"THE TRIALS OF A HOSTESS"
 CAST OF CHARACTERS
 Mrs. Montgomery—President of the Women's
 General Information Club.....Mrs. Sylvia Quigley
 Mrs. Gerald de Vauxsey, a Society Woman.....Mrs. Adele Hoeing
 Mrs. Yulian, a Missus and Suffragette.....Mrs. May Travis
 Mrs. Joe Berg, a Testime Character.....Mrs. Florence Morris
 Mrs. Arlisk, a Cynical and Fugeral Old Maid.....Mrs. Anna Prang
 Redcap, Grand Irish, Press From the "Good Ship".....Mrs. Edna Prang
 Secretary.....Mrs. Mary Quigley
 Waitress.....Mrs. Margaret Kincaid
 Mrs. Yorick—Business Woman—Waiter.....Mrs. Elsie Hoeing

HELP!
**The Valentine
Public Library**
Fund
 by attending
**"THE TRIALS OF
A HOSTESS"**
 A THREE-ACT COMEDY
AT THE AUDITORIUM
TUESDAY EVENING
NOV. 30, 1920
AT 8:15
"THE TRIALS OF A HOSTESS"
 Cast of Characters

FOR GOOD PURPOSES
**Performance for Library Fund Is a
Success.**

About \$100 was cleared Tuesday evening by the ladies of Chapter CA, P. E. O., as a result of their play, *The Trials of a Hostess*, given at the auditorium for the benefit of a public library fund. The woman's improvement club, at its business meeting yesterday, donated the use of the auditorium for the play, and other donations were received. It is the intention of the ladies to start a small public library as soon as they have a sufficient nucleus of money and books.

The play dealt with the trials of the president of the Woman's General Information Club, impersonated by Mrs. Sylvia Quigley, when she entertained the members of the club with the assistance of a green Irish maid, Mrs. Edna Prang was the maid and was sufficiently clumsy to make life dangerous for everyone else on the stage. The meeting of the club was unvarnished by a strange speech by Mrs. Montgomery, a poem by Mrs. Anna Prang, which was a part of the entertainment by various members of the club. Mrs. Hoeing contributed

Results of play performance

Ads for fundraising play



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In March of 1921, it was announced that Valentine would have a library available to all. In April 1921, the Valentine Public Library began in a small room in the original Cherry County Courthouse. It was housed in a small room located in the southwest corner of the District Court Room. Hours were Tuesday and Saturday afternoons from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. The library was closed if court was in session. Books were checked out for 2 weeks and available to everyone in the area. Fines were 2 cents per day but were charged 25 cents if a messenger had to be sent. The library collection began with 500 books most of which were donated by supporters.

A PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR VALENTINE

A Modest Start To Be Made About April 1st, From Which It Is Hoped Will Grow a Strong Institution.

Citizens Are Called Upon to Make Donations of Books to Start the Library ON.

One of the things which Valentine has thus far lacked, and which every town of this size should have, is at last to be secured, at first in a modest form. That is, a public library. Chapter OA of the P. E. O. Brotherhood has taken the initiative in this matter, as no other body seemed to have it at heart, and about April 1st expects to open the library in the judge's room adjoining the district court room. As there seemed to be no suitable room for the library in the auditorium, the natural place for such an institution, this room was selected as the next best place.

It will probably be possible to have the library open only two or three afternoons in the week, as the ladies will have to donate their time for this purpose. Should the library grow and be patronized as it ought, in time some patriotic citizen may donate a special building for it, as L. K. Alder did at Amesworth.

In the meantime, it will be very much appreciated if the people of Valentine and vicinity will help the following committee of books which they are willing to donate: Mrs. Mary Quigley, Mrs. Emma G. Miller or Mrs. Minnie A. Miller. These books will have to be sent by express, and should be insured.

To start with the library will consist largely of donations and therefore it is hoped that the people will respond liberally to this request.

invitation to attend is extended to all, as well as to all adjoining knights.

It has long been the custom of the members of Bethel Commandery of Long Pipe to meet in a body each Easter at some town within its jurisdiction. This year on account of the necessity for economy the members will meet in their own homes. Valentine has so many knights that quite a showing can be made. Bro. Herman G. Fisher will address the meeting here. Bro. J. M. Caldwell of the Bethel church will speak to the knights at Wood Lake.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY.

Strong Aid to American Legion Post Is Organized.

A Woman's Auxiliary to the American Legion, Leo Brinda Post No. 99, was organized Wednesday evening at a meeting held in the Legion club rooms in the Valentine State Bank building. Forty-four ladies were present. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Haiden Gould, president; Mrs. E. W. Hennig, vice president; Miss Alma Carlson, secretary; Mrs. O. W. Weaver, treasurer; Miss Alice Carlson, member of the committee. Mrs. Charles Carlson was elected honorary member.

The organization will be held in the Legion club rooms.

March 1921 Library will be opening soon

PUBLIC LIBRARY OPENS

An Event of No Small Importance for Valentine.

The Valentine Public Library is now ready for the transaction of business. Nearly 500 books have been collected, catalogued and classified, and made available to nearly everyone. New books will be added as funds are raised.

To reach the library, go to the court house and upstairs to the court room. The southwest door in that room enters the library.

Until further notice the library will be open on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons from 3 until 5, the only exception being during sessions of the district court, when it will not be possible to open the library. Residents of Valentine and vicinity are entitled to get books. There is no age limit and no charge will be made except as fines for keeping a book over the time allowed without having it renewed. Two weeks is the limit, after which 2 cents a day will be charged, 25 cents if a messenger must be sent.

Reading good books is a means of recreation and education very highly recommended by everyone, so it is hoped that the library will be well patronized. Come and look it over. Donations of good books in good condition will be

April 1921 Library opens in Valentine



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Original Cherry Courthouse room which was the first home of the Valentine Public Library starting in 1921



Valentine Main Street facing north. The original Cherry County Courthouse built in 1901 is on the left.



Original Cherry County Courthouse was built in 1901. The City Auditorium was built in 1913.



Original Cherry County Courthouse. The original home of the Valentine Public Library

By December of 1922, the newspaper reports more book donations and the collection of the library had increased to over 1500 volumes. Emma Sheldon, librarian, reported in January 1924 of the usage of the library the previous year. Still mostly run by 14 members of the Chapter CA P.E.O. on a volunteer basis, the hours were Tuesday and Saturday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

The Chapter CA P.E.O. continued to hold fundraisers, rummage sales, talent plays, and various other activities to support the library operations. It soon outgrew it's original home and was moved into the basement of the original Cherry County Courthouse in March of 1924. Employees of the courthouse donated more shelving to house the growing number of books.

resented with real logs, and on the walls are animal hides and in the surrounding woods are traps and their intended victims, in the shape of stuffed animals.

The Valentine public library has acquired nearly a hundred new books, consisting of current popular novels, in the last week by purchase from the Firna drug store, which closed out its stock in that line, except a few duplicates. The library now has some fifteen hundred volumes on its shelves, and is doing a good work in supplying the reading want of the community. Donations of books of course are always acceptable.

NEW SINCLAIR AGENT.
O. Mary of Omaha, assistant state manager for the Sinclair Oil company, was in Valentine this week and checked up the accounts at L.

LIBRARY WORK GROWS.
Emma Sheldon, librarian of the Valentine Public Library, reports that the collection of books for December was 100. The books collected were 100. For the last six months the circulation was 200 volumes, and the fines collected amounted to \$10.00. During that time the library received donation of 50 volumes, and a number of new books were purchased. The library is open every Tuesday and Saturday afternoon from one to five o'clock.

For the purpose of raising funds for the purchase of new books, the library committee has decided to hold a "rummage sale" on some future date, when weather conditions are more favorable. Those interested in the library will be asked to make donations of desirable articles, and to attend the sale with their friends.

PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS NOTES

Librarian Emma Sheldon report January 1924

LIBRARY IS MOVED.
The public library has been moved this week into larger and brighter quarters in the basement of the court house, the room recently fitted up under the county clerk's office being used for this purpose. This room will be cooler in summer, and has much more light, and is also much larger. A reading table will be installed and will be open to the public on the days when the library is open. The librarian, Mrs. Sheldon, will be found at the library on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons from 1 to 5 o'clock.

March 7, 1924 Valentine Republican

Donation of 100 books to VPL Dec 1922



The Chapter CA P.E.O. operated, supported and increased the library collection in the coming years. The Chapter CA P.E.O. had always hoped the library would be able to grow and it's goal was to someday to turn the library over to the city. In March of 1935, the Chapter CA P.E.O. reported the following *"Valentine's Public Library, started by Chapter CA, still remains our chief philanthropic work. We have purchased a number of new books, among them the outstanding books of the year. Our librarian reports 4300 books in the library and has loaned 6300 this year."* By 1936 the Chapter CA P.E.O. organization reported the library was turned over to the City of Valentine. The March 1936 Chapter CA P.E.O. reported: *"Chapter CA has turned its chief Philanthropic project for many years, the Valentine Library, over to the city. The Library having grown and the expense for maintaining the same having become accordingly large. The former Library Board consisting of P.E.O. members has been retained by the city."* It was moved into the new City Hall building that began construction in 1937 and was completed in 1938. The library was located upstairs.



The Valentine City Hall blueprints listed the P.W.A project as Valentine City Hall and Library.

City Hall



Valentine City Hall construction began in 1937 and was completed in the summer of 1938. The library was moved to the upstairs in September.

An open house in January of 1939 invited the public to view the completed space and expanded its hours to include being open on Friday afternoons and Tuesday evenings.

Library Needs To Be Open More

The public library, while in its new quarters in the city hall, is still not exactly in shape for inspection. Owing to some misunderstanding, only two of the large metal bookstacks were ordered, and even with some of the old wooden stacks in use, there are many books without a proper resting place. One more full stack and one half-size steel stack have been ordered, and upon their arrival the books will be placed. Chairs have also been ordered for the reading room, which will prove to be a pleasant place for those who want to read on the premises.

At present the library is open only on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons, as formerly, but there is a strong demand from rural patrons for a chance to get books on Friday, which is one of the big days.



The library became a favorite spot to host bookclub discussions, businessman coffee events, celebrate National Library week and various activities. Emma Sheldon was the librarian from 1924-1949. Josie Wise was the librarian until 1953. Charlotte Ladd was librarian from 1954-1985.

- January 1939 Library Open House

:o:

Open House at the City Library

**Patrons Are Invited to Inspect It
Next Tuesday Afternoon.**

The public is invited to inspect the Valentine public library, Tuesday, January 17th from 2 p. m. to 5 p. m.

Members of the library board, with Mrs. Emma Sheldon, the librarian, have done a great amount of personal work recently in getting the library in shape in its nice new quarters, and especially in filling up the reading room with the furniture and equipment bought by the city and donated by various public spirited people. There are now sufficient stacks for all the books available for circulation, and a large number of worn-out books have been collected and disposed of.

The library board wishes to acknowledge and thank the following for gifts received since moving into the new building:

The Legion Auxilliary, six children's books.

The Book Club, indirect lighting reading lamp, 1 year's subscription to Popular Science and Good House-keeping magazines.

The Westminster Club, 1 year's subscription to The National Geographic Magazine.

Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Fifer, 1 year's subscription to Life magazine.

E. C. Pestel, a children's table.

The Woman's Improvement Club, a globe map of the world.

The Valentine floral booth at county fair, \$4.00 to apply on payment for-fictionary stand.

P. E. O. Sisterhood, 17 adult, 18 juvenile books.

George Gross, 3 Literary Guild books.

Books were donated by Mrs. Margaret Simpson, Grant Perkins and the Anna E. Ubs estate.

:o:

- January 1939 Library extends hours

:o:

Library Will Be Open More

**Patrons Will Be Served on Three
Afternoons and One Evening.**

The city library board announces that for the present, at least, the library will be open on three days of each week, instead of on two days, as has been the rule. Hereafter the library will be open to the public on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday afternoons from 1 to 4 p. m., and on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 p. m. The Friday date has been requested by many rural patrons who come to town on Friday, instead of Saturday, on account of the livestock sales which occur on the earlier date. The board has therefore decided to learn whether there is a real demand for service on that day.

The recent payment of a lot of back taxes on Valentine property has temporarily swelled the library fund, enabling the board to take on this extra expense. Ordinarily the funds barely meet the ordinary running expenses on the former basis of service.

:o:



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*Sylvia Quigley at a businessman coffee event
1960s*



*Charlotte Ladd in the right front hosts a Book
Discussion*



*Valentine Public Library was located in the
Valentine City Hall from 1938 until 1968*





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Businessman coffee event



We hope you enjoyed this look back during the "Year of the Library". In our next few segments, we will look back at the beginnings of the Bookmobile, the start of the building plans for the current location plus more. Stay tuned for more info and history of the Valentine Public Library.