

Valentine Public Library

Centennial Newsletter

Vol 2 | Summer | 2021

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

We continue to celebrate the "Year of the Library" as a proclamation was approved by the Board of Trustees of the Valentine Public Library, the Valentine City Council and the Cherry County Commissioners. The entities declared 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

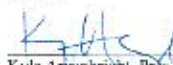
WHEREAS, from these modest beginnings the library's collections grew along with the community, to the point that it was turned over to the city in 1935 with 3,000 volumes and moved to the upper floor in the newly built City Hall. A new library building was erected across from City Hall. It was dedicated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

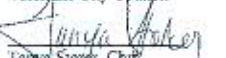
WHEREAS, over the years, the Library has offered programs for all ages, outreach services, literacy initiatives, job seeker and small business resources, expanding information services, computer training, Internet access, and other means of community support and enrichment; and

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


Tanya Storer, Chair
Cherry County Commissioners

Attest:


Deanna Schmit, Valentine City Clerk



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Join us as we look at the history of the 100 years of the Valentine Public Library.....

At the end of our first newsletter issue, we had moved into the newly built Valentine City Hall.

Here is a little history. 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.

The library became a favorite spot to host book club discussions, businessmen 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.

Improvements were added over the years including custom shades which were painted by Mildred Hansen, and redevelopment of the space to fit the needs of the community.

To Celebrate National Library Week in April of 1960, the library hosted a businessmen coffee and doughnuts event. Part of the celebration was to view the room formerly known as the "Historical Society room" but was later changed to the "Venia Kellar Room". It had been completely redecorated and furnished as an adult reading room. It also housed adult fiction volumes. This was made possible by a bequest from Venia Kellar.



City Hall



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

Businessmen visit at public library

Large numbers of local businessmen and their employees visited the Valentine Public Library, Wednesday morning, and enjoyed coffee and doughnuts being served by the P. E. O. in observance of National Library Week. Those who had not visited the library recently also discovered that many changes have taken place.

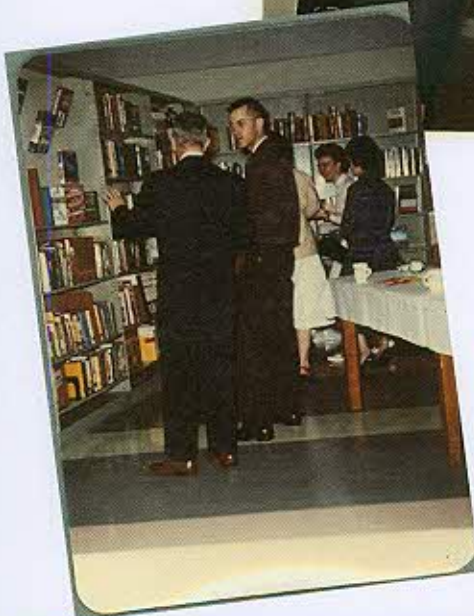
The room formerly known as the "Historical Society Room," but now known as the "Venia Kellar Room", has been completely redecorated and furnished as an adult reading room, housing adult fiction volumes. This was made possible by a bequest of the late Venia Kellar.

The Youth Room" has been redecorated, featuring oil paintings by Mildred Hansen. It will be refurbished in the near future by the P. E. O.

Adult non-fiction works have been re-arranged in the main library, providing much additional room.

This complete overhauling of the library was carried out under the direction of Marian Walcott and represents a tremendous amount of work by a number of volunteer workers.

☺☺☺



Businessmen enjoying coffee and doughnuts during National Library Week in 1960

Plan observance of Library Week

National Library Week committee people gathered at the City Hall last Thursday and reviewed final plans for the annual library emphasis, April 3-9.

The initial public activity was a brief talk before P.-T.A., Monday evening by County Supt. Marie Perrett on the Sawyer Memorial Library. The Nebraska State Bank has made television advertising time available to promote Library Week in connection with their regular Sunday evening program, "Sea Hunt" over KPLO. There was publicity last Sunday and R. L. Davenport, bank president, says the promotion will be emphasized more fully this coming Sunday, April 3.

The KPLO TV station has made some time available this coming Tuesday afternoon, (see LIBRARY WEEK page 7)

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LIBRARY WEEK

(continued from page 1)

April 5, 1:15 to 1:30, when a local panel will discuss informally, "What's In It For Me?" Panel members will be Mrs. Ola Almquist, Miss Karen Moosman, Dr. T. W. Deakin, Valentine Mayor, Rev. Roy Byrd, Jr., and County Agent Harry Stokely.

Wednesday morning, April 6, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., businessmen are invited to attend a special Coffee Break at the Valentine Public Library, as guests of Chapter CA of the PEO. Business owners, managers and employees are invited to share in this affair and inspect the newly redecorated and expanded library facilities.

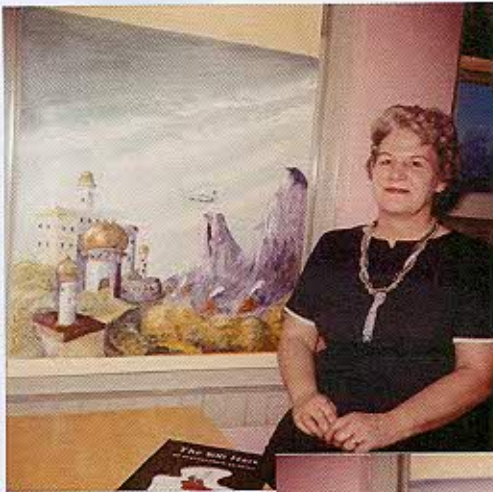
A Book Club Tea is scheduled for Thursday afternoon, April 7, 2:00 to 5:00 o'clock, in the basement of the Veterans Club, sponsored by the Book Club and the American Legion Auxiliary. Miss Louise Nixon, Executive Secretary of the Nebraska Public Library Commission, will be the guest speaker. Invitations have been sent to local civic, fraternal and church organizations, but it is emphasized that all ladies interested are cordially invited to attend.

Thursday evening, Miss Marian Walcott and Rev. Byrd will speak briefly to the Valentine Rotary Club whose members will then adjourn enmasse to inspect the Public Library.

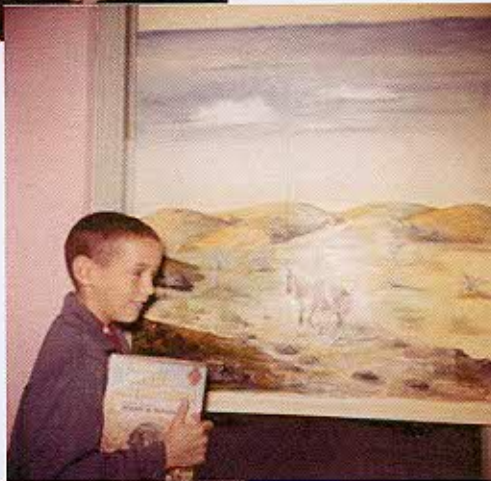
Other activities are many and diverse to remind the public of National Library Week. There are bulletin board displays in both the high and grade schools as well as window displays down town. Billboards around the state, grocery bag stuffers, restaurant table tents and a variety of attractively mimeographed book lists suggesting titles for children and other groups are being distributed by childrens clubs, agricultural people, the Area Ministerial Assn., and others, all in keeping with the 1960 theme, "Open Wonderful New Worlds—Wake Up and Read". Junior High School students have a limited collection of books which they are putting in order and carding for use as a functioning library service. During the month of April, school classes will visit the Public Library to familiarize students with available services.



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Mildred Hansen custom painted window shades in 1960



VALENTINE, NEBRASKA, APRIL 7, 1960

Mrs. Hansen Does Shade Paintings



Sometime ago when the Public Library Board wished to request that local artist, Mrs. Mildred Hansen, do some work to hang in the Children's Room at the Library, they discovered there was not wall space available to suitably display paintings. Not satisfied with dismissing the matter, Miss Marian Walcott recalled having seen oil paintings done on window shades and Mrs. Hansen generously consented to create works on shades covering all five windows in the room. Two of her beautiful oil works are shown above. On the left is "Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates" from the book by M. M. Dodge, and the painting on the right illustrates "The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins" by Dr. Sues. The other three shade oils also illustrate well known childrens books and the unique work is genuinely magnificent. In the photo, Mrs. Charlotte Ladd, librarian, is

shown captivating a group of youngsters with her typical charm.

Book Club — Auxiliary Tea At The Library

We reported in error last week in stating that the Book Club-American Legion Auxiliary Tea was to be held in the basement of the Veterans Club. This tea will be held this afternoon, 2:00 to 5:00 o'clock, at the Public Library. All interested ladies in the area are cordially invited.

During this National Library Week, we enthusiastically urge everyone to visit the Public Library. Due primarily to the generous bequest by the late Miss Venia Kellar, a wonderfully comfortable reading room decorated and furnished admirably with fitting taste, has been added to facilities. The entire library has been redecorated, book cases and shelves repainted and some equipment added, for an impressive improvement.



Nat'l Library Week aim is to develop our young readers

Emphasis will be on development of reading among young people in third annual observance of National Library Week, April 3-9.

Theme will be "Open Wonderful New Worlds... Wake Up and Read." Local and state committees will conduct campaigns to encourage reading of books, newspapers and magazines for fun, knowledge and advancement.

National Library Week committee is offering schools a kit of materials for use by teachers in classrooms to promote reading. Many newspapers used 1959 National Library Week as occasion to stress importance of newspaper reading for all well-informed citizens. Librarians and local Library Week committees will be seeking cooperation of the public through newspapers and other media in emphasizing importance of reading.

Longtime Director, Charlotte Ladd is pictured during a children's reading program. Mrs. Ladd was the librarian from 1954-1985. For over 31 years she was the director of the Valentine Public Library. She was instrumental in the design and construction of our current location built in 1968.



Earl and Charlotte Ladd

Earl Ladd, a son of William Austin and Veronica Nixon Ladd, was born July 22, 1900 in Marion, Ind. He was raised in an orphanage for veteran's children in Indiana. His father, a Civil War veteran, died when he was two and his mother died eight years later.

He was working at Fort Niobrara when he married Charlotte Julia Wilson, May 1, 1934. Charlotte was born June 22, 1913 in Valentine to Walter O. and Jane E. Taylor Wilson. She was named for her mother's friend Lottie Raubach.

After graduating from Valentine she attended Chadron Normal College and taught rural schools near Valentine, driving her Uncle Hank's Buick coupe.

They lived at Fort Niobrara Wildlife Refuge and in October 1934 were sent to Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge in Garden County where Earl was acting supervisor. They were transferred to Elk Refuge at Jackson, Wyo. and lived in a one-room log cabin until their quarters were ready.

Before coming back to Valentine he worked for General Electric Company in Fort Wayne, Ind. Charlotte's father was dying and her brother, Dick, was a German prisoner. Earl worked as an electrician and devised a system for the city to turn the water pumps on and off by the use of the telephone.

They had two daughters, Earleen Jane was born in Jackson and Margaret J. in Valentine. After the girls were in high school, Charlotte started work as a bookkeeper for Valentine Locker Plant and about 1954 started as librarian of the city library. It consisted of three dark rooms, one was for the Cherry County Historical Society.

She and Earl rearranged book shelves, painted in bright colors and sorted. Most of this was done on Sunday as the library was open six days a week. When the Historical Society moved to their new building she used the room for an adult reading room. She started searching for ways and means of gathering money for better things. After mounds of paper work she gained state funding to add to city and county funds and a new library was built. It is now a regional library and services small towns in the area. It has a bookmobile, a dial-a-story, a summer reading program for children and one of the best book collections in the state.

Earl died Oct. 24, 1971 from a heart attack. Earleen married Don Osborn, they have two daughters, Donna Jane and Suzanne Holmes and live in Cozad. Margaret married Larry Sinn and lives in Curtis where he teaches veterinary medicine. Their children are Patricia Ladd and twins, Michael Austin and Molly Kathleen.

Read a little more about her from the excerpt in the Sandhills Century Book 2 on page 236.

