

Valentine Public Library

Centennial Newsletter

Vol 3 | Fall | 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 18, 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.

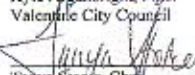
NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Valentine City Council and the Cherry County Commissioners, by the virtue of authority vested in us as the governing bodies in Valentine and Cherry County, in the State of Nebraska, do hereby proclaim 2021 as the "Year of the Library" in honor of its 100th Anniversary, and extend 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.

Attest:


Kyle Argenbright, Pres.
Valentine City Council


Deanna Schmit, Valentine City Clerk


Tanya Stoeck, Chair
Cherry County Commissioners



324 N Main St Valentine, NE 69201

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Email: info@valentinelibrary.org

<https://valentinelibrary.org/>



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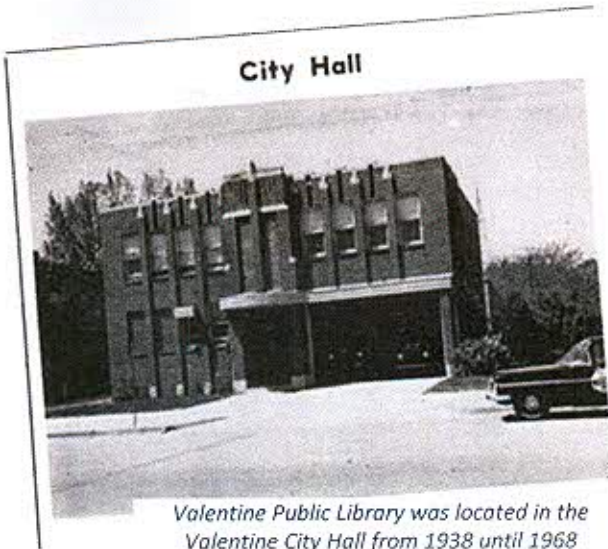
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Join us as we look at the history of the first 100 years of the Valentine Public Library.....

At the end of our last newsletter issue, we had started the discussion about a new location for the library.

Here is a little history. Valentine City Hall was the home of the Valentine Public Library from 1938-1968. Plans were made to build a new building to house the growing library collection and to make it more easily accessible.

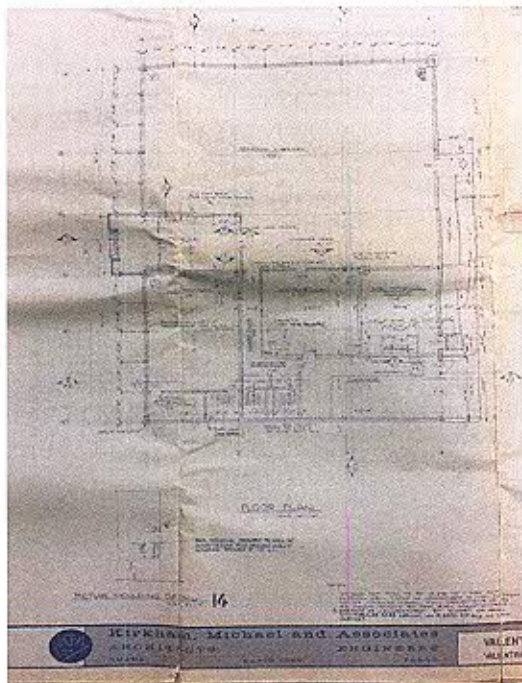
As early as 1961 discussions about possible remodels of community buildings or a new library building and location were being held. Let's take a closer look...



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

The Beginnings Of The New Library Building Plan

A picture from 1944 during a parade shows the east side of the third block of Main Street where the current location of the library would be built in 1968. Also pictured is Thomas Auto Parts which was located south of the creamery. It originally housed the bookmobile before construction on the new library began.



Blueprints of the plans for the new library in 1967.





Plans Begin For A New Location Of The Library

In March of 1961, the Library Board discussed the possibility of remodeling the old Methodist church at the corner of 3rd and Hall Street into a new location for the public library. This option was explored and various consultants visited our community and library to develop a plan.

In the early part of 1962, the Omaha Director visited to examine the old Methodist Church for a possible remodel to house the library. Upon meetings with various consultants from the state this was not recommended.

Discussion remained ongoing and in the fall of 1965 multiple meetings were held with architects, the Cherry County Commissioners, and building consultants to discuss the county interest in a new building to house the library. In October 1965, the Library Board voted unanimously to retain the architectural firm of Kirkham, Michael & Associates for a proposed new library building. A preliminary sketch was presented of the floor plan and was to be included in an application for federal funds to assist in the cost in November 1965.

In January of 1966, the board met with the Valentine City Manager to assemble an application for federal funds for a new library building. It was mailed on January 11, 1966. The application request was for \$87,641 under the provisions of the "Library Services and Construction Act" to aid in financing the cost of the library building project. Revisions to the floor plans were required before the application could be approved.

Revisions to the floor plan were made and accepted in March 1966 and in May of 1966 the Valentine City Council passed a resolution and motioned to accept Kirkham, Michael & Associates' proposal. The board instructed Kirkham, Michael & Associates to proceed with detailed plans and specifications. Plans were amended and finalized into the fall. In September 1966, an agreement for use of Federal Funds in construction of the new library was accepted.

Bids were advertised throughout the early part of 1967. In July 1967, the bid from BJ Frick & Co. of Salina, KS with completion in 260 days was accepted. The bid was for \$132,000.

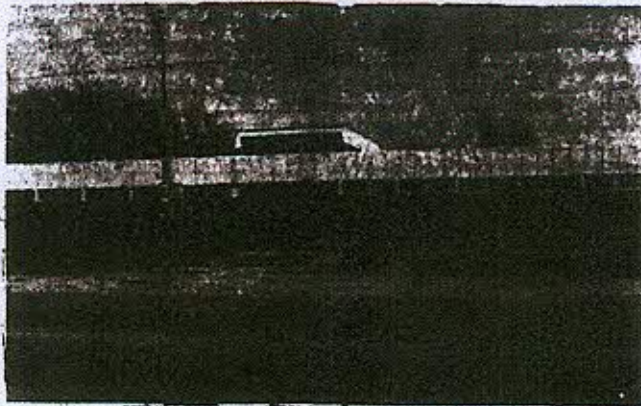




Valentine, Nebraska 69201

Thursday, April 11, 1968

New Library Building Near Completion



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Shown above is the new Valentine Public Library building located on North Main St., south of the Post Office and directly across the street from the City Hall. Work is now progressing rapidly on the interior of the building and it should be ready for occupancy within the next few weeks.

Construction Begins

The construction commenced and bids for carpet, furnishings and other building project items were advertised and reviewed. The building site was cleared by November 1967 and progressed rapidly. Carpet, shelving and paint colors were approved.

As of June 1968, the library had 15,059 volumes in the collection as the construction was entering into the final phase of completion. A metal book drop was ordered.

Invitations for the dedication of the new building were reviewed. Many were mailed out to area residents. The dedication would be held on August 11, 1968.

The library closed for a few days while it moved into the new spacious library building across the street from City Hall. The move into the new building occurred in late July and they quickly opened to the public. 3,000 books were checked out in the first 15 days in the new building.

City library open in new home Monday

The Valentine Public Library was opened to the public Monday in its spacious new home on North Main Street. Not all the books and materials were yet in place, but this work is progressing rapidly.

The new building, 70' x 96', was completed recently at a cost of approximately \$132,000. Of this amount approximately \$87,000 came from the State Library Commission.

The new one story building replaces cramped and hard to reach quarters on the second floor of the City Hall. It is roomy, quiet, comfortable and easy to reach.

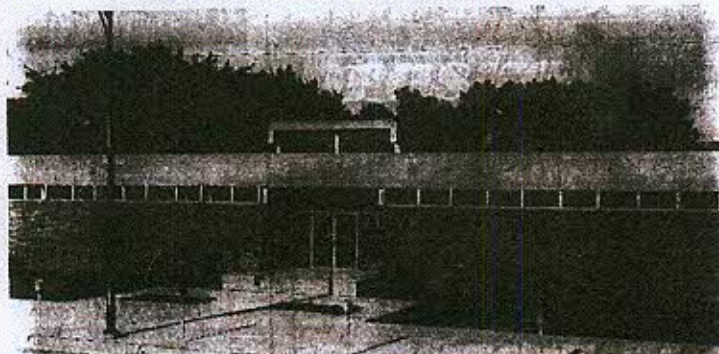
In addition to the library itself, the building houses a small auditorium and Bookmobile quarters.

Library hours are from 1:00 p. m. to 9:00 p. m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The library is open from 10:00 a. m. to 6:00 p. m. on Wednesday and Saturday.

A formal opening is being planned for Sunday, August 11.

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City Library Being Moved This Week



The Valentine City Library is closed this week while moving. All books and much other equipment is now being moved from upstairs rooms in the City Hall to the beautiful and spacious new library building shown above. The building was completed just days ago, carpet was installed last week and installation of shelving began immediately thereafter. By Wednesday enough of the shelving was in place that the moving of books began. It is hoped that the new library, on North Main St., just across the street from the City Hall, may be open to the public Monday.

Valentine Newspaper had an update and photo in the July 25, 1968 issue



Dedication of new library slated Sunday, August 11

Ralph Owen Moody of San Francisco, noted author of *Little Britches* and other popular books will be guest speaker at the Valentine Public Library dedication and formal opening Sunday, August 11. Ceremonies start at 2 p. m. with open house to follow until 8 p. m. The public is invited to attend and inspect the spacious and beautiful new library building.

Mr. Moody was born in Rochester, N. H., but moved to Wyoming at an early age because of his father's health. He also lived in Colorado and farmed in Maine. His first book was written after he was fifty years old. He is a charming and entertaining speaker and is very obliging about giving autographs. He especially enjoys children.

Miss Louise Nixon, Executive Secretary of the Nebraska Public Library Commission; Miss Mercedes McKay, Librarian of the South Dakota Public Library Commission; Miss Jane Pope, Library Consultant for the Nebraska Public Library Commission; Tom Allen, World Herald Feature Writer and the Honorable Elvir Anderson, State Senator, are among the invited guests. Mrs. Adrian Almquist, building chairman, will introduce the guests.

Members of the Cherry County Extension Clubs will serve refreshments.

The Marie Sandoz American Indian Collection of books is a special feature of the library. This is a reference collection to be used in the library only.

Also available in the library is a meeting room that will accommodate 75 people. This room may be reserved by civic, cultural and educational organizations at no charge. A projector, screen and film are for loan.

The Sand Painters Club will have an art display in the meeting room.

Other features of the new building are a ramp for the handicapped, a parking lot for patrons, and a garage and book storage for the bookmobile.

The new one story building is 70'x90', costing approximately \$132,000. Of this amount \$87,000 came from the State Library Commission.

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The Public Library of Valentine

cordially invites you to their

Day of Dedication

in their new library building

August 11, 1968

Dedication at 2:00 p.m. m.d.s.t.

Open House from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m. m.d.s.t.

324 North Main Street

Valentine, Nebraska

Dedication of the new Valentine Public Library building was held on August 11, 1968

DEDICATION CEREMONY

PUBLIC LIBRARY of VALENTINE, NEBRASKA

August 11, 1968

2:00 p.m. M. D. S. T.

- Invocation — Father Richard May
- Introductions — Mrs. Adrian Almquist
- Nebraska Public Library Commission — Miss Louise Nixon, Miss Jane Pope
- City Manager — Mr. Stanley Smiley
- City Council — Mr. William R. Joseph, Mr. Robert Gass, Mr. Elmer Monroe, Dr. Dick Jeffers, Mr. Frank Cramer
- Library Board — Mrs. William S. Dill, Mrs. Earl Hodges, Mrs. Donald Beman, Mr. Frank L. Tolstedt, Mrs. Adrian Almquist
- Library Staff — Mrs. Charlotte Ladd, Mrs. Opal Epp, Mrs. Tressa Peters, Mrs. Janice Graeff
- Presentation of Building — Mr. William Fisk, of Kirkham, Michael & Associates, Architects
- Acceptance of Building — Mayor William R. Joseph
- Speaker — Mr. Ralph Moody
- Benediction
- Refreshments by Cherry County Extension Clubs
- Art Exhibition by Sand Painter's Club

Anyone interested in a steady Nursing Career should contact Clifford D. Hotaling, Navy Recruiter, to arrange for an interview while Miss Johnston is in the area.

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Col. H. Jones commands 360th Squadron in Vietnam

U. S. Air Force Colonel Henry I. Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jones of Valentine, has assumed command of the 360th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron at Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam. Prior to assuming his present position,

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