

Public Library Has Served Atchison Since 1879; Present Building a Gift to Institution

The Public Library of Atchison was organized at a meeting of the women of the city in Corinthian Hall April 23, 1879. Mrs. John M. Crowell was chairman. Mrs. A. F. Martin, secretary, and Mrs. W. D. Webb offered the following resolution: "Whereas it is expedient and desirable for the general culture and intellectual improvement of Atchison, and it being the wish of the citizens that a public library be established on an enduring basis; therefore resolved that we adopt the following articles of incorporation." The resolution was adopted, and a letter from Mayor Devers read in which he gave \$500 toward the enterprise. Committees were appointed to solicit memberships, and the meeting adjourned to meet at Pandowry Hall, April 28. The first board of directors, twenty-four in number, was chosen April 28, and consisted of the following: Messrs. R. A. Park, John M. Crowell, W. L. Chaffin, W. W. Guthrie, J. L. Berry, W. H. Shultz, W. F. Downer, W. D. Webb, R. F. Clark, A. B. Bradish, W. S. Briggs, E. L. Everett, G. W. Clegg, D. C. Newcomb, J. J. Ingalls, B. F. Strangefellow, A. G. Olin, H. Clay Park, L. Friend, A. Faust, A. E. Martin, H. E. Monroe, Misses Nellie Allen and Lydia Stockwell. A charter was filed at Topeka, May 17, 1879, in which was stated: "The Atchison Library Association." On the same day, at the residence of Mrs. John M. Crowell, the following officers were elected: Mrs. John M. Crowell, president; Mrs. W. H. Shultz, vice president; Mrs. W. D. Webb, corresponding secretary; Mrs. A. F. Martin, recording secretary; and Mrs. R. A. Park, treasurer.

The organization was busy all summer, and during the time from April 23 to November 17 or 21, the day of the opening, a record of the thirteen quarterly meetings shows they had sold 281 memberships at \$2.50 each, making \$702.50, and had received gratuitously or by solicitation \$700, a total of \$1,402.50. Mrs. M. F. De Forest had been engaged as librarian, beginning November 17, 1879, where the Board of Directors was organized. The upper floor of this building was divided by a partition running north and south and the library was housed in the west half, the east half being rented out by the association to various individuals and literary and management clubs. Here on Friday, November 21, 1879, the library was opened to the public, the following gentlemen being selected to give toast: Senator Isaacs, General Guthrie, General Strangefellow, Judge W. D. Webb, Judge Berry, B. F. Waggener, A. P. Martin, Major Downer, H. Clay Park, Noble L. Franklin, E. W. Howe. So was born the public library of Atchison.

A Gift of \$35,000. The Commercial street quarters were used until April 1884, when the library was moved to the upper floor of the Wideman building at Fifth and Kansas avenues, now occupied by the Atchison Business college. It was building that they received the magnificent gift of \$10,000 from J. P. Fomeroy, October 31, 1887. Mr. Fomeroy's interest did not end with this gift. He had generously contributed before and he continued his help financially. He had a taste for art, and in December, 1887, a note from abroad that he had purchased some marbles in Florence which he was sending to the library, and which he had asked E. W. Howe to have properly set up. In February, 1888, the pieces were in place, and revealed itself as "The Wrestlers." In November, 1887, the Wideman building was offered for sale to settle up the estate, and the association bought it with \$3,000 of the gift which they had received the month before. During the latter part of 1888 and early in 1889 the building was remodeled, an addition being put on to the north at a cost of \$3,841.20. The remodeled rooms were open for business March 15, 1893, and all pleasant were all day to the new quarters that many gifts were made—one a large clock from B. F. Waggener, which is still in use. Mr. De Forest, the first librarian, gave a handsome table. In 1910 the second wonderful gift of \$10,000 was made to the library by A. J. Harvi, who had provided for it in his will. This gift is known as "The A. J. Harvi Memorial Book Fund," and furnished the chief revenue from which all purchases of books are made. Each volume coming into

the library from this fund bears a stamp, usually on the title page, to that effect. In January, 1921, Mrs. Harvi announced that the Congregational church board had, at her suggestion, proposed to deed their church to the library on two conditions: The library was to be named the Harvi Memorial Library Congregational Memorial, and the memorial windows were to remain intact. The conditions were not and plans were immediately made to prepare the building for its new purpose. Work progressed during the summer, and the beautiful building was opened September 11, 1921, fulfilling the resolution passed forty-two years ago, "that a public library should be established on an enduring basis, and standing as a monument to a long line of public spirited women." The remodeling and moving had cost over \$7,000, contributed upon solicitation by the citizens of Atchison, nearly half of which amount had been furnished by the fifteen members of the library board. The new building created a new interest, which again was manifested in the Kiwanis club generously gave their time for the promotion of two dancing parties, turning over \$1,000 as the result of their efforts. The Civic club, the Friday Afternoon club, the Fortnightly, and just lately the Business Women's club, together with other organizations and individuals have given money or sets of books. At present the running expenses of the library are met by the sale of membership cards, the price of which is \$1 a year; by the interest received from the "Fomeroy Fund," (the \$3,000 spent for the Wideman building) having been returned to keep the \$10,000 gift intact; and a yearly appropriation from the city. An estimate gives the number of bound volumes in the library as being 16,000 and 17,000. The number of paid subscriptions varies between 700 and 800. Librarian for 37 Years. Mrs. M. F. De Forest, the first librarian, served from November 17, 1879, to November 1, 1880. She was succeeded by Miss Sarah Talbot, who served in January, 1882, to take effect February 1 of the same year. Mrs. Leona Brown was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy which she did successfully for thirty-seven years. Mrs. J. J. Ingalls, who had been her assistant, took effect February 1, 1923. Miss Jessie O. Howell, who had been her assistant since June, 1913, was elected to succeed Mrs. Scottfield, and is the present librarian. Mrs. J. J. Ingalls, Miss Vera Stinson became assistant, followed by Mrs. Wm. Berry in June, 1920. Mrs. C. J. Drury succeeded to the position in June, 1923. During the life of the organization, the following officers have been elected: Presidents: Mrs. John M. Crowell, May 17, 1879, to May 5, 1880; Mrs. W. H. Shultz, May 5, 1880, to May 3, 1882; Mrs. G. W. Clegg, May 3 to June 2, 1882; Mrs. Guthrie, June 2 to 1885; Mrs. C. J. Drury, May 13, 1903, to May 10, 1905; Mrs. W. W. Guthrie, May 10, 1905, to May 12, 1920; Mrs. A. J. Harvi, May 12, 1920. Vice presidents: Mrs. W. H. Shultz, Mrs. D. C. Newcomb, Mrs. W. H. Shultz, Mrs. C. J. Drury, Mrs. Mary Brown, Mrs. M. E. Holland (Harvi), twice, Miss Blanche McKee, Mrs. J. W. Orr, Secretaries: Mrs. A. H. Martin, Mrs. J. L. Berry, Miss Nellie S. Allen, Mrs. W. G. Bellist, Corresponding Secretaries: Mrs. W. D. Webb, Mrs. Richard Clark, Mrs. Charles Osborne, Mrs. Frevling Tuffe, Mrs. W. H. Cochran, Mrs. C. J. Drury, Miss Effie Symms, Treasurers: Mrs. R. A. Park, Mrs. C. J. Drury, Mrs. C. H. Linley, Mrs. J. A. Kinsey, Miss Florence Barth. Of the twenty-four directors chosen in 1879, Mrs. W. W. Guthrie and Dr. Lydia Stockwell still live in Atchison. Of the members of the board today, Mrs. W. W. Guthrie, Mrs. Edward S. Willis and Mrs. A. J. Harvi show the longest continuous service. The present officers are: Mrs. A. J. Harvi, president; Mrs. J. W. Orr, vice president; Mrs. J. W. Barlow, second vice president; Mrs. W. G. Bellist, secretary; Miss Effie Symms, corresponding secretary; Miss Florence Barth, treasurer. Directors: Miss Florence Fox, Miss Mary Lukens, Mrs. J. A. Kinsey, Mrs. Roy Gaston, Mrs. C. H. Linley, Mrs. W. W. Guthrie, Mrs. Edward W. Willis, Mrs. James M. Chaffin, Mrs. Louis D. Brockett.

Belgium To Have Centennial Belgium is making active preparations for the exhibition to mark the centenary of the gaining of independence by that country. At the same time will be celebrated the hundredth anniversary of the laying of the first railroad line in Belgium and in Eu-

rope, and also the jubilee of the foundation of the Congo Free State. Invitations to participate are being extended to other countries. Isn't it queer? There are a lot of men who do many things and do them well, but never get ahead.

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Work to Aid Deservin



For many years the Atchison Aid association has been one of the many of the residents of Atchison who recall with heartfelt gratitude the association was indispensable. Here is a group of leaders in the association: top row, Mrs. W. H. Sewin, Mrs. Harri Orthrop, Mrs. G. W. picture are; top row, Mrs. J. H. Brown, Mrs. J. W. Waggener, Mrs. Newcomb, bottom row, Mrs. J. H. Brown, Mrs. J. W. Waggener, Mrs. Newcomb.

Blair Elevator Helps Make Atchison One of Big Grain Cent

Rebuild Plant To Handle 10,000,000 Bushels of Wheat And Corn in Year; Feed Mill in Addition.

Return of the Blair Elevator Co. to the grain field here last month has greatly enhanced Atchison's prestige as a milling and grain center. It is not unlikely that the company will handle in the future as high as 10,000,000 bushels of grain in and out of Atchison a year. Clarence H. Blanke, general manager, said yesterday in reference to the proposed expansion of the plant that the company probably would exceed that of 1924. That year the elevator handled 4,500,000 bushels of grain into Atchison and shipped out 4,500,000 in return to the coasted amount of grain handled. The company is operating a feed mill which ships into every territory that is on a competitive basis through freight rates. The Blair elevator mainly stores corn; probably no elevator in this section stores and moves more corn than it does. The company has a capacity for storage based on a government computation of 350,000 bushels of bulk grain. In addition it is in a position to store 4,000 sacks of grain. The unit of which the company is becoming fonder every day is the poultry feed mill. The year before the disastrous fire in July, 1928, the company had just finished the installation of a poultry feeds department. It had enjoyed one good season, seeing the start of a firmly established business. Its product was broadcast to all parts of the nation. Then came the fire. The company since the fire has been selling poultry feeds made according to its own formula, but the feeds have been made for it by St. Joe mills. Last month the firm joyfully resumed manufacturing in its own rebuilt plant. The fire was a hard blow. It would

have been very easy to have it insured, but the insurance company on the loss and quit. But it says been the record of the company and their associates that they do business that way. They quit. The entire plant is again erected. This time the company a concrete workhouse instead of one of sheet metal on a frame. The company lost more than a year's operation on account of the effects of the closing down elevator much more than it would have lost had the company been repaired. It really surprised them, they thought that they had lost here, and how quiet a board of grade section, wheat, poultry, buying organization of the running. The Blair Elevator Co. had as sort of an adjunct to it and the late W. A. Blair, boy old Greenleaf and Baker since 1910 the fire destroyed the structure, which was rebuilt the same. Along about 1915 the great storage bins were built. Following the partnership was pointed. The capital of the company slightly in excess of \$100,000. J. W. Blair is the president, Hackney, vice president; since 1918 Blanke is secretary; Mrs. Mary Mangelsdorf is treasurer. If you don't think the Blair mill is important, just stop to see that it has a capacity of loads of poultry feeds every day. The mill is not yet running to full capacity, but with the outbreak before mill may have to increase its before long. A section is considered to be our finest known. An inmate of a prison at F. H. Hahn, England, committed suicide by swallowing two hair combs, a brush handle, two spoon handles, twenty metal links from a spatula and a comb.

Collects 5,000 Insects. Known as the "Butterfly King" because of his hobby of collecting butterflies and moths, Albert E. Burton, railway porter, recently died at Worthing, England. He left a collection of nearly 5,000 insects gathered from all parts of the world and arranged in artistic designs. The col-

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