

THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY



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Chapter 1: Early Cheyenne

Recounting the construction of a Carnegie library in a frontier city requires some evaluation of the culture and demographics of the population. The frontier myth and cowboy myth were probably fostered commercially by painter Frederic Remington, showman William “Buffalo Bill” Cody, U.S. president and naturalist Theodore Roosevelt, and writers Ned Buntline and Owen Wister for the entertainment of Easterners and Europeans.

Cheyenne citizens realized the fallacy of these myths, as evidenced by a newspaper article entitled “Hole in the Wall is Pure Fiction” in the *Cheyenne Daily Leader* on July 29, 1901. The article quoted the Casper paper, whose reporter stated that in 1892, a murderous gang went through the Hole-in-the-Wall, a pass in the Big Horn Mountains, into a broad valley of ranchland inhabited by a number of respectable ranchers. This was seized upon by Eastern reporters and newspapers, who reported that every criminal thereafter escaped through the Hole-in-the-Wall. However, the interviewed ranchers, resident in the area since the mid-1800s, never saw them nor were there any caves or other places for the thieves to hide. Basically the West was settled by Easterners who brought with them the way they lived in the East. The environment and hostile natives were reminiscent of the early settling of the East.

A brief description of life in Cheyenne and the people and events of that period can be parsed from a variety of sources. Books include *History of Wyoming* by T. A. Larson; *Union Pacific* by Maury Klein; *Cheyenne: a biography of the “magic city” of the plains, 1867-1903* by Bill O’Neal; *The Carnegie Public Library, Cheyenne, Wyoming: a history of its organization and construction, with some ideas on the general scope and usefulness of the new building, and other interesting data (memorial volume 1902)*, edited by Robert C. Morris; and an excellent account of the Laramie County Library from 1872 to 1943, written in May 1971 by Alice M. Farnum. Other sources include the *American Heritage* and *Annals of Wyoming* magazines, Cheyenne newspapers, and sources from the Wyoming State Archives, the Laramie County Library files, and online.

CHEYENNE’S FOUNDING

In July 1867, General Grenville Dodge and his survey party selected the most suitable route for the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) from the five principal choices previously surveyed. When they arrived at a bend in Crow Creek just before reaching the Laramie Mountains, he decided that this would be the terminus for the railroad. He selected 320 acres for the railroad and platted the site. On the Fourth of July, they celebrated with General Christopher Augur and soldiers from Fort D. A. Russell. While returning to work the next day, a grading party on its way from Salt Lake City was attacked by Indians as they approached Dodge’s camp. The Indians were driven off but three of the railroad men were killed. They were buried and became the first inhabitants of Cheyenne.

Prior to the arrival of the track on November 13, 1867, Cheyenne was a construction camp consisting of tents and a few buildings. The construction crew came from Julesburg, Colorado which was known as Hell on Wheels, a name attached to the camps at the railhead by some unknown wag. When the track reached Hillsdale, Wyoming, flat cars carrying nearly all of the town tents and buildings were unloaded and brought to Cheyenne by horse and wagon. The population consisted of laborers, gamblers, saloon keepers, hangers-on, and prostitutes. The first house was built in July 1867 and the population had reached seven

thousand by November 1. Within a month, a city charter was formulated and adopted. On August 10, 1867, 350 votes were cast for city officials, and 1,924 votes were cast in October for county officials and territorial delegates.

Visitors had varying views of the city. In November 1867, a Parisian mineralogist named Louis Laurent Simonin visited on his tour of Western mines. In his book *Le Quest de la Oeust*, he related that he was

... offered lodging at the Dodge House or Hotel ... in the common sleeping room. There were no less than 30 beds there, most of them occupied by two sleepers at a time. We did not choose to share our bed with anyone ... in the common lounging room. ... One had to share the same brushes, the same combs and even the same towel. I rolled the soiled linen ... until I found a clean place, and then bravely rubbed my face. The hotel keeper asks us to leave our arms. Carbines and revolvers are not allowed in the city ... a decision taken by the municipal council. ... One can go about without arms and walks in the midst of honest people.

According to the U.S. Serial 1319 (1868), "Cheyenne was settled largely by people of Colorado" who came from Denver and northern Colorado. N. A. Baker, a Denver newspaper editor, arrived with all his equipment on the night of September 16, 1867, and at noon on September 19 the first issue of the *Cheyenne Leader* was sold. By November there was a city debt and three newspapers. Twelve newspapers had appeared in Cheyenne by 1900 but only a few survived. The Bank of Rogers and Company moved to Cheyenne on September 25, 1867. A postmaster was appointed and the post office opened on September 9, 1867. From October to December 1867, over 2,600 letters were processed each day.

Dodge estimated a population of ten thousand in the winter of 1867-1868; he probably included the residents of Fort D. A. Russell and Camp Carlin, located between the fort and the town. By the election of January 23, 1868 an ordinance was passed which required residence of three months or more to be eligible to vote, reducing the number of voters to less than half the population at 1,002.

Soon after the surveying of the city, lots were offered for sale by the Union Pacific Railroad for \$150, one-third to be paid in cash. Within one month, the price increased to \$1,000 cash and in less than a year, the price had risen to \$2,000.

Contrary to popular conception, vigilante law lasted only a short time, from early 1867 to the elections in the fall when the police force was organized. There were actually only two lynchings of record. As the railroad workers moved west with track construction, the population and crime rate both declined and the police force dropped from twelve officers to six. The city hall and jail were built in 1874, and by 1885 there were nine councilmen and thirteen city officials to care for lights, water, fire protection, parks, streets, and law enforcement.

In spite of this, the reputation of Cheyenne as a lawless city persisted. On July 4, 1876, the *Cheyenne Daily Leader* ran this article: "Overheard by a reporter on a westbound passenger train: two English gentlemen talking about Cheyenne's reputation in the East. One said to the other, 'Now George, let's keep close watch on the telegraph poles on each side of the road as we move out of town to see how many men we can see hanging on the poles.'"

WYOMING AND SUFFRAGE

Early in the history of Wyoming Territory, women were allowed to vote, hold office, and own property, and in 1870 Supreme Court Chief Justice John H. Howe allowed women

to sit on juries. This resulted in worldwide publicity and elicited the foreign press response that civilization was coming to the United States.

Unfortunately, when Howe retired, his ruling was immediately revoked. When the bill for the repeal of the woman suffrage act was to be introduced into the territorial legislature, suffragist Theresa Jenkins hooked up her horse and buggy and drove around the city, organizing a large group of women who marched on the capitol in protest. Upon seeing the women, the legislators decided not to mention the bill. Jenkins went home and by six o'clock, she had delivered a baby girl.

The repeal bill was later passed but was vetoed by Territorial Governor John Campbell at the urging of Jenkins and fellow suffragist Amalia Post, who then worked hard for the failure of the vote to override the veto. For her suffrage work, Jenkins was selected to give the statehood speech on July 10, 1890.

Post and her niece, Annie Kilbourne Parshall, came to Cheyenne in 1872. Post was a determined, strong-willed, independent woman. She was one of the first women to serve on a jury, acting as jury foreman for a six-woman jury in a murder trial. She was one of the principal speakers at the National Woman Suffrage Association convention in Washington, D.C. in 1871. Among the five hundred in attendance were suffragists Victoria Woodhull and Susan B. Anthony. Parshall came to Cheyenne because of the unbalanced male/female ratio and had many suitors, including local politician Joseph M. Carey.

Carey was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania department of law, an early mayor of Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory representative to U.S. Congress, and the first U.S. senator from Wyoming. He founded the Progressive (Bull Moose) Party with Theodore Roosevelt. He ranched with his brother and built the Delaware Block, the Opera House, and the Davis Block in Cheyenne.

THE NEED FOR A SCHOOL

By October 1867, letters to the editor and editorials in the *Cheyenne Leader* began expressing the need for a school in Cheyenne and in November, the lowest bid for a school building was accepted. The first school was built on the block bounded by 18th Street, Ferguson (later Carey) Avenue, 19th Street, and Pioneer Avenue and was dedicated on January 5, 1868 before a large crowd, despite a temperature of 23 degrees below zero. In February 1868, there were 114 pupils and the school board appointed M. A. Arnold as superintendent. He and his wife taught for three months before resigning. J. H. Hayford next took the job but resigned after only three days due to showers of spitballs, peas, and even buckshot.

Despite an addition, the building was too small and "loosely built" so it was replaced by a new brick building named Central School at 19th Street, Capitol Avenue, 20th Street, and Central Avenue. The first high school students started in 1875 and a class of two young women graduated on June 28, 1878. The high school curriculum included four years of mathematics, English, and Latin, as well as zoology, physiology, physics, geography, bookkeeping, and astronomy.

In 1884, the Sisters of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus came from Philadelphia and opened a school for one hundred pupils in an old frame church at 21st Street and O'Neil Avenue. In 1885, they moved to a brick building on 19th Street and Carey Avenue with 174 students. They purchased a lot at 24th Street, Central Avenue, 25th Street, and Warren Avenue and in January 1886 dedicated St. John the Baptist School, later named St. Mary's School. In 1891, the school was closed and the building was converted to a boarding school called the Academy of the Holy Child of Jesus.

PARKS

The earliest park in the city was Pioneer Park, located between Fort D. A. Russell, 28th Street, and Cosgrove Street. Entertainment was diverse, and horseracing (trotting, pacing, and running), bicycle racing, and baseball were particularly popular. There were fairs of all kinds for bread, cakes, and needlework and in 1887 there was a baby fair showing nineteen babies. One livestock fair featured three hundred horses.

In her book *History of Cheyenne*, Martha Salsbury described Walter Ferguson and a group of young ranchers who started rodeoing in Pioneer Park for their own amusement. It eventually became an annual affair on the Fourth of July that was attended by large crowds of town people and the young cowboys began charging a fee to buy prizes. She contended that this was the impetus for Cheyenne Frontier Days (CFD). However, newspaper editor E. A. Slack and Union Pacific passenger agent Frederick W. Angier said they got the idea for Cheyenne Frontier Days from the Greeley Potato Festival and the stock handlers at the Red Barn in Cheyenne. The controversy went on for a few years in the paper, but eventually Slack wrote an article giving the young cowboys some credit for the origin of CFD. Interestingly, the newspaper published all the activities during the Fourth of July week every year from 1890 to 1897, but there was no mention of rodeos.

City Park was located in the city center, bounded by 22nd Street, 24th Street, Capitol Avenue, and Warren Avenue. There was a central bandstand, shelters and benches throughout the park, and swings and slides for the children. A road around the park accommodated walkers, bicyclists, horseback riders, and carriages. In the center of the block across from the capitol, there was a two-tiered fountain topped by a swan with a wry neck, due to schoolboys climbing the statue. The fountain was erected in 1887 by the widow of Dr. G. W. Corey to honor him.

CHURCHES

From the earliest days of Cheyenne, churches have played an important part in the lives of the residents. The First Methodist Church was manifest by a sermon on September 20, 1867. In 1868, lots were bought and a church was built and dedicated in 1870. One of the early pastors was Reverend Henry Clay Walz, a vigorous opponent of women's suffrage. In 1876, "Wild Bill" Hickok and Agnes Lake Thatcher, a circus equestrian, were married by Reverend W. F. Warren who wrote in the marriage register, "I don't think they meant it."

In the fall of 1867, the first Catholic priest came to Cheyenne to buy lots for a church. A portable chapel came from Omaha, Nebraska on May 27, 1868 and larger churches were soon built. In 1887, the Diocese of Cheyenne was formed and St. John's was renamed St. Mary's. Catholic fairs were known far and wide for wonderful suppers and dances. The church had an excellent choir, which went to Ellis Confectionery after rehearsal for oyster stew.

A vacationing Episcopal pastor from Illinois held services in 1867; the first rector came the following year and built the first St. Mark's Episcopal Church. A new stone church was started in 1886 but completion was delayed by the cattle market catastrophe during the extreme winter of 1886-1887. It was dedicated May 14, 1893.

Reverend J. D. Davis, a Congregational pastor, arrived on June 4, 1869 in his blue Civil War uniform, having asked "to be sent to the toughest town west of the Mississippi." He later remarked, "It needed more courage to plant the Gospel here than it did to hold up the old flag in battle." Later a four-week revival resulted in 1,300 people signing a temperance pledge and thirty saloons closed their doors. A new, larger church was later built and dedicated March 12, 1884. It was the first church in town with electric lights.

The first Presbyterian services were held in July 1869 as part of the Boulder Presbytery, Synod of Colorado. The Krebs Memorial Church was built at 18th Street and Carey Avenue and dedicated July 17, 1870 with money raised by the church ladies with oyster suppers, strawberry festivals, fairs, and musicals. At one festival in June 1878, a young man favored the group by singing three ballads. According to the newspaper account, he then favored them by stopping. The furnishings were quite plush with bright maroon Brussels carpet, Haverly opera chairs of red velvet “with spring seats, foot rests, book rack and hat rest.” The imitation clock on the steeple was set at 11:20 p.m., the time President Abraham Lincoln was shot.

The first African-American church in Cheyenne was formed in 1875 by Lucy Phillips, who arrived in Cheyenne in 1867 at the age of 62. She first joined the Methodist church but later donated property at 18th Street and Thomes Avenue where a church was built. She died at age 105 and her picture still hangs in the Thomes Avenue church hall.

A Baptist minister gave a sermon on August 4, 1867 but the Baptist church was not organized for another ten years. The twenty-one charter members met in the YMCA, Red Cross, stores, private homes, and the courthouse. The first church, built in 1880, was declared unsafe after thirteen years because the mortar had not set properly due to cold weather when built. The congregation refused offers to use the sanctuaries of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches, preferring the courthouse which was “hard by the jail.”

The second church, at 19th Street and Warren Street [*sic*], had a pressed metal exterior which looked like stone. The interior was also metal, with impressed designs of flowers, vines, and geometrical figures. Senator Francis E. Warren donated the stained glass windows. Choir member H. Y. Mitchell was also the contractor. When the cornerstone was placed, he sang in the choir then put on his overalls and carefully spread mortar. The church bell had to be returned because there was no money to pay for it and the used organ, which was from the Oakland, California municipal building, was paid for with difficulty, hence the apt saying “poor as a Baptist church mouse.”

HEALTH

Even before the tracks arrived in Cheyenne, the Union Pacific Railroad had provided hospital services in a \$125 tent erected at 15th Street and Capitol Avenue. In 1868, the patients were moved to the second floor of a building built by Drs. Irwin and Graham. The capacity was forty beds but in 1869, the city and county took over the entire building, filling it completely. In 1882, St. John’s Hospital of Laramie County was built on a lot bounded by 23rd Street, Evans Avenue, 24th Street, and Warren Avenue. The 1884 Cheyenne city directory listed fourteen physicians and surgeons, two of whom were women.

In the late 1880s, Cheyenne was selected by Dr. Leslie Keeley of Dwight, Illinois for an institute. He claimed to have discovered and perfected “Double Chloride of Gold” with which “cures could be made for cases of Liquor, Opium, Morphine, Cocaine, tobacco or Cigarette habits.” He noted that many persons, ladies especially, were great sufferers and that his three-week course was under the direction of excellent physicians.

UTILITIES

Utilities and public services soon became available. With the railroad came the telegraph, providing prompt dispersal of national and international news. The first post office opened in August 1867 and on February 23, 1878 the mayor and city officials talked by telephone with their counterparts in Laramie, Wyoming. A telephone exchange opened on March 22, 1881 with regular service to Laramie.

In February 1881, the Brush-Swan Light Co. sent representatives to town to discuss organizing an electric company which was incorporated in August 1882. In May 1882, the Inter-Ocean Hotel, some government buildings, and a few private homes were wired and service started. The initial service was direct current, provided with batteries which were charged at the power plant during the day, delivered to customers at dusk by wagon, and picked up in the morning to be recharged. In February 1884, the company supplied eighteen street arc lights at intersections, suspended by wires between poles. Carbons were changed weekly and kids scrambled for them to use to write on fences and sidewalks. The Cheyenne City Gas Company was incorporated on November 28, 1883, furnishing natural gas for heating and lighting.

Water service proved to be more difficult. "Old Bates" supplied water from Crow Creek with his wagon for 25 cents per barrel. Later, four wells with ropes and wooden buckets were dug at the corners of the city. Soon a pipeline was laid from Crow Creek to the Union Pacific shops and some downtown businesses. Crow Creek was dammed two miles above Fort D. A. Russell and a large ditch was dug to four natural basins, forming Terry, Absarraca, Athabasca, and Mahpalutah lakes. In 1882, water was piped from the latter for the city water supply. A gravity system was constructed and filtration plants were built along Crow Creek in the 1890s. The water tasted terrible but the only complaints were about quantity and pressure. Johnnie Sloan and Phil Shaffer started a dairy farm near Mahpalutah Lake and it was renamed Sloans Lake. (Think about a dairy farm on the banks of a city water supply.)

Fire protection was provided initially by the Phil Sheridan Company from Camp Carlin but in 1882, the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Volunteer Company was formed, soon followed by the J. T. Clark Hose Company, the Alert Hose Company, and the Durant Hose Company. There were huge cisterns at most street corners. Later, wooden conduits brought Crow Creek water to two pumping stations at Central Avenue and Dillon Avenue. There were performance contests between the companies for city entertainment and regional contests with the Wyoming towns of Laramie and Rawlins and Colorado towns of Fort Collins, Greeley, and Denver. The firehouses were voting places with candidates providing beer and refreshments. The railroad whistle sounded fire alarms.

The Cheyenne Street Railroad Company, incorporated in 1887, ran thirty horse-drawn passenger cars on three lines. The Red Car went to the fairgrounds in northwest Cheyenne, the Yellow Car traveled from 19th Street to Russell Street, and the Green Car went to the capitol building, Keeley Institute, and cemetery. Unprofitable, the company folded in 1891.

In 1870, Congress established the U.S. Weather Bureau Branch of the Signal Service of the War Department with observers stationed at military stations country-wide to give telegraph notice of approaching storms. Asa C. Dobbins, one of seventeen trained observers, came to Cheyenne on October 15, 1870 and opened a weather station on the second floor of the Western Union Building at 16th Street and Capitol Avenue. The first recorded observation was made on November 1, 1870.

MILITARY

No account of early Cheyenne would be complete without mentioning Fort D. A. Russell and Camp Carlin, which was the supply center for military bases in the Rocky Mountains, some as far away as Fort Douglas in Utah and Fort Hall in Idaho. There were one hundred wagons and five pack trains constantly on the move. There were one thousand mules and up to three thousand other animals to be cared for by twelve hundred soldiers, packers, mule skimmers, and other personnel. Despite this workload, on Sundays after church services

the camp hosted a picnic and open house for visitors. Camp Carlin closed in 1890 with the expansion of railroads.

The fort was initially rather primitive, but in September 1867 barracks were built followed by an amusement hall, traders store, and a library. Many of the officers were West Point graduates. Visiting notables were entertained at the fort. The cavalry and artillery military drills were memorable and spectacular; the highlight was the top speed Caisson Black Horse Drill by the 4th and 13th Cavalry.

ENTERTAINMENT

Theatrical entertainment was diverse. The first theater was a 26 ft. by 80 ft. shack where a theatrical company from Julesburg presented performances two months before the railroad arrived. By 1868, there were six theaters and a number of variety houses ranging from vaudeville to prizefights. In October 1867, Professor James McDaniel opened the first of a series of McDaniel theaters on the northeast corner of Pioneer Avenue and 26th Street. (This unique establishment is worth a story of its own. After building a large hall on Pioneer Avenue in 1877, he left Cheyenne for the mining towns of Colorado and Washington.) Several buildings either burned or collapsed under the weight of snow.

The Cheyenne Opera House probably best represents the sophistication of the city. It was considered a gem, rivaling the finest theaters in the East. The theater opened on May 25, 1882 with the Comley-Barton opera company presenting the French comic opera *Olivette*. Programs were made of white satin with blue print.

Built of brick and stone, it consisted of several architectural styles as was the custom at the time. The doorway to the auditorium, in the north half of the building, was on Hill Street (later Capitol Avenue). The entrance to the ancillary building, in the south half, was on 17th Street. The massive stairway to the upper floors was made of ash and black walnut. The auditorium and balcony held one thousand people in comfortable folding chairs. The four boxes were velvet-draped and had bronze scrollwork along the sides. There was a huge chandelier with fifty-two individual electric lights, 38 feet above the floor. Single gas-jet lights on the walls illuminated the rest of the hall. The stage had reversible carpeting, footlights, border and scenic lights, and an extensive trap room. There were eleven full sets of scenery, large dressing rooms, a storage area, and a big carpentry shop. Designed to be expandable, the stage was one of the most elaborate in the country. Electric lights were installed in 1883 for the performance of *Cheek*. The scene of Madison Square Garden under electric lights brought down the house.

A variety of shows were presented in the theater, including *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *The Phoenix*, *Quo Vadis*, *Hamlet*, *Camille*, *Passions Slave*, *The Wages of Sin*, *Three Wives and a Husband*, *A Fatal Marriage*, *A Hindu Hoodoo*, *The Convict's Daughter*, and *Fedora* with Sarah Bernhardt. Madame (Helena) Modjeska's *Much Ado about Nothing* on July 4, 1889 was "a work of art." Opera productions included *La Sonnambula* starring Etelka Gerster, "a gala affair" with excellent reviews.

Reviews were not always complimentary. A review of *Hamlet* starring Herr Daniel Bandmann said, "Mr. Bandmann should leave Hamlet completely alone. Hamlet has never done him any harm so why should he torture the public by misrepresenting him?" Bandmann was going to "sock" the critic when he read the review in the morning but changed his mind when he saw that the reviewer was over six feet tall. Bandmann got better treatment for *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* in 1888 while Edwin Booth received little fanfare for his performance in *Hamlet* in 1887. *The Adamless Eden* was a "wretched affair. A dozen worn-out variety

actresses, clad in hideous paint, forced smiles and but little else ... an audience of men and boys paid to see an immoral spectacle.”

Often the reviewers were critical of the audience. At *The Lady of Lyons*, the reviewer said that those who left early should, in the future, be shot by soldiers stationed at the door. For Margaret Mather in *Romeo and Juliet*, the entire critique was about the women in the audience wearing large hats obstructing the view of the stage. In *Richard III* the performance was excellent but “the splendid audience was rather cold.”

Lily Langtry, Sarah Bernhardt, Buffalo Bill Cody, and Grand Duke Alexis, son of the czar of Russia, were among the notables who visited Cheyenne. Later the duke said it was his most enjoyable public appearance in America:

... a large crowd gathered at the station to greet him. Elaborate plans had been made for etiquette and entertainment and all were anxious to see what kind of transportation was forthcoming. The train arrived and so did acting mayor Johnnie Sloan, the local dairy farmer, in his rattling milk wagon. The duke stepped off the train and Mayor Sloan greeted him in plain American, escorted him to the wagon, and toured the city.

In 1892, the railroad rerouted its main West Coast passenger traffic through Denver and Salt Lake City, enabling traveling theatrical companies to play in both cities without missing a performance night, and the era of the fabulous Cheyenne Opera House came to a close. The building served other purposes for a while but was razed in 1961.

POPULATION

The 1890 census showed the population of Laramie County to be 16,777 (64.81% male and 35.19% female). There were 2,771 dwellings and 2,810 families, of which 2,088 lived in Cheyenne. There were many well-educated citizens, including physicians, attorneys, educators, and politicians including territorial and state governors who resided in Cheyenne. Among them were John M. Thayer (Brown University), John W. Hoyt (Ohio Wesleyan University), and George Baxter (University of Tennessee and United States Military Academy at West Point). Other prominent citizens included Andrew Gilchrist (Hartford Business College), E. A. Slack (University of Chicago), C. W. Burdick (Ohio Wesleyan University), Fred Hebard (Washington University), T. B. Adams (Brooklyn Polytechnic School), W. E. Guthrie (Ohio Wesleyan University), and Senator Francis E. Warren (Hinsdale Academy). This is just an example of the caliber of Cheyenne citizens.

NEED FOR A LIBRARY

From the earliest days of Cheyenne, it was apparent that there was need for a library. Accordingly, the Cheyenne Library Association (CLA) was formed during the winter of 1872. Trustees were appointed and fundraisers were held, including entertainment and subscriptions. The trustees were Joseph M. Carey, president; Jervis Joslin, vice president; E. P. Johnson, treasurer; and Josiah Strong, secretary. In March 1872, they were able to buy books and accept donations of books from interested citizens. A letter by Strong in the *Daily Leader* on November 26, 1872 asked for public donations [of money] since the trustees had an offer of a 33% discount on orders over \$600. A *Cheyenne Daily Leader* article on January 27, 1873 noted that the trustees ordered 437 volumes totaling \$817.50 and received a 30% discount. There were 179 fiction books, 39 biographies, 31 travel books, 63 history books, 38 volumes of poetry, 26 scientific works, 52 books of essays, and 9 miscellaneous books. One hundred fifty-three shares of stock in the Cheyenne Library Association were subscribed for

the amount of \$765, but the library was in debt and the books were placed in storage (one account says they were mortgaged). In 1879, the committee was reorganized with Territorial Governor John W. Hoyt, H. S. Oliver, and Charles N. Potter as trustees. They secured a loan to pay the debts and retrieved the books.

In a speech on January 12, 1882, Hoyt outlined the need for library funding. Thereafter, the territorial legislature introduced a bill setting forth the qualifications for a library and a method of funding. From 1887 to 1899, a tax of one-eighth mill was levied for the library. An article in the January 16, 1886 *Daily Leader* noted the appointment of several committees. The finance committee was composed of ex-Chief Justice J. W. Fisher, Wyoming Attorney General C. W. Riner, and local cattleman I. C. Whipple. The library committee, composed of newspaper editor E. A. Slack, attorney Charles N. Potter, and Supreme Court Chief Justice John W. Lacey, was delegated to hire a librarian, provide rules and regulations, and buy books. The literary committee, made up of Reverend R. E. Field, Mrs. F. E. Warren, and attorney J. C. Baird, was delegated to plan and execute measures for encouragement of intellectual and esthetic culture. The music and drama committee consisted of merchant W. A. Whitcomb, Mrs. A. J. King, and Professor G. F. Inman. Debates and rhetorical exercises were the responsibility of attorney W. R. Stoll, newspaper editor J. A. Brechons, and John Cochran.

An article in the *Cheyenne Daily Sun* on June 8, 1886 described the opening of the free reading rooms. A reception attended by over one hundred people saw the opening of the library on the third floor of the Carey Building with the entrance on 17th Street. The room was carpeted, had comfortable chairs and tables, and was lighted electrically. There were over one thousand books, current magazines, and newspapers. The librarian was Mrs. E. Mason Smith. The library was open afternoons and Tuesday and Friday evenings. Stockholders could take out books for 50 cents per quarter, but for non-stockholders the fee was one dollar per quarter. The reading room was open to the public at all time.

LIBRARY GROWTH

The Laramie County Library System (sometimes referred to as the Laramie County Public Library Association) was organized in the fall of 1886, replacing the prior organizations. The county commissioners appointed three library trustees: John W. Lacey, Charles N. Potter, and Fred W. Sheldon. Louis Kirk was the representative from the old Cheyenne Library Association. One trustee was replaced annually and trustees served for three years (Kirk served indefinitely). Prior to 1886, when the library was in the Central School, it was liberally supported by donations of money and books. Unfortunately, donations dried up when the tax levy became available in 1886. The Laramie County Library Auxiliary was organized in 1899 to help fund the library.

NEW LIBRARY

In the fall of 1899, Robert Morris began efforts to get a Carnegie library for Cheyenne. At the time, Morris was the secretary for the executive committee of the Building Committee for the Carnegie Public Library. He had an extensive governmental career as territorial stenographer, legislator from Sweetwater County, and clerk of the Wyoming Supreme Court, and later was the private secretary for Governor Francis E. Warren. He and his twin brother Edward were born in 1851 in Peru, Illinois to Esther Morris, who had another son, E. A. Slack, from a previous marriage. The family moved to Atlantic City (South Pass), Wyoming when Robert and Edward were eighteen years old. Slack became editor of the *Cheyenne Daily Leader* and Esther Morris became famous in women's suffrage.

On December 16, 1899, Robert Morris wrote a letter to James Bertram, secretary of the Carnegie Foundation, presenting the need for a bigger library. He gave a history of Cheyenne, as well as a description of the 20,000-volume law library in the state capitol and the 1,000-volume Laramie County Free Library. From the *Carnegie Public Library Memorial Volume 1902*:

At the present time the library is kept in cramped quarters in the basement of the Central School building a picture of which I enclose. The room occupied by the library is about twenty by thirty feet in size, has a low ceiling not over eight feet, and poorly furnished with cheap pine shelving, a few old tables and chairs, the total value of which cannot be over \$200. The library contains between 3,500 and 4,000 volumes, a catalogue of which I sent to Mr. Carnegie a few days ago. The library is heated by a single stove and its accommodations for readers is limited to five or six persons ... What we want is an up to date library building ... for the comfort of all persons who visit there. Some think that all necessary of a library are a few cheap pine shelves, a rickety old table and half a dozen or more wooden chairs.

The Cheyenne directory of 1884-1885 described the Central School as a building of 40 ft. by 60 ft. with two wings. The central building had four rooms, three of which were classrooms, and the fourth served as the library with eight hundred volumes. There was no mention of the basement.

The response from the Carnegie Foundation was favorable, with the provision that the city provide a suitable location for the building and a guarantee of at least \$3,000 annually for operation of the library. Andrew Carnegie also made it clear that he had no interest in the planning or construction of the library or its future. The grant was \$50,000.

Chapter 2: People

The 1884-1885 city directory has a great deal of information about the population and businesses in Cheyenne. Of interest is the number of professional people and their educational level.

Fred Hebard

Born New York City 1857. St. Louis Law School, Washington University, City Council, Young Men's Republican Club, attorney, state legislature.

T. B. Adams

Born Santiago de Cuba, father U.S. Consul. Polytechnical school in Brooklyn, worked for mercantile firm in New York City, New York Stock Exchange for five years, Wyoming Legislature.

W. E. Guthrie

Born Marion, Ohio 1849. Ohio Wesleyan University, stock broker in cattle, Democrat.

A. R. Converse

Banker, cattle.

E. P. Snow

Internal Revenue agent, real estate.

Colonel John D. Stevenson

First Fort D. A. Russell commanding officer.

PHYSICIANS (physician and surgeons)

M. C. Barkwell	W. P. Holyoke	S. J. Quinby
Jennie Buchanan	W. N. Hunt	W. W. Rook
G. W. Corey	Robert Lord	A. C. Rucker
A. J. Gray	J. J. Marston	Antoinette Williams
R. B. Grimes	H. J. Maynard	W. A. Wyman

BUSINESSES, SERVICES, AND PROFESSIONS

Dyer's Hotel	James Gates, painter
Ford Hotel	William Hale, Territorial Governor
Durkee Hotel	H. M. Hook, chairman committee to form county
Rawlins House	G. F. Inman, musician
F. E. Addoms, stockman	John Lacey, Chief Justice Wyoming Supreme Court
J. C. Baird, attorney	Asa Shinn Mercer, editor <i>NW Livestock Journal</i>
Nathan Baker, Job Book	J. L. Murray, Cheyenne Transfer Co.
M. V. Boughten, stock grower	L. Murrin, wholesale liquor
J. A. Brechons, manager <i>Daily Leader</i>	
L. R. Bresnahan, meat market	
J. W. Fisher, Justice of the Peace	

Erasmus Nagle, grocer
Charles Potter, attorney
C. W. Riner, Wyoming Attorney General
W. R. Schnitger, Deputy U.S. Marshal
Fred Sheldon, bank clerk

Eliza Mason Smith, first librarian in
Cheyenne
W. R. Stoll, attorney
J. C. Whipple, cattleman
Henry Clay Walz, clergyman
W. A. Whitcomb, drygoods and clothing

The directory also included a summary of the elementary and high school curricula which appear formidable.

Grade School (eighth grade)

English, arithmetic, United States history, physiology

High School

First year	Arithmetic, algebra, physics, Latin grammar
Second year	Algebra, bookkeeping, zoology, Latin reader
Third year	Geometry, zoology, Cicero, physical geography
Fourth year	English literature, psychology, Virgil, astronomy

Chapter 3: Andrew Carnegie

Andrew Carnegie's life has often been referred to as a true "rags to riches" story. He was born on November 25, 1835 in Dunfermline, Scotland in a typical weaver's cottage with only one main room which occupied half of the ground floor; the other half was shared with the neighboring weaver's family. The main room served as living room, kitchen, dining room, and bedroom. Andrew was named after his grandfather. His father William benefited from the demand for heavy damask fabric, enabling the family to move to a larger house in 1836. Andrew's uncle George Lauder introduced him to the writings of Robert Burns and historical heroes Robert the Bruce, William Wallace, and Rob Roy.

By 1848, the work for handloom weavers had diminished and Scotland was in famine, so William Carnegie decided to move to Allegheny, Pennsylvania, borrowing the money to do so. Andrew started work at age thirteen as a bobbin boy in a Pittsburgh cotton mill. He worked changing spools of thread six days per week for twelve hours per day, earning \$1.20 per week. His father resumed weaving and peddling linen and his mother earned money binding shoes.

A bit of trivia of interest is a short article from London, England on the front page of the July 20, 1901 *Cheyenne Daily Leader* in which Henry Lennox from Glasgow, Scotland claimed that his aunt loaned the Carnegie family eleven schillings [*sic*] (about \$2.75) to help pay for their transportation to the United States. He felt that in view of his later success, Carnegie should repay the loan which would amount to \$44 including interest.

EARLY CAREER

In 1850, following the recommendation of his uncle, Andrew became a telegraph messenger boy for the Pittsburgh office of the Ohio Telegraph Company at \$2.50 per week. His new job gave him many benefits in addition to the increase in wages. He was a hard worker and memorized the locations and important people his company dealt with, resulting in connections which would later be of value. He had free admission to a local theater where he was exposed to Shakespeare and other classics. He paid close attention to incoming telegraph signals and was able to translate them, and within a year he became an operator. One of the benefits, which fulfilled his passion for education and reading, was free access to the 400-volume personal library of Colonel James Anderson. Andrew was a consistent borrower and his economic, intellectual, and cultural development progressed. His perseverance and willingness to work hard soon produced further opportunities.

In 1853, Thomas A. Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company hired Andrew as a secretary/telegraph operator at \$4 per week. At age eighteen, Carnegie began a rapid rise in the company, eventually becoming superintendent of the Pittsburgh division. Carnegie learned a great deal about management and cost control from Scott and the company, which would benefit him in later endeavors.

Railroads were the first big businesses in the United States and Carnegie was well situated to become involved. Thomas Scott and railroad president J. Edgar Thompson were helpful in Carnegie's first investments, which consisted of insider trading in iron, bridges, rails, and pay-offs by contracting companies, as well as shares of sleeping car stock. By keeping close connections with Scott and Thompson as he established businesses that supplied rails and bridges to railroads, he could offer the two men stakes in his enterprises.

Before the Civil War, Carnegie arranged a merger between the T. T. Woodruff sleeping car company and George M. Pullman, inventor of the sleeping car for first-class travel.

In the spring of 1861, Scott was assistant secretary of war in charge of military transportation and he appointed Carnegie as superintendent of military railways and the Union government's telegraph lines in the East. Carnegie was responsible for the movement of supplies, troops, and equipment as well as the maintenance of right-of-ways and communication. In 1864, he invested \$40,000 in the Story Farm on Oil Creek in Venango County, Pennsylvania. In one year, this investment earned over \$1 million in dividends.

WEALTH AND INFLUENCE

The need for iron products led to investments in steel and eventually Carnegie left railroads and concentrated on the steel industry. His business accomplishments are legendary. In 1901 at age 66, he considered retirement and reformed all his enterprises into conventional joint stock corporations. J. P. Morgan, a banker and perhaps one of the country's leading financial deal-makers, envisioned an integrated steel industry which would cut costs, lower prices, increase production, and raise wages for workers. To this end, he negotiated to buy out Carnegie and a number of other companies to form the United States Steel Corporation, the first corporation in the world worth over \$1 billion. Carnegie's share of the transaction was \$225,639,000 (over \$6 billion in 2010 dollars). This was paid in bonds which were housed in a special vault in a Hoboken, New Jersey bank since Carnegie never wanted to see or touch them again.

Even prior to his retirement, Carnegie was a scholar and activist. He befriended poets, philosophers, writers, and statesmen and was acquainted with most of the presidents. He and his family toured Scotland where he built public buildings, including a library, in his birthplace. He wrote frequent newspaper articles and contributed works to magazines. He purchased a number of newspapers in England advocating the abolishment of the monarchy and formation of a British republic, and tried unsuccessfully to secure independence for the Philippines.

PHILANTHROPY

After 1901 he was no longer the shrewd businessman who had accumulated an immense fortune (said to be second only to John D. Rockefeller in wealth) but became one of the great philanthropists. Before his death on August 11, 1919, he had donated \$350,695,654 to various causes. Early in life he formulated a philosophy which illustrates his generous nature.

To spend the first third of one's life getting all the education one can.

To spend the next third making all the money one can.

To spend the last third giving it all away for worthwhile causes.

At age 33 he wrote a memo to himself: "The amassing of wealth is one of the worst species of idolatry. No idol more debasing than the worship of money." In the same memo, he wanted to retire and pursue philanthropy because "the man who dies thus rich dies disgraced." He funded some three thousand public libraries throughout the United States (47 states), Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, the West Indies, and Fiji. The first was in 1883 in his birthplace of Dunfermline, Scotland. His policy was to fund the building and equipment on condition that the local authority would provide land and a budget for operations and maintenance. He also funded the University of Birmingham,

Carnegie Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University, Carnegie Laboratory at Bellevue Hospital Medical College, Hooker Telescope at Mount Wilson, several universities in Scotland, Carnegie Hall in New York City, Tuskegee Institute, Carnegie Hero Fund, and numerous individual educators and scientists. More details of the life and generosity of this remarkable individual can be found at Wikipedia.org and the Carnegie Foundation website which provided the above information.

Carnegie believed in using his fortune for others and doing more than making money. He wrote:

I propose to take an income no greater than \$50,000 per annum! Beyond this I need never earn, make no effort to increase my fortune, but spend the surplus each year for benevolent purposes!

Let us cast aside business forever, except for others. Let us settle in Oxford and I shall get a thorough education, making the acquaintance of literary men. I figure that this will take three years active work. I shall pay especial attention to speaking in public. We can settle in London and I can purchase a controlling interest in some newspaper or live review and give the general management of it attention, taking part in public matters, especially those connected with education and improvement of the poorer classes.

Man must have no idol and the amassing of wealth is one of the worst species of idolatry! No idol is more debasing than the worship of money! Whatever I engage in I must push inordinately; therefore should I be careful to choose that life which will be the most elevating in its character. To continue much longer overwhelmed by business cares and with most of my thoughts wholly upon the way to make more money in the shortest time, must degrade me beyond hope of permanent recovery. I will resign business at thirty-five, but during these ensuing two years I wish to spend the afternoons in receiving instruction and in reading systematically!

There is nothing available in Laramie County Library records to indicate how Robert Morris and the building committee became aware of the Carnegie Foundation and its policy regarding library funding, but Morris's description of Carnegie and his philanthropy in his book, *The History of the Carnegie Library*, demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the benefactor.

The following (Document 1) is a form to be completed by local community officials before Carnegie officials would consider an appeal for funding. The detail is typical of Carnegie's business acumen.

Determining the Facts

Document 1: Schedule of Questions for Communities Applying for a Carnegie Library

Free Public Library

1. Name of Town
2. Population
3. Has it a library at present?

4. Number of books (excluding government reports)?
5. Circulation for the last year?
6. How is library housed?
7. Number of rooms, their measurements and uses?
8. Finances according to the last annual report:

Receipts	_____
From Taxes	_____
Other income	_____
Total	_____
Expenditures	_____
Rent	_____
Other costs	_____
9. a. Rate at which municipality will pledge annual support (with a tax levy) if building is obtained
 - b. What is the highest rate of tax levy allowed by law?
 - c. How much income would this rate have yielded for the last five years?
10. Is the requisite site available?
11. Amount, if any, already collected toward building

To facilitate Mr. Carnegie's consideration of your appeal, will you oblige by filling in the above, and return with a statement of any particulars likely to assist in making decision? It is necessary to give explicit answers to each question, as in the absence of such, there is no basis for action, and the matter will be delayed pending further communication.

Adapted from the three versions used by James Bertram, Carnegie's secretary.

Questions

1. What type of information does the form ask for?
2. Why would Carnegie want to know if the community already had a library? Why would he want to know about how much money the community could supply for maintenance?
3. Why would Carnegie make the community sign a contract in which they promise to provide a site and support for the library for which he will donate the money?

Document 1 was adapted from George S. Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969).

The form below was designed by Carnegie officials to show that the community accepted the library grant as well as the specified responsibilities.

A Resolution to Accept the Donation of Andrew Carnegie

Whereas, Andrew Carnegie has agreed to furnish _____ Dollars to the _____ (name of community) to erect a Free Public Library Building, on condition that the said community shall pledge itself by a Resolution of Council, to support a Free Public Library, at a cost of not less than _____ Dollars a year, and provide a suitable site for the said building.

Now therefore be it resolved by Council of _____ (name of community) that said community accept said donation, and it does hereby pledge itself to the requirements of Andrew Carnegie. Resolved that it will furnish a suitable site for said building when erected, at a cost of not less than _____ Dollars. Resolved that an annual levy shall hereafter be made upon the taxable property of said community sufficient in amount to comply with the above requirements.

The signatures of the clerk and mayor and the witnessing statement of the clerk followed.

DISTRIBUTION OF CARNEGIE LIBRARIES IN 48 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1920

State	Population	Libraries	Libraries Per Million
AL	2,348,174	14	6.0
AZ	334,162	4	12.0
AR	1,752,204	4	2.3
CA	3,426,861	142	41.4
CO	939,629	35	37.2
CT	1,380,631	11	8.0
DE	223,003	0	0
DC	437,571	4	9.1
FL	968,470	10	10.3
GA	2,895,832	24	8.3
ID	431,866	10	23.2
IL	6,485,280	106	16.3
IN	2,930,390	164	56.0
IA	2,404,021	101	42.0
KS	1,769,257	59	33.3
KY	2,416,630	23	9.5
LA	1,798,509	9	5.0
ME	768,014	17	22.1
MD	1,449,661	14	9.6
MA	3,852,356	43	11.2
MI	3,668,412	61	16.6
MN	2,387,125	65	27.2
MS	1,790,618	11	6.1
MO	3,404,055	33	9.7
MT	548,889	17	31.0

State	Population	Libraries	Libraries Per Million
NE	1,296,372	69	53.2
NV	77,407	1	12.9
NH	443,083	9	20.3
NJ	3,155,900	35	11.1
NM	360,350	3	8.3
NY	10,385,230	106	10.2
NC	2,559,123	10	3.9
ND	646,872	8	12.3
OH	5,759,394	105	18.2
OK	2,028,283	24	11.8
OR	783,389	31	39.6
PA	8,720,017	58	6.6
RI	604,397	0	0
SC	1,683,724	14	8.3
SD	636,547	25	39.3
TN	2,337,885	13	5.5
TX	4,663,228	32	6.9
UT	449,396	23	51.2
VT	352,428	4	11.3
VA	2,309,187	3	1.3
WA	1,356,621	43	31.7
WV	1,463,701	3	2.0
WI	2,632,067	63	23.9
WY	194,402	16	82.3

Questions

1. Identify the number of Carnegie libraries in your state and determine your state's population in 1920.
2. Which state has the largest number of libraries? the lowest?
3. Which state has the highest number of libraries per million? the lowest?
4. Which state has the highest population? the lowest?
5. Based on your readings and Map 1, what conclusions can you draw from this data?

Chapter 4: Carnegie Libraries in Wyoming

Library	Date granted	Grant amount	Location	Notes
Basin	29, 1908	\$17,500		Demolished in 1954
Buffalo	14, 1909	\$12,500	90 N. Main St.	Completed in 1909, now a museum
Casper	Feb. 13, 1906	\$13,000	2nd and Durban Sts.	Completed in 1910, demolished in May–June 1970
Cheyenne	Dec. 27, 1899	\$50,000	22nd St. and Capitol Ave.	Completed in 1902, demolished in 1971
Cody	Apr. 13, 1914	\$15,000		Completed in 1916, demolished in 1965
Douglas	July 20, 1908	\$10,000	300 Walnut St.	Completed in 1911, demolished on September 8, 1966
Evanston	Feb. 20, 1903	\$11,000	1020 Front St.	Completed in 1906, now houses the Uinta County Museum and Chamber of Commerce
Green River	Dec. 8, 1905	\$20,000	177 N. Center St.	Completed in 1906, now houses county circuit court
Lander	Nov. 27, 1906	\$15,000	451 N. 2nd St.	Completed in 1907, renovation/restoration planned
Laramie	Jan. 2, 1903	\$20,000	405 E. Grand Ave.	Now houses government offices
Lusk	May 8, 1914	\$11,000	425 S. Main St.	Completed in 1919
Newcastle	Feb. 20, 1911	\$12,500	23 W. Main St.	Completed in 1911
Rock Springs	Dec. 13, 1907	\$12,500	400 C St.	Completed in 1910, extensively altered
Sheridan	Mar. 18, 1904	\$12,500		Completed in 1905, demolished in 1974
Thermopolis	Apr. 3, 1917	\$12,500	328 Arapahoe St.	Completed in 1919, now houses government offices
Wheatland	May 15, 1916	\$12,500	904 9th St.	Completed in 1917, completely enclosed by a 1965 addition

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Carnegie_libraries_in_Wyoming

Chapter 5: Carnegie Library Construction

The Union Pacific Railway Company was formed by the consolidation of the Kansas Pacific Railway, the Denver Pacific Railway and Telegraph Company, and the Union Pacific Railroad Company (effective January 24, 1880) and was authorized by an act of Congress to enable the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean and to secure to the government the use of the same for postal, military, and other purposes (approved July 1, 1862).

To enable such construction, the railroad was granted all the real estate and property of the aforesaid companies necessary for the construction. Therefore in consideration of the sum of \$150.00 paid by the City of Cheyenne, Laramie County, Territory of Wyoming to the Union Pacific Railroad Company, the city purchased “Lots No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Block No. 17 of the Town of Cheyenne, County of Laramie, Territory of Wyoming.” The transaction was validated on May 11, 1883 by A. Atkins, vice-president; Henry McFarland, treasurer; and Fred L. Ames, trustee of the Union Pacific Railroad, and filed in Suffolk County, State of Massachusetts on May 11, 1883.

Robert Morris, trustee of the Laramie County Library Association and acting on a resolution by that body, purchased lots 3 and 4, block 232 from the City of Cheyenne for \$1,750 on February 1, 1900. (Note that the numerical designation of property had been changed from the original railroad/city transaction.) The document was signed by the members of the building committee: Joseph M. Carey, U.S. senator; Henry H. Hay, president, Stockgrowers National Bank; John Lacey, Union Pacific attorney; T. F. Burke, U.S. attorney for Wyoming; John A. Riner, U.S. district court judge; and Robert C. Morris. The deed specifically stated that the reason for the purchase was the construction of a Carnegie library.

In his address to the Wyoming Territorial Legislature on January 12, 1882, Territorial Governor John W. Hoyt recommended that the county be designated as the unit for library services, supported by a county tax. The legislature enacted a bill on February 16, 1886 providing for a county library with suitable location and supported by a public tax.

The \$50,000 grant from the Carnegie Foundation was sent to Robert Morris in his capacity as secretary of the building committee; however, since this committee had no legal position in any branch of government, it was unable to obtain plans or construct any building. At the March 1900 meeting of the Laramie County Commissioners, a resolution was passed in an effort to resolve the problem. On December 4, 1901 Robert Morris wrote the following.

HONORABLE BUILDING COMMITTEE OF CARNEGIE LIBRARY
Cheyenne, Wyoming

I have the honor to submit herewith statement on this date showing the resources and liabilities of the Carnegie Library Building Committee, based upon actual contracts and estimates furnished for the completion of the building.

RESOURCES

Donation by Mr. Carnegie \$45,000.00 [*sic*]

Estimated rebate on freight	1,000.00
Sale of library lot to Masonic Temple	1,100.00
Cash on hand (R. C. Morris)	<u>200.00</u>
.....	\$52,300.00

LIABILITIES

Contracts for building and heating apparatus	\$45,000.00
Extra on plate glass, marble, rustic joint, etc.	325.00
Replacing terra cotta pediment	135.00
Replacing stone frieze instead of brick	190.00
Stone cellar for coal	650.00
Inside coping or fence \$310; widening sidewalk \$190.....	500.00
Decorative glass for skylight and transoms	600.00
Lamps in front of portico	200.00
Union fixtures for glass and electric lights	550.00
Four library stacks.....	<u>300.00</u>
.....	\$48,450.00
Architect fees 5% on \$48,450.00.....	<u>2,422.50</u>
.....	\$50,872.50
Frescoing entire building	850.00
Architect's 5% on same	<u>42.50</u>
.....	\$51,765.00
Chairs upstairs \$150; tables \$250; tablet \$50	<u>450.00</u>
.....	\$52,237.50

NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE STATEMENT

Outside curbing 288 feet at 50¢	\$144.00
Alley fence to coal cellar like inside coping (est.).....	66.00
Auditorium chairs	550.00
Furniture in addition to \$450 above.....	150.00
Extras	<u>100.00</u>
.....	\$1,000.00

Upon receipt of the grant, Morris and the building committee began searching for ideas and an architect. They secured illustrations of two hundred or more libraries, as well as architects' drawings. They addressed the perceived needs of the community with a list of desired features. Correspondence with W. A. Eastman (associated with the State University of New York at Albany) called their attention to the Lawrenceville Branch of the Carnegie Library at Pittsburgh as the most modern of the recent libraries. Eastman suggested, however, that the front of the building should be two stories high. Morris was impressed with the auditorium and stack room concepts of the Pratt Institute Library of Brooklyn. He also liked the first floor square windows and arched topped windows of the second story of the Academy of Sciences building in Chicago's Lincoln Park, designed by Patton, Fisher and Miller, Architects. Ultimately this firm was selected as architects for the Cheyenne building and they presented plans with the following requisites:

1. Convenient access to rooms for public use.
2. Spacious delivery and reading rooms.

3. Ample stack room for storage of books.
4. Rooms for reference and special collections of books.
5. Rooms for librarian and trustees.
6. Auditorium for lectures and entertainments.
7. Art gallery, men's and women's club rooms, classrooms for teachers and scholars.
8. Boiler room and coal storage cellar.
9. Rooms for janitor, binding machinery, unpacking books, tools, etc.
10. Toilet rooms.
11. All rooms arranged for easy cleaning.
12. Satisfactory heating, lighting and ventilation.
13. Durable construction and decoration.
14. Dignified and refined exterior.
15. Elegant, harmonious treatment of interior in accord with use of the rooms.
16. All furniture, fixtures, decorations designed by architects; no stock nor trade fittings to be used.

The general contract for the construction of the building was awarded to Harding F. Allan of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. The contract included preparation of the site as well as the equipment necessary and would total approximately \$55,000. William Dubois of Cheyenne was selected to act as supervising architect. His knowledge of the building process was considered thorough and earned the confidence and respect of the building committee. Their estimate of the general contract cost follows.

GENERAL CONTRACTS

Carpentry, masonry iron work, cement floors and sidewalks, cut stone work, terra cotta, tile flooring and sheet metal, plumbing and gas, electric light wiring, plastering and stucco, painting and varnishing, plate glass, marble work and tile floors
\$41,031.00
 Hot water heating (L. H. Prentice Co., Chicago).....\$3,969.00
 Total of general contracts.....\$45,000.00

SPECIAL CONTRACTS

Coal cellar\$650.00
 Stone freize [*sic*] instead of brick190.00
 Widening side walk [*sic*] from 6 to 9 feet.....190.00
 Terra cotta pediment135.00
 Extra plate glass, marble and rustic joint.....325.00
 Electric and gas fixtures and tablet800.00
 Decorative glass600.00
 Frescoing.....850.00
 Library stacks.....300.00
 Total of special contracts\$4,040.00

Total of general and special contracts.....\$49,040.00
 Architect's fees on \$49,040.00 at 5%.....\$2,452.00
 Advertising bids, insurance, coal, expressing, etc.320.00
Total amount of contracts made by Committee.....\$51,812.00

UNCONTRACTED FOR

Inside coping or fence	\$319.99
Outside curbing 288 feet	144.00
Alley fence or coping estimate	66.00
Auditorium chairs	550.00
Furniture, chairs and table.....	600.00
Total uncontracted.....	\$1,670.00

Expended for site.....\$1,750.00

Total cost of building\$55,232.00

The building was not absolutely fireproof but was of “slow burning construction,” as much of the structure was fireproof. Joists rested on either brick walls or iron beams; floors were underlaid with asbestos or covered with cement or marble mosaic where exposed. Plastering was either on brick or wire lathing. The exterior was of Iron Mountain (Wyoming) white sandstone and gray Omaha hydraulic pressed brick which harmonized with the white stone and terra cotta ornamentation. Hydraulic pressed brick was chosen because of its durability. Made with dry, well-burnt clay, the bricks were heavier than classic brick but had a much longer lifespan.

The main building was 85 ft. by 36 ft. with two stories and a basement. There was an extension at the rear of the main building with one story and a basement, measuring 54 ft. by 27 ft., which provided ample room for stacks on the first floor and an auditorium seating about three hundred in the basement. The main entrance was a classic example of Grecian Ionic architecture with its two-story columns. The basement, columns, and window sills were white sandstone and the cornice was white terra cotta. The first and second stories were gray pressed Roman brick with a red Spanish tile roof (see cover photo of façade).

The Main Hall or Delivery Room was in the center of the first floor, giving the staff a view of the entire area. The General Reading and Reference Room for adults, measuring 32 ft. by 26 ft., was at the north end of the first floor and overlooked the city park. A similar Children’s Reading Room was located at the south part of the main floor. To the rear of the Delivery Counter was the stack room with shelving to hold 50,000 books or more. The first floor also included a small Reception Room, an office for the librarian, and a Cataloging Room. The basement held the Auditorium, a men’s Newspaper and Smoking Room, boiler and fuel rooms, and a shop for unpacking books and doing repairs. On the second floor there were north and south (men’s and women’s) Club Rooms, a Trustees’ Room, and an Art Gallery (see floor plans). Especially beautiful were the fireplaces with mosaic hearths surrounded by rare Mexican onyx and the carved, mahogany-finished mantels that were nine feet high and eight feet wide. The Delivery Room was spectacular with its mosaic floor, striking decorating, bronze dolphin, and marble drinking fountains. There was an elegant beveled plate glass mirror extending from the floor nearly to the ceiling in the Reception Room.

Spierling & Linden, decorators from Chicago, submitted the color scheme for the library. In a letter of October 24, 1901, they stated that they could do the interior painting starting December 2 if the balance of construction was complete and could complete the work in three weeks “if given full sway” and without interruption. If the Club Rooms and Auditorium were not done, the cost would be \$750. If the Club Rooms and Auditorium were

included it would be \$850. There would be no ornamentation except in the Delivery Room. It would not be necessary since the colors were rich and the mouldings [*sic*] and capitals were already enriched with aluminum.

DECORATING PROPOSED BY ARCHITECTS

Vestibules

Wainscoting dull red marble. Walls rich bronze green. Ceiling and frieze dull red of marble and lighter shade of bronze green.

Hall

Wainscoting dull red marble. Walls rich bronze green. Cornice and pilasters rich sienna, ceiling of a lighter shade.

Delivery Room

Wainscoting dull red marble. Walls rich yellow sienna. Pilasters and cornice shades of sienna, reddish tan. Caps and base mouldings [*sic*] of pilasters, also other ornamental mouldings [*sic*] aluminum leaf glazed to a dull gold finish. Ceiling rich sienna.

Reception Room

Walls sage green. Dado burlap of a darker shade of green and ceiling light shade of tan.

Stack Room

Walls rather deep shade of green. Dado burlap tan shade, frieze tan shade lighter than dado. Cornice sienna red or mahogany tone.

General Reading Room and Children's Reading Room

Walls sage green. Cornices sienna shade. Ceilings rather light sienna or cream.

Trustees' Room

Walls richer shade of green or green than stack room. Dado burlap mahogany tan. Cove lighter shade of mahogany tone. Ceiling rich tan.

Men's Club Room

Walls rich Venetian red. Dado burlap richer shade of red of walls. Cove sienna shade. Upper moulding [*sic*] of cornice deeper shade of cove. Ceiling shade of cove.

Women's Club Room

Walls deep shade of yellow. Cove lighter and slightly greenish shade of wall. Ceiling light shade of wall. Dado burlap darker and warmer shade of wall. Upper moulding [*sic*] and cove same as dado color.

Art Gallery

Walls covered with tinted burlap, a deep dull red. Dado tinted burlap, neutral greenish tint. Cove tinted same color as dado. Mouldings [*sic*] on ceiling mahogany tone.

Stairway Halls and Vestibules

Neutral yellow tones.

Newspaper and Smoking Room

Walls leather tone. Ceiling very light shade of walls.

Auditorium

Walls olive green. Ceiling creamy white.

Librarian's Room

Same as stack room.

On Christmas morning 1901, the building committee wrote a letter to the Honorable Colin Hunter expressing the desirability of having a program when the library building was turned over to the Laramie County library trustees. In late December, Morris suggested that the Library Auxiliary Association could have a fair in the new building to raise funds to purchase items not funded otherwise. He especially wanted to provide a concert grand piano for the Auditorium, in addition to other furniture and newspapers and magazines for the Reading Room. This apparently was principally Morris's desire and much to his disappointment, it never occurred. He expressed this in his memorial volume in the section "What Might Have Been" and followed it with "How Franklin Was Turned Down," inviting comparison to the rejection of Benjamin Franklin's wishes as president of the trustees for the curriculum of the English school. Morris apparently was quite sensitive to public opinion, for in a letter to a cousin written on the stationery of the Supreme Court Judges Chamber (he was clerk of the court) on March 31, 1900, he reminded his cousin that he had been responsible for the Carnegie grant and said, "I sometimes doubt whether it is appreciated but one has to keep up faith in human nature otherwise we would not have the heart to do much for others."

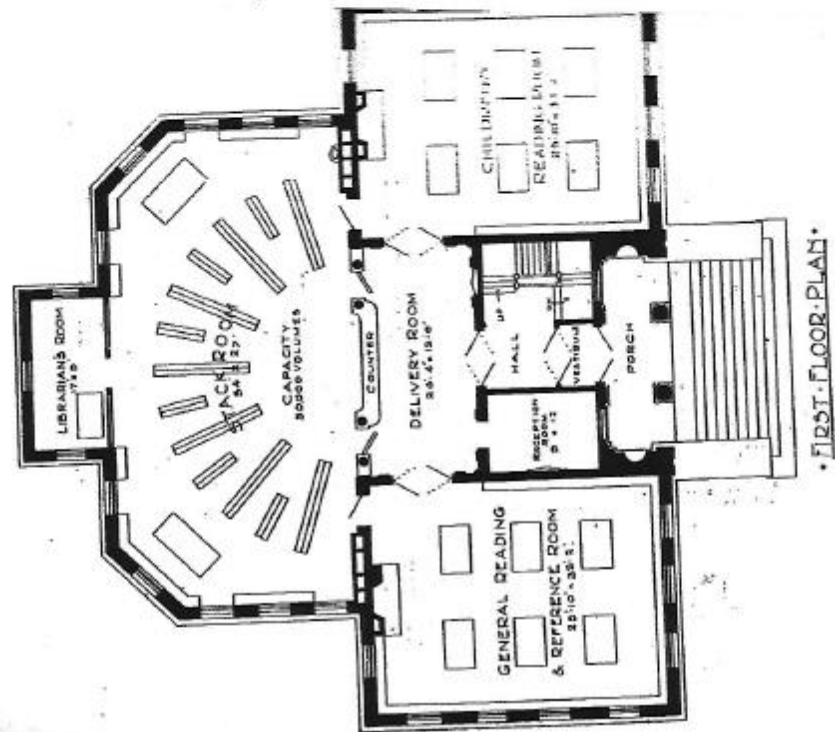
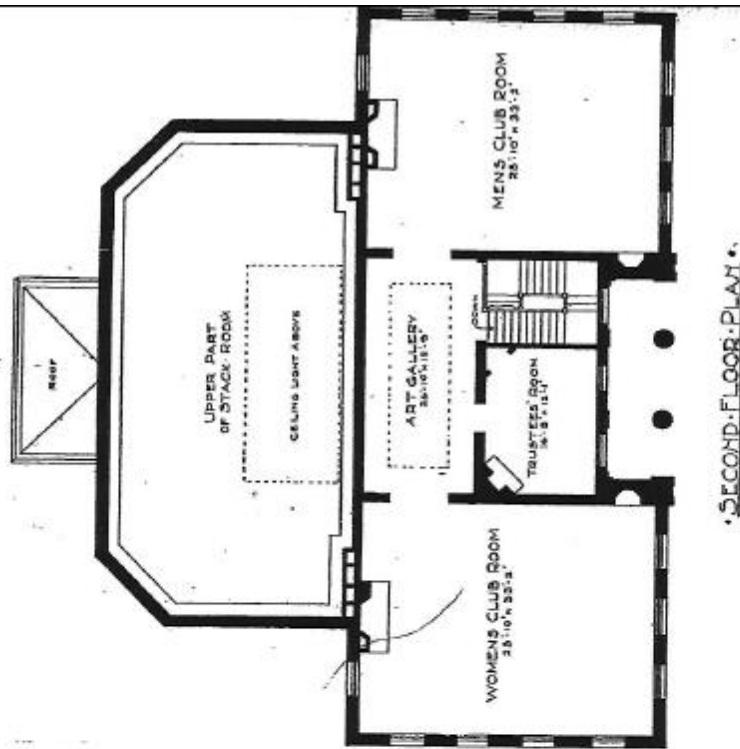
There was, however, public acknowledgement of the library. An event was held at the Cheyenne Opera House for the Carnegie Public Library on Tuesday, October 8, 1901 at 8 p.m. It was an evening of classic and popular vocal and instrumental music featuring local talent.

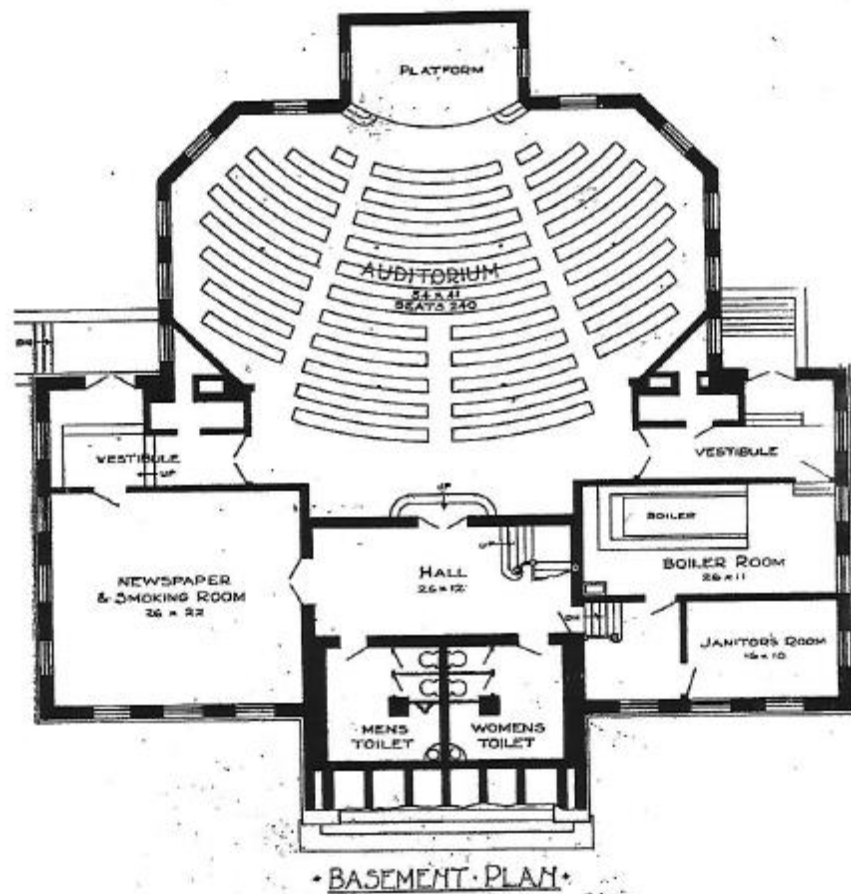
At the March 30, 1902 meeting of the Women's Club, there was discussion of means to raise funds to decorate the Women's Club Room. Mrs. William Sturgis surprised everyone with a letter from a girlhood friend in New York City (Andrew Carnegie's wife, Louise Whitfield Carnegie) which included a check for \$500 toward furnishing the Club Room.

Interestingly, there are two dates given for the opening of the library. It was either May 14 or May 19, 1902, both of which were in the newspaper at one time or another. Nonetheless, a search of the newspaper through the month of May 1902 failed to find any mention of the opening of the library.

Morris suggested an agenda for dedication exercises. (The original but abbreviated copy of this document showed the blanks filled by handwritten names, the only legible one being the benediction.) It would begin with a call to order by the Honorable Joseph M. Carey and remarks by the president of the board of trustees, followed by the blessing by Reverend _____. A quartet would render the "God of Israel" by Rossini and "See the Rivers Flowing" and the Honorable Henry G. Hay would present a report. The presentation of the library to the city and county by Morris would be followed by responses from the mayor, Judge Lacey, and others. Carey would give the dedication address. Remarks by the members of the board of trustees, Chief Justice Potter, Judge Riner, Mr. Burke, and others would be followed by a duet by Mrs. Brewster and _____ and the benediction by Rev. Dr. [sic] Rafter.

A search of the newspapers for the months before and after the actual opening of the library yielded no evidence of such an exercise.





Chapter 6: Transfer to Carnegie Library

A report that was submitted in March 1903 to the board of trustees and recorded in the meeting minutes documented the transfer from the old library at Central School to the Carnegie library.

In May 1902, the books and patron files were moved. In the old library, there were 616 cards from 1897 to 1900 and an additional 262 cards from 1900 to 1901. From May 1902 to March 1903, there were 1,361 cards at the Carnegie library.

A total of 4,024 volumes from the old library were shelved on May 1, 1902. These included 186 reference books, 432 classics, 528 literature, 171 travel, 371 biography, 577 fiction, 127 juvenile works, and 1,391 government documents. In addition, there were 650 worn-out or rebound books and 879 gifts or books purchased during the previous year. Books not counted, shelved, or cataloged were stored.

The new library collection was begun in March 1902 with gifts and government publications, including 50 fiction volumes, 300 clothbound textbooks, 500 periodicals, 2,500 government pamphlets, 200 (sheep) government documents, and 300 (cloth) government documents.

Many gifts made through Robert Morris and records post. [*sic*]

Other gifts:

Wm Sturgis: cloth and paper vols 75

Woman's club: mags 50

Mr Patten pamph & mags 50

Miss Hebard cloth 125

Also of interest in the same report is a summary of the first ten months of operation in the Carnegie library. Total circulation was 17,760 books issued (checked out), which consisted of 60% adult books and 40% juvenile, fiction 91% and nonfiction 9%. Schedule D dealt with books not returned and not paid for. Eleven names, addresses, and book catalog numbers were listed. Two patrons had two books each, and several were prominent citizens.

A table showed the circulation and book stock information for the Carnegie library from opening to closing. During the early years, there was no policy regarding reporting to the county commissioners or the state library. Starting in 1910, detailed reports of library activity were submitted annually. The population was included, allowing calculation of books read per capita.

Chapter 7: Early Acquisitions

One of the first available records of books purchased for the Carnegie library is a handwritten ledger book dated March 1, 1904. In the first year, the library acquired 524 volumes, consisting of fiction, nonfiction, reference, and children's books. Many of the titles are familiar to current readers and are considered classics. They all suggest a sophisticated reading culture and several have been the basis for recent entertainment. The list here includes remarks about the author/book.

Tittlebat Titmouse by Dr. Samuel Warren, 1903.

Madame Butterfly by John Luther Long, 1898; a short story and the basis for the opera of the same name.

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm by Kate Wiggin, 1903; continues to be a favorite with young readers.

Lavender and Old Lace by Myrtle Reed, 1902; remains popular, especially on the amateur theatrical stage.

The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come by John Fox, Jr., 1903; romanticizes Kentucky and slavery. Fox was born in 1862, grew up during the Civil War, and was influenced by the Southern post-war mindset.

When Patty Went to College by Jean Webster, 1903; her first novel. She also wrote *Daddy Long Legs*.

Studies in the Evolution of Industrial Society by Richard T. Ely, 1903. The author was an economist and strong anti-capitalist.

The Meaning of Pictures by John Charles van Dyke (also spelled Dyck), 1903.

Best Letters of Horace Walpole and *Horace Walpole and His World* by Leonard Benton Seeley, 1895; continue to be a source for scholars.

Benjamin Disraeli by Wilfrid Meynell, 1903.

Tolstoy, the Man by Edward A. Steiner, 1904.

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy, 1878; still popular and the basis of movie and TV productions.

Days of Jeanne d'Arc by Mary Hartwell Catherwood, 1897.

King Solomon's Mines by Sir H. Rider Haggard, 1885; an adventure novel and the basis of four movie films and a TV miniseries.

Naughty Nan by John Luther Long, 1902.

The Cloister and the Hearth by Charles Reade, 1894; a historical novel written by an English dramatist and novelist.

A Daughter of the Snows, *The Call of the Wild*, *The Sea Wolf* and *The Kempton-Wace Letters* by Jack London, 1902-1903. The famous adventurer and outdoorsman was a prolific author, producing magazine articles, short stories, and several novels. The Kempton-Wace letters were quite controversial, debating the romantic vs. scientific view of love. Most of his books are still quite popular.

Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott, 1819; continues to be well read.

20,000 Leagues under the Sea by Jules Verne, 1870; still popular.

Memoirs by Jacques (Giacomo) Casanova, 1822 (German) and 1838 (French); popular at the turn of the century and still in circulation.

Plays: Pleasant and Unpleasant by George Bernard Shaw, 1904.

Cashel Byron's Profession by George Bernard Shaw was the fourth of five unsuccessful novels, but the library purchased it nevertheless.

The Best Plays of Christopher Marlowe, edited by Havelock Ellis, 1903; discussed the controversy over the death of Shakespeare.

A Study of Shakespeare by Algernon Charles Swinburne, 1902. The author was famous for inventing the roundel form of poetry.

She Stoops to Conquer by Oliver Goldsmith, 1773; has remained popular, resulting in several plays, a video production, and a TV adaptation.

Thirteen books by Henry James. A prolific author, he produced 20 novels, 112 short stories, and 12 plays between 1880 and 1901.

Philosophy 4 by Owen Wister, 1903; described his college days at Harvard University.

The Dragon of Wantley, *A Journey in Search of Christmas*, and *The Virginian* by Owen Wister. *The Virginian* was perhaps the most famous for Wyoming people since it was written in Medicine Bow. When the book was published in 1902, it was supposedly written in the Virginian Hotel but the hotel was built between 1901 and 1911 and was named for the book. Since the hotel was only partly built when Wister wrote the book, it is doubtful that he stayed in the hotel, which now has the Owen Wister Dining Room. Wister was a classmate of Theodore Roosevelt at Harvard University. It seems apparent that the magazine articles and books written by Wister in conjunction with the western paintings by Frederic Remington were responsible for the cowboy and western myth which became so popular in the eastern United States and in Europe.

The Deliverance by Ellen Glasgow, 1904; a romance of the Virginia tobacco fields.

Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson, 1883; a must for every library.

Cherry by Booth Tarkington, 1901; this short story was originally published in *Harper's Magazine* and issued as a book in 1903.

The Gentleman from Indiana by Booth Tarkington, 1899; his most famous book and still in most libraries.

Little Women, *Little Men*, and six other titles by Louisa May Alcott, published from 1868 to 1887.

Fourteen books by Horatio Alger which have become part of American folklore.

Little Lord Fauntleroy by Frances Hodgson Burnett, 1886. She also wrote *Sara Crerve* [sic] (correct *Crew*), later rewritten as *A Little Princess*, and *The Secret Garden*.

Seven very popular books by Hezekiah Butterworth, written between 1896 and 1903.

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe, 1719; continues to be as popular now as it was when bought by the library.

Nights with Uncle Remus, 1883 and *Daddy Jake the Runaway*, 1901 by Joel Chandler Harris. *Nights* was noted for its authentic southern dialect.

Toby Tyler and *Mary of Plymouth* by James Otis who wrote adventure novels for boys.

Sherlock Holmes stories written between 1888 and 1900 by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Numerous plays, movies, and TV shows based on the books are still popular.

Stories from Livy, *The Story of the Persian War from Herodotus*, and *Stories from Virgil*, by Alfred J. Church. A British ordained clergyman and professor of Latin at University College in London, he produced over fifty classical books translated from Latin and directed toward children. His translation of Herodotus' *The Histories* is still available.

Tecumseh and the Shawnee Prophet by Edward Eggleston and Elizabeth Eggleston Seelye, 1878; the story of the famous Shawnee Indian chief.

Westward Ho! by Charles Kingsley, 1855. Based on a 1604 play, it proved to be a boon for film and theater. In addition to a play starring John Webster and Thomas Dekker, there were several films, towns, and places named after the book.

Scientific American Reference Book, 1904.

Abstract of the 12th Census; printed by the government.

The Prodigal Son by Sir Thomas Henry Hall Caine, 1904. The author was a British novelist and playwright with fifteen biographies to his credit. His works have inspired at least nine films, including one by Alfred Hitchcock.

*Nostrodamus*_[sic] by Joseph Conrad, a Polish-born British author, 1904, was the last entry in the ledger. Almost certainly this was recorded in error and the correct name is *Nostromo: A Tale of the Seaboard*. This was a story of a silver mining town in South America and its corrupt government and warlords. It was the basis for Steven Spielberg's 1991 film and in 1997 was adapted for TV for BBC, Italian TV, Spanish TV, and WBGH (Boston).

Good literature survives through the ages. Like the early Cheyenne residents, current movie and TV producers recognize the value of sophisticated writing and have used these classics repeatedly for present-day entertainment.

Chapter 8: County Commissioners and Library Trustees

The Laramie County Library System and the Carnegie library were completely dependent on the largesse of the taxpayers through the Laramie County Commissioners. The commissioners in office during the existence of the Carnegie library are listed below. The mill rate for taxes was determined by law, but the distribution of funds to the library was made only after the commissioners had reviewed and accepted the proposed library budget. Funding for special programs or repairs had to be approved by the commissioners and included in the budget. Thus a cordial relationship between the commissioners and library trustees was highly desirable.

LARAMIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, CARNEGIE LIBRARY ERA

Dates	Commissioners
January 1899	Robert Jack, Chairman John H. Gordon John L. Murray
January 1901	Samuel Corson, Chairman James B. Boyer James M. Newman
January 1903	Samuel Corson, Chairman James B. Boyer Harry Farthing
January 1905	James B. Boyer, Chairman Samuel Corson Harry Farthing
June 1906	Harry Farthing, Chairman Samuel Corson Irad W. Gray
January 1907	Samuel Corson, Chairman James M. Gilmore Irad W. Gray
January 1909	William Storey, Chairman William Dunstan Irad W. Gray
January 1911	William Storey, Chairman W. G. Curtis John Hunton

Dates	Commissioners
January 1913	John B. Sloan, Chairman W. G. Curtis (<i>reelected but died on Jan. 6, 1913; remaining commissioners were unable to agree on a third member</i>) E. L. Farrington
January 1915	Warren Richardson, Chairman E. L. Farrington J. F. Stimson
February 1917	William Richardson, Chairman John Sloan Ross F. Snyder
February 1919	William Richardson, Chairman Harry L. Reymore John Sloan
January 1921	F. R. Dildine, Chairman 1921 George E. Prosser, Chairman 1922 Harry L. Reymore
January 1923	J. T. Bell, Chairman F. R. Dildine Gus Palm
January 1925	F. R. Dildine, Chairman J. T. Bell L. Larson
January 1927	F. R. Dildine, Chairman Charles T. Farthing L. Larson
January 1929	F. R. Dildine, Chairman Charles T. Farthing L. Larson
January 1931	F. R. Dildine, Chairman John J. McNerney George Storey
January 1933	David Nimmo, Chairman F. R. Dildine George Storey
January 1935	George Storey, Chairman F. R. Dildine R. J. Hofmann
January 1937	George Storey, Chairman R. J. Hofmann J. F. Weybrecht

Dates	Commissioners
January 1939	R. J. Hofmann, Chairman Glen E. Hendershot George Storey
January 1941	Glen E. Hendershot, Chairman C. A. Moore George Storey
January 1943	Glen E. Hendershot, Chairman C. H. Leisher C. A. Moore
January 1945	C. A. Moore, Chairman Glen E. Hendershot C. H. Leisher
January 1947	Glen E. Hendershot, Chairman R. C. Anderson C. A. Moore
January 1949	R. C. Anderson, Chairman Rex Crews Glen E. Hendershot
January 1951	Rex Crews, Chairman Glen E. Hendershot Dan Rees
January 1953	Dan Rees, Chairman Arthur E. Bard Rex Crews
January 1955	Rex Crews, Chairman Dan Rees Ray J. Walterscheid
January 1957	Rex Crews, Chairman Dan Rees Ray J. Walterscheid
January 1959	Rex Crews, Chairman Dan Rees Ray J. Walterscheid
January 1961	Dan Rees, Chairman L. M. "Mark" Foster Ray J. Walterscheid
January 1963	L. M. "Mark" Foster, Chairman Doran Lummis Ray J. Walterscheid

Dates	Commissioners
January 1965	Ray J. Walterscheid, Chairman Delbert "Del" Humphrey Doran Lummis
January 1967	Doran Lummis, Chairman L. M. "Mark" Foster Delbert "Del" Humphrey
January 1969	Doran Lummis, Chairman L. M. "Mark" Foster Albert C. Vosler

The board of library trustees was appointed by the Laramie County Commissioners. The law provided for the appointment of three library trustees, but initially the Cheyenne Library Association also appointed a representative to the board. This appointment led to some contention which will be discussed later. On June 4, 1966 the county commissioners voted to expand the board of trustees of the Laramie County Library Association from three members to five, appointing Maurice E. Mann and Alice Lane.

The trustees were respected citizens with great interest in their community. The following biographies of some of the early trustees demonstrate the importance the county commissioners attributed to these appointments.

Charles W. Burdick was appointed trustee in 1903. Born August 15, 1860 in Toledo, Ohio, Burdick was educated in the Toledo public schools and attended Ohio Wesleyan University and the University of Michigan Law School. He came to Wyoming in 1879 to ranch in Saratoga. In 1889, he was elected to the territorial legislature and the constitutional convention. His career thereafter included state auditor, secretary of state, chairman of the Republican State Committee, member of the State Board of Law Examiners, and member of the Executive Council of the American Bar Association. He was involved in developing the Salt Creek oil field and was vice president of the Franco Wyoming Oil Company, president of Enalpac Oil and Gas Company, and president of the Saratoga Live Stock Company. Through his business activities he became one of the wealthiest people in Wyoming. He left the board of trustees in 1909. While on a business trip in Washington, D.C., he contracted pneumonia and died on January 8, 1927.

Dr. George C. Rafter was born November 5, 1838 in St. Lin, Quebec, Canada. He attended Montreal public schools and Kenyon College, an Episcopal school in Gambier, Ohio, graduating in 1868. Rafter attended Theological Seminary in Nashotah, Wisconsin where he earned his doctorate in theology. He served numerous churches in Pennsylvania before moving to Central City, Colorado. He came to Cheyenne in 1882 and became rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in 1886. For health reasons, he took a leave of absence in 1892 and traveled to Europe and Jerusalem. In 1904, he became rector emeritus of St. Mark's, where the beautiful bell tower and bells are dedicated to him. He was active in the Shrine, Wyoming Consistory, and was chaplain for the territorial legislature and Wyoming legislature. He was the Wyoming delegate to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. He was appointed to the board of trustees from 1906 until 1910, and his term as trustee involved some contentious issues. He died in February 1921.

Ruie Aiken of Colorado Springs married Thomas Hunter, a prominent attorney and state legislator, in 1912. **Mrs. Hunter** was appointed to the board of trustees in 1921 and proved to be a most conscientious and reliable trustee in the fifteen years she served. She attended 137 of 146 meetings in the nineteen years on record, with three years of perfect attendance. She was chair of the board for ten years. It is noteworthy that her husband's father also served on the board for many years.

William C. Deming was born December 6, 1869 in Mount Olivet, Kentucky. He was educated in the public schools and at Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania where he received bachelor of arts and doctor of law degrees. He was admitted to the bar in Kentucky. While still in school, he edited the weekly *Mount Olivet Tribune*. In 1894, he became editor of the *Warren Daily Tribune* in Warren, Ohio, and in this capacity he visited his brother who was editor of the *Wyoming Tribune-Leader*. He moved to Wyoming in 1901, purchased the *Wyoming Tribune* in 1904, and purchased the *Wyoming Leader* in 1920, merging the two as the *Wyoming Tribune-Leader*. He also started the *Wyoming Stockman-Farmer* publication. Deming was elected to the 7th Wyoming Legislature where he sponsored the first state depository law. He was a member of the St. Louis World's Fair Commission. In 1907 he was appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt as receiver of public monies in the federal land office in Cheyenne. He was a member of the Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration in 1912-1913. He was appointed by President Warren Harding to the U.S. Civil Service Commission. Locally, Deming helped raise funds in 1906 to build the Capitol Avenue Theater and organized a company to build the Deming Building and the Tribune Building. He was a trustee of the Frances Warren Pershing Memorial Hospital, the first president of the Young Men's Literary Club, a member of the Knights of Pythias, Benevolent Order of Eagles, Sons of the American Revolution, and the Scottish Rite of the Masonic Lodge. He was the author of numerous editorial articles on law, political, and social issues. In the *Wyoming Tribune-Leader* of February 22, 1932, he wrote a lengthy biography of George Washington. He was appointed to the board of trustees in 1916 and served until 1923.

Wilfred O'Leary was born October 12, 1876 in New York City. He attended public schools and the law school at U. S. Grant Memorial University, Chattanooga, Tennessee. He moved to Cheyenne in 1907 to practice law and was an active member of the Wyoming State Bar. He was on the Carnegie library board from 1923 to 1956.

Colin Hunter was born May 3, 1848 in Perthshire, Scotland. The son of a farmer, Hunter emigrated to New Orleans at age seventeen and in 1867, he moved to Cheyenne to work on the Union Pacific Railroad. After the railroad moved on, he began freighting for the government, supplying Fort Laramie and other regional military posts. Later he founded the TY ranch on the Chugwater which he eventually sold to the Swan Land and Cattle Company. With the proceeds he acquired extensive holdings in South Dakota and Montana; when he sold these interests in 1899, he purchased the ranch on Little Horse Creek which he held until his death. He was associated with Jack Hunton in ranching on the Laramie River for the last twenty years of his life. Hunter revisited Scotland several times and on his 1879 trip he married Margaret Thompson in Edinburgh and brought her home to Wyoming. They had two sons, one of whom died at an early age, and the surviving son, Thomas Hunter, became a prominent attorney and state legislator. Colin Hunter was a well-respected citizen of

Cheyenne. He was a Mason and member of the territorial legislature. He served for fourteen years on the board of trustees of the Carnegie library and died while still in office.

Louis Kirk was born in Philadelphia in 1860 of Quaker parents. He was educated in the public school system and in 1882 came to Wyoming. He lived almost continuously in Cheyenne as an employee of Senator Joseph M. Carey. He was Carey's "right-hand man," an expert in business law, a skilled accountant and bookkeeper, and a clever draughtsman. Very active in city, political, and educational affairs, Kirk was also clerk of the U.S. Circuit and District courts. In 1882, he married Mamie Dubridge and they had two children. He was a Mason and a member of Elks. His interest in the Laramie County Library System resulted in the Cheyenne Library Association appointing him to the Carnegie library board of trustees. This resulted in a conflict which will be discussed later. He died November 4, 1909 while serving on the board.

William R. Schnitger was born October 31, 1852 in Mineral Point, Wisconsin. Educated in the public schools, he moved to Wyoming on May 30, 1878. He was a deputy U.S. marshal, working for his father, U.S. Marshal Gustave Schnitger, who was later warden of the state prison in Laramie and the state fishery commissioner. William became the Cheyenne city marshal in July 1883. He became a partner with C. A. Riner [*sic*] in insurance, real estate, and coal companies. He was elected to the House of Representatives in the territorial legislature and the Senate of the 1st Wyoming Legislature on November 12, 1890. He was mayor of Cheyenne in 1897 and served again in the state senate in 1902. He served as secretary of state from January 7, 1907 to January 2, 1911.

C. W. Riner came to Cheyenne in 1870 from Middletown, Iowa at the age of sixteen, hoping that a change of climate would be beneficial to his health. He worked as a grocery clerk from 1872 to 1881 when he entered the real estate business, which he pursued for the remainder of his life. He established the Wyoming Fuel and Feed Company in 1908. He was assistant postmaster from 1881 to 1886, a member of the territorial legislature House of Representatives in 1884, mayor of Cheyenne from 1880 to 1884, and on the city council for one term. He served as county assessor for one term and census supervisor for the Wyoming district in 1900. In 1906 he was elected as mayor for two terms ending in 1920. A number of significant community projects were completed while he was in office, among them the Riner Viaduct. He served on the board of trustees of the Carnegie library from 1914 until his death in 1930.

Reverend Charles A. Bennett was the rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church from 1919 to 1958. During his tenure, the bell tower was built (1925) and the bells were installed (1929). He was responsible for the development of the outdoor garden, Kingdom Close, in the early 1940s. He was a member of the Young Men's Literary Club and was a trustee on the Laramie County library board from 1940 to July 1956.

Thomas A. Cosgriff was born in Vermont in 1853. Sometime in the early 1880s, he moved to Denver for his health and to work as a clerk in a store in Denver. After he regained his health, he moved to Laramie, then to Carbon County where he became involved in cattle and sheep ranching. He then sent for the rest of his family and they became storekeepers in Saratoga and Fort Steele. Soon they had a chain of establishments throughout Wyoming. In 1896, Cosgriff bought the First National Bank in Rawlins and in 1903 came to Cheyenne and

bought interest in the First National Bank. The bank grew rapidly, allowing him to build a five-story building on the corner of Capitol Avenue and 17th Street. He was a leader in the construction of St. Mary's Cathedral and the Capitol Avenue Theater, organized the Cheyenne Street Railway and the Cheyenne Brick Company, and built the Plains Hotel with Senator Francis E. Warren and others. He was deeply involved in social and business affairs in Cheyenne as a member of the Elks and the Knights of Columbus and as a trustee on the Carnegie library board. In 1913, he married Rose Martin of Cheyenne, with whom he had one child, Mary Elizabeth. Cosgriff died on October 14, 1915 and his wife replaced him on the Carnegie library board of trustees.

There is a difference of opinion in the sources of library trustees because a letter dated March 26, 1904 listed John W. Lacey, president; Charles N. Potter, vice president; Louis Kirk, secretary-treasurer; and Frederick B. Sheldon, member. Since Kirk was appointed by the Cheyenne Library Association, Sheldon must have been appointed by the Laramie County Commissioners; however, the minutes of the board of trustees made no mention of Sheldon at any time. This table lists the names from the minutes of the board of library trustees.

TRUSTEES OF THE CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dates	Trustees
Mar. 1902	Colin Hunter, President Louis Kirk, Secretary/Treasurer (<i>appointed by Cheyenne Library Association</i>) Thomas Heany John Lacey
Oct. 1903–Feb. 1906	Colin Hunter, President Charles W. Burdick Louis Kirk John W. Lacey
Feb. 1906–Dec. 1907	Colin Hunter, President Charles W. Burdick Louis Kirk George C. Rafter
Jan. 1907–July 1909	Colin Hunter, President Charles W. Burdick George C. Rafter
July 1909–Dec. 1909	Colin Hunter, President Louis Kirk, Secretary/Treasurer (<i>died Nov. 4, 1909</i>) George C. Rafter
Jan. 1910–Aug. 1910	Colin Hunter, President Thomas A. Cosgriff George C. Rafter

Dates	Trustees
Aug. 1910–July 1913	Colin Hunter, President Charles F. Mallin, Secretary/Treasurer Thomas A. Cosgriff
July 1913–May 1914	Colin Hunter, President Mrs. H. D. Patten, Secretary Thomas Cosgriff, Treasurer
May 1914–Nov. 1915	Colin Hunter, President C. W. Riner, Secretary Thomas A. Cosgriff, Treasurer (<i>died Oct. 14, 1915</i>)
Nov. 1915–Sept. 1916	Colin Hunter, President (<i>died August 1916</i>) C. W. Riner, Secretary Rose Cosgriff (<i>to replace her husband</i>)
Sept. 1916–June 1921	C. W. Riner, President W. C. Deming, Secretary Rose Cosgriff, Treasurer
June 1921–Mar. 1923	C. W. Riner, President W. C. Deming, Secretary Ruie Hunter, Treasurer
Mar. 1923–Oct. 1930	C. W. Riner, President (<i>died Oct. 4, 1930</i>) Wilfred O’Leary, Secretary Ruie Hunter, Treasurer
Oct. 1930–	Ruie Hunter, President A. V. McIvar, Secretary (<i>replaced C. W. Riner</i>) Wilfred O’Leary, Treasurer
Oct. 1930–Jan. 1940	Ruie Hunter, President Wilfred O’Leary, Treasurer A. V. McIvar
Jan. 1940–July 1943	Ruie Hunter, President C. L. Bennett, Secretary Wilfred O’Leary, Treasurer
July 1943–July 1956	Charles A. Bennett Wallace Bond Wilfred O’Leary
July 1956–Jan. 1957	C. H. Blanchard, Chairman Bob Adams, Secretary Teno Roncalio, Treasurer
Jan. 1957–July 1957	C. H. Blanchard, President Bob Adams, Secretary Leah Marsh Bain, Treasurer

Dates	Trustees
July 1957–July 1959	Leah Marsh Bain, President Howardine E. Hebert, Secretary Bob Adams, Treasurer
July 1959–July 1961	Howardine E. Hebert, President Gordon Murphy, Secretary Leah Marsh Bain, Treasurer
July 1961–Jan. 1963	Gordon Murphy, President (<i>resigned</i>) Jean B. Weber, Secretary (<i>resigned</i>) Howardine E. Hebert, Treasurer
Jan. 1963–July 1964	John F. Noyes, President (<i>replaced Murphy</i>) Harriet Prosser, Secretary (<i>replaced Weber</i>) Howardine E. Hebert, Treasurer
July 1964–July 1966	Robert St. Clair, President Harriet Prosser, Secretary John F. Noyes, Treasurer
July 1966–	Alice Lane Maurice Mann John Noyes Ruby Schliske Walter Schmidt

Chapter 9: Basic Statistics

There are some basic statistics which measure the activities, growth, and expenditures of the Carnegie library. A basic number is the book stock, e.g. the total number of books in the library, and the number of books issued (checked out) in a year. Knowing the population in the service area relative to the number of books issued gives a rough idea of reading habits and number of patrons, while circulation gives a more accurate evaluation of reading habits.

The tables showing population, circulation, book stock, and books added also show the location of the facility where the books were issued. There are some blanks when data was missing. Please refer to the annual reports in the library files for further information and details, especially for the branches.

BOOK STOCK, CIRCULATION

These tables summarize the circulation, book stock (inventory), and book additions from the opening of the Carnegie library until it closed in 1969.

The population is included to give some idea of the reading habits of the citizens. Population figures are from the official census, unless noted. The data was obtained from the annual reports presented to the board of county commissioners by the board of trustees of the Laramie County Library System. The data was not available for a few years, not because it was not collected, but because it could not be found. If there was a discrepancy between the annual report and the minutes of board meetings, the data from the latter was used.

In 1923, branch libraries were opened and starting in 1926, boxes of about twenty books were loaned “out of town” to rural schools or occasionally to a large ranch with many employees. The loans were usually for a month and continuation of loans was contingent on the prompt return of previously loaned books in good condition.

In 1953, the county librarian suspected that the book stock figures were obtained by adding the “books added” to previous book stock figures and did not account for books lost, destroyed, or thrown away, so a complete inventory was made. The actual book stock was smaller by 27,341 books.

The rapid growth of the Laramie County Library system is evident.

Date	Population	Circulation Main Library	Book stock	Books added
1902	20,181		5,836	
1903				
1908		19,391	8,197	442
1909		26,486		478
1910	26,127			
1911		31,439		1,270
1912				
1913		35,817	16,000	1,176
1914		40,624		1,189
1915		40,839		1,164
1916		39,951		1,241
1917		34,913		1,081
1918		39,330		733

Date	Population	Circulation Main Library	Book stock	Books added
1919		38,939		792
1920	20,699	46,076		606
1921		60,007		1,208
1922		54,589		687

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Pine Bluffs	Book stock	Books added
1923		63,105		2,104
1924		71,349		1,405
1925		78,914		1,318

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Pine Bluffs, out of town	Book stock	Books added
1926		84,518		949
1927	18,651 (from annual report)	90,138	27,159	933
1928		103,109	28,260	1,515
1929		124,163	29,413	2,717
1930	26,845	155,078	32,163	2,750
1931		178,192	33,382	2,228
1932		208,809		2,500

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Burns, Pine Bluffs, out of town	Book stock	Books added
1933		209,242		1,725
1934		193,132		2,589
1935		180,428		2,719

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Burns, Pine Bluffs, out of town	Book stock	Books added
1936	26,863	172,002	50,965	3,288

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Burns, Carpenter, Pine Bluffs, out of town	Book stock	Books added
1937		167,578		2,801
1938		181,317	52,293	2,725
1939		190,898	56,528	4,235

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Burns, Carpenter, Hillsdale, Pine Bluffs, out of town	Book stock	Books added
1940	33,651	209,859	59,179	3,493

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Burns, Carpenter, Hillsdale, hospital, Pine Bluffs, South Side, out of town	Book stock	Books added
1941	31,143 (from annual report)	236,858	62,296	4,027
1942		210,636	62,593	2,937
1943	30,143 (from annual report)	150,043	71,136	
1944		186,563	71,093	

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Pine Bluffs, South Side, out of town	Book stock	Books added
1945		147,936 (149,369)	74,193	2,172

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Burns, Pine Bluffs, South Side [hospital, out of town?]	Book stock	Books added
1946		147,936	76,595	2,172

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Alta Vista, Burns, Pine Bluffs, South Side	Book stock	Books added
1947		136,301		

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Alta Vista, Burns, Johnson, Pine Bluffs	Book stock	Books added
1948	46,000 (from annual report)	134,761	79,871	5,395

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Alta Vista, Burns, Johnson, stations	Book stock	Books added
1949	40,000 (from annual report)	164,240	81,985	3,712

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Alta Vista, Burns, Carpenter, Hebard, Johnson, out of town	Book stock	Books added
1950	47,662	187,520	83,119	4,762
1951		190,648	84,954	5,029

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Alta Vista, Burns, Hebard, hospital, Johnson, Pine Bluffs, stations, out of town	Book stock	Books added
1952	47,562 (from annual report)	207,444	84,954	

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Alta Vista, Burns, Hebard, hospital, Johnson, Pine Bluffs, schools	Book stock	Books added
1953	53,000 (from annual report)	206,316	57,613 (inventory)	

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Alta Vista, Burns, hospital, South Side, schools	Book stock	Books added
1954	47,662	203,435	61,123	5,711

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Alta Vista, Burns, Pine Bluffs, South Side, schools	Book stock	Books added
1955	51,000	231,756	64,609	5,300
1956	53,000	254,226	66,728	4,599
1957	54,000	274,477	69,809	4,512
1958		284,078	72,519	4,776
1959	60,000 (from annual report)	294,060	75,279	4,387
1960	60,149	292,947	77,216	4,875
1961		281,685	79,837	5,095

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Alta Vista, Burns, East Side, Pine Bluffs, South Side, schools	Book stock	Books added
1962		318,577	81,978	5,286

Date	Population	Circulation Main, Albin, Burns, East Side, Horse Creek, Pine Bluffs, South Side, schools	Book stock	Books added
1963		311,144	83,780	4,375
1964		327,184	84,020	4,370
1965		314,062	86,371	6,285
1966		303,323	85,892	6,325

Date	Population	Circulation	Book stock	Books added
1967		No report		
1968		No report		
1969		242,139 (county)	No report	
1970	56,360	264,975		9,821

Chapter 10: Patrons

Documentation of library patrons was rather haphazard and apparently depended on the county librarian, board of trustees, or county commissioners. The trustees and/or commissioners were usually interested in the number of library cards issued. Usually the librarian reported the number at board meetings but some boards did not include the librarian at their meetings. Sometimes the total number of patrons was not included in the annual report or the annual report is missing.

1916.....3,452	1935.....n/a
1917.....2,464	1936.....9,508
1918.....2,837	1937.....n/a
1919.....3,637	1938.....9,852
1920.....3,983	1939.....10,527
1921.....4,276	1940.....10,736
1922.....n/a	1941.....10,483
1923.....4,972	1942.....11,123
1924.....5,312	1943.....n/a
1925.....5,795	1944.....11,548
1926.....n/a	1945.....13,560
1927.....57,695	1946.....n/a
1928.....6,421	1947.....n/a
1929.....6,800	1948.....11,694
1930.....6,988	1949.....9,503
1931.....7,346	1950.....9,726
1932.....n/a	1951.....9,671
1933.....n/a	1952.....10,127
1934.....n/a	1953.....10,667

Chapter 11: Expenses and Salaries

This table is an overview of the financial obligations of the Carnegie library from 1911 until it closed in 1969. The statistics were obtained from the annual statistical reports compiled for the county commissioners by the county librarian. There are occasional differences between the reports sent to the commissioners and the reports in the minutes of the board. In that case, the figures from the minutes are given in this table.

The table of expenditures and salaries reflects the variation in expenses from year to year due to maintenance, repairs, and other costs of the physical plant and the relative stability of salary increases with growth of the library. There are slight reductions in both values during the Depression and World War II.

The expense column includes all expenses, but the original reports were broken down in detail too extensive to be included here. The complete reports are in the library files.

The salary column includes the librarian, assistant librarian(s), library staff, janitor/custodian, and any other employees. In the personnel section, there is a list of all the county librarians who served at the Carnegie library, with short biographies (if known), salaries, and length of service.

DATE	EXPENSE	SALARIES
1911	\$5,892.82	\$2,833.00
1912	6,650.05	2,910.00
1913	No report	No report
1914	No report	No report
1915	5,970.93	No report
1916	5,618.13	3,005.00
1917	6,618.95	3,045.00
1918	5,936.33	2,885.00
1919	5,519.20	3,425.00
1920	7,388.20	3,842.00
1921	6,156.93	3,830.00
1922	7,235.59	4,491.50
1923	8,405.50	4,912.50
1924	9,195.86	5,499.00
1925	9,711.59	5,300.00
1926	10,366.75	5,850.00
1927	9,023.17	5,606.33
1928	11,538.53	6,338.00

DATE	EXPENSE	SALARIES
1929	\$13,904.51	\$7,236.75
1930	13,720.64	8,050.00
1931	14,278.98	8,877.50
1932	14,592.97	8,950.00
1933	12,824.87	8,082.25
1934	12,677.67	8,079.00
1935	16,141.70	8,454.50
1936	15,473.00	8,844.00
1937	16,222.12	9,297.25
1938	18,782.85	10,286.00
1939	16,735.09	10,323.00
1940	18,362.42	9,985.75
1941	19,500.54	10,867.00
1942	19,050.83	11,362.22
1943	24,400.75	2,782.02
1944	19,671.88	10,868.99
1945	No report	No report
1946	No report	No report

DATE	EXPENSE	SALARIES
1947	\$23,883.00	\$13,367.60
1948	31,154.42	13,920.61
1949	29,887.66	14,687.78
1950	32,727.92	No report
1951	No report	No report
1952	40,483.62	22,827.56
1953	No report	No report
1954	45,777.24	28,133.85
1955	46,964.55	28,937.29
1956	48,372.69	28,859.77
1957	59,616.29	30,932.71
1958	52,882.93	33,120.64

DATE	EXPENSE	SALARIES
1959	\$53,691.76	\$33,447.19
1960	55,855.21	37,042.48
1961	61,644.34	40,313.81
1962	93,533.90	45,458.66
1963	78,702.26	46,655.06
1964	77,078.59	47,920/08
1965	130,569.93	50,784.67
1966	96,848.00	52,809.35
1967	No report	No report
1968	No report	No report
1969	142,189.00	79,587.00
1970	No report	No report

Chapter 12: Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Library

The minutes of the board of trustees of the Carnegie library provide a comprehensive review of the operation of the facility. Unfortunately, there are a few periods where the minutes are missing; however, significant statistics are available from the annual statistical report. The minutes available are sufficient to describe the issues facing the board and also their philosophy of operation. Minutes of the board from 1964 until the Carnegie library closed are unavailable.

The meetings were initially held in the office of one of the trustees but within a month or so were held in the library. They were not held on any specific day of the week but usually a Tuesday or Thursday. The format was well-defined, consisting of the date, attendees, minutes of the previous meeting, approval of bills to be paid, the county librarian's report (circulation, finances, etc.), and principal issues facing the library.

Occasionally the board became a bit picky. For example, on March 19, 1904, a special meeting was held to address one specific issue: Certain reports had been presented by the county librarian for board consideration, and the treasurer was instructed to return them to the librarian with a request to resubmit them in a form which the president desired.

Recurring issues from the minutes can be grouped as follows.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Personnel | 7. Community use |
| a. Hiring | a. Club rooms |
| b. Applications | b. Clubs |
| c. Policies | c. Organizations |
| 2. Maintenance | 8. Improvements |
| a. Repairs | a. Furnishings, performance |
| b. Purchases | b. Landscaping |
| c. Vandalism, theft | c. Redecorating |
| 3. Finances | d. New library |
| a. Funding | 9. Librarian duties |
| b. Budget | a. Moving book stock |
| c. Schedule transfer | b. Purchasing books, equipment |
| d. Insurance | c. Programs, performance reports |
| e. Audits | d. State and national organizations |
| 4. Legislation | 10. Library function |
| 5. Ancillary plants | a. Rules |
| a. Branches | b. Regulations |
| b. School loans | c. Hours |
| c. Traveling libraries | 11. Donations |
| d. Bookmobile | 12. Meetings |
| 6. Board members | |

In order to provide detail, specific issues will be extracted from the minutes and followed as a continuous story through the entire period from 1902 to 1969; e.g., all items pertaining to personnel will be reported continuously without information from any other subject. There may be instances when information will appear in more than one category.

BOARD CONTROVERSY

Pursuant to state laws, the county commissioners appointed three individuals to comprise the board of trustees of the library. The Cheyenne Library Association, wishing to have representation on the board, appointed Louis Kirk. The exact issue which precipitated the request for clarification of the board composition from Clyde M. Watts, the county and prosecuting attorney, is not clear but subsequent events suggest that there was a difference of opinion regarding the selection of a librarian. The situation unfolds in the following sequence of board minutes.

Cheyenne, Wyoming
December 17, 1907

The trustees of the Laramie County Library Association this day met at the office of Charles W. Burdick at 8 p.m. There were present – Colin Hunter, George B. [sic] Rafter, Charles W. Burdick and Louis Kirk.

Mr. Burdick thereupon submitted the report of Clyde M. Watts, County and Prosecuting Attorney, upon the question whether Louis Kirk the trustee appointed by the Cheyenne Library Association was qualified to act as trustee under the law passed in 1907.

Upon the motion of C. W. Burdick, duly seconded that the report of Clyde M. Watts be adopted, the President of the Board, Colin Hunter, put the motion, and the vote being two for and two against, declared the same lost.

C. W. Burdick thereupon moved that the Board proceed with the election of a Secretary – the President stated that there was no vacancy in the office of Secretary and refused to put the motion.

C. W. Burdick thereupon moved that the Board proceed with the election of a Secretary and Treasurer and nominated Dr. George C. Rafter for said offices. Thereupon the President Colin Hunter declared said motion out of order. C. W. Burdick thereupon put the motion which was only voted upon by himself and Dr. George C. Rafter.

The President of the Board, Mr. Hunter and Mr. Kirk thereupon left the meeting.

Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Laramie County Public Library Association.

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Laramie County Public Library Association was held in Room 308 First National Bank Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming at 7:30 p.m. on the 17th day of December, A.D. 1907. The meeting was called to order by Colin Hunter, President, and there were in attendance at the

meeting Mr. Colin Hunter, Rev. [sic] George C. Rafter and Mr. C. W. Burdick. Mr. Louis Kirk was present and claimed the right to participate in the proceedings as a member of the Board.

Mr. Burdick stated that he thought the question of Mr. Kirk's right to sit as a member of the Board was not one that could be determined by the Board, but was fixed by the statute, and he presented for the consideration of the meeting the following opinion from the County and Prosecuting Attorney, to wit:

Cheyenne, Wyo.
Dec. 13, 1907
Hon. C. W. Burdick, City

Dear Mr. Burdick:

Some time ago you requested me to give you an opinion as to who constitutes the Board of Directors or Trustees of the County Library.

After carefully considering the matter I am of the opinion that up to and until Feb. 16, 1907, the Board consisted of three trustees appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and such associate trustees as might be named by organizations making certain donations as provided by Section 1022 of the Revised Statutes.

On Feb. 16, 1907, the Governor approved Senate file No. 5 now known as Chapter 45 Sessions Law 1907 re-enacting and amending Section 1022 among others.

I believe that under the decision of our Supreme Court in the State vs. Irvine, 84 Pac. 90 the legislature has authority to make this change.

I am therefore of the opinion that the Board of Trustees is composed of the three persons appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.

Respectfully,
Clyde M. Watts
County and Prosecuting Attorney
CMW-R

Mr. Burdick moved that the opinion of the County and Prosecuting Attorney be accepted and filed for the guidance of the Board.

The motion having been duly seconded, it was put by the President and Mr. [sic] Rafter and Mr. Burdick voted "aye" and Mr. Hunter voted "no." Mr. Kirk also tendered a negative vote.

Mr. Kirk asked to be advised what action would be taken by the Board with reference to the property donated by the Laramie County Library Association under the

provisions of Section 1022 Revised Statutes Wyoming 1899, provided that the opinion of the County Attorney presented to the meeting is a correct statement of the law.

Mr. Burdick stated that he believed that was a question upon which the Board should be advised by the County and Prosecuting Attorney in case the donors of such property made any demand upon the Board and that should it appear that said donors were entitled to the return of such property, it should, in his judgment, be returned and if the Board was without funds with which to meet such demand, the proper authorities should make some provision to equitably meet the demand.

Mr. Burdick then moved that the meeting proceed to the election of a secretary and treasurer of the Board. The motion was seconded but the chairman refused to put the question.

Mr. Burdick then put the question to the meeting and Mr. [sic] Rafter and Mr. Burdick voted "aye."

The Chairman then protested that Mr. Burdick had no authority to put the question to the meeting and Mr. Kirk objected that there had been no call for a negative vote.

Whereupon Mr. Burdick renewed his motion that the meeting proceed to the election of a secretary and treasurer of the Board of Directors.

The chairman refused to entertain the motion and ruled it out of order on the ground that there was no vacancy in the office of the secretary and treasurer.

Whereupon Mr. Burdick appealed from the decision of the chair and called for a vote upon the appeal.

The chairman refused to put the question of the appeal to the meeting.

Mr. Burdick then submitted to the meeting the question of whether the appeal should be sustained and called for the aye and nay votes, the result being as follows:

To sustain the appeal Mr. [sic] Rafter and Mr. Burdick voted "aye."

Against the appeal being sustained Mr. Hunter voted "no."

Mr. Kirk tendered a negative vote.

Whereupon Mr. Burdick declared that the appeal from the decision of the chair to have been sustained by a majority of the members of the Board.

Thereupon the President vacated the chair and left the meeting, as did Mr. Kirk. The Vice-president then took the chair and presided over the meeting. Upon motion duly seconded and carried the meeting proceeded to the election of a secretary and treasurer, and a ballot was taken resulting in the election of Rev. [sic] Geo. C. Rafter by the ballots of all present to be Secretary and Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Laramie County Public Library Association.

Upon motion duly seconded and carried the secretary and treasurer was directed to file with the Board of County Commissioners, for its approval, a proper bond, and to notify the County Treasurer of the election of Geo. C. Rafter as treasurer, and request him to turn over to the said treasurer the proceeds of the tax levy of 1906 authorized by Sections 1 and 2, Chapter 45, Session Laws 1907, amending and re-enacting Sections 1019 and 1020 of the Revised Statutes 1899.

The Board then stood in recess until 9 a.m. December 18, 1907.

At 9 a.m. December 18, 1907 the Board of Directors of the Laramie County Public Library Association resumed its meeting, there being present C. W. Burdick, vice-president and Geo. C. Rafter, secretary and treasurer.

The following communication addressed to the Board of County Commissioners of Laramie County was presented by the secretary and treasurer, and was authorized to be transmitted by him.

Cheyenne, Wyoming
December 18, 1907

To the Board of County Commissioners of Laramie County, Wyoming
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to an opinion rendered by the County and Prosecuting Attorney of Laramie County, Wyoming, to the effect that under the provisions of Chapter 45, Session Laws 1907, the Board of Directors of the Laramie County Public Library Association is now composed of and limited to the three appointees named by the County Commissioners of Laramie County.

The same Board of Directors of the Laramie County Public Library Association, at a meeting held on December 17, 1907, elected George C. Rafter, one of the three persons appointed by your honorable Board, as the treasurer of said Board of Directors.

In pursuance of such election, and the statute requiring said treasurer to give a bond for the faithful performance of his duties, I have the honor to transmit herewith such bond, and to request its approval by you.

Very truly yours,
Geo. C Rafter

The secretary and treasurer also submitted the following letter addressed to the County Treasurer, which was approved and ordered transmitted:

Cheyenne, Wyoming
December 18, 1907
Hon. John Schuneman, County Treasurer
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Laramie County Public Library Association held on December 17 A.D. 1907 the said Board in compliance with an opinion of the County and Prosecuting Attorney, to the effect that said Board of Directors is composed of, and limited to the three persons appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, elected as treasurer of said Board, Rev. [*sic*] Geo. C. Rafter, one of the persons appointed as a member thereof by the Board of County Commissioners.

As such treasurer elect, I have filed with the Board of County Commissioners, a bond for the faithful performance of my duties as treasurer, and have the honor to request that at the proper time, when you have computed the County Library Fund resulting from the tax levied therefore during the year 1907, that you transmit the same to me as treasurer of the Laramie County Public Library Association, and as the proper custodian of such fund.

Very truly yours,
George C. Rafter
Treasurer

The foregoing minutes were then read and approved as a correct record of what had taken place at the meeting and upon motion duly seconded and carried, the meeting then stood in recess until the 28th day of December A.D. 1907 at 10 o'clock a.m.

Vice-President
Attest:
Secretary George C. Rafter

Apparently the controversy involving Kirk and Burdick had further implications: Rose Martin was removed from the librarian's position and replaced by Cornelia Mills. Martin was the daughter of Judge J. A. Martin, a Democrat and Catholic, while Mills was a Republican and Episcopalian. Burdick was chairman of the Republican State Central Committee and Rafter was the former pastor of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Hunter and Kirk wanted Martin to have the position of librarian and Burdick and Rafter favored Mills. Burdick's objection to Martin was that she was a Democrat and he was concerned about too many Democrats. Rafter objected to her because she was Catholic and there was too much Catholic influence already with biographies of Cardinal Newman and Pope Pius on the shelves.

With Kirk off the board, Mills was appointed in February 1908. Kirk left the board at that time but in July 1909 he was re-appointed by the county commissioners. Hunter and Kirk now prevailed, and Martin was reappointed librarian. Mills supposedly had an illness and was paid for the "month she was in the hospital." Kirk served sporadically on the board until he died November 4, 1909.

The entire episode was thoroughly covered in the newspapers as "The Library Imbroglio" and "The Library and Office Brokerage," with editorials and outraged letters to the editors from both Democrats and Republicans, Catholics and Protestants. Burdick's response to Martin was that it was inconsequential and would "soon blow over," but it didn't.

Some of the questions in the newspaper letters wondered how a librarian who had satisfactorily served as acting librarian for so long could be replaced by a person with no experience who would require an instructor, and why did Burdick nearly double Martin's salary if she would stay on as assistant?

The response was statewide. A petition requesting a meeting to discuss the issue was signed by 122 of the leading women of the city; the board agreed to the meeting and set a date. The women were there but Hunter and Rafter were the only board members in attendance. Another date was set; again the women attended but no board member showed up.

A leading article in the *Cheyenne Daily Leader* stated that President Theodore Roosevelt was considering appointing Burdick to the U.S. Court of Appeals to replace Judge Willis Van Devanter. The article said that anyone who could collect and disburse \$50,000 to \$75,000 on a political campaign without disclosing any information, as Burdick did, should be a good choice for the position. Adjacent to this article were two letters about the political scheming of the library board of trustees.

Chapter 13: Personnel

This section may seem somewhat disjointed at times because items from the minutes may not have appeared in a previous meeting, having apparently been decided beforehand. Sometimes only a solution may be discussed and the problem must be deduced from this.

COUNTY LIBRARIANS DURING CARNEGIE ERA

Dates	Name	Comments
1886–	E. Mason Smith	Initial county librarian
Mar. 1902	Ethel Mills	Temporary
Mar. 1902–Oct. 1907	J. Ross Irvine	Resigned
Oct. 1907–Feb. 1908	Rose Martin	Acting librarian
Feb. 1908–July 1909	Cornelia Mills	Apparently ill
July 1909–Feb. 1913	Rose Martin	Resigned
Feb. 1913–June 1916	Genevera Brock	Resigned
June 1916–June 1927	Louella G. Moore	Died
June 1927–1943	Frances Mentzer	Resigned?
1943–1947	Louise S. Patterson	Resigned?
1947–1948	Gladys Dawson	Hired on one-year contract
1948–1966	Mary J. Carpenter	Longest tenured librarian
1966–1969	Stan Oliner	Continued in new building

The heart of a library is the librarian. In speaking of the work of the New York State Library School, Melvil Dewey said

I give each year a course of five lectures on qualifications of a librarian and point out under a half hundred different heads things we should demand in an ideal librarian; but when we have covered the whole field of scholarship and technical knowledge and training, we must confess that overshadowing all are the qualities of the man. To my thinking a great librarian must have a clear head, a strong hand, and above all a great heart. He must have a head as clear as the master in diplomacy; a hand as strong as he who quells the raging mob or leads great armies on to victory; and a heart as great as he who, to save others, will, if need be, lay down his life. Such shall be greatest among librarians; and, when I look into the future I am inclined to think that most of the men who will achieve this greatness will be women.

1902-1909

The first order of business upon opening the Carnegie library in 1902 was selecting staff. Ethel Mills was selected as temporary librarian, with an initial salary of \$30 per month.

At the same meeting, the need to hire an assistant librarian (at \$30 per month) was apparent. Applications for librarian were read.

J. Ross Irvine was eventually chosen as librarian and served until October 13, 1907 when he was granted a one-month leave of absence with pay. Mills was employed as a temporary replacement for Irvine at \$50 a month until he resigned. Rose Martin became the acting librarian until a new librarian could be selected. She was paid an extra \$30 for the month of September 1907.

When selecting the new librarian, there was a tie vote between Rose Martin and Cornelia Mills. (The conflict over the composition of the board is discussed in the *Minutes* chapter). Rafter nominated Mills and Hunter nominated Martin. When the conflict was resolved, Mills was selected (two votes for, one against) and Martin became assistant librarian. Subsequently, the composition of the board changed and Martin became librarian.

Applications for janitor were received from Fry, Keeler, Williams, Evans, and Davis. The decision was left to Colin Hunter, the president of the board of trustees. C. P. Davis was selected as janitor at a salary of \$50 per month. Soon thereafter, Davis was discharged and was replaced by Pete Smith.

At the February 11, 1908 meeting, salaries were increased to \$60 per month for the librarian and \$45 per month for the assistant librarian. Martin was given additional compensation to the equivalent of \$60 per month when she was acting librarian. Cornelia Mills served as librarian from February 1908 to July 1909 but there was little reference to her in the meeting minutes; she was apparently ill and was paid for a month while in hospital.

At a special meeting on March 7, 1908, a petition was presented by Mrs. Gibson Clark and Mrs. George P. Johnston asking that Rose Martin be the librarian. In July 1909, Martin replaced Cornelia Mills.

At a special meeting later in February 1908, the librarian's duties were delineated.

- A. Supervising employees
- B. \$20 per month for new books published in press
- C. Rebind 100 old books
- D. Monthly book stock report and moneys
- E. Rules regarding circulation department

At the April 1908 meeting, Francis Ries was elected assistant librarian at \$45 per month and Jessie Tupper was hired part-time at 20 cents per hour. In November, the secretary informed Moorhouse (janitor) that his "services were no longer required" and he was paid for twelve days of work. No reason was given for his release. The following month, Ballinger was hired as janitor for \$50 per month.

In February 1909, Mills was given a two-month vacation. At the July 1909 meeting, Rose Martin was selected librarian. Monthly salaries were \$60 for librarian, \$45 for assistant librarian, \$11.25 for second assistant librarian, and \$50 for janitor. Martin's salary was later raised to \$75 per month. Henceforth staff would be paid at the end of the month without monthly board action.

1910-1919

Rose Martin resigned in February 1913 and Genevera Brock was appointed librarian, Elizabeth Gill assistant librarian, and Bessie Cook apprentice librarian.

In November 1915, Marion Treat was employed for \$20 per month and Miss Bristol also received \$20 per month. Brock resigned in June 1916 and was replaced by Louella Moore at \$70 per month.

In August 1917, Marion Treat, assistant librarian, resigned. Applications for her job were made by Minnie John, Mabel LaFontaine, and Alice Warkley (who had previously applied). Action was tabled until the regular September meeting. The librarian was authorized to explore employing an experienced cataloger, as cataloging books had become nearly a full-time job.

In September, LaFontaine was selected for the assistant librarian position if she would start work immediately without pay. If her work was satisfactory by October 1, she would be paid \$35 per month until January 1, 1918; if she declined, Warkley would be selected. Gill was refused a request for a raise due to a lack of funds.

In October, a letter was received from Miss Clatworthy regarding the cataloger job and the board decided to respond later. A second assistant position was discussed and Alice Warkley was offered the position at \$35 per month. In December, Vera Kayser from Bellevue, Nebraska applied to be temporary cataloger. Board secretary W. C. Deming was asked to write to her for references, salary expectation, etc. A return letter from Kayser included references from Edith Tobin (Omaha Public Library) and Willis Kerr (Kansas State Normal Library). She asked for \$75 per month. She was engaged to start work as soon as possible after the first of the year and supplies were ordered for her.

Assistant librarian Alice Warkley resigned in her first month and was paid \$17.50. Eta Dobbins and Eva Keppler applied for the assistant position, but Evelyn Jensen had applied before either and was selected to start as soon as needed and could be arranged with her.

By spring 1918, it was obvious that cataloging would require more time than allowed in Kayser's contract. It was decided that she should continue until the work was completed, if possible, and her salary was increased to \$85 per month. Vacations were allowed at the discretion of the librarian and LaFontaine was allowed four weeks.

In August, Evelyn Jensen resigned and her replacement was delayed until other applications could be reviewed. A month later it was decided that Eva Keppler should replace Jensen. Mrs. Cranor was made temporary assistant until cataloging was completed.

In October, for an unexplained reason it was decided that applications for employment of taxpayers should be held until their signatures were investigated. It was also decided that if salaries for the librarian and assistants were raised, working hours should be increased to seven hours per day.

1920-1929

In the spring of 1922, the instability of the work force became apparent. Dorothy Hall resigned and Marion Cook, who had previously applied, was contacted for the job. Within a month, Cook had moved and Georgia Prosser, who also had applied, was unavailable. Dorcas How, an experienced librarian who had previously applied, was engaged temporarily.

In September there was a vacancy for assistant librarian. Alice Swan, Earnistine [*sic*] Brown, and Eva Squire applied and Swan was accepted. Because the Auditorium was being used for school classes, there was an increase in the amount of janitorial work and John Pierce was accordingly paid an extra \$10 per month. Pierce was granted a salary increase to \$100 per month in October 1923 at his request. He was also given half a month's pay in lieu of vacation and was reimbursed for hiring another janitor when he was ill.

In February 1924, the position of assistant librarian was officially established with a salary of \$100 per month. Mary Carpenter was appointed to that position.

In March, librarian Louella Moore was granted a leave of absence due to illness for two months with pay and was advanced \$250 for March and April. In December she resigned. She had had only three weeks of vacation in two and a half years of service. She was granted one and a half month's pay (\$150) in lieu of vacation.

September 1926 saw the resignation of Dorothea Foster Stout and led to applications by Eva Guy, Gertrude Carey Hicks, Frances Mentzer, Nellie Feredove, Elsie M. Hoster, and Josephine Stimson. After discussion, the decision was tabled for a special meeting, when Mentzer was selected at \$75 per month.

Moore died in May 1927 at age 53 after eleven years of service. She was honored by a glowing eulogy at her funeral. In the newspaper of June 2, 1927, Reverend J. C. Blackman noted that she was born April 29, 1874 in Ionia, Michigan, went to school there, and eventually married Reverend John Wright Moore, her childhood sweetheart. They had two daughters. Rev. Moore had two parishes in Wheatland and Douglas, Wyoming but died prematurely in a railroad accident, while Mrs. Moore worked for Associated Charities until she was appointed Carnegie librarian in June 1916. During her tenure as county librarian, she was well liked, very active as a speaker, and particularly effective in expanding the out-of-town library circulation.

After Moore's death, Frances Mentzer was appointed head librarian at \$125 per month. She was given a six-week leave of absence to take a course in cataloging. Josephine Stimson was appointed assistant at \$75 per month and Esther Rockafeld was hired as assistant during the summer for \$50 per month. In a plethora of applications from K. Gilbert Crawl, Mary Wolcott, Helen Cook, Grace S. Tod, and Nancy Haggard (who was allowed to work to learn), Tod was hired for a short time in June.

In April 1928, Rockafeld was again hired for the summer months. Josephine Stimson was allowed a one-month leave of absence without pay in addition to her regular vacation.

LaFontaine became ill in June 1928 and was allowed as much time as she needed to recover with full pay. Although there was no official sick leave at the time, this action amounted to the same thing. In August, the librarian was instructed to write to LaFontaine urging her not to return to work until October 1 so she would be fully recovered; however, she would receive no more pay after that date until she returned to work. She returned after October 1 and was given easy work as much as possible. At the same meeting, the decision was made to pay Rockafeld \$75 per month, backdated to the time she started working, since she had been working the hours of a regular assistant.

Librarian Frances Mentzer was permitted to leave on December 15, 1928 to go to California for the holidays. (The absence of policy regarding leave and vacation required the board to make these decisions at regular meetings.) In June, Miss McFaun was allowed to have her usual two-week vacation with pay.

In September 1929, a high school girl was hired for afternoons to be paid from the fine fund (money collected for overdue books, damaged books, and other penalties).

1930-1939

In January 1931, Esther Rockafeld was granted a one-month leave of absence without pay to take library school training. In the fall of 1931, it was decided to train a high school girl for the summer months. Mrs. Leonard was given a one-month vacation starting December 18.

At the February 1932 meeting, it was announced that Madeline Wyer, the daughter of the University of Denver (DU) library school dean and a DU student, was to come for a two-week training period. This reflected the outstanding quality of the Carnegie library staff.

By this time the effect of the Great Depression was evident and ways to reduce the payroll were considered. It was decided that instead of a one-month vacation without pay, all salaries would be cut by ten percent and salaries would be adjusted by rounding off. There was no explanation whether this would be to the nearest dollar or nearest cent. All applicants would be informed that there would be no vacancies until June.

In May 1933, Mrs. Fitch was hired by the hour during the summer months as needed. The county librarian was instructed to write to other libraries regarding leave and vacation policies. Later correspondence from these libraries with information regarding vacations, salaries, and working hours resulted in a decision to reduce vacations to twenty-one days, except for Marion Mabie who would get fourteen days. She would also be paid from regular funds instead of the fine fund monies. By August, there was discussion regarding help during the winter. It was decided to use part-time assistants working approximately twenty-two hours a week at \$25 per month.

Assistant librarian Catherine Mitchell resigned December 23 and was replaced by Margaret Goodrich at \$75 per month, who would get a raise after six months if her work was satisfactory. Mabie became a full-time assistant in charge of the Children's Room at \$60 per month.

The lack of personnel policy regarding sick leave was discussed at the December 1933 meeting. It was decided that staff would be allowed two weeks of sick leave with pay and after two weeks the pay for a replacement would be deducted from the employee's salary. No further policy changes regarding leave and vacation were made. Mentzer was allowed a two-week vacation at Christmas time. Mary Grier and Esther Carroll resigned; Grier was not replaced but Mrs. Fitch was to be used when necessary. Carroll would not leave until after her vacation. Miss Goodrich became assistant September 1 at \$110 per month. Louise Patterson became assistant at \$75 per month with a raise in six months if her work was satisfactory.

By January 1936 the economy had improved and the board discussed resuming one-month vacations for the staff which were implemented in March. Margaret Goodrich resigned in September and her position was not refilled. Mentzer was requested to check with the American Library Association about trained librarians in Wyoming.

In the spring of 1938, the salaries of the librarian and all assistants were raised to pre-Depression amounts. Summer employment was discussed. Elizabeth Gilley was allowed two weeks leave of absence plus her regular one-month vacation to go to summer school. Helen Hay applied for summer employment and was told that a permanent position was needed.

Ruth M. Curtis, who would graduate from the University of Denver library school in June, applied for the position. Mentzer was asked to contact the director of the library school for information about the applicant. She would have a personal interview after salary and working hours were determined. In June, Curtis was hired to fill the position in the Children's Room at \$100 per month. In July, the Board decided that assistant librarian Louise Patterson would be paid her regular July salary but would have to pay her substitute for the time she was home with her sick mother, and that Esther Carroll would be paid by the library for the time she substituted for Patterson who was away for two weeks at the time of her mother's death.

At the May 1939 meeting Elizabeth Gilley was given another two weeks leave of absence to attend summer school.

1940-1949

By June 1940 LaFontaine was unable to work because of illness and was instructed to pay a substitute and appear at the next board meeting. Gilley was given leave of absence without pay to finish summer school at Columbia University. In late summer, the board had a discussion regarding retirement policy and Mentzer was instructed to get information from other libraries regarding these issues. In September, LaFontaine was told by Mentzer that she must return to work for three and half hours per day for \$50 per month as a temporary arrangement. By October, however, it was apparent that her health would not permit her to return to work.

At the November 1941 meeting Ruth Curtis, the Children's Room librarian, announced her plan to resign February 1, 1942 to be married. Miss Howe, director of the University of Denver library school, suggested four possible candidates and Mentzer was instructed to get more information about them. In December, Miss Gingerich from Delta, Colorado and another candidate met with the board. If necessary, Mary O'Donnell was also to be interviewed.

In 1943, Louise Patterson replaced Frances Mentzer as the county librarian.

In April 1944, the board asked Patterson to compile a list of all the library employees and the hours which they worked, and also the circulation data for 1942 and 1944 to present to the county commissioners. In September, she called attention to the fact that there were upcoming vacancies in the staff which should be filled when they occurred. She was instructed to present any applications on hand to the board secretary with her recommendations for board consideration.

At the July 1945 meeting Patterson reported that Mrs. May, the Burns librarian, intended to resign. The board told Patterson that they would discuss salaries and consider her request for a new assistant.

In January 1946, Evalyn Crocker was hired to start work immediately at \$120 per month. The treasurer was told to prepare a new salary schedule for consideration at the next meeting and the board discussed hiring policy because of the difficulty refilling vacancies. The director of the DU library school had previously suggested that since trained librarians were scarce, the Carnegie library should train their own. It is doubtful that the current board members or the county librarian were aware of this suggestion, but it was endorsed after the discussion. The plan was to hire for a training period Cheyenne or Laramie County residents who would be capable and had a desire to pursue a career in library work. This would establish a large pool of potential employees who would be available as needed, avoiding the county librarian frequently facing a shortage of help. After discussing appropriation and future income at the meeting in January, the treasurer presented the salary schedule as directed:

1. Mrs. Louise Patterson\$185.00
2. Miss Mary Carpenter135.00
3. Mrs. Eva Fitch.....135.00
4. Mrs. Evalyn Crocker120.00
5. Mr. A. Spaulding..... increase of 10.00
6. All branch assistants increase of 5.00
7. Extra help paid on basis of 75 cents per hour

Patterson was apprised of this schedule by letter.

A confidential report to a trustee of the Natrona County library board regarding salaries, county demographics, and book circulation was presented on May 14, 1948 and signed by Mary Carpenter, assistant librarian.

There were two special meetings in December 1945. At the first meeting, Patterson was told that the library must not be closed or hours curtailed under any circumstances without permission of the board. It was agreed that 75 cents per hour would be paid to the present staff for extra services and that an attempt would be made to hire more staff in the future. At the second meeting, as promised, J. W. Richardson was employed on a full-time basis for \$120 per month and she would be available for extra services as needed.

In September 1946, Carpenter and Fitch resigned. When Patterson resigned, Gladys Dawson applied for the position as county librarian in October. She was hired for one year with a yearly salary of \$2,400. Vacation and sick leave policies were reviewed at the October 1946 meeting.

In 1948, Mary Carpenter was rehired as head librarian, replacing Dawson who had been hired for only one year. There was no explanation for the hiatus occasioned by Carpenter's resignation as assistant in 1946 and her return in 1948 as head librarian.

1950-1959

In the summer of 1958, the director of the University of Denver library school advised Mary Carpenter that she should plan to train local people for employment because the high demand for DU students would prevent local libraries from getting them. By fall, the janitor was felt to be "uncooperative and generally dissatisfied with the work required" so he was given two-week notice and replaced.

By spring of 1959 the board found it necessary to consider pay increases for the staff. It was impossible to get professionally-trained applicants so the librarian and one full-time assistant had a heavy workload. The budget could afford the increases and the county librarian was asked to prepare a new pay schedule. The base schedule was to be \$300, \$245, \$220 per month, third assistant increase \$15, second assistant increase \$50, part-time increase \$20.

At the July meeting these salary increases were approved. In October, Mrs. Soden requested shorter hours because of her health and would probably leave in the coming year. Carol Carver, who had studied library science at the University of Wyoming, was hired and trained in cataloging.

1960-1969

In May 1960, Cora Lou Knappe from the University of Arizona library school was employed as the adult assistant.

In February 1962, Mrs. Tierney died after working only ten days; she had endeared herself to the staff in that short period of time. Mary Ireland, who had library experience, filled the vacancy.

In March, the Library Services Act (LSA) memorandum regarding funding for library science scholarships for summer school was received but there were no candidates; it was expected that there would be candidates the next year. An application for assistant position from a student at Arkansas State Teachers College seemed acceptable but the board chose to wait for references.

In February 1963, Libby Poindexter was offered a position as assistant but didn't accept because she had a scholarship at Arkansas State Teachers College. Carpenter therefore had to train two applicants for the available openings.

In the 1963 annual report, Carpenter expressed disappointment with progress in adopting Public Library Standards (May 1963) for the staff. One adult assistant resigned and could not be replaced. The head assistant in the system for sixteen years took leave in the spring of 1963 and after that the position depended on part-time help.

Carpenter resigned in 1966 after eighteen years of service, the longest of any tenured county librarian in the system. She was replaced by Stan Oliner, who guided the library through the Carnegie building closure and the construction and first years of the Central Avenue building.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS

While the number of books issued reflects part of the work done by the staff, it does not indicate the true workload. Other duties include helping patrons locate books and other information, supervising children in the Children's Room, planning and implementing special programs, and more.

The following table lists the minimum and maximum number of assistant librarians employed each year. These may not have been full-time employees. Some were hired to fill absences due to vacations or illnesses and some served a short time during an unusual increase in workload. Nevertheless, there is a gradual increase in the numbers as the years pass. The workload in the last five years of the Carnegie library reflects increased activity and the need for a newer, larger building.

1947.....	11-15	1959.....	12-16
1948.....	13-16	1960.....	11-17
1949.....	n/a	1961.....	14-18
1950.....	n/a	1962.....	13-16
1951.....	10-15	1963.....	14-18
1952.....	n/a	1964.....	14-17
1953.....	11-15	1965.....	13-18
1954.....	n/a	1966.....	18-21
1955.....	12-17	1967.....	14-18
1956.....	11-16	1968.....	13-20
1957.....	11-14	1969.....	13-28
1958.....	12-16		

Chapter 14: Librarian's Duties and Functions

The library functioned through the efforts of the county librarian, whose duties included personnel matters, special programs, property and book condition, circulation performance, public relations, membership in library organizations, and a multitude of tasks difficult to categorize.

BOOK STOCK

When the library opened in March 1902, the librarian was authorized to move all the books from Central School into the new building and to obtain janitorial supplies and other supplies for maintenance. One of the first purchases, however, was a book of technical works on library management for \$15. The board also authorized the first list of new books.

At the June 1908 meeting, acting librarian Rose Martin was instructed by the board to notify the federal government to stop sending government books and documents. As noted elsewhere, the shelves in the Children's Room were occupied by these items. Martin was also allowed to dispose of all the old magazines stored in the attic as she saw fit. It was decided that the magazines were not to be given away until they had been classified. Two boys were hired to do this for \$1 per six-hour day and duplicate attic magazines were then given away. To complete the 1908 reference files, Martin was to obtain missing numbers of important periodicals.

In August 1909, a committee consisting of the board secretary and librarian Rose Martin was appointed to select books. At the meeting in May 1911, there was an earnest discussion regarding new books and a strategy to increase the use of the library. The value of children's reading was emphasized; patronage was increasing but should be greater. It was pointed out that not only should children be taught to read more but to read more wisely. It was also noted that children from the south and west sides of the city were showing much more interest in reading. Cards were issued beginning in third grade. In July 1913, two and a half years of *Outlook* magazine were bound. *Outlook* was first published in 1902 by the American Seventh-day Adventists.

In 1915, books were sent to Divide, Carpenter, Golden Prairie, Burns, Pine Bluffs, Iron Mountain, Diamond, Archer, and Jarre. In the fall of 1916, the juvenile department was separated from the main library with its own librarian.

In 1918, the nonfiction books were re-cataloged and indexed by subject matter. By 1924 there had been a large increase in readers and especially an increase in nonfiction use, which then amounted to fourteen percent of the issue.

In September 1927, a new concept in library circulation was established under the name Pay Shelf which allowed patrons to get a new book immediately. The Pay Shelf contained recent fiction, classic, travel, and biography books. (There was another copy in the library, but due to popularity it might be months before it could be borrowed.) The Pay Shelf books were issued for 10 cents each and when the cost of the book was recovered, the book was sent to a branch library. The popularity of the Pay Shelf resulted in 5,650 books issued in the first three months. The fee money was used to buy new books which were added to the Pay Shelf annually. In its first six months, Pay Shelf fees allowed the purchase of eighty-

eight new books. In October the newspaper was apprised of the spectacular success of the Pay Shelf.

At the September board meeting it was decided to pay special attention to the Children's Room and to reference material. There was discussion of moving the Children's Room to the Auditorium but this was delayed until after the next budget.

At the December 1930 board meeting, the county librarian reported that the November book issue was the largest of any month in the history of the library.

At the October 1932 meeting, the board decided that in the future, book purchases would be made through the Wilcox Shop, rather than Baker and Taylor, to vouch for their satisfactory condition. It was reported that this was effective and books were satisfactory.

At the March 1933 meeting, the county librarian reported that from February 13 to 18, 1,953 people borrowed 4,173 books, an average of 2.13 books per person.

The 1940 annual report noted that the borrowers' file was very active since library cards were valid for only one year and if not used, were revoked. In 1940 there were 10,736 borrowers.

County librarian Mary Carpenter started an inventory of the entire book stock in 1952, suspecting that the book inventory of 84,954 was inaccurate. When completed on June 30, 1953, the true book stock was 57,613. Apparently as books were acquired, they were added to the book stock but none were ever subtracted when discarded for various reasons.

In March 1959, Encyclopedia Britannica provided thirty-four new film strips for \$204 with a reduction of \$64 for thirty-four old black and white films.

In 1960, through the auspices of the Library Services Act, 756 books were purchased for branch libraries as dictated by LSA regulations. Branches and schools were consulted regarding their needs. The South Side branch received 116 books, the Albin branch 150, the Burns branch 136, the main library 164, and the Pine Bluffs branch 192. LSA funds allowed the purchase of books not likely to have been bought otherwise. Most of the books were adult nonfiction. Each branch had its own catalog system but the main library cataloged all books in the entire system to keep track of locations.

Patrons J. M. Fogel and William Veta attended the February 1960 board meeting to ask the board to remove *The American Mercury* magazine from the collection, claiming that it contained dangerous propaganda. The magazine, a product of journalist H. L. Mencken, was the center of controversy in the 1920s with court battles over alleged obscene content. The issue was taken under advisement by the board but there was no mention of a decision.

In October, the board received a letter from the librarian of the Bismarck (North Dakota) Public Library asking if they were interested in joining a regional film cooperative project for film circulation among libraries. There was no interest.

At the 1962 February meeting, it was decided to join the Bibliographical Center for Research cooperative library network so it was necessary to raise \$125.

At the end of 1964, the county librarian reported that all of the libraries in the system had increased circulation with the largest percentage in Pine Bluffs.

The diversity of the book stock was not appreciated by all patrons as evidenced by this anonymous, undated letter to either the county librarian or trustees.

To whom it may concern,

I believe that this book and ones of its kind should be banned from our public libraries for obvious reasons. I'm sure that Mr. Dale [sic] Carnegie never meant for his libraries to be desecrated with trash of this kind.

The letter continued on to deplore such literature but there was no mention of the book's title or author. Perhaps Dale Carnegie would have been offended by the book but who knows how Andrew Carnegie would have reacted.

STATIONS

In the 1911 annual report, the librarian reported that the traveling libraries were very popular. Boxes of thirty books were sent to stations in Luther/Burns, Carpenter, Pine Bluffs, Hillsdale, Meriden, Iron Mountain, Chugwater, and Wheatland.

FURNISHINGS

At the November 1913 meeting, librarian Genevera Brock was instructed to secure bids for new folding chairs for the hall. Bids for eight dozen chairs were received from Perry Smith (\$134), Gleason (\$126), and Peabody Indiana (\$88). A sample was requested from Peabody and after examining it, the bid was accepted. Brock ordered eight dozen at \$9 per dozen plus \$2 freight.

In April 1957 desks, chairs, and a table encyclopedia stand were purchased for the South Side branch. These items were to be purchased from war surplus sources if possible.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

According to the 1913 annual report, Lida Gaylord established a Saturday afternoon story hour. Her salary of \$5 per month was paid by the city clubs. Due to lack of funds, it was necessary to discontinue the weekly story hour in 1914.

In February 1937, the library sent a bill to the Public Works Administration (PWA) for lighting for their December–January art exhibit in the Auditorium. The PWA and the city both refused to pay. After the library said the exhibit would close April 1 if the bill was not paid, the city agreed to pay \$40 for the exhibit through May 1 and then close it. The city ended up paying \$35 and the exhibit closed April 15.

In November 1940, the Girl Scout's Library Service was started at Memorial Hospital. Books were delivered three times a week to the hospital via book cart. In addition, requests were taken for delivery at the next visit. (See the table of circulation for number of books issued.)

There were a number of regularly occurring events which were infrequently mentioned in annual reports and board meetings. National Book Week took place every year but it is uncertain when the Carnegie library first participated. The last Saturday of the 1928 book week was a record day in library history with 987 books issued. Children attended the library by school grades. Pine Bluffs participated for the first time in National Book Week from November 17-22, 1930. After a discussion at their meeting, the board visited the Children's Room while the third grade classes were there during the 1931 National Book Week. At the 1932 Book Week, all students through junior high school attended for twenty-minute visits. In 1935 children attended National Book Week during the day and their parents were invited to attend in the evening. In 1938, fourteen hundred new children's books were exhibited.

Special displays and programs were common but not always acknowledged in annual reports. In the 1942 report, county librarian Frances Mentzer took the opportunity to correct this.

July	Wyoming brands and Frontier Posters (adult), Juvenile Book Club, Treasure Hunt
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August	Mexico (adult), Juvenile Book Club
September	America by Choice Maps of the World (adult), Historical Novels, High School books, From Sea to Shining Sea maps and books (Juvenile)
October	Thunder Head, Music books (Adult)
November	Fantastic Poster on Repairing and Mending (Adult), two books not about the war??
December	Christmas (Adult, Juvenile), Little House Scene (Juvenile)
January	Arm Chair Travel (Adult)

Not to be outdone, Louise Patterson listed these events in the 1945-1946 annual report:

KG art exhibit
 Four PTA programs
 Tea for 4-H
 Twenty-two story hours
 Exhibits for 4-H clubs, PTA, National Book Week, Caldecott and Newbery prizes
 Meetings
 Home economics classes
 UW extension division
 Child guidance clinics
 County teachers' institutes
 Housing committee meetings
 Family relationship groups
 Study and book review clubs
 Summer reading club
 Wizard of Oz celebration
 Boy and Girl Scout camps
 Women's clubs
 Church groups

She also kept a clipping file of servicemen and women for the state historian, added out-of-print Western American materials to the reference collection, helped veterans with personal adjustment material and job-finding, and located old and new books for kids.

A reading club for grades 4-6 was held June 3 to July 8, 1959. Eighty children attended the first meeting and fifty joined for the balance of the sessions. The South Side branch also had a reading club for the summer but the Saturday story hour was discontinued until September.

At the 1963 annual orientation program, 985 sixth grade students visited the main library and the branch libraries.

In 1965, a summer reading club was held from June 9 to July 15 at the main library and the South Side branch, while the Burns summer reading club met weekly. Children's Book Week was held in the fall.

WORKSHOPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Cheyenne library hosted a local workshop in the summer of 1965 and a regional workshop in the fall. The spring regional workshop was held in Wheatland. In May the library system, assisted by state library personnel, hosted the Wyoming Library Association

(WLA) conference. In May 1920, county librarian Louella Moore was authorized to attend the American Library Association (ALA) conference in Colorado Springs with all expenses paid.

In September 1928, the ALA county supervisor paid a visit and stated that she thought it advisable that the librarian attend the national ALA meeting in the spring. Frances Mentzer attended the meeting in Washington, D.C. from May 13 to 18, 1929. Her expenses were \$219.95, with \$19.95 coming from fine fund monies. She reported on the conference and discussed some of the new ideas presented there.

In October 1929, Mentzer attended the WLA conference in Thermopolis. She attended the 1930 ALA conference in Los Angeles with expenses paid from the fine fund monies and reported it at the July board meeting. She also attended the joint Colorado-Wyoming library association conference in Boulder, Colorado from October 8 to 10, 1931. In 1932 she attended the ALA conference in New Orleans.

At the July 1932 meeting, the board received a letter from the Wyoming State Library Association urging them to attend the annual meeting in Casper on September 12 and 13. The library staff was given time off if they chose to go. The county librarian's report at the next board meeting suggests that few, if any, board members chose to attend.

The Wyoming State Library Association conference was held in Cheyenne on September 11 and 12, 1933. County librarian Frances Mentzer and assistant librarian Louise Patterson went to the Wyoming State Library Association conference in Cody in June 1935 on the condition that the library would pay only their train fare, which was \$46.20.

In the spring of 1937, Mentzer asked to be sent to New York City for the annual ALA conference, the expenses being \$200. No board action was taken but at the following meeting it was announced that under Wyoming statute, it was illegal to send the county librarian to the ALA conference.

The 1937 WSLA conference was held in Green River on September 13 and 14.

In July 1939, county librarian Louise Patterson was allowed \$50 from the fine fund monies for her actual expenses for the ALA meeting in San Francisco.

At the August 1943 meeting a motion was approved to invite the American Library Association to hold their regional conference in Cheyenne.

In 1950, the Wyoming Library Association was deciding what the dues should be for each county library system. County libraries submitted their total receipts, which ranged from \$1,059.05 for Lincoln County to \$33,069.14 for Laramie County. A note in elegant script at the bottom of the list read:

Jay –

Please vote and return to me. Where do you think the division point should be? Who should pay 300 W.L.A. Institutional dues? Who should pay 500 ones? Do you think \$10,000 budget should be the dividing line or \$15,000? I'm happy about your baby but sorry to lose a good member (maybe).

Sincerely,
Iona

County librarian Mary Carpenter attended the ALA meeting in Kansas City from June 24 to 29, 1957. In 1958, she attended the ALA convention in San Francisco. The 1959 WLA meeting was held in Laramie.

The WLA met in Worland on May 4 and 5, 1962. Carpenter, who was on the committee to draft standards for Wyoming libraries, and the assistant librarian attended. Upon Carpenter's return, she gave a report on the conference and the work done on the standards. She reported that the Library Services Act might be modified by the legislature to amend the 10,000 population rule, which limited funding.

The WLA conference in 1965 was in Cheyenne and a budget of \$300 for planning was provided. Helen Gilman, the Burns librarian, attended the WLA workshop in Powell in the summer of 1965. She asked that the library pay the \$15 fee necessary for her to get course credits from the University of Wyoming, which was approved. Mrs. Bell also attended the workshop.

August was a busy month. In addition to the Powell workshop, there was a joint meeting of the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) and the Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNWLA) in Denver. Carpenter and Mrs. Schliske attended the librarians' sessions and board member Robert St. Clair attended the library trustee section of the joint meeting. These meetings were truly impressive and comprehensive, representing a large number of libraries and great expertise.

The MPLA consisted of Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. The PNWLA included Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

The result of the attendance of the Carnegie contingent, who were duly impressed with their experience and felt that it was time well spent, was a decision for the Carnegie library board of trustees to all become members of MPLA. Librarian and staff attended MPLA conventions regularly thereafter. The 1959 meeting was in Colorado Springs and the MPLA met in Cheyenne from August 31 to September 2, 1961. F. F. Carhart, Jr. of the ALA Technical Project discussed issues such as library furniture, charging systems, and insurance which was quite helpful. There was a short talk about buildings by Horace Moses of the Salina Public Library.

Chapter 15: Library Function, Rules, Regulations, and Hours

The library opened May 19, 1902 and was to be open every day except Sunday and legal holidays. Initially, hours were 2–5 p.m. and 7–9:30 p.m. but soon were changed to 10 a.m.–4 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and 4–10 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. By fall, it was obvious that the hours needed to be increased to accommodate everyone. The new schedule had the library open daily (except Sunday) from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For some reason in February 1906, it was decided to close daily from noon to 1 p.m. and from 6 to 7 p.m. After a couple of years it was decided to change hours to 9 a.m.–9 p.m. on weekdays and 2–6 p.m. on Sundays.

Operating hours and days varied considerably over the years. Sometimes the library was open on Sundays, sometimes not. In the summer of 1913, the library was closed in July, when the librarian took her vacation, and August. In the fall of 1917, the Reading Room was opened on Sundays from 3 to 6 p.m. By the summer of 1928, it was apparent that there was a need for the library to remain open at noon. It was decided during 1930 to close the Children's Room in the evening, but parents could obtain children's books on their own card.

The subject of evening hours was always contentious. At the October 1941 meeting, the question of evening hours arose again and to decide whether or not they were worthwhile, the library was to be open from 6 to 7 p.m. for one month and the usage recorded and reported. In January 1958, the county librarian polled the libraries in Laramie, Casper, Scottsbluff, Greeley, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and Fort Collins regarding evening hours. All had evening hours from 6 to 7 p.m., excepting Saturday and Sunday, with no children after 6 p.m. It was decided that the Carnegie library would follow suit and schedule staff accordingly. The hours were instituted April 1 but the library did not exclude children.

RULES

In February 1908, rules for the circulation department were presented to the board. Parts of the rules were adopted in April and the remainder was tabled for further discussion. At the August meeting, the rest of the rules were accepted and copies were made for the president of the board and to be posted in the library. Library fines were defined and all disputes were to be presented to the board. In November, Mrs. Markeley's and Adah Reid's fines were reduced to 50 cents and Mrs. Welnitz's fine was cancelled.

In the spring of 1917, the library rules were discussed and revised, and five thousand copies were printed to be distributed where needed. In October 1919, the board decided that city school teachers could take out books for children with a time limit of one month if they accepted the responsibility. Apparently there was difficulty getting people to return books so at the March 1920 meeting, it was decided to consult the county attorney for advice. He told them that the names of those refusing to return books should be referred to him for legal action.

In the fall, the school superintendent requested the use of the library Assembly Room [Auditorium?] for high school classes. This was approved providing they used the north entrance instead of the main entrance, a teacher was present at all times, the doors to the lobby were locked when students were present, any damage would be paid for by the school board, and \$26 per month was paid for lighting and maintenance.

Damage to books and magazines resulted in a 1921 state law regarding mutilation of library literature with fines and rewards for reporting said damage. Posters of these provisions were made and distributed.

In January 1923, the superintendent of schools was interviewed regarding a study of the number of children using the library. He asked if school principals could be allowed to sign for library cards for children of foreign-born parents who were unable to read the library regulations. His request was approved.

In October 1925, a rule was added prohibiting “refreshments upstairs” and only “light refreshments downstairs” but there was no definition of upstairs and downstairs (there were two floors and a basement).

In January 1929, it was decided to abolish the limit on the number of books one could borrow at a time; however, only one current fiction book could be checked out at a time.

A staff member decided to take vacation time for 1930 during the last two weeks of January 1931, which led to a rule that in the future, all vacations must be taken in the summer.

In the 1940 annual report, county librarian Frances Mentzer reported that the borrowers’ file had been very active and had become quite large, totaling 10,736 that year. Since library cards were issued and valid for only one year, it was decided to remove the cards from the file if not used for one year.

By December 1956, it was necessary to establish a pass system because of the abuse of acceptable library behavior by high school students. The pass was issued by the student’s teacher, confirming an assignment requiring library research with the date, teacher’s signature, and the student’s name. The policy was later amended to include junior high school students, and eventually one individual was hired for four nights a week for \$1.40 per hour just to keep order.

In the summer of 1961, the state librarian issued a policy for all libraries in the state regarding lending to high school students. The following memorandum explains:

WYOMING STATE LIBRARY

Supreme Court Building

Cheyenne, Wyoming

August 29, 1961

CHANGE IN LENDING POLICY FOR CHEYENNE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The State Library, Archives and Historical Board has decided that the State Library can best serve the entire state by placing all schools, including Cheyenne, on a uniform service basis.

The Board has, therefore, adopted the following lending policy for Cheyenne High School students, effective September 5, 1961:

1. Books will be loaned to the school librarian for a period of four (4) weeks.
2. Periodicals and documents will be loaned to the school librarian for a period of two (2) weeks.

3. Individual teachers may continue to borrow direct as they have in the past. Loans to individual teachers will be for the usual time periods, i.e., books and documents for two weeks; periodicals for four days.
4. All student borrower's cards have been cancelled, and no new student cards will be issued. Due to limitations of staff and space, high school students will no longer be permitted to do research in the State Library.

Each high school librarian will notify teachers on procedures to be followed in arranging interlibrary loans from the State Library.

In January 1965, county librarian Mary Carpenter presented a revised book selection policy to the board. It was checked by Miss Mortensen, the state library consultant provided by the Library Services and Construction Act (see *Legislation*). Following her review, it was accepted and adopted in March. The next step in revising policies and regulations was a policy for book circulation.

STANDARDS

In the annual report of 1946, county librarian Louise Patterson included a copy of a letter she had sent to the county commissioners. In the letter, she discussed the American Library Association's standards with regard to professional staffing and facilities for service to the public. She listed seven recommendations to enable the library to meet these standards:

1. Transfer overcrowded juvenile department to the auditorium to be headed by a professional juvenile librarian.
2. Establish modern "Teen-age" reading room in the former juvenile room.
3. Establish an Adult Education Program.
4. Reserve a section of the library for reference books.
5. Enlarge the staff with professional personnel with appropriate salaries.
6. Establish an audio-visual department.
7. Extend facilities of the library to all parts of the county through branches, stations, and a bookmobile.

The circulation system was changed to a more efficient operation and microfilm service was started in 1966.

Chapter 16: Branch Libraries

The first branch library was opened March 15, 1923 in Pine Bluffs with 1,199 books; the process was described in detail in the board minutes. In January 1923, the Women's Club from Pine Bluffs visited the main library with a request for a branch library. County librarian Louella Moore was instructed to visit Pine Bluffs as soon as possible, obtain information about the need, and report to the board. At the February meeting, she reported meeting with the Women's Club, the Lyons [*sic*] Club, and representatives from the school board to discuss a branch library. They requested one thousand books, \$50 per month, and assurance that eventually a library building would be provided. The board decided to present this information to the county commissioners before giving a definite answer.

At a special meeting later in February, board secretary W. C. Deming presented a petition with forty-seven signatures from Pine Bluffs residents, formally asking for a library. Prior board discussion and a conference with the county commissioners reported commission approval and agreed to provide \$40 extra from the board to commence the project. The money was to be provided by the board. Moore was authorized to proceed with installing the branch at Pine Bluffs, engaging a librarian, and arranging all the details. There were already three applications for the librarian position.

Not to be outdone, there was also a request for a branch library at Burns. The residents were informed by letter that funding was not available at that time and that the board thought it best to try out a larger and more distant place first.

At a meeting at the end of the month, Moore reported two trips to Pine Bluffs, engaging a librarian who arranged books on shelves and prepared the building for opening on March 10. She reported that the Pine Bluffs committee had "engaged a pleasant room, furnished with table and chairs, stove, etc." for \$10 per month. Fifty people visited the library on opening afternoon and evening.

In the spring of 1926, Pine Bluffs built a new community house with a front room dedicated to the library. The county allowance was \$10 above the librarian's salary and could be used any way that Pine Bluffs desired.

In March 1928, county librarian Frances Mentzer visited the Pine Bluffs library and reported that the Pine Bluffs City Council requested that the Laramie County Library System pay rent for the library room. The board secretary wrote letters in March and April regarding the issue but there is no further evidence about who paid the rent. In August, the Pine Bluffs librarian was told that she should not pay it until some agreement had been reached and she reported that the July salary checks for Pine Bluffs had been "protested." There was no information whether they bounced or were not accepted.

In September 1930, Mentzer reported taking books to the county fair in Pine Bluffs with "a good response."

In August 1943, the board president was delegated to confer with the county commissioners regarding extending library privileges to Nebraska residents.

In July 1945, the Pine Bluffs librarian requested a transfer of \$145 which had been taken from their funds and placed in the general library account, in accordance with direction of the state bank examiner (see *Finance*). Since this money had been originally subscribed by the citizens of Pine Bluffs, it could hardly be considered library income and the money was transferred to Pine Bluffs. At the same time, a request for sanding and treating the floor, new

drapes, and a new desk chair was taken under advisement. The improvements were approved and implemented at the August meeting.

A letter from the Farmer's State Bank on January 19, 1923 requested board consideration for establishing a library in Burns. In March 1924, a letter from Bastian representing the Burns Business Men also requested information regarding establishing a branch library in Burns. County librarian Louella Moore was instructed to establish a date to meet with him to discuss the possibility. In October 1933, county librarian Frances Mentzer reported that the town would furnish a room for a library and that the main library would send books and a caretaker and provide the exchange of books at intervals. The Burns branch library opened November 28, 1933 with Lola Hunt in charge, at a salary of \$7.50 per month with raises as her workload increased. It is interesting to compare the reports of the openings in Pine Bluffs and in Burns; it was no longer an unusual event.

By June the Hillsdale Women's Club also requested a branch. This would be discussed with the county commissioners.

On December 18, 1929 the board of trustees sent a letter to Maude L. King, an Albin teacher, in response to her letter asking for a library there. She was informed that this could not be done due to lack of funding. It was decided that boxes of books would be sent to them as was done with rural schools since a branch was not possible at that time.

In April 1936, letters were received from the county commissioners and the Albin Commercial Club requesting a branch library in Albin. The library board wrote back approving the request but would have to have \$540 per year in the budget to do so. Another letter to the Albin Commercial Club asked about the room, furnishings, librarian, and so forth. The county commissioners agreed to the budget increase and a letter was sent to the club informing them that the branch library would be established in the fall. The Albin library opened on September 8 with Frances Smith as the librarian at a salary of \$15 per month.

Later it was decided that the county librarian would visit the branch libraries three to four times each year. In July 1936, books were obtained from the Hertzberg company's catalog of new books from lists titled "Always in Demand Books," "Juveniles," and "New Titles."

A deposit station in Carpenter opened in January 1937 with a National Youth Administration (NYA) worker as the librarian and more than one hundred books from the main library, which changed as reader requests and new books arrived in the main library. The Carpenter station closed in August 1940 when all NYA workers were recalled for other projects.

Unexpectedly, Albin's issue in 1939 was greater than in 1940 for an interesting reason. Readers were reading their favorite books twice and waiting for new books by the same author, instead of reading a new author, so it was decided that an effort should be made to encourage reading other authors.

In January 1941, the county commissioners stated that they favored a branch on the south side at Johnson School but would have to raise the budget to meet the additional expense. In February, the county librarian attended a county commissioners' meeting to request the budget increase. The commissioners voted to give the library \$300 to pay the salary of a South Side branch librarian. County librarian Frances Mentzer reported a plan to open the branch in the Johnson School with fixtures, furnishing, shelves, painting, and lighting for \$450. The school board added a vestibule and Venetian blinds to the room. The vestibule was actually a stoop, seven feet high with a gabled roof. The east and west sides consisted of three glass bricks, and the principal construction was pressed brick which

matched the main building as much as possible. The ceiling was made of Celotex (thermal insulation boards) and the roof was rubberoid shingles.

The cost of opening the South Side branch was \$655.91, but since the county paid \$135.50 for the vestibule, the actual cost to the library was \$520.41. This was paid by including it in the next year's budget. Invitations were sent to the library board of trustees, county commissioners, and school board to attend the opening at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 1941.

In 1942, the Albin branch library was enlarged with new shelves and fluorescent lights. It was open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. and from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

In January 1945, the board decided to request information from the county budget officer and the state bank examiner about the administration of funds held by the branch libraries, the rules governing schedules of hours, the authority for establishment of stations or branch libraries, and other rules governing county officers and personnel. At the February meeting, a letter from the county clerk regarding these questions was read and set aside for further study. A special meeting was held on February 28 to review the report from the state bank examiner.

The bank examiner's office provided a model for bookkeeping for 1945 by setting up the January books. The accounts of all separate branch libraries were placed in the regular library account book; since the branch library funds were not provided as special gifts for specific purposes, the accounts would be in the regular ledger book. The board would receive from the branches a monthly income and expenditure report, broken down into separate budget categories. The branches would make a quarterly report of income and expenditures, and such income would be kept in the Carnegie Library Association general funds. The librarian would send an official receipt to the treasurer of the board for tax funds received from them for expenses for library operation.

The board also addressed the letter from the county clerk regarding rules concerning establishment of stations. After studying the rules, the county librarian was instructed to discontinue stations at Frontier Villa, Van Tassel, and Careyville Acres. A proper request to the board for continuance of the Carpenter and Egbert stations would be considered.

According to the 1945 annual report, the board activated three deposit stations in March: Frontier Villa (521 books), Careyville Acres (650 books), and Van Tassel (356 books). Basic collections in Albin, Burns, and Pine Bluffs were supplemented by temporary loans from the main library. There were deposit stations in thirty rural schools.

In the summer of 1948, crowding in Johnson School made it necessary to divide the library. The juvenile section was sent to Hebard school and large loans of books were made to Cole and Rossman schools.

The South Side branch reopened September 17, 1953 in the Tom Ketcios building in the 100 block on East 8th Street with books from Hebard and Johnson schools. The library was attractive and centrally located. It featured story hour (except in August), photos, film strips, and a reading club and story hour during June and July. The total collection of books was three thousand volumes, the library was open daily, and Mrs. Phillip B. Driscoll was the librarian.

At the July 1956 meeting it was decided to investigate opening a branch in east Cheyenne.

In October 1959, county librarian Mary Carpenter and Mrs. King went to the Pine Bluffs library to meet with the superintendent of schools and inform him of the availability of

books for rural schools under the Library Services Act (see *Legislation*). He was pleased about getting the books and that they could be used during school hours.

In October 1961, Carpenter and staff reported that they had been looking for new ideas for branch libraries. They went to the new Weld County Library on September 29 to see how it was furnished, and on October 6 they went to Denver where Wood of Remington-Rand took them to the Jefferson County Library in Golden and the public library in Westminster. Miss Luce, the area LSA director, visited on October 10 to consult about East Side furnishings and by November progress was under way. Shelving, tables, chairs, a book truck, a card catalog, and a desk were ordered from Remington-Rand on October 23 for \$3,900 and \$2,300 was spent for books. Unfortunately the orders could not be filled until LSA funds were available, according to the state library which was responsible for distribution of LSA funds (see *Legislation*), so Remington-Rand advised that the order would be shipped on February 2, 1962.

In the 1961 annual report, an annual increase in the South Side and Pine Bluffs branch circulation numbers was noted, and a branch library opened on the east side of the city in the Cole Shopping Center. A large station was closed in one of the unnamed schools because of the need for another classroom. An inventory was taken at Alta Vista in preparation for the move to East Side. The East Side branch was opened on March 12. On the first day, 76 cards and 152 books were issued.

By February 1963, it was obvious that a vestibule was necessary at East Side because the building was cold. In June, the furniture from the South Side branch had to be returned and refinished because the color was unsatisfactory.

On April 11, 1968, county librarian Stan Oliner presented to the board a critique of the branch library operations of the Laramie County Library System. At the time he requested that the board not discuss it with others but the report is now public information. The report follows.

The Albin Branch, located in a room of a local school since 1954, was provided with heat, light and maintenance by the school. Considered the weakest of the five branches, there were only fifteen adult patrons, mostly school staff, in addition to the K-12 students, supervised by an untrained librarian and open only 15 hours a week during the school year and one day a week in the summer. The 3,500 books were only circulated 5,765 times in 1966-1967. The school authorities made no effort to establish its own library as manifest by poor diversity of material and facilities, failure to accept ESEA [Elementary and Secondary Education Act, part of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty] book funds and some new books in the collection had not been issued in ten years. The Librarian recommended that the branch be closed at the end of August 1968, that adult books be returned to the main library, and that juvenile books be gradually returned as the school show *[sic]* evidence of book buying. The community would be serviced by the new bookmobile.

The Pine Bluffs branch, located in the town hall since 1953, needed to be strengthened during coming years. All equipment was owned by the county library but facilities were inadequate with books piled on tables, no study space, no telephone service, and an elderly librarian of twenty years *[sic]* service who was unable to help patrons very much. Library hours were not convenient. According to the Nebraska Public Library Commission, many Pine Bluffs citizens were going to Sidney or Kimball for better library service. The 5,000 books were issued only 6,030

times in 1966-1967, quite poor considering the local population. The librarian recommended that the present librarian be retired according to current retirement guidelines; that the County Board negotiate with a former branch librarian, who owned a store front which had been approved by an architect, to obtain it for new quarters and that the county library budget include \$25,000 to move the library in May 1969. He further recommended that telephone service be obtained, a typewriter purchased, service hours extended to at least thirty hours per week, and that it be called the Pine Bluffs Regional Branch. The bookmobile would rotate books on a regular basis.

The Burns Branch Library was located in the town hall and the county owned almost all of the equipment, while the town supplied housing, heat, and lights. A restroom was not added until 1967. The library was operated by the most talented rural librarian and the school district made a strong effort to have a good school library book selection. There was a summer reading program though the branch was open only twelve hours per week. The librarian recommended telephone service, extending operating hours to a minimum of eighteen hours per week and polling students in the spring of 1968 concerning evening hours. Although the librarian often rotated books on her own, the bookmobile would continue to rotate the collection. Used shelving from the main library would be available in May 1969.

The East Side Branch Library opened in 1961 at the Cole Shopping Center. It was open thirty-five hours per week during the day. The most "literate" branch in terms of patron usage, the building was in dire need of painting and air conditioning; however, the Cole Corporation did not plan to help with either project so a new location nearby should be obtained. Additional shelving would be available in May 1969.

The South Side Branch Library, opened in 1951, was located at 112 East 8th Street. In 1966-1967, circulation was 29,684 books and service was provided for thirty-five hours per week. The neighborhood had undergone severe changes in the previous three years; most of the small businesses closed and more Spanish-speaking patrons had different reading habits. The librarian was respected by the community and had been a major supporter of service for seventeen years. The librarian recommended that new quarters be obtained on Central Avenue near the new neighborhood center operated by the Office of Economic Opportunity. The center was thought to have too little space to provide for the entire branch operation and the bookmobile could not provide the long hours expected by local residents. Additional shelving and furniture would be available in May 1969.

In 1968, the board of trustees took action to close the Albin library with a letter to the Albin authorities urging them to establish their own library, informing them that Pine Bluffs was open thirty hours per week, and inviting Albin patrons to use that facility. Bookmobile service would continue with biweekly visits as usual. The Albin response was vigorous, with an especially powerful analysis of the situation by a local attorney. As a consequence, the library did not close but staffing was to be provided locally, only juvenile books would be housed, and adult fiction and nonfiction books would be available via bookmobile. This was the status at the time the Carnegie library closed.

BRANCH CIRCULATION

The format for the annual reports changed in 1956, partially due to additional branches but also due to sending books to Deming, Fincher, Rossman, and Henderson schools. These are reported individually after 1956, but this table combines them under “schools.” The annual report also includes a category for city and rural teachers but there are no details about the agreement for these issues. Consequently the key to the various recipients is somewhat confusing.

The annual report for 1941 and the board minutes for meetings from 1944 to 1955 are unavailable.

Date	Main	Albin	Alta Vista	Burns	Pine Bluffs	South Side	Out of town	¹ Schools	² Stations
1902	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1903	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1904	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1905	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1906	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1907	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1908	19,391	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1909	26,127	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1910	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1911	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1912	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1913	35,817	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1914	40,624	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1915	40,839	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1916	39,951	—	—	—	—	—	1,525	—	—
1917	34,913	—	—	—	—	—	1,443	—	—
1918	39,330	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1919	38,939	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1920	46,076	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1921	60,007	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1922	54,589	—	—	—	—	—	4,927	—	—
1923	54,331	—	—	—	5,710	—	3,064	—	—
1924	47,909	—	—	—	4,897	—	2,375	—	—
1925	70,649	—	—	—	6,107	—	7,905	—	—
1926	68,456	—	—	—	4,942	—	—	—	—
1927	79,415	—	—	—	6,351	—	4,372	—	—
1928	88,538	—	—	—	8,533	—	5,038	—	—
1929	111,666	—	—	—	9,889	—	2,608	—	—
1930	136,384	—	—	—	9,857	—	8,837	—	—
1931	156,538	—	—	—	11,258	—	10,396	—	—
1932	186,556	—	—	—	13,183	—	9,070	—	—

Date	Main	Albin	Alta Vista	Burns	Pine Bluffs	South Side	Out of town	¹ Schools	² Stations
1933	182,301	—	—	645	13,002	—	13,292	—	—
1934	166,320	—	—	7,183	11,807	—	7,822	—	—
1935	148,285	—	—	8,868	12,011	—	11,264	—	—
1936	138,876	2,936	—	8,075	10,572	—	11,543	—	—
1937	130,226	8,088	—	7,314	7,992	—	10,579	—	3,379
1938	138,879	10,485	—	7,856	³ 9,341	—	11,871	—	2,885
1939	152,382	10,891	—	7,554	8,759	—	8,789	—	—
1940	168,447	9,655	—	8,213	9,304	—	8,575	—	5,665
1941	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1942	140,664	9,944	—	7,370	8,589	19,795	4,951	—	18,007
1943	124,832	4,548	—	3,497	9,117	23,914	8,135	—	12,333
1944	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1945	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1946	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1947	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1949	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1950	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1951	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1952	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1953	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1954	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1955	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
⁴ 1956	72,821	3,760	4,109	3,275	4,142	—	—	10,499	9,117
1957	141,121	6,907	10,290	5,352	6,974	37,157	—	35,547	16,471
1958	143,836	7,472	10,497	4,088	7,278	45,320	—	39,954	17,299
1959	146,119	10,402	9,546	5,612	7,984	29,165	—	40,368	14,391
1960	142,864	4,277	6,550	4,849	8,334	32,360	—	44,544	14,468
1961	168,613	10,299	6,566	4,029	8,337	39,254	—	35,580	15,681
1962	150,443	9,425	—	5,298	5,810	38,167	—	49,327	12,644
⁵ 1963	68,024	4,823	—	1,987	3,427	18,307	16,544	25,556	5,344
1964	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1965	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1966	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1967	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1968	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1969	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

¹Schools: Buffalo Ridge (Jan. 1961–April 1963), Deming, Dildine (?–April 1963), Eastridge (?–May 1962), Fincher (?–May 1962), Henderson, Hobbs (Oct. 1961–?), Rossman

²Stations: all stations reported together beginning in 1939

³Discrepancy in transposing numbers

⁴July–Dec. 1956 (reports for first six months not available)

⁵Jan.–May 1963 (reports for last seven months not available)

Chapter 17: Letters Pertaining to Stations

Apparently at the request of A. K. Jensen, housing manager of the National Housing Agency, Federal Public Housing Authority, stations were established at Frontier Acres, Van Tassell, and Careyville Acres. These were housing facilities for war industry workers. The county librarian had obtained personal consent from the president of the board for this action, but the other library trustees were apparently apprised by county officials. Included here are the letters pertaining to the fate of these stations.

Cheyenne, Wyoming
March 7, 1945
Mrs. Louise Patterson
Librarian, Carnegie Library
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

At a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Laramie County Library Association held February 28, 1945, a communication was read from the County authorities setting forth the rules authorizing the establishment of station or branch libraries.

The Board reviewed your statistical report in which you stated that certain branch libraries had been established during the year. Your report was the first intimation that the Board had received of any such action and a study of the communication from the County authorities reveals the fact that these branch establishments had been created without following the necessary legal requirements and the sanction of the Board, as required by law, was not secured.

You are hereby instructed by the Board that the three stations, Frontier Villa, Van Tassel and Careyville Acres should be discontinued pending a study by the Board regarding branch establishments. Proper request to the Board for the continuance of the Carpenter and Egbert stations will have due consideration.

The Treasurer reported that the Bank Examiner had made the following recommendations:

1. That all accounts representing funds held by separate branch libraries should be placed in the regular account book of the library and that such income should henceforth be carried in the regular ledger book and that the proper distribution of the income be made in accordance with the report of such income secured from the branch libraries. The examiner stated that this provision was contingent upon the fact that the funds of the branch libraries had not been provided as special gifts for specific purposes.

2. The Board should require from the Librarian a monthly report of income as received and the expenditures which have been made, broken down into the separate budgetary items.
3. That the Board should require the branch libraries to make a report quarterly of the source of their income and that such income should be carried in the general funds of the Carnegie Library Association with provisions made for sufficient cash to meet such small contingent expenses would be required. [*sic*]
4. That the Librarian send an official receipt to the Library Board for tax funds received from them for expenses of Library operation. It is suggested that "Money Receipt S-1527" be purchased for this purpose at the Nisbet Stationery Company.

The Board therefore requests you to comply with these recommendations and that you attach a monthly report of receipts and expenditures to the list of bills presented for the consideration of the Board, each month.

The Board also requests that each month you accompany the list of bills for books with the statement of books on order and their approximate cost, for which you have no invoices, following the instructions already set forth in a previous letter.

Yours very truly,
Wilfred O'Leary, President
Sig. W.C. Bond, Secretary
Sig. Charles A. Bennett. Treasurer

Patterson replied to the board.

March 7, 1945
Mr. Wilfred O'Leary
President
Laramie County Library Association
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Dear Mr. O'Leary,

In reply to your letter of March 7, 1945 I should like to report that the three stations, Frontier Villa, Van Tassel and Careyville have been discontinued as you requested. There is no financial report to be made on any of the stations as no station collects money or pays any money out. The station attendants are always volunteers who receive no remuneration for their services.

During March all accounts representing funds held by the Pine Bluffs, Burns, Albin and South Side branch libraries will be transferred to the regular account of the Laramie County Library Assoc. in the American National Bank in Cheyenne.

The branch libraries have always made a monthly report to the Librarian of the source of their income, the amount, and their expenditures. These reports are kept on file in the office of the Library. I shall send you a duplicate of these reports each month.

I shall also send you a monthly report of income as received and the expenditures which have been made, broken down into the separate budgetary items, following such form as the Examiner shall indicate.

Very truly yours,
Louise S. Patterson
Librarian

Patterson wrote a letter dated April 18, 1945 to Glen Hendershot, county clerk, and apparently one of the "county authorities" referred to by O'Leary.

The stations located in the housing areas in Cheyenne have been very successful. The Librarian acquainted O'Leary, President of the Library Board, of her plan to establish the stations and received his consent to start the project.

The contact for the library station service was made thru [sic] the Tenant Aide of the housing projects, and was immediately given sanction by the housing authorities. Shelving has been built by the housing commission and the library sent out a collection of 800 books to Frontier Villa, 700 to Careyville and 200 to Van Tassell Acres. These books were circulated 2 evenings a week, the libraries being open for about one hour. Volunteer workers acted as librarians. These ladies worked out a very efficient and clever method of rapidly taking care of borrowers during these busy evenings at the libraries. A trained librarian visited the stations frequently, taking out new books, filling requests and bringing back to the central library those books which were not circulating. The Tenant Aide and volunteer librarians also assisted in this work.

In this way the collection of books were [sic] not static and did not require as many books in the stations. Also, the personal service and interest of a trained librarian helped in keeping things going smoothly. The three stations issued a total of 7701 books from April 1944 to December 1944. In 1945 a total of 763 books were issued in January and 844 in February.

Patterson mentioned the July tour of the stations by Louise Love, feature writer for the *Wyoming Tribune*, who wrote a fine article in the July 17, 1944 paper which touted the advantages the stations provided the three thousand war workers living in those areas. She also pointed out the value of the stations in reducing delinquency, caring for children whose parents were both working, teaching story-telling techniques to parents, and fulfilling the obligation to establish and develop library facilities wherever possible. She included a copy of the letter sent to her by the board of trustees instructing her to close the stations, as well as the American Library Association's definitions of branch libraries and stations, noting that a branch is a complete library with all the components of a main library in its own building, whereas a station is a collection of books in an indefinite location usually run by a volunteer or personnel at the location with periodic replacement of the books. She concluded her letter:

The main library has been established for many years and since these stations were established inside the city limits of Cheyenne and they required no appropriation of funds to be made by the Board, it was not necessary to obtain a petition signed by ten electors of the city of Cheyenne. The Librarian acted upon the project with the consent of the president of the board. Whether the president did or did not present the project for the discussion of the board is not known by the Librarian as she is never included in any board meetings and does not receive copies of the minutes of the board. The three stations, Frontier Villa, Van Tassell and Careyville Acres have been discontinued and the books have been returned to the main library.

A letter on May 3, 1945 to Patterson from housing manager A. K. Jensen expressed his disappointment and that of the residents of the defense projects in the closure of the stations and his hope that they could be reopened, helping the morale of the defense workers. This prompted the following response from Patterson.

August 30, 1945

Dear Mr. Jensen,

I am sorry indeed not to have sent you a reply to your letter of May 3, 1945 before this time. However the Board of Directors of this library have been giving the re-establishment of the stations considerable study and their decision is summarized in the letter received by me which I hereby quote to you:

Mrs. Louise Patterson
Librarian, Carnegie Library
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Dear Mrs. Patterson,

The members of the Board of Trustees of the Laramie County Library Association have studied the question of the establishment of stations in Careyville Acres, Frontier Villa and Van Tassell Acres with very great care. The matter has been discussed at very great length and our reactions are summarized as follows:

1. Every inquiry that has been made of the tax-paying public regarding establishment of the above-mentioned stations indicates that public sentiment would not be favorable to such action.
2. The establishment of stations, distribution centers or deposit centers at the points mentioned above could hardly be undertaken without similar stations being established in many other parts of the city. We find that there are a great many people living in Orchard Valley, Alta Vista, Yellowstone Highway, and the airport area, Allison Addition, Prosser Tracts, Park addition and other like areas who might reasonably expect distribution centers in the areas in which they live.

These areas represent home sections of taxpayers with long residence within the City or county.

3. Any widespread practice of book distribution in areas other than rural school districts and obviously justified branch libraries would demand very shortly a policy on the part of the library Board that would establish responsibility for the care of books at such centers. In the establishment of such a policy it might expect the different members of the present library staff to be present at all of these points at specific times throughout the week for the management of this activity, but such a policy would hardly be feasible or practical at this time.
4. Investigations by the library Board leads the membership to believe that the people dwelling in the areas of Careyville Acres, Frontier Villa and Van Tassell Acres find it convenient to come to the center of Cheyenne for other needs or pleasures and that the distance represented between the Carnegie Library and these areas can hardly be compared with the distances travelled in other cities for library privileges.
5. The library Board feels that the purpose of the Carnegie Library and the expenditure of county funds for its maintenance must contemplate a larger service than mere book distribution. The library as such, together with its centrally located building should be a constantly growing cultural center with an ever increasing use of all facilities provided at the building itself. The members of the Board have plans for stimulating the use of this building in the future and unless this interest is justified and worthy of continuance and growth the library building itself could be used merely as a distribution center and could be operated at a much smaller cost to the taxpayer than now obtains.
6. With the discontinuance of the war all temporary domiciles now used at Careyville Acres, Frontier Villa and Van Tassell Acres will be abandoned. The Federal Government has announced that no further aid will be granted for the building of schools or establishments of service in areas congested due to War work and has definitely withdrawn all aid from Cheyenne. The Board feels therefore that its action is in conformity with the present Government policy.
7. The members of the Board believe that such broad principles of practice as can be justified and defended before the public must be clearly defined in the management of services and facilities at the library and that all of this service must be so administered as to contribute to the general benefit of the reading public within Laramie County and that a continuance of a policy which will combine as far as possible resources, privileges and services at a central point will best protect this benefit.

On the basis of the above outlined reasons we have been instructed to inform you that new stations shall not be established at this time. We are sure you will realize fully our sympathetic [*sic*] interest in your plan and we appreciate very much your presentation of the matter to us for our consideration.

Very truly yours
Wilfred O'Leary, President
W. C. Bond, Secretary
Laramie County Library Association

I do want you to know, Mr. Jensen, that due to the untiring and unselfish service of your volunteers, the stations were a success. I am genuinely disappointed in having these library stations closed. Social minded librarians today hope that libraries may be able, thru [*sic*] extension of library service, to place library resources within distances which will encourage those able and willing to read, to do so.

As a member of the Laramie County Welfare Board, I know that station libraries are popular centers of community life and are logical places for work with juvenile problems. Much more is accomplished than mere circulation of books. Human relations are established, in countless ways the library becomes a blessing. It should always be a public service that will develop in the people a more appreciative attitude toward the finer things.

I hope that some time [*sic*] soon these stations may be re-established in the areas from which they were withdrawn.

Very truly yours,
Mrs. Louise S. Patterson
Librarian

Chapter 18: Traveling Libraries and School Loans (Stations)

In the 1911 annual report, the librarian first mentioned traveling libraries. Boxes containing twenty to thirty books were sent every two months to Luther/Burns, Carpenter, Hillsdale, Pine Bluffs, Meriden, Iron Mountain, Chugwater, and Wheatland. The boxes were sent to schools in these communities and sometimes to the larger ranches if the ranch population was big enough. One individual was responsible for issuing and recovering the books. The boxes were sent by railroad or mail carrier and sometimes an individual rancher or merchant would transport them. The number of boxes varied from year to year.

In 1915, the list of schools included Divide, Carpenter, Golden Prairie, Burns, Pine Bluffs, Iron Mountain, Diamond, Archer, and Jarre. In 1916, thirty-one rural schools received book boxes, but by 1919 seventy-five boxes were sent out. In 1920, there were 94 boxes sent, 129 in 1921, 137 in 1922, and by 1928 there were 210 boxes sent out. In 1930, the library was required to pay the postage on boxes of books sent out. There is no mention of who paid the postage prior to this.

By 1938, there were three branch libraries in addition to the deposit stations in every county school. Despite this, 549 boxes, each with fifteen to forty books, were sent out. The branches had a permanent collection of books with temporary loans from the main library. The deposit stations had more than one hundred books, with changes from time to time upon request by the teacher in charge.

The Carpenter deposit station, which had been established in 1937, was closed in 1940. The individual in charge there was a National Youth Administration (NYA) worker and all NYA workers were recalled for another project. The Carpenter facility was reopened in 1950 but with another responsible person in charge.

In 1940, another deposit station was opened when the Girl Scouts began distributing books three times per week at the Memorial Hospital. The extent of this activity is difficult to assess since the circulation data for 1945 to 1951 was not reported as a separate entity; from 1952 until the project ended in 1953, the hospital data was again reported separately.

In 1957, the principal of Eastridge Elementary School requested a circulating library which was approved by the board. Support for county schools was apparently not limited to loaning books since in February 1963, the Horse Creek school expressed a need for chairs for special events. The board decided to give them forty wooden folding chairs from storage for \$10 each. It was not specified whether this was a sale or a rental for one occasion.

The text describing the activities of the traveling libraries fails to demonstrate the hunger of the people in Wyoming for reading material. Their thirst is best displayed by the large file of correspondence from one end of the state to the other. A sample clearly expresses these sentiments:

Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo.
Nov. 3rd 1903
Librarian, Public Library Ass'n
Cheyenne, Wyo.

Dear Sir's [*sic*]

My stepdaughter, Florence, hands me "over due notice" on Readers Card No. 1,105. She says she took the book to school to return to library but there was not time that day, and subsequently smallpox quarantine of the garrison and city have closed the schools. The book is in the school in the city. If I can arrange to get the book I will have it returned. Otherwise it seems some allowance should be made; or else the book charged to me at its value.

Very Resp'y

H. L. Bailey Major 2nd Inf.

The book was returned with no overdue charge.

Rock Springs, Wyoming

February 6, '05

The Cheyenne public Librarian

Librarian:

I want some help on the subject of Browning and his writings from your library. I do not have access to much outside my own knowledge about him and I want something more. If you could send me something in the next two weeks I should be greatly obliged. If you do not do this for outside of your city people please notify me. And oblige

Miss Ella Budda

Her request was granted.

Rock Springs, Wyoming

May 5, 1905

The Cheyenne Public Library

Librarian,

A Senior pupil in High School is writing a theme on Geo Eliot, and needs the assistance of reference books on Geo Eliot, and notes on same. If you will kindly send at once the best reference books and notes on that subject to Miss Nettie Carr, Rock Springs, Wyo by express, she will pay the express. I will see that the books are not injured in any way.

Very truly,

Ella Budda, H.S. teacher

Underwood, Wyo

Sept 16, 1905

Librarian Carnegie Library

Cheyenne, Wyo

Dear Sir, I am anxious to know the conditions on which books are loaned to ranch people from your library. I understand that you sometimes loan a small case for an indefinite period. I am teaching about six miles from Underwood and within easy reach of about ten families who would be very glad to have books. I will gladly pay all charges and expect to be held personally responsible. In regard to my reliability will refer you to Miss Alice M. Thompson [sic] and Mrs. Elizabeth Harris of your city.

Yours truly
Anna C. Rooney

Nov. 21st 1908
Arapaho, Wyo
To the Librarian of Carnegie Library
Cheyenne, Wyo

Dear Friend,
Now as we have our reading room opened for the winter and the Indian boys have amused themselves with the few old magazines & papers at my disposal, I wish to remind you of a box of old books and such reading matter as you may desire to send to the Indian Library here. We have secured a book case of shelves that will answer to hold them, and some of them are aware of a promise from a good lady of Cheyenne to send us some worn books that may instruct & amuse them during the winter months. The interest in Christian teaching is growing and two men have expressed a desire for Christian baptism, and say they are heathens no longer.

Fraternally,
Rev. C. T. M. Campbell

The letter was answered December 9, promising magazines and books after January 1 if possible. A subsequent letter from Campbell related that the two men referred to had indeed been baptized and were now Christians.

Guernsey, Wyo
March 19, 1909
Public Library of Laramie County
Cheyenne, Wyo

Dear Librarian,
Will you please send me by mail a book from your library? It will not take me longer than one or two weeks to read it and then I will return it by mail. You can send a bill with the expense of the postage or you may deduct it from the one dollar deposit which I made. Have you: 1. "Lives of the Hunted" by Ernest Seton Thompson This would be my first choice. 2. "The Call of the Wild" by Jack London, "Autobiography of a Bear" by Ernest Seton Thompson 3. "Jungle Book" by Rudyard Kipling Vol. I.

Could you send either 1, 2, or 3? I trust the books I sent by express arrived all right.
Hoping to hear from you, I am

Yours sincerely
Edith M. Bonesteel (teacher)
Answered 2/23/09 by F. A. R.

Wheatland High School
Wheatland, Wyoming
Dec 7, 1912
Public Librarian
Cheyenne, Wyo

Dear Madam,
We have a high school debating club organized and at work and we need library material especially articles found in bound periodicals. What are the regulations of the library in regard to sending material out of town thus? We are working at present on the tariff question, the Phillipine [*sic*] question and the presidential primary. How is the library fixed for material on these questions? Could you also send me the name of the Company where I can get the magazine articles in leaf form at any time?

Very truly yours,
J. M. McConnel

It is obvious that the traveling libraries fulfilled a multitude of needs.

SCHOOL LOANS

At the December 1908 board meeting, librarian Rose Martin was advised to follow the advice of the superintendent of schools regarding subscribing to magazines for the use of school students. She was also requested to negotiate with him about loaning books to the public schools. It is uncertain whether this was done immediately, there being no mention of school book loans until the 1913 annual report when the librarian reported 839 books in boxes were sent to schools in Burns, Egbert, South Bend, Archer, Carpenter, Divide, Hillsdale, Diamond, Wheatland, and Bordeaux. These loans are not to be confused with "traveling libraries" or stations which will be described in another category. By 1916, thirty-one county schools were supplied with boxes of books.

In November 1928, a letter to the board from school superintendent Andrew Jessup suggested that the library could reach outlying schools by sending books and a librarian to them for one hour per week or some similar plan. It was decided to try such a plan for Johnson School beginning in January 1929.

In August 1929, the provision of books at Johnson School was discussed and it was decided that the library should cooperate with the schools in doing what would give the best service. In February 1930, seven boxes of books were sent to Johnson School and the county librarian met with the teachers to make plans for cooperation. New children's books were ordered to prevent depletion of books in the Children's Room of the main library.

In 1947, the Alta Vista school was added to the list of schools provided with books from February to June. In 1948, the South Side branch at Johnson school was closed and the books were sent to Hebard school. By 1962, the loans to public schools had reached 51,073 volumes per year. In 1963, the seven city schools and one rural school issued 42,290 volumes. Thereafter, as other sources increased, the annual issue decreased.

Chapter 19: Bookmobile

A letter dated April 13, 1966 was sent to Mrs. Gordon Richardson regarding her request for library service for areas of northern Cheyenne. County librarian Stan Oliner acknowledged the inadequacies of the Carnegie library parking facilities and told her of the ongoing, long-range study for library service. He predicted the existence of a bookmobile within the next three years, which would visit neighborhood shopping centers, rural library branches, and rural communities lacking branch libraries. He indicated that this would cost a minimum of \$10,000 for the bookmobile and that it would require four thousand books to send out the first day. The budget at that time could not provide for this service. He expressed the hope that reactivation of Friends of the Library might undertake this as a project.

An editorial in the August 14, 1967 *Wyoming State Tribune* opined that the library bond issue was essential. It noted that the Carnegie library in Cheyenne was the largest library between Lincoln, Nebraska and Salt Lake City, Utah to the east and west and Great Falls, Montana and Denver, Colorado to the north and south, and it was the oldest Carnegie building in Wyoming. The editorial also pointed out that Wyoming was the only state in the union without a bookmobile. This traveling library, carrying between 3,500 and 4,000 books, would serve rural areas reaching taxpaying citizens of the county who were without adequate library service.

As plans for a new library building in Cheyenne progressed, plans for a bookmobile were also made and the budget message for the 1969 fiscal year stated that bookmobile service would be started no later than January 1, 1969. The budget provided for three new staff positions: a driver, a librarian, and a second custodian.

In June 1968, correspondence with GM Truck and Coach Division, Salt Lake City, Utah; Colorado Kenworth; Condor Coach (Ford); Williamsen Coach; Oil Field Service Equipment; Gerstenslager Company; and Gulley Motor and International discussed specifications for a new bookmobile. Chassis bids and specifications were obtained on June 19, 1968 from Colorado Kenworth, GM Truck and Coach Division, Gulley Motor Co., and Halliday Motors. Body bids and detailed plans were obtained on June 10, 1968 from Gerstenslager Company and Williamsen Body and Equipment. Bids were as follows.

Chassis: opened June 10, 1968

Colorado Kenworth Inc.....	\$6,542 .00 plus freight
GM Truck and Coach Division.....	\$6,680.24 delivered SLC
Gulley Motor Co.	\$6,919.00 plus freight
Halliday Motors	\$7,041.48 plus freight

Body: opened June 10, 1968

Gerstenslager Co.	\$15,550.00	FOB Wooster, Ohio
Williamsen Body & Equipment.....	\$17,805.00	FOB Salt Lake City

Bids were accepted from GM Truck and Coach Division for the chassis and Gerstenslager for the body, with penalties to the latter for delays beyond 120 days from reception of the chassis from GM. Gerstenslager objected to the delay penalty because there was no mention of delays due to strike, fire, or delay of supplier's materials. They also

objected to the ten-year guarantee for carpeting when the supplier only guaranteed the carpeting for one year.

Eventually the bid from Williamsen Body and Equipment Co. was accepted with a \$900 deduction, although it was slightly higher than Gerstenslager's bid, with the provision that the signage and carpeting be done in Cheyenne. The final firm offer of \$16,905 was made on July 6, 1968 to Williamsen Body and Equipment Co. for the body and \$6,680.24 to GM Truck and Coach Division for the chassis. The finished bookmobile was paid for by the county bond issue.

The "All About Books" article in the August 3, 1969 *Casper Star Tribune* noted that visitors to the Central Wyoming Fair and Rodeo showed a great deal of interest and made favorable comments about the Laramie County bookmobile. The Natrona County library had borrowed it for display and to give people an idea what such a vehicle would have to offer. The bookmobile was in the parade and was then stationed in various parts of the city for the next four days, giving people an opportunity to examine the vehicle more closely. One of the proposals in the Natrona County library bond election on August 26 was the purchase of a bookmobile for Natrona County.

The schedule of stops for the bookmobile was not available during the existence of the Carnegie library; however, this later schedule gives some idea of the probable plan.

Monday a.m.	Meriden post office, Albin post office, Albin school
Monday p.m.	Gilchrist school, Horse Creek school, Horse Creek post office
Tuesday	Galaxie Estates, Orchard Valley
Wednesday	Hillsdale-Carpenter, Little Bear (Walladsen school), Whitaker Ranch (Walladsen school)
Thursday	Goins school, South Side Neighborhood Facility
Friday	Make-up day for holidays, bad weather, etc.

Within a year (after the library moved to Central Avenue) a second bookmobile, a modified ten-year-old U.S. Postal Service delivery truck, was purchased with funds from the IVB Title, Library Services and Construction Act for the Visually Handicapped. The exterior was blue and white with black lettering that read:

Free Home Delivery Library Service for People With Reading Difficulties
Call 634-3561
Laramie County Library System

Delivery was door-to-door for those unable to go to the library for any reason. It carried large print items, magnifying lenses and lamps, and pen and pencil holders for those unable to write, in addition to conventional print books and magazines. The interior walls were painted white with stained shelving and yellow and gold medallion indoor-outdoor carpeting. If you can't go to the library, the library will come to you!

Chapter 20: Community Use

From its inception, it was understood that library facilities would be available for use by the community for non-profit, non-religious, and non-political meetings. A diverse utilization was encouraged. At the March 1902 meeting, a resolution was passed.

Whereas the Women's Literary and Charitable Association of Cheyenne have asked that a room in the Carnegie Library building be set aside for the use of their respective organizations, therefore Be it resolved by the Trustees of the Laramie Co. Public Library Association that the room in the southwest corner of the second floor of the Carnegie Library be set aside for the use jointly of all the Women's Literary and Charitable Associations: that such room is under the control of the Trustees of said library, and that the respective hours for the meetings of the said organizations be fixed upon application being made to said Trustees: that applications for the said room be passed upon by the Trustees on Wednesday 2 April, 1902, and from time to time thereafter.

In April:

The south room on the second floor is assigned to Men's Literary Club to be used in accordance with a resolution similar to that passed in the case of the north room & the Women's Clubs. Women's Club is assigned afternoons of first and third Wednesdays of each month during the year for use of north room.

Obviously Robert's Rules prevailed at least for a while.

The following schedule for use of the facilities noted at the September meeting avows the needs of the community.

Women's Musical Club	4 p.m. Saturdays in auditorium
Alpha Club	2nd and 4th Wednesday monthly afternoon
Hospital Aid Society	1st Monday monthly afternoon
Ladies Relief Association	1st Tuesday monthly afternoon
Tuesday Night Club	2nd and 4th Tuesday monthly evening
Women's Club	1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly afternoon
Shakespeare Club	each Monday evening
Wyoming Women's Club	
N.A.R.P.C.	3rd Thursday monthly afternoon
High School	auditorium Saturday afternoon for rehearsal
Young Women's Club	4:15 p.m. 2nd and 4th Thursdays
WCTU	3:00 p.m. 2nd and 4th Fridays

The auditorium is engaged (Oct 26th) for the school chi [*sic*] & drum – 8th grade on evening of Dec 19 or 21st.

At the February 1906 meeting, a motion was made and carried to charge the Women's Club and the Young Men's Literary Club for the electricity for lighting. The hourly cost proposed was 60 cents for the Auditorium, 50 cents for the Women's Club Room, 65 cents for the Men's Club Room, and \$3.50 per month for the Young Men's Literary Club. Periodically there was mention of payment of the lighting bills.

At a special meeting in July 1913, the board considered a request from Mr. Dickerson for permission to hold religious services every Sunday afternoon. The request was denied on the basis that the library was not to be used for profit, religious, or political meetings. He was given permission for a special speaker to use the Auditorium for a meeting three to four months in the future.

A special meeting was called in December 1913 to address a complaint from the Young Men's Literary Club (YMLC) about the lighting bill. Apparently the bill had been decreased at some point and was now \$2.50 per month, which they felt was still too much. They calculated the cost to be 68 cents per month but were willing to pay \$1 per month. Board member Thomas Cosgriff felt that the heat, light, and janitor service was worth \$2.50 per month and if the club felt differently, the room should be donated to them free of charge. The secretary sent the following letter to the club. Subsequently a check for \$100 was received from the YMLC and demand for future payment was withdrawn.

After hearing your explanation of the attitude of the YMLC in regard to the proposition that you pay \$2.50 per month for lights the Library Board, feeling the amount is too small to be recovered, have made the decision: that in view of the attitude of the YMLC we withdraw our demand for the lights as per bill presented to the Club in October. Mrs. H. P. Patten, Secretary

In the 1915 annual report, librarian Genevera Brock listed the clubs which held meetings in the library. Regular meetings were held by the Women's Club, Alpha Club, Card Club, Sunshine Club, Women's Relief Corps, Art Club, WCTU Club, Musical Club, and Young Men's Literary Club. There were four clubs which had no regular meeting dates, meeting only a few times a year: Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Civil Engineers, and the Mail Club (presumably the National Association of Railway Postal Clerks).

At the November 1917 meeting, the issue of the cost of lighting resurfaced and it was decided to have the electric company estimate the cost of lighting the club rooms so clubs could be billed appropriately.

In November 1920, it was decided to reduce the rent for the high school's use of the Auditorium to \$15 per month, since it was used only for one hour per day instead of three hours as formerly.

Rental costs were readjusted in August 1923. Clubs meeting once a week were charged \$15 per year; clubs meeting less often but still meeting regularly were charged \$10 per year; and those meeting less regularly were charged \$1 per meeting for lights and janitorial service.

In October 1927, librarian Frances Mentzer was asked to review the charges for clubs that met regularly and in November she was instructed to send bills to the Women's Club and the Young Men's Literary Club. While there was no explanation for this action, it suggests that following the \$100 check from the YMLC, the clubs had not been paying rent. She was also directed to send bills to the Women's Club early enough so they would not give the money to the janitor, as they had done the previous year.

In February 1929, there was a change in the policy for use of the club rooms. It was decided that organizations could use the club rooms and charge admission if the cause was philanthropic and of no material gain for the library.

In May 1932, it was necessary to increase the charge for lights and janitorial service from \$15 to \$25 per year. In June, the Socialists were allowed to use the Men's Club Room, another change in policy. Mentzer was asked to develop slightly higher rates for room use by different clubs. In July, a tentative schedule for room rates was presented, accepted, and posted.

Clubs meeting 1 afternoon per week	\$15.00
Clubs meeting 1 afternoon per month.....	\$10.00
Clubs meeting 1 evening per week	\$20.00
Clubs meeting 2 evenings per month.....	\$15.00
Clubs meeting more than 1 evening per week	\$25.00
Use of club room one time.....	\$1.00

In May 1934, room rates were revised again after electric use was determined and a new schedule went into effect on September 1.

By July 1935, there had been some repercussion regarding club room policy and it was again decided that rooms could be used only for social and educational purposes. This resulted in a discussion in August when the Socialists and the Unemployed Group asked to use rooms. Because of their political nature, the Socialists were denied but the Unemployed Group was allowed to hold meetings once per month. In June 1936, there were complaints regarding the group's room use and board members investigated. In August it was reported that the Unemployed Union had been giving their meeting time to other, definitely political organizations. If true, the Unemployed Union could no longer meet in the library, so Mentzer looked up the notices of these meetings in the *Tribune*. In October 1937, the issue again arose and it was decided that the Townsend Club or any other political organization would be refused meetings. The question arose whether the Worker's Alliance was political but no action was taken. Schools were allowed to use the Auditorium for art exhibits free of charge.

In April 1939, a Bible study group asked permission to use a room and were allowed to meet once per month. In the meantime, Mentzer was asked to obtain more information about the group. In May, the group was allowed to meet for another month while the trustees studied a letter from Mr. Krockel to decide whether permanent permission would be allowed. No action was taken in July but was supposed to be decided at the August meeting. The issue was never discussed again.

Library storage space was at a premium. At the August 1943 meeting, the county librarian told the board that she must tell all organizations that no more storage space was available for them until all the library storage needs were met.

In a summary of activity in 1945-1946, county librarian Louise Patterson reported that meeting rooms were provided for twenty-one clubs. Included were one KG art exhibit, four PTA programs, home economics classes, tea for the 4-H Club, and twenty-two story hours. Exhibits were held for the 4-H Club, PTA, home economics class, University of Wyoming Extension division, child guidance clinics, county teachers' institute, housing committee, family relationship groups, and study and book review clubs.

In December 1956, the board approved the use of a club room for the Dale Carnegie Course from January 2 to March 13, 1957 at \$5 per meeting.

In August 1957, the Little Theater Group held rehearsals in the library and were charged 50 cents more when serving refreshments. In November, the life underwriter's class was allowed twelve weekly meetings and charged \$3.

At the March 1958 meeting, the Royal Neighbors were allowed to meet twice a month in the Women's Club Room with the provision that they be *quiet!* In July, one of the rooms was used for a discussion of "The Implications of the Missile Base." The National Food Association was refused use of facilities because of its commercial nature.

In May 1959, a room was rented for the Oak Spokes, an antique automobile club. Two rooms were rented to the high school adult education department for summer classes and in November, the Great Books program was held at no charge.

In February 1951, the Auxiliary of the R. E. Stoddard VFW was given permission to hold two meetings per month at the library. In March, the Little Theater Group requested use of the Children's Room two nights per week for dance rehearsal but had to be refused because of construction work in progress. In May, the advanced shorthand class was allowed to meet in a club room two nights per week for seven weeks.

In June 1962, a check for \$121.72 was received from the Women's Club, the balance due from the Hour with Literature program held during the winter. There were no restrictions on its use and it was used for special purchases.

In April 1963, the Dynadees [*sic*] asked to meet in the library but had to be refused because the group was too large for the facilities available.

It is apparent that the original intent to provide pleasant facilities for educational and social community use was met for the most part, but with the growth of the community the need for more space was becoming obvious.

Chapter 21: Donations

Donations to the library came in various forms including books, music, art, plaques, decorations, in kind, money, magazines, and advice. They were usually seen in the board minutes in the form of thank you notes or acknowledgement of action. Since there were seldom details, they are listed here by date.

August 1902

Book donations from Senator Warren.

October 13, 1903

Letter from Senator Warren donating six framed prints of historical paintings hanging in rotunda and galleries of the national capitol to be hung in the Women's Club Room.

May 2, 1908

What should be done with the books donated by R. T. Jones?

June 1, 1908

Letter to R. T. Jones regarding sale of books to library, action deferred.

June 5, 1909

Gift of books donated by Dr. Densware accepted and acknowledged.

July 2, 1913

Civic League and Cosgriff each donated \$50 for Juvenile Room improvement.

July 5, 1913

The U.S. government and City of Cheyenne donated a memorial tablet from the sunken ship *USS Maine* to be placed to the left of the entrance to the Delivery Room. Mr. Ballinger, janitor, will place it.

1914 Annual Report

Unspecified donor palm tree, mounted eagle, oil painting, 16 books, antique spinning wheel.

1915 Annual Report

Bound volume of *London Magazine* published in 1736, donated by Mr. George A. Stough.

February 11, 1916

Daughters of the American Revolution requested removing and mounting the bronze memorial tablet to the Juvenile Room. Granted. The library donated the old *Encyclopedia Britannica* and *Old World Atlas* to the Hanna library.

June 22, 1921

Mr. and Mrs. William Whipple donated a valuable 39-volume set of *World's Great Classics*; Mrs. George Stanley thanked for gifts of fine books from time to time; thanks to local newspaper for publications from year to year.

September 26, 1922

Mr. Paul O. Brewster, Los Angeles, Calif. was present at the meeting to submit a proposal to donate to the library 75 bound volumes of classical music collected by his wife, the late Mrs. Jessie D. Brewster; gift to be called "Jessie D. Brewster Music Foundation" and used as a reference source, not to be circulated; gift without expense to library except proper housing; also included bronze plate marking location of books; gift accepted.

January 13, 1923

The Art Club cleaned the walls of the Club Room; the Women's Club purchased and hung drapes in Club Room.

February 24, 1923

Letter from Mr. Brewster that his gift was ready to ship; needed shipping instructions and deed of gift.

March 30, 1923

Acknowledged reception of 88-volume set of music to Mr. Brewster.

January 13, 1931

Gift of *Catholic Dictionary* from Bishop McGovern.

May 21, 1936

Townsend Weekly accepted as gift for Reading Room.

December 10, 1957

Mrs. Gowdy and Mrs. Covert said the Women's Club was ready to purchase and pay all costs for installing a book return box; the librarian would obtain price, etc.

January 10, 1958

The Boardman Auto-Page Drive-up Book Return has been used satisfactorily for years by the Fort Dodge Public Library; if alright with the Women's Club, one will be ordered.

March 11, 1958

New book drop installed.

January 9, 1959

Library donated condemned book to Rawlins High School Library by Mr. Partlow, school librarian.

October 11, 1960

The Women's Club offered a gift but due to space constraints, the library was unable to accept.

June 13, 1961

The Women's Club appreciation gift of \$52.79 was received; librarian suggested it be used for furniture for the East Side Branch instead of going to the general fund.

April 10, 1963

The Women's Civic League gift of \$121.72 was received; to be used for file cabinet, book rack panel, shelves, repairs, and minor projects for the East Side Branch.

February 10, 1965

Columbia Records presented the library with six gift packages, each consisting of sixty long-playing Columbia Masterworks records; the board discussed purchasing a record player to establish a listening program.

April 12, 1965

Certain members of the Laramie County Medical Society had indicated that there might be funds available from the Society for a gift to the library; the board sent a letter of gratitude if this was so.

Chapter 22: Finances

At some point, a budget schedule was adopted which allowed funds to be transferred from one category to another. When this schedule was defined is uncertain but it was first mentioned in the January 1957 minutes. It may have been adopted in the hiatus from 1947 to 1955.

LARAMIE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BUDGET SCHEDULE

- B-1 Administration – salaries, office supplies, telephone, postage, credit transactions, travel, meetings
- B-2 Library materials, books, periodicals, audio-visual equipment, binding
- B-3 Operation of plant – salaries, electricity, gas, water, garbage
- B-4 Maintenance of plant – replacements, repairs, supplies, laundry, housekeeping
- B-5 Fixed charges – insurance, rent
- B-6 Capital expenditures – rentals, book trucks, misc.
- B-7 Other library accounts – gas, coal, transportation, misc.

1902-1909

At the March 1902 board meeting, it was decided that the purchase of \$15,000 in additional insurance on the building for five years would be divided among various local insurance agencies. The 1902 annual report was audited by board member Charles W. Burdick, signed, and sent to the county commissioners.

Several letters in 1903 indicate that even though the best materials and construction methods were used, there were still problems with the building. One letter defended the building superintendent and the L. H. Prentice Company of Chicago for the problems with the heating system. The company replied in a letter of April 13, 1903 that the heating plant test was inadequate, since it did not consider the ventilating flues and the superintendent did not have an instruction manual. The company planned to do their own test and would provide a manual and instructions.

In addition, the roof leaked and the J. C. McFarland Company promised to repair it. Apparently there were some communication problems since a letter to Pete Smith from the secretary advised him that under no circumstances was he to take any orders concerning the library building or the furniture from anyone except the librarian.

1910-1919

In August 1913, the board was asked to appear before the county commissioners to request a tax levy for library expenses. Board members Colin Hunter and Mrs. H. D. Patten attended and the commissioners promised a one-eighth mill levy to the library which would amount to \$5,200 for 1914.

In June 1914, board member Thomas Cosgriff arranged by phone for the board to meet with Mayor LaFontaine and city officials on the seventh to ascertain their intentions regarding appropriation to the library fund. The city was unable to make more donations to the library since it had made donations earlier in the year.

In April 1915, a review of the previous year's finances showed that salaries averaged about \$4,000 and books averaged about \$2,500. The board realized that more operating

money would be needed and decided to ask the county commissioners for a tax levy of 0.3 mills for the coming year. Renewing the insurance policy was discussed at the May meeting, but changes were deferred to June.

In September, expenditures were reviewed and the need for larger appropriation discussed but no action was taken. By November, the need had intensified and an itemized report of expenses and bills was produced and sent to the county commissioners. The list included redecorating; painting and repairing cracked walls; a new furnace; lighting system improvements for night use; increased funds for coal as the price was rising annually (in 1920 coal accounted for one-sixth of total funds); expenses at \$1,193.30; cash on hand \$182.54; and \$891.84 to pay for salaries, improvements, and bills. In response to the letter, the commissioners gave \$821.30 so salaries and some bills could be paid.

Of interest is the state examiner's report of the audit from July 29, 1910 to November 1, 1916. The audit was apparently occasioned by the replacement of board treasurer Charles Mallin by Thomas Cosgriff, and the later death of Cosgriff and his replacement by his wife. There were two recommendations from the examiner. While all disbursements were carefully recorded, bank statements were the only record of receipts, which should be corrected, and the board meeting minutes infrequently mentioned approved bills, an oversight which should not be permitted. On the other hand, the Cheyenne Library Association was congratulated because it was possible to check the books for six years and three months and find all funds properly accounted for. The size of Cheyenne at that time could be estimated from the envelope which was addressed to "Hon. W. C. Deming, Cheyenne, Wyoming." The post office obviously knew where Deming lived.

1920-1929

In January 1921, librarian Louella Moore and board secretary Deming gave the commissioners a copy of the 1920 annual report and funding needs for the year. The commissioners responded by telling them that \$6,000 was all they would get. The library board decided to use fine fund monies to pay for some of the plumbing and building repairs.

By June, financial needs were again the topic of discussion. The board president was instructed to ask the county commissioners for at least as much funding as they had provided in the past. According to a law passed by the 16th Wyoming Legislature, the county librarian's salary should be paid in the same manner as other county officials and this was requested.

In September 1921, the 1922 budget was developed to be presented to the county commissioners. It did not include the county librarian's salary of \$1,800 since that should be paid as a county official. The budget included salaries for the assistant librarian (\$2,040) and janitor (\$900), \$2,000 for books, \$800 for fuel, \$234 for lights, \$258 for magazines and papers, \$250 for supplies, \$84 for telephone service, \$400 for repairs, and \$234 for incidentals. The total was \$7,200. The president subsequently reported that he had seen the commissioners and they had agreed to raise the mill levy to cover the budget, not including the county librarian's salary. By November, funds were available to pay the assistant librarians, janitor, and current bills. The board asked the commissioners to "assume the Librarian's salary for the remaining two months in accordance with the law covering same."

In January 1922, the county commissioners called for a conference attended only by Deming and Moore. Since the Soldier's Exemption from taxes, valuation for the county had dropped to only \$35,000 and the commissioners asked that the library board assume the county librarian's salary for 1922. If county funding didn't cover necessary expenditures, the

commissioners would assist the library at the end of the year. Fine fund monies was again used to pay for incidental expenses, including \$55 for repairs.

At the December 1922 meeting, Moore read an article regarding average costs and apportionments of funds in libraries throughout the country. There was no comment or discussion.

At the December 1923 meeting, the financial condition of the library was again discussed. It was concluded that bills and salaries could be paid if the county commissioners provided \$400 that they allowed for the Pine Bluffs branch.

In February 1924, the board obtained a \$5,000 surety bond to protect the library's bank account. In August, \$3,000 from the county treasurer was deposited in the American National Bank. The bonds that covered the deposit in the First National Bank, which had failed, had not yet been sold so funds in that bank were unavailable. The bonds were finally sold in December, covering \$2,000 in savings, \$35 in unhonored checks, and \$66.17 in interest. The total of \$2,523.17 was deposited in the American National Bank. Cheyenne city bonds for \$6,000 were purchased to secure the deposits.

In March 1926, the board sent notice to the county commissioners that the funding for the year should be \$11,344. In November, bills for books and lighting were paid only after a discussion about finances. In December, the library received \$450 of \$900 promised by the county commissioners with the balance to be paid later.

At the January 1928 meeting, it was decided to use the balance of the 1927 fine fund monies to improve two offices, as requested by Mentzer. In March 1929, the board received a report of the library's 1928 accounts from the state bank examiner. This is the first mention of a bank examiner report.

1930-1939

In March 1930, the county commissioners were asked to meet with the library board to apprise them of the progress of the library in the past few years and presumably to inform them of the need for more funding. At the meeting on May 6, 1930, Mentzer reported on the increase of departments in the last ten years, new methods, service extensions to reach all of Laramie County, and work with schools. After discussion, she asked for an increase of \$3,500 in the budget. The commissioners were apparently impressed and favorable, and decided to raise the mill level for county taxes.

In September, the city announced an assessment for oiling Central Avenue and board treasurer Wilfred O'Leary was instructed to find out if the library was exempt. It wasn't but could pay in yearly installments starting March 1, 1931. In October, the insurance policies were reviewed and a safety deposit box at the American National Bank was rented for the Laramie County Library Association (LCLA), the official name for the Carnegie library. Fine fund monies was used to pay for supplies and also to send the county librarian to the American Library Association (ALA) conference.

In June 1931, the board stipulated that the next budget should specifically include funding for repairs. The 1932 budget sent to the county commissioners totaled \$16,400 but the commissioners allowed only \$14,420, leading to a board discussion regarding plans to reduce the budget. Presumably to influence the commissioners, a library inventory and invoices were sent to them. Details included 30,000 books valued at \$45,000, 270 bound magazines valued at \$800, 66 periodicals valued at \$1,000, and furniture valued at \$3,830 (totaling \$50,630). A discussion about insurance policies concluded that renewals would be more equally distributed between agencies. A letter from Mr. Leach asked to be considered

when the policies were renewed. An attempt was made to do so but was difficult because of the irregular due dates.

In July 1932, a budget was formulated for \$16,325 and sent to the county commissioners. In the budget, salaries would remain the same but each employee would be required to take one month of vacation without pay. The bank account was moved to the Stock Growers Bank in December.

The depression economy continued to affect the library budget in 1933. Expenses from January to June were \$5,584.79 but the bank balance as of July 1 was \$6,910.79. The county gave the library \$10,600 with the promise of \$1,000 later.

The 1934 budget was prepared to be sent to the county commissioners in August. Mentzer met with the commissioners and presented the budget, but the appropriation was only \$13,000. In December she reported that the bank account would be overdrawn at the end of the fiscal year if more money was not forthcoming from the county.

In July 1934, the tentative budget for 1935 was presented to the trustees, approved, and sent to the commissioners for their August meeting. At that meeting the commissioners appropriated only \$14,560.72. The 1934 annual report showed expenses of \$12,677.67 and salaries of \$8,079. Obviously 1935 was going to be financially precarious, though the fine money account was doing well and \$400 was deposited in the savings account.

At the March 1935 meeting the board decided to make banking more flexible by authorizing the bank to honor any check signed by any two board members.

Always on the alert for financial relief in May 1937 ([sic] – really 1935), the board inquired of the Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company and the telephone company if the library might be tax-exempt. Mentzer reported on finances and presented the 1936 budget to go to the commissioners, requesting \$15,000 with salaries of \$7,990. The budget was accepted by the commissioners and since it included a five percent salary raise, they should be allowed.

At the July 1936 meeting, the 1937 budget was presented, approved, and sent to the commissioners. Significantly, there was no further mention of the budget in subsequent meetings. The LCLA bank account was moved to the American National Bank on January 1, 1937.

At the start of the 1937 fiscal year, the library received \$15,607.15 from the county. The tentative 1938 budget was presented, approved, and sent to the commissioners. Interestingly, from this time on the budget was presented, approved, and accepted by the county at the start of each fiscal year without comment or restriction.

1940-1949

The state examiner's report in August 1940 found that the library's books were in order. The examiner recommended that the treasurer's bond be increased but O'Leary felt that the method of checking was such that this was not necessary. He discussed it with the examiner who agreed that it was not necessary. The state examiner audited the books annually thereafter without recommendations.

In October 1941, \$500 was transferred from the fine fund monies account in the Stock Growers Bank to the LCLS fund in the American National Bank to meet the November 1 salary checks. In November, O'Leary decided that the treasurer should have a new bond at the beginning of each fiscal year. This would coincide with the election of officers.

Since the Laramie County assessment was now over \$35 million, the county librarian should be paid from the county budget like the other county officials. O'Leary and Mentzer

met with the county attorney and county treasurer to decide which budget would pay the county librarian's salary. At the meeting they found that the county assessment was not, in fact, over \$35 million so the county librarian would still be paid from the library budget. Not satisfied, the board and county librarian decided to attend the commissioners' meeting on February 2, 1942 to request that the county librarian's salary be included in the county budget at \$175 per month (\$2,100 per year).

Some significant changes were made in financing the library in 1942. Opinions by the county attorney allowed the board to set up a cash working capital fund and also allowed the county commissioners to advance money as necessary to the library. In June it was necessary to transfer \$1,288.06 from the working capital fund to the general checking account to meet obligations. In July, \$5,000 was placed in the Capital Working Fund to replace funds previously removed. The treasurer informed the trustees that funds not to exceed \$9,000 could be set aside for repairs, because it was anticipated that there would be money available at the end of the year. This money could be savings from books, furniture, fixtures, and the general fund.

In August 1943, it was again necessary to transfer \$1,000 from the Capital Working Fund to the general checking account. In September the treasurer reported at the board meeting that there was \$433.12 in the general account and \$4,000 in the Capital Working Fund. There was also good news; the Laramie County treasurer informed the board treasurer that he would receive a check for \$1,000 to meet current expenses and in the future there would be enough funds from the county to meet obligations, eliminating the need to transfer funds from the Capital Working Fund.

The October 1943 meeting was limited to discussion and formulation of the 1944 budget. The treasurer presented the following itemized budget for consideration by the board.

1.	Librarian's salary	\$2,100.00
2.	Ass't librarians' salaries.....	8,000.00
3.	Janitor's salary	1,480.00
4.	Janitor's supplies.....	150.00
5.	Light and water	500.00
6.	Postage, express and freight.....	100.00
7.	Telephone and telegraph	100.00
8.	Fuel	375.00
9.	Office supplies	1,000.00
10.	Magazines and books.....	5,200.00
11.	Structure fund (for future emergencies. Fund gradually built up to level approved by commissioners)	1,000.00
12.	Repairs (current and future)	500.00
13.	Insurance (half of three-year premium)	139.00
14.	1944 bond and insurance	425.00
15.	Visiting branch libraries.....	100.00
	\$21,160.00

The budget was approved by the board and the treasurer was instructed to supplement it with explanatory letters regarding each budgetary item. This would also include an itemized account of anticipated revenues with which to balance the budget. Everything would be signed by the entire board and presented to the county commissioners.

The letters pointed out that the total budget was essentially the same as the preceding year, but the distribution of expenditures was somewhat different. It was felt that some items should be increased from time to time, such as the structure fund, which could be done by measures that would not endanger service to the public, such as reducing book and magazine funding. Insurance premium payments were spread out to prevent a single large payment coming due every three years. The letter also mentioned the balance of \$4,000 in the library general fund and asked that this be gradually increased by some amount which could better be decided after tax revenues were determined. The board requested that this surplus fund be available for use before tax revenues were available and would be replenished when said revenues were received.

In late 1943, the county commissioners advised the board that improvements could be funded under the furniture-fixture account, which would allow a number of improvements but also influenced the budget. The treasurer was also advised that it was legal to transfer unused funds from one budget item to another. He reported that the 1943 income would balance all the expenditures and would leave a balance sufficient to meet all maintenance needs until the spring taxes were available. He suggested, however, that all current economies should be continued to limit expenditures to \$1,500 per month.

The budget officer of Laramie County advised the treasurer of the Laramie County Library Association that some items in the 1944 budget exceeded the estimate while other items were under the estimate. The county librarian explained that the total budget was within the assigned limit, so it complied with the law. In all probability, this is the time when the budget schedule mentioned above was adopted, allowing transfers from one category to another.

At the April 1944 meeting, prompted by a letter from Herbert Towle requesting consideration when fire insurance was next purchased, the board decided to have a meeting specifically to discuss library insurance. Thus on April 25 the board met in the president's office and the matter of the whole insurance problem was discussed. The following decisions were made.

1. Mr. Bond, the secretary, would examine all the insurance policies and report at a meeting where a plan for adequate insurance would be formulated.
2. Current insurance coverage should be more widely distributed among community insurance agencies. The insurance provided by the McInerney Company which expired in April would be redistributed as follows: \$2,500 continued with McInerney Co.; \$2,500 with H. B. Towle agency; and \$1,250 with H. M. Riner agency. The secretary would explain to McInerney that the board was in the process of a thorough study of the insurance set-up and the present arrangement was preliminary to the board's final decision with regard to its insurance policies.

As promised, the county treasurer sent a check for \$3,000 to cover expenditures and the board planned to continue restricting these to \$1,500 per month.

At the August 1944 meeting, the treasurer reported a balance of \$699 in the checking account, not counting \$2,500 in the reserve fund. It was resolved to use \$1,000 of the reserve to pay bills and replace it with future income. In September, the treasurer reported a balance of \$2,790.06 in the checking account at the American National Bank. In accordance with the law, it was resolved to transfer \$1,500 to the Stock Growers National Bank. The treasurer also noted that the recommendations of the state bank examiner had not been carried out. It

was resolved that the treasurer would obtain the cooperation of the state bank examiner in purchasing the necessary materials and adopting the system of accounting and bookkeeping suggested. The treasurer told the board that the budget officer considered it likely that there would be \$400 available for the remainder of the year which could be used for a special work item. The board thereupon moved that the county librarian provide a list of present employees for board consideration for the division of this fund for "special services rendered."

In October 1944, the treasurer reported that although the cash balance in the checking account was \$6,100, it would be necessary to borrow \$1,500 from the reserve account to meet current obligations. At this meeting, the president presented the salary schedule for the balance of the year as suggested by the county librarian. The treasurer declared that it would be impossible to meet this obligation, considering the status of the checking account. With some adjustments the following schedule was approved and sent to the county librarian for implementation.

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Special Services (monthly)</u>
1. M. Smith.....	\$130.00.....	\$5.00
2. Mary Carpenter.....	120.00.....	5.00
3. Eva Fitch.....	120.00.....	5.00
4. New Assistant.....	125.00.....	n/a
5. Extra help	120.00.....	n/a
6. Burns	25.00.....	5.00
7. Pine Bluffs	30.00.....	5.00
8. Albin	30.00.....	n/a
9. South Side.....	30.00.....	5.00
10. Mr. Spaulding.....		5.00
11. Mrs. Patterson.....		<u>5.00</u>
	\$730.00.....	\$40.00
		<u>730.00</u>
Total per month Oct. to Jan.....		\$770.00

At the November meeting, the treasurer reported a cash balance of \$4,537 and income to date of \$12,400. A thorough discussion of the current financial condition of the library funds and the anticipated income for 1945 followed. It must be remembered that World War II was ongoing and income was tenuous. After due consideration, the following budget was adopted for presentation to the county commissioners.

Librarian's salary	\$2,100.00
First assistant.....	1,560.00
Second assistant	1,500.00
Third assistant	1,500.00
Fourth assistant	1,500.00
Emergency help requirement	500.00
Janitor's salary, expenses.....	1,480.00
Circulation, office supplies	500.00
Insurance and bonds.....	375.00
General repairs, supplies	300.00
Books, magazine account.....	4,300.00
Telephone, telegraph.....	100.00

Light, water, refuse removal, etc.	500.00
Fuel	550.00
Postage, express and freight.....	100.00
Transportation	100.00
Furniture and fixtures.....	150.00
Extra labor, janitor's service	150.00
Petty cash	400.00

At the December 1944 meeting, the treasurer reported that some expenditures during the year had exceeded the approved budget and some items would need to be adjusted to maintain a balanced budget. The adjustments could be done without exceeding the entire budget appropriation and the law allowed reallocating funds under certain circumstances. The board authorized this procedure.

At the January 1945 meeting, the board discussed the proposal initiated through the Taxpayer's League that there should be a pre-purchase audit of expenditures of all governmental units. This was thought to be a cumbersome procedure and not applicable to the library; however, it was felt that all obligations assumed in a single year should be examined carefully to be certain they didn't exceed the budgetary allowance. The treasurer felt that book obligations incurred in 1944 should not be held against the 1945 budget. The treasurer was authorized to study the situation and devise a plan to remedy it, and the county librarian was instructed to provide the necessary information.

At a meeting at the end of January, the treasurer was instructed to call the county librarian's attention to the need to stay within the budgetary limits when ordering books. The issue of books ordered in 1944 and delivered and paid for in 1945 came up again. Some way would need to be found to pay \$380.54 for books ordered in 1944 and delivered in 1945 without charging them to the 1945 budget.

At the May 1945 meeting, the treasurer reported that the budget law passed by the last legislature established the fiscal year from July 1 to June 30 and that expenditures from January 1, 1945 to June 30, 1945 should be adjusted accordingly. Drastic penalties applied for expenditures beyond budget. County librarian Louise Patterson was instructed to provide the necessary data to assure that expenditures remained within budget. The report should include the amount of money owed on all books that had been ordered but would not be delivered before the end of the fiscal year.

The treasurer also requested approval to place equal amounts of the reserve fund in the two banks serving the library. He said he had submitted a temporary budget to the county budget officer for suggestions about adjustments needed to meet his approval. The treasurer was instructed to continue discussions with the county budget officer to assure proper presentation of said reports.

At the August meeting it was found necessary to make the following resolution, which would preclude public discussion of library finances before review by the board.

RESOLVED: that the Board of Directors of the Laramie County Library Association inform the Library staff that all matters pertaining to a discussion of the Library Budget items be presented directly to the Board of Directors and that there shall be no representation at public budgetary hearings save only such representation as authorized and approved by the Board of Directors.

In September 1945, the American National Bank informed the board that it had substituted new securities to cover library deposits and that security information would be placed in the library's safe deposit box. The treasurer discussed the financial condition of the library with the county budget officer in great detail, including the estimated cost of beautifying the Reading Room. The budget officer was of the opinion that the library was in excellent financial condition, and that it could easily handle the proposed improvement without jeopardizing its strong financial condition.

In December, the treasurer was able to give the county librarian \$1,500 for current expenses, having received \$9,000 from the county treasurer. The money was deposited and the reserve fund was replenished to its required \$10,000.

At the January 1946 meeting, the treasurer read the quarterly budget report, which by law had to be submitted to the state bank examiner. There were three changes in budget items since there was no change in total appropriation. General repairs and janitor supplies were increased from \$400 to \$650, furniture and fixtures were increased from \$50 to \$300, and insurance and bonds were reduced from \$500 to \$250. The special repairs account was changed to \$3,178.86. All of these changes were approved by the board.

1950-1959

For the 1956-1957 fiscal year, the county commissioners allowed \$62,665. The board reviewed insurance policies and spread them out to several agencies.

In January 1957, the library was paid \$49 by an insurance company for damage due to a break-in. The county librarian presented a plan to pay for maintenance work and furnishings directly from the budget. In March, a satisfactory report was received from the state examiner. The new budget included an evening person "to preserve order during school year."

In May, the budget was presented with some modifications, requesting \$54,613 plus \$10,000 cash reserve, and it was sent to the commissioners. Transferring funds from B-3 (operations) to B-4 (maintenance) would allow payment of contracted expenditures in the 1956-1957 budget. As required, the change was advertised in the newspaper. Shifting funds became routine when unusual expenses occurred. Insurance policies were examined for possible premium improvements, and with a few adjustments premiums were reduced.

The 1959 budget was accepted at \$55,079 plus \$10,000 cash reserve. Again funds were transferred between schedules to pay for lighting, books, and insurance. However, in August 1958, the budget for the 1958-1959 fiscal year was decreased by \$2,046 by the county commissioners with no explanation.

At a special meeting in May 1959, the 1959-1960 budget was presented for \$57,643 plus \$10,000 cash reserve. Three hundred dollars was later added for the county librarian's salary and \$500 was added for a new floor in the Children's Room, for a total of \$58,443 plus \$10,000 cash reserve.

In August, a letter from the county clerk advised the board that the 1959-1960 budget was \$66,443 which included the \$10,000 cash reserve; however, the cash reserve could not be used without the approval of the commissioners. In September, employees were covered by liability insurance for the first time.

1960-1969

In 1960 the board approved pay increases which had been included in the budget.

A special meeting was held in May 1961 to decide the library budget and also the Library Service Act (LSA) budget for the Wyoming State Library (see *Legislation*).

Originally the library budget was \$68,356 plus \$10,000 cash reserve, but with changes made at the East Side branch it was increased to \$68,691 plus \$10,000 cash reserve. At this point it was estimated that there would be a \$3,000 balance plus \$10,000 cash reserve at the end of the fiscal year.

At a special meeting in May 1962, a tentative budget of \$78,594 plus \$10,000 cash reserve was presented, but additions for the county librarian's salary and insurance brought it up to \$78,919 plus \$10,000 cash reserve. The county librarian recommended transferring a surplus of \$1,000 in administration to books, and transferring \$625 from "other" to furniture (Capital Outlay Account) for new carpet in the Club Room. As usual, these transfers were advertised in the newspaper. The insurance policy was revised to include the East Side branch. The 1962-1963 budget included pay raises for librarians at the East Side, Pine Bluffs, and Albin branches.

In April 1963, \$25,000 invested in Treasury bills was redeemed and deposited in American National Bank. This amount plus \$5,000 from the current budget was invested in Certificates of Investment as follows: \$10,000 at Capital Savings and Loan, \$10,000 at Cheyenne Savings and Loan, and \$10,000 at Federal Building and Loan. A review of insurance policies showed that the East Side branch had \$1,000 less coverage than the South Side branch. Insurance for the Albin, Burns, and Pine Bluffs branches was checked but additional information was needed to correct inequities.

A special meeting in May decided the 1963-1964 budget would be \$81,369 plus \$10,000 cash reserve. Later \$2,400 was added for salaries and \$50 for water and garbage. For the first time, funding for a new library was considered and \$55,000 for a land purchase and building fund was added, bringing the final figure to \$138,819 plus \$10,000 cash reserve.

In mid-1964, the board reviewed all the insurance policies covering library books, buildings, and other property. At that time there were twenty-one separate policies with inadequate coverage of books. It was decided to convert coverage to one policy with substantial financial savings and better coverage of the book stock. The Phoenix Insurance Company bid for \$709 was accepted with the following coverage.

Main library	\$100,000
Contents	25,000
Valuable papers.....	83,000
Liability.....	100,000
Workman's Compensation.....	5,000/100,000
Index cards	5,000
Steam boiler	100,000 limit per accident

Subsequently, Dan Rees presented to the board a corrected insurance policy covering workman's compensation, which was deposited with all the other insurance policies in the office of the Laramie County treasurer.

At the May 1967 meeting, a preliminary budget of \$105,085.59 plus \$10,000 reserve plus \$10,000 for the building planning fund was approved by president Robert St. Clair and secretary Harriet Prosser; however, treasurer John Noyes later reviewed the budget and some changes were made. Increasing the county librarian's salary to \$7,200 per year and some other minor changes resulted in a final budget of \$87,814 plus \$10,000 reserve and \$10,000 for the building planning fund.

Chapter 23: Maintenance

In many ways, a library is like any other business. To the casual observer it would seem that the chief activity is dispensing reading material, but like all other organizations this takes place in an environment which needs constant upkeep, cleaning, repairing, replacing worn-out things, and security. A review of the minutes of the Carnegie library board of trustees reflects the attention required to maintain an acceptable building.

1902-1909

During the early years when the building was new, these matters were relatively insignificant; however, even in 1902 there were a few items to consider. There was a need for an ash pit near the rear of the building and apparently the heating was a problem, since it was discussed with the building committee in January.

At the October 1903 meeting, there was a motion for a board member to appear before the city council on November 3, 1903 to request heat, light, and janitor service for the library.

In the spring of 1908, the winter weather dictated the need for double windows on the north and west sides of the building, and a bid for \$30.33 by H. V. Bartlett was accepted. A new water tap was installed on the north side of the building.

At the June 1909 meeting, it was decided to ask the Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power Company to test the electric meter. No reason was given for this but one can assume there was a concern about the cost of electricity. A wall was built on the south side of the lawn and it was decided to “paint up” the building and remove the old wooden fence around the property. In September, the first typewriter was acquired and the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company installed the first telephone in the library.

1910-1919

The 1911 annual report reported new interior decoration and installation of weather-stripping. It was time to modernize the library lighting, changing from carbon arc to tungsten which was cheaper.

The heating system was coal-fired and until the fall of 1913, coal had been purchased by the ton. At this point it seemed better to buy it by the carload, so an advertisement was placed in the newspaper for bids for Hanna lump coal by the carload to be delivered by December 31, 1913. The J. L. Murray Company's bid of \$4.60 per ton was awarded the contract. Losing bids were submitted by Manager Fuel and Feed (\$4.65 per ton) and Van Tassel & Draper (\$4.70 per ton).

In 1915, new receptacles for reading lights in the Reading Room and Children's Room were installed.

At the October 1916 meeting, the trustees approved the improvement of the heating plant and instructed the janitor to proceed, but no action followed.

In 1917, a new radiator was installed, window sashes were painted, and the roof was repaired. The electric company was asked to estimate the cost of lighting in the club rooms so clubs could be charged appropriately.

In May 1918, there was an entry in the minutes that the building was to be fumigated on May 30, though no reason could be found in the board minutes or in the newspapers prior to or following the event.

In September 1919, rubber matting was installed in the upstairs hall and the cost was paid from the fine fund monies.

1920-1929

In the spring of 1920, Hobbs and Huckfelt were the low bidders to “battleship” the stairs at a cost of \$69.75. (Attempts to define “battleshiping” have been fruitless. Whether it was a color or a material is uncertain.) Again the lighting of the library was a concern; a new electrical system was discussed and an estimate from Stevenson Electric Co. was read. Mr. Fitch was consulted and asked to proceed with the work. The J. Rosenblum Paint Co. payment was withheld pending corrections and satisfactory work. The 1920 annual report noted that henceforth, fine fund monies would be used to pay for some of the costs of repairs and plumbing.

In August 1921, it was determined that the library heating was inadequate and the existing system could not be modified. The president was delegated to look for a solution, but no action was forthcoming.

During the summer of 1922, new pillar lights were installed in front of the building and the interior window ledges were refinished during the week of Cheyenne Frontier Days.

In January 1923, Mrs. Baerresen, the Art Club representative, gave the librarian a price of \$24 from Pitt and Williams for three ungilded radiator covers for the Women’s Club Room. The librarian ordered the covers and sent the bill to the board.

Later in the fall after the October meeting, communication with the retiring city commissioner regarding the repair of sidewalks around the building revealed that the library would have to wait until the new commissioner took office “before creating an interest in the repair of the walks about the building.” The boiler inspector recommended new grates in the furnace, and the librarian instructed Mr. Roedd to examine and replace them if necessary.

In June 1925, arrangements were made to replace radiator tops as needed. The library was burglarized during the night of Sunday, August 1-2 and \$24.81 was stolen, which led to a discussion about security. In the 1925 annual report it was reported that redecorating and furnace costs would henceforth come from the budget and the cost of supplies would come from the fine fund monies.

By January 1926, the heating situation had become serious and Pitt and Williams were asked to inspect it. Their report at the March meeting concluded that no action should be taken about the furnace since the cost was too high without discovering the real trouble. Another consultant was asked to inspect and report. In July, a severe hail storm damaged the skylight and roof and the repairs cost \$262.40.

In July 1927, the pillar lights had to be properly welded to prevent them from breaking off. New lighting was installed on February 14, 1928. The light company left the new fixtures installed for one month to compare the cost of electricity with the old bill.

The only maintenance problem in 1929 was replacing a missing fire extinguisher. It was suspected that it was stolen.

1930-1939

In November 1931, the ventilation in the Children’s Room, which had been discussed in meetings since July, finally resulted in a plan by the Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power Company for ventilating the room. The cost was \$167.20 which was to be paid over a six-month period from fine fund monies. In December, the ventilating equipment was installed but it was not adjusted completely; in January the system was finally operating properly and the first payment was made.

At the March 1932 meeting, the sidewalk repair which was first discussed in 1923 was discussed again. In April, bids were requested from all area coal companies. In May, the ceiling and walls in the stack room were painted for \$38. By August, five coal companies had bid and the Capital Coal Co. bid of \$5 per ton was accepted. In September, the stocker was repaired and overhauled for \$26.72. At the December meeting, the cost of rewiring the entire building by the Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power Company was considered and a new fuel box was installed for \$48.75.

At the January 1933 meeting, the Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power Company's estimate of \$970 for rewiring the building was presented. It was decided to get estimates from the Simson Electric and Stevenson Electric companies. In late summer, all the coal company bids had been received and all were the same price (\$5 per ton) so the Capital Coal Company was picked at random.

At the May 1934 meeting, a new fire extinguisher was purchased. This time it was a larger one for \$8.50 and was probably not so easily stolen. It was reported that the roof and steps were leaking. The board thought the Civil Works Administration (CWA) should repair them and the librarian was asked to investigate. (The CWA was a New Deal job creation program during the Great Depression under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The board was apparently unaware that the CWA terminated March 31, 1934.) In June, however, the minutes stated that the CWA project was done, the front steps were fixed, and the roof work appraisal done. It is uncertain whether "CWA project done" means that CWA no longer existed or that the request got in under the wire.

In August, the Cheyenne Coal Yard delivered 35 tons of coal for \$174.78. A new coal order was placed with Barlow Brothers to be weighed on city scales. All prior coal had been weighed on the company scales. The implication is obvious. Estimates were received from Mr. Turner and Mr. Cook for a new toilet in the women's restroom; both estimates were the same and Turner was selected.

At the February 1935 meeting, the need for rewiring the building was again raised. The need had first been voiced in 1920 and in 1933 the Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power Company had provided an estimate, but finding funding had been difficult. In March, the board asked George Storey, the chairman of the county board of commissioners, to meet with the library board chair regarding new sidewalks and rewiring the library. In August, bids from six coal dealers were received. An added note to the minutes stated that the lowest bid coal was of inferior quality. They ended up buying from the highest bidder, Capital Coal, at \$5.14 per ton. In December, it was decided to again approach the county commissioners about rewiring the library as a county project. The stockroom ceiling was repaired for \$30. It was "Kalsomined," or whitewashed, a low-cost paint composed of slaked lime (calcium hydroxide) and chalk.

In June 1936, the Women's Club agreed to pay half the cost of a sink for the basement. In November, the Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power Company replaced a pillar light for \$115. In December, plain wire replaced the barbed wire which bordered the front walk.

A letter to the school board in May 1937 requested them to repair the fence at the back of the library. The library indicated that it would pay half for a mesh fence if the school board would pay the other half, and predicted that the school board would probably agree if the cost was not over \$100. In the fall, a coal contract was entered with the Brinkworth Company for coal at \$5.75 per ton to be weighed on the city scales.

In April 1938, Mr. Gram agreed to paint the stairway ceiling and walls and the basement hall for \$50. In September, three companies submitted bids to install linoleum in

the Children's and Reading rooms. Percy Smith was the lowest at \$356.98, which was accepted and the linoleum was installed.

In July 1939, a new half-horsepower motor for the furnace stoker was purchased for \$60.18. At the September meeting, it was noted that all the coal bids were the same, but the Capital Coal Company was chosen since it had not had the contract for four years.

1940-1949

At the January 1940 meeting, it was noted that both flights of stairs had been repaired. An estimate for a lighting update (rewiring) was \$700. It was decided that the project would be done with what could be allowed in the budget and the balance would be taken from fine fund monies. Fire extinguishers (22-quart size) were purchased for \$144.10. In August, the Brinkworth Coal Yard provided 40 tons of Rock Springs slack (bituminous coal half-inch or smaller). The following year, written bids would be obtained from legitimate coal dealers and would not require weighing on city scales.

Repairs were needed at the South Side branch in 1943 and the treasurer was delegated to confer with the school board regarding the issue.

At the April 1944 meeting, a question arose regarding a bill for \$23.52 from an electrical contractor. The invoice was unclear, stating only repair of an electric fixture in an office. No one could explain the need for such a major repair so payment of all bills was withheld until the invoice was explained by the librarian; apparently the explanation was adequate for the bill was paid at the next meeting. The treasurer was instructed to ask the county clerk about weather-stripping the Magazine Room and the glass reflector in the front office, and if approved asked that these costs be included in the county commissioner's building improvements fund.

At the August 1944 meeting, the president received a report from the janitor and Mr. Peterson (a consultant?) that the furnace stoker would need repairs totaling \$250 and that repeated repairs would be necessary to keep it going. They recommended a new Iron Fireman stoker for \$900. The treasurer had asked the Cook Plumbing Co. to examine the stoker. They reported that it would cost \$190 to repair it and repeated repairs would be required. The Cook Co. could install a Crane stoker, ready for use, for \$400 which led to a full discussion of the merits of the two stokers. The present stoker had a capacity of 75 pounds whereas the Crane stoker carried 100 pounds. It was decided to purchase the Crane stoker with money from the improvement fund. The bill for the new stoker was presented to the county commissioners and paid in November 1944.

In June 1945, the treasurer reported that it was necessary for him to incur expenses for maintenance of the building from time to time. These were usually small amounts ranging from \$3 to \$12 for telephone calls or traveling, but he was no longer able to bear these expenses. He suggested that the board should earmark \$100 from the miscellaneous budget to be used as a trustees' expense fund from which checks could be drawn and accounts kept by the county librarian as bookkeeper and reported monthly.

The treasurer also felt that a "stone man" from Denver should be consulted regarding cleaning the building. He felt this would be cheaper than having an estimate which the board would not approve. At this point, the board felt that a practical builder should inspect the building to identify needs and prepare a report to be presented to an architect for advisability of suggested improvements. At a special meeting on July 17, the treasurer reported an expenditure of \$8.50 for a telephone call and a trip to Denver to consult a "stone man." After the building was inspected and a small part of the building was cleaned as an experiment, it

was the impression of Mr. Kash, the stone man, and William Dubois, a local architect, that it would not be advisable to spend money on what would be an unsatisfactory job.

1950-1959

In August 1956, the roof was repaired and the front doors were refinished. By November it was necessary to call the Sheet Metal Company to discover why there was slow progress in getting estimates for repairing the coal bin roof.

Finally in January 1957, estimates were obtained for repairing the roof of the coal bin, painting the Men's Club Room, finishing stair treads, painting the basement floor, and painting the outside entrance to the Children's Room. The main library roof repair was almost finished and the balance was \$1,550. Bids for these jobs were accepted and the coal bin work amounted to \$55.

In March, it was felt that the attic insulation should be changed from ground paper, which was highly flammable, to rock wool. Bids were requested for new lighting in the south Reading Room in order to match that in the north Reading Room. The large leaded window on the stairway could not be repaired so a replacement was approved for \$130, but payment for the window was withheld until an insurance application could be made.

In July, the hot water tank began leaking and the warranty was checked to see if it was still applicable. In September, a leaky spot was noted in the main ceiling and the insurance adjuster was asked to check for hail damage. In October, the painter contacted in September to paint the flagpole hadn't shown up yet.

At the January 1958 meeting, it was observed that the man contacted in March 1957 for roof and insulation work had not shown up yet. In March, the stage and steps in the Children's Room, the basement and main room ceilings, and the front office were painted. The latter was due to water damage from the leaky ceiling.

In April, the county librarian was asked to get information about the new lighting system. Fred Rosenquist of the Commercial Lighting Department of the Public Service Company of Colorado provided recommendations for the lighting system free of charge. Three companies made bids; W. G. Dale Co. was the lowest bid at \$2,888.50 and was accepted. The company would give credit for any old fixtures removed.

In June, a letter from the furnace inspector stated that changes in the furnace valves would be done by the public school heating engineer. In October, alterations in the heating system recommended by the Hartford Steam Boiler inspector were made by the school district plumber under the direction of the school heating engineer.

In November, the back basement doors, sills, and casement needed replacement at a cost of \$100. When the work on the back doors was started in December, it was discovered that the estimate for the basement doors was actually for only one door; both doors would cost \$140. The office and main room ceilings (damaged by water) were painted for \$165.

In January 1959, there was a forced entry to the library through the furnace room. The thieves stole \$4.50 from petty cash and \$13.52 from another account, but there was only minor damage to the door. Again the heating problem resurfaced as the furnace was not keeping the building warm. In another theft in March, \$4 was stolen from the Alta Vista school library.

In April, bids were requested for lights in the south Reading Room, drapes in the Children's Room, shelves in the attic for magazines, a table in the main room, and refinishing costs for eight chairs. In May, it was necessary to get further bids for lighting due to additional wiring. The floor in Children's Room was uneven due to water damage, perhaps a pipe leak, and the contractor would not provide a bid until the condition of the foundation

and plumbing was determined. The cost was to be included in the 1959-1960 budget. In June, F. W. Fitch replaced the south Reading Room lights for \$975.

1960-1969

In February 1960, bids were requested for Children's Room floor repairs. The room also needed redecorating and another bookshelf. In May, bids for the floor (concrete and vinyl asbestos tile) were received from Garton & Garton (\$2,716), Weber Construction (\$3,078), and Riedesel-Reiman (\$2,615). It was decided to wait till a bid from Carl Christensen was received. In June, painting the Children's Room was delayed because only one bid was received. The floor in the Children's Room was removed, but further planning was needed because of ground dampness. Blueprints of the heating pipes under the floor were given to the county librarian. In December, the carpets in the Women's Club Room and office needed cleaning; the latter were vandalized with green ink.

In the 1961 annual report, it was reported that replacing the floor in the Children's Room had been delayed by two and a half months because the workers were on strike; in June, the minutes recorded that the floor had been refinished by Mr. Fisher for free. (Until this time there was no evidence that the floor had been replaced!)

There were a number of issues in the above minutes which were unresolved and perhaps solutions will never be revealed, but some of them obviously had a great deal to do with the decision to build a new library.

Chapter 24: Improvements

Among the duties of the county librarian was to identify deficiencies in furnishings, decorations, operations, and other items conducive to good library conditions. Each month's board meeting included an issue with some facet of library operation.

1902-1909

Immediately after the opening of the library, window shades were purchased according to the architect's specifications and six chairs were purchased as temporary furnishing. In 1908, six years after opening, one of the board members thought it would be nice to have a clock in the library.

In May 1909, a bulletin board was constructed and placed in the vestibule and in August, the library obtained telephone service. Librarian Rose Martin called attention to the Children's Room in the 1909 annual report. She pointed out that children comprised one-third of the usage of the library, yet the room was the most neglected and unattractive. There was nothing on the walls and the shelves were full of government publications. She said it was "enough to put terror in any heart. There must be a general out, for with this department lies the future of the library." She issued a plea for some club to help.

Her plea was heard and in May a letter from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) urged the board to improve the situation. The committee for the DAR (chair Mrs. B. B. Brooks, Mrs. A. R. Doane, and Mrs. A. J. Parshall) acknowledged the summer hours of 2-6 p.m. and winter hours of 4-6 p.m., and pledged that starting in September 1910 there would be "a lady" present from 4 to 6 p.m. to interest and assist the children. They asked, "In June, July and August could the trustees afford to pay some young girl from \$10 to \$15 per month to be in attendance in the Children's Room each afternoon? The Librarian would probably know some young girl who would gladly do this for a small sum." They also wondered if the number of books could be increased. Impressed, the board authorized the librarian to increase the number of books and to hire a girl for \$10 per month.

1910-1919

In September 1911, after discussing the condition of the library, the board called the attention of architect William Dubois to the situation and requested bids for interior decoration. When this was done is undetermined. The next reference to redecorating was in the 1925 annual report when the main floor was redecorated. By December 1913, with continued interest in improving the Children's Room, the board viewed and much admired the juvenile tables and chairs, gifts from board member Thomas Cosgriff and the Women's Civic League.

In 1915, the library was inspected and among the improvements suggested were shelves in the basement for magazines and re-tinting the ceiling. More stacks were needed and a bid of \$130 by Keefer was accepted. A new filing case and a movable stack were purchased.

In 1917, new shelves for the Magazine Room were installed, and a new desk, coat tree, and filing case were purchased for the Children's Room.

A new cataloging and indexing system for nonfiction books was established in 1918.

1920-1929

In 1920, contractors were asked for bids for redecorating the entire library. The Sherman Paint Co. bid \$453.85 and J. Rosenbloom Paint Co. bid \$390; the latter bid was accepted and work was scheduled to be done during the week of Cheyenne Frontier Days when the library would be closed. Payment, however, was withheld pending corrections and satisfaction with the work.

In 1925, the rooms on the main floor required redecorating. E. S. Hawes bid \$189 and John Stanny bid \$184; the latter bid was accepted with an additional \$6 to paint the wainscoting. In the summer of 1927, Mr. Rohen was hired to install landscaping for not more than \$400. In October, the furniture in the Children's Room needed refinishing, with a goal of completion before National Book Week.

1930-1939

In April 1938, new chairs for the Reading Room were needed. Bids from Hobbs and Finkbiner of Cheyenne and Volker Furniture Company of Denver were obtained. Hobbs and Finkbiner asked wholesale price plus ten percent, but Volker's bid was not noted in the minutes. Twelve chairs in a cherry finish were ordered but it is not clear which merchant provided them.

1940-1949

In November 1943, a special meeting was held to inspect the newly painted Men's Club Room. The treasurer informed the board that the Laramie County budget officer had told him that the painting could be designated as a "permanent fixture" and could be paid from the furniture-fixture account. The board thereupon decided to formulate a planned improvement list to be funded by the furniture-fixture account and also to ask for contributions from the various organizations using the facilities. Refinishing the librarian's office would be included on the list.

By December, the improvements approved by the county commissioners were nearing completion and the board members were encouraged to inspect the work at their convenience. Furthermore, the commissioners approved other improvements such as shelving relocation and designating rooms for office space and a repair room.

In March 1944, the board authorized the payment of unspecified improvements for \$175. In August the board instructed the librarian to make room for a new desk and new rug in her office and to move her present desk to the anticipated semi-office in the front of the building. These arrangements were to be temporary until the new improvement plan was in place.

At the September 1944 meeting, the treasurer reported that he had made some studies of possible improvements and fabric changes which might add to the appeal of the library. He felt that the library should have a plan for these changes in the event that there was a post-war improvement plan by the state or federal government to cooperate in these expenditures. The board agreed and urged the treasurer to continue his study, formulate a plan, present it for board approval, discuss it with the county commissioners with a board member present, and proceed with the plan only with the approval and authorization of the commissioners.

At the regular meeting in August 1945, the treasurer was instructed to have plans prepared for improvements in the Reading Room, including measurements and any other information necessary, for presentation at the next board meeting. When the county budget officer was informed of the plan, he assured the board that the financial condition of the library would tolerate the expense (see *Finance*).

Local architect William Dubois said he was willing to study the plan of the library and make recommendations to the board as to the feasibility of adding a stack room and other facilities as needed in the future. The board authorized him to conduct the study for a consultant's fee. Subsequently, he decided to withdraw as local supervising architect since he intended to retire in the near future.

A letter to the county librarian in January 1946 instructed her to have all parts of the library ready to implement the improvement plan. She was also asked to provide a list of all organizations using the library for meetings and the amount each paid for this use, as well as a schedule of the staff's working hours. The treasurer recommended certain cabinets for certain rooms and shelves for the librarian's office for \$130; painting all additions for \$170; and repairing electric fixtures and modernizing switches as a safety measure for \$164. These improvements were approved by the board. A complete plan for improvements in the Reading Room with estimated costs included the following.

One rug.....	\$450.00	New tables.....	\$60.00
Pad for rug.....	50.00	Magazine case	200.00
Drapes for windows	200.00	New magazine cases ...	150.00
Large leather chairs.....	800.00	Redecorating (paint).....	65.00
Upholstering cases	80.00	Light fixtures.....	100.00
Upholstering tables	30.00	Wiring	50.00

At the February 1946 meeting, the treasurer reported that he had been to Denver to consult with the Federal Works Agency (FWA) regarding the contemplated addition to the Stack Room of the library. He was assured by the person in charge of planning funds that the library was eligible for such funding, and if the county commissioners were willing to make an application he felt that the chance of securing funding was most favorable. The board planned to meet with the commissioners at their next meeting.

At the March meeting, it was announced that the improvements to the Reading Room were completed and the board then went to examine the result. It was decided to ask the county commissioners to inspect the entire library to note the improvements made during the previous year. In the following months, the board received many favorable comments from library patrons.

The Federal Works Agency provided funds for planning for the addition of a Stack Room but the state bank examiner questioned the legality of a bond issue to cover the actual work. In June, the commissioners instructed the board treasurer to consult the FWA to see if the funds should be returned to them. Despite the state examiner's opinion, architect Sam C. Hutchings was consulted in November 1947 and he provided extensive plans for an addition to the east side of the building.

The plans included approximately 3,000 sq. ft. of floor space on the first floor and a similar amount of floor space in the basement, making a total of 80,000 cu. ft. in the addition. On the first floor there were workrooms, the librarian's office, employee restrooms, and stack space for fifteen thousand volumes. There was a separate entrance on the north side of the addition which allowed access to the Children's Room and basement meeting rooms. A basement stack room would accommodate ten thousand volumes. There was also a basement storage room and an elevator to move books to the first floor.

The 45-year-old heating system, a one-pipe gravity hot water system with large mains, was evaluated and considered to be too expensive to repair and insufficient to accommodate the addition. The construction would have a concrete foundation and floors,

stone and brick veneer walls with hollow tile backing that matched the existing building, a steel roof deck with steel joists, and built-up roofing. The estimated cost, including demolition, excavation, and heating system, was \$100,000. In submitting the plans, the architect noted that Wyoming did not have an architect's license law so his license number or seal was not affixed; however, there was provision for the approval and signature of the president of the board.

A copy of the plans was sent to the division engineer of the Federal Works Agency (FWA). Fifty percent of the architect's fee (\$1,350) was paid and in December the remaining fifty percent was paid. In a letter of June 28, 1946 the FWA, having been advised by the board that the state bank examiner's opinion regarding financing the addition had been correct, suggested that either a bond issue or an increase in mill levy were options for funding. A December 17, 1947 letter to the president of the board from Peters, Writer and Christensen, Inc., Investment Securities, asked about the date of the bond election and a postcard was provided for the answer. In the meantime, the FWA would take no further action and no progress would be made on construction. There followed frequent correspondence in the form of status reports between the FWA and the board regarding construction. The board repeatedly reported no construction.

Finally, the Housing and Home Finance Agency (on behalf of the Federal Works Agency) informed the board of trustees in August 1965 that if they could verify that there had been no construction or intention to construct on Project No. Wyo-48-P-14 (the library addition), the agreement of June 6, 1946 would be terminated and there was no further obligation on the part of the board of trustees. It was not necessary to return any part of the \$2,700 paid for the planning phase. In a resolution on September 10, 1965 the board verified the lack of construction.

Instead of building an addition to the library, the basement Auditorium was converted to the Children's Room which allowed space for the Teen Room and the stack room on the first floor was enlarged. The new Children's Room was redecorated with new flooring and shelving.

1950-1959

At the September 1959 meeting, the county librarian was able to report the result of the complete inventory of books started in 1952. The inventory of the main library's books in the 600 and 700 Dewey Decimal ranges showed that \$300 worth of books were missing, presumably stolen, which would cost more than \$330 to replace. There was no solution to the theft, but the penalties were well documented in law.

The opening of the South Side branch relieved some of the congestion in the Carnegie building. The expanding book collection, however, spread into the reading rooms, covered the fireplaces, and eliminated reading chairs and tables with each advancing year. The need for a more modern and much larger facility was becoming more apparent.

1960-1969

In April 1961, it was noted that thefts of books from the library were increasing and the trustees issued a plea for help. Reference books were being lost, probably taken by students, and school principals were to be notified. A *Wyoming State Tribune* article on November 6, 1963 stated that 160 volumes had been stolen in the past three years.

In 1965 new equipment was obtained to modernize the charging system.

Chapter 25: Legislation

During the lifetime of the Carnegie library, there were a number of legal issues which had a profound influence on its existence and function.

In November 1908, the librarian was asked to contact Secretary of State William Schnitzer to request a copy of the Revised Statutes and Session Laws of 1899. His response in a letter stated that “under law [he] could not furnish the Carnegie library with a copy of the Session Laws of Wyoming 1899.” There was no explanation of the need for the laws.

In the spring of 1921, a state law regarding the mutilation of books and magazines was passed. Posters were displayed explaining the law, fines, and reward for reporting violations.

At the November 1940 meeting, the county librarian presented a tentative draft, formulated by the Wyoming State Library Association, of an amendment concerning establishment of regional libraries as written and an amendment to Chapter 109 section 801 regarding qualifications of state librarians. The board of trustees strongly favored the amendments.

In June 1956, the U.S. Congress passed a law which would change Laramie County Library System (LCLS) activities completely.

LIBRARY SERVICES ACT, PUBLIC LAW 597

The Library Services Act (LSA), passed by Congress on June 6, 1956, authorized an appropriation of \$7,500,000 annually for five years for grants to the states for the extension and improvement of rural public library services. A rural area was defined as any place with a population of 10,000 or fewer.

Funds were allotted to the states on the basis of their rural population and were matched by the states on the basis of their per-capita income. Funds under a state plan could be used for salaries, books, other library materials, library equipment, and other operating expenses, but not for the erection of buildings or purchase of land.

Wyoming did not participate in the Library Services Act program for several years, because in 1957 the state legislature failed to pass the necessary enabling legislation designating the State Library, Archives and Historical Board as the official agency to accept and administer the federal funds.

In light of the Library Services Act, it was time to prepare a bill for legislation changes that would allow libraries to purchase land. County librarian Mary Carpenter selected representatives for Laramie County to a statewide committee to consult with the state library board regarding the Library Services Act.

The following is the report and recommendation of the Wyoming Library Association Legislative Committee to the state legislature.

WYOMING COUNTY LIBRARY LAW

The Legislative Committee of WLA has approved the following revisions of Wyoming County Library Laws to be presented to the Thirty-fifth State Legislature.

1. Provide that county library boards may procure sites and erect library building by issuing bonds. (Present law makes no provision for this.)

2. Provide that library quarters may be rented when no suitable accommodations are otherwise available. (Present law states that library quarters must be rent-free.)
3. Provide that county library boards shall establish, equip, and maintain branches and stations of the county libraries in various parts of the county. (Present law states that branches and stations may be established on written petition of 10 electors of city, town, school district, or community.)
4. Provide that county library boards may be appointed for two consecutive three-year terms but shall not be eligible for further appointment to such board until two years after the expiration of the second term. (Present law states that library board members shall hold office for three years and until a successor is named, which means that board members may serve indefinitely.)

WLA Legislative Committee
Wilmot Hamm, President
James Ranz, Chairman
Iona McLain
Bernice Snell
Edith Robertson
La Frances Sullivan
Mary Carpenter

The following bill was the result of WLA efforts.

THE STATE LIBRARY ACT:

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT to designate the State Library, Archives and Historical board as the state agency for statewide library services; to provide supervision by the state agency; to provide for cooperation with Federal agencies; to designate the State Treasurer custodian of Federal funds allocated for statewide library service; and to provide for an effective date of this Act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING

Section 1. The State Library, Archives and Historical board is hereby named and designated as the proper state agency to accept, receive and administer any and all funds, monies or library materials made available by the federal government for the improvement and development of public library services in the state of Wyoming.

Section 2. The said state agency shall exercise its guidance over local library agencies participating in any state plan adopted by said agency for the expenditure of any such Federal funds or materials, and shall have the necessary authority to assure the

observance of the policies and methods of administration adopted by the state agency pursuant to this act and under such state plan.

Section 3. The said state agency shall have the responsibility for extension and development of library services throughout the state and shall supervise and superintend the expenditure of monies provided for statewide library services and such federal funds as may be allocated to the state for said purposes.

Section 4. The State Treasurer is appointed custodian of all federal funds as may be allocated to the state of Wyoming for the aforesaid statewide library services and he shall provide for the disbursement of such funds on the requisition of the State Library, Archives and Historical board.

Section 5. This Act shall take effect and be enforced from and after the date of its passage.

The following is a letter from the state librarian to the library trustees in which she outlined the need and duties of a library consultant and urged them to endorse this proposal for presentation to the state legislature.

WYOMING STATE LIBRARY

Supreme Court Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming

November 25, 1958

MEMO TO: Library Trustees
County and Branch Librarians
WLA Officers

FROM: May Gillies, State Librarian

Over the past several years, the State Library has received many requests from librarians and trustees for assistance in Library Administration. To provide adequate advisory service, a professional library consultant is needed on the State Library staff and a request for an additional staff member has been included in the 1959-61 budget requirements.

Examples of services provided by library consultants are:

1. Conduct workshops in library methods and procedures.
2. Assist county librarians and trustees in setting up branches.
3. Assist trustees in planning new library quarters.
4. Assist librarians with library sponsored programs for children, young people and adults.

Your help is needed in securing the approval of the legislature for this budget request. If you feel that your library would benefit by the services of a library consultant or if

you feel Wyoming libraries in general would benefit from such services, please write an endorsement of the proposal to:

State Library Archives and Historical board
c/o Wyoming State Library
Supreme Court Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming

P.S. Be sure to send your letter by January 1, 1959.

This letter from the Laramie County Library Association endorsed Gillies' proposal.

December 15, 1958
State Library Archives and Historical board
c/o Wyoming State Library
Supreme Court Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Dear Miss Gillies:

At the regular monthly meeting of the board of Directors of the Laramie County Library Association on December 10, 1958, your communication dated November 23rd was read and discussed.

I am instructed by the library board to inform you that it was the unanimous opinion that the addition of a professional library consultant to the State Library staff is advisable. It is hoped that the Legislature will seriously consider the budget request that would make available the funds to employ such an assistant. Money spent on increasing the efficiency and services of Wyoming libraries is well spent.

Very truly

The following is a letter from the WLA legislative committee to members of WLA informing them of the impending proposal of the enabling legislation to be sent to the legislature.

WYOMING STATE LIBRARY
Supreme Court Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming

December 31, 1958

MEMO TO: Members of the Wyoming Library Association
FROM: WLA Legislative Committee

Enclosed is a copy of enabling legislation to be presented to the Wyoming Legislature in January 1959. This legislation is needed so that Wyoming libraries may benefit from the provisions of Public Law 597, known as the *Library Services Act*. A brief explanation of Public Law 597 is also enclosed.

Your legislators have been supplied with a copy of the bill and the same explanation enclosed herewith. Please try to contact legislators and civic leaders for their support.

Additional copies of the bill and the explanation are available. Write to the State Library if you need extra copies for distribution.

This information was part of the enclosures mentioned above.

HOW CAN WYOMING LIBRARIES BENEFIT FROM THE LIBRARY SERVICES ACT PROGRAM?

The Federal appropriation for fiscal 1959 is \$6,000,000.

Wyoming's share is \$50,291 to be matched by an expenditure of \$49,374.

Budgets of county libraries participating in the program may be used for matching funds.

Funds may be used at the state level for consultant services and for training programs in library procedures.

Funds may be used at the local level for the extension of library service to rural area by establishing and improving branch libraries or by supplementing the book collection and services of county libraries.

Apparently the responses from state librarians disclosed enough flaws in the proposed revision to the County Library Law to cancel the presentation of the law to the legislature, as indicated in the following letter.

WYOMING STATE LIBRARY
Supreme Court Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming

January 9, 1959

MEMO TO: County Librarians
WLA Officers

FROM: WLA Legislative Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed revision of County Library Laws

Response to the memorandum dated December 8, 1958, outlining proposed revision of the laws governing county and branch libraries, indicates that this matter requires further study. Therefore the Legislative Committee has concluded that the proposed revisions should *not* be presented to the 1959 Legislature.

The Committee thanks all board members and librarians for their consideration of the Legislative proposals and for their suggestions and comments. The Committee recommends that this important matter be given consideration at the annual conference of the Wyoming Library Association to be held in Laramie on May 3, 4 and 5, 1959.

The following series of memorandums and documents outline the description and utilization of the Library Services Act. The structure of the act is evident when the provisions of Projects A, B, and C are discussed in the various memos.

WYOMING STATE LIBRARY

Supreme Court Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming

MEMO TO: Library Services Act Planning Committee
Director of Albany County Library
Director of Laramie County Library
Director of Natrona County Library
Director of Sheridan County Library
Director of Sweetwater County Library

FROM: May Gillies, Chairman
Library Services Act Planning Committee

SUBJECT: Plan for the Use of Federal Funds

The several committee meetings held at Laramie during coffee breaks, noon sessions, etc., revealed the fact that Project B is not practical for the five libraries serving over 10,000 population. Librarians from Casper, Cheyenne, Laramie and Rock Springs reported they already had basic collections including the *Basic Reference List for Small Public Libraries* and had little need for all these materials in their branches.

Project B will therefore be amended to allow the libraries serving over 10,000 population to purchase, through the State Library, \$1,000 worth of books which best serve the needs of the rural area of each county. (These may include juvenile books, duplicates of material needed by branches, etc.)

Agreements for these five libraries will therefore be more general with respect to selection of books. (Miss Luce of the Washington office has indicated that all agreements under the Plan need not be identical—also that the State Plan may be amended at any time provided such amendments are approved by the Commissioner of Education.)

Another memo from the state librarian.

WYOMING STATE LIBRARY

Supreme Court Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming

May 23, 1959

MEMO TO: County Librarians
President, board of Trustees

FROM: May Gillies, Chairman
Library Services Act Planning Committee

SUBJECT: Tentative Plan for Use of Federal Funds

The plan as presented to the Library Services Act Planning Committee and to the Wyoming Library Association at Laramie, May 3-4 provides for three projects outlined below:

PROJECT A

Strengthen and expand the extension services of the State Library by employing a professional librarian who will conduct workshops in library methods and procedures; provide advisory service on individual library problems; and assist librarians and trustees to expand and improve library services.

PROJECT B

Provide a basic collection for each of the twenty-three county libraries, this collection to include recent encyclopedias, dictionaries, and standard tools of the library profession.

A Basic Reference List will be supplied for the guidance of county librarians who will select recommended references to best fit community needs. By centralized ordering through the State Library, substantial discounts will provide more for our money than if each library ordered these expensive books.

PROJECT C

Provide books of a specialized type which best serve the needs of individual communities—books of more or less permanent value on art, music, drama, science, Western Americana, etc. These books will be selected by the county librarian but, in order to insure the best discounts, they will be ordered centrally through the State Library. Librarians will be supplied with book selection guides so that the best available material may be acquired.

QUESTIONS WHICH WERE ASKED AT THE VARIOUS SESSIONS AT LARAMIE

Q. Do we consider the funds allocated through the Library Services ACT in computing county library budgets for 1959-60?

- A. No, because the funds will be handled through the State Library and each county library will receive advisory and other services through Project A and books through Projects B and C.
- Q. When will the Federal Funds be available?
- A. Probably about the third week in July 1969. [*sic*]
- Q. How much book funds will be allocated to each county library system?
- A. Under Project B—books in the amount of \$1,000 for each of the twenty-three county library systems of the state. Under Project C approximately 10 cents per capita based on the *rural* population of each county will be allocated for additional book purchases. (According to the Library Services Act, all but five Wyoming cities are considered rural areas—10,000 population is the base.) The remainder of the \$50,291 (Wyoming's share of Federal funds for 1959-60) will be used for administration of the Plan as follows:
- a. Salary of the consultant—part of this expenditure to be paid from State Library funds.
 - b. Wages of a clerk-typist to process book orders, assist with fiscal forms and general office work.
 - c. Workshop and travel expenses.
 - d. Office supplies including mimeograph supplies, postage, etc.
- Q. How may county library boards qualify for aid under the State Plan?
- A. By returning Form #1 by June 1, 1959 and Form #2 by June 15, 1959. By signing an agreement that the necessary regulations will be observed. Regulations will include:
- a. All services under the plan will be free.
 - b. A copy of each financial report sent to the State Examiner shall be submitted to the State Library.
 - c. Each library participating in the Plan shall not reduce its budget during the period of participation. Formal agreements will be mailed when the final plan has been approved by the United States Office of Education. Agreements will, of necessity be slightly different for libraries serving over 10,000 population.
- Q. Why didn't the Library Services Act Planning Committee simply allocate the \$50,291 of Federal funds to each county library system to spend as needed?
- A. Because the Planning Committee was charged with two responsibilities:
- a. To insure the best use of Federal funds.
 - b. To insure that projects begun would be carried on at the termination of the Federal program.
- Q. Why is a portion of the Federal grant allocated for the administration of the Plan?
- A. When a State Library takes on an accelerated program for the extension and improvement of public library services, it is necessary for the State agency itself to be strengthened in order to handle this work load.

The State Library requested a 23% budget increase for the 1959-61 biennium and received only 2% increase which may not cover regular operating expenses. The request for a consultant was not granted therefore, it will be necessary to spend a part of the Federal funds for the administration as outlined in number (3) above.

Forms required of libraries wishing to participate in LSA.

LIBRARY SERVICES ACT FORM #1

Confirms that a library will participate in the Wyoming Plan using the Federal funds as outlined in memorandum.

LIBRARY SERVICES ACT FORM #2

Informs the United States Office of Health, Education and Welfare of the expenditures for fiscal year 1958-59.

To comply with the provisions of the Library Services Act, a Wyoming State Plan was prepared. The document listed the seventeen counties which met the criteria for funding, i.e. those five libraries which served a rural population of more than 10,000 for the modified Project B and the twelve counties with a rural population less than 10,000 which met the requirements of the original Project B. Laramie County, with a rural population of 15,727, was allocated \$1,573. Six counties did not choose to participate in the Library Services Act.

BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

July 1, 1959–June 30, 1960

PROJECT A

Salaries and wages	\$5,000.00
Office equipment	500.00
Postage, telephone.....	500.00
Office supplies	1,000.00
Travel	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total administration.....	\$8,000.00
Books and related materials (may include bibliographies, guides, brochures)	
.....	*10,751.00

*this amount is Federal share of six libraries which did not choose to participate in State Plan.

PROJECT B

Basic books for 17 participating libraries @ \$1,000 each\$17,000.00

PROJECT C

Additional books to serve individual Community needs @ approximately 10¢ per capita.....\$14,540.00

Total books for 17 libraries (see list, allocations attached)\$31,540.00

Grand total\$50,291.00

Total Federal funds available July 1959–June 1960.....\$50,291.00

In an effort to provide the assistance of a library consultant as previously recommended, the WLA Legislative Committee asked for changes in the Wyoming County Library Law.

Revision of Wyoming County Library Law as proposed by Legislative Committee of WLA. For adequate advisory service a professional library consultant is needed on the State Library staff. Request it be included in 1959-61 budget.

Legislation of an enabling act to allow Wyoming libraries to use government funds under the LSA was passed by the 1959 legislature. In January 1959, Governor John Hickey told the state librarian that Wyoming library law already provided for county commissioners to issue bonds for building and enlarging buildings for county libraries, pursuant to Wyoming Compiled Statutes, 1945, Vol. II; 1957 Cumulative Packet Supplement, 28-202.

In March, the state library asked for suggestions to improve services under the LSA. The 1959 legislature passed an enabling act. The county librarian made a list totaling \$10,000 and the board of trustees signed an agreement to participate. At the August meeting, the board allocated a substantial amount of money under the LSA for rural communities. Purchases were made through the state library as required by law.

In 1960, the Library Services Act allowed the purchase of 756 books for branch/rural libraries, distributed as follows: 164 to the main library, 116 to the South Side branch, 150 to the Albin branch, 136 to the Burns branch, and 192 to the Pine Bluffs branch. The branches and schools were consulted regarding their needs. Most of the books were adult nonfiction. Each branch had its own catalog; however, the main library catalog included all of the books in the system in order to keep track of their location. LSA funds allowed the purchase of books not likely to have been bought otherwise.

The board president signed Library Services Act Form #1 to participate in the 1960-1961 national program. Representative Keith Thomson (Laramie County) was asked to get HR 12125 on the House floor and to support it. The WLA legislative committee employed Ellen Crowley (later a representative to the Wyoming legislature) to write a bill eliminating many outdated provisions of the Wyoming Library Law and adding new, much-needed legislation to be presented to the 1961 legislature. The proposed bill was examined by the State Library and Historical Board in September, and county librarians and boards were instructed to contact new legislators after the elections to familiarize them with the bill.

On November 15, Helen Luce visited Cheyenne and her picture appeared in the newspaper. She was a library extension service specialist for the seventeen western states, Alaska, and Hawaii, and consulted for the rural part of the LSA.

In January 1961, the library bills were typed to conform to regulations and given to Representative Verda James who was asked to sponsor the bill. Board president Leah Marsh and county librarian Mary Carpenter consulted Representative Walter Phelan who would sponsor the bill. He suggested James, Dick Tobin, and the Rock Springs member as other sponsors. All three library bills passed and Carpenter, chairman of the WLA legislative committee, wrote letters thanking sponsors and chairs of the House and Senate for their support.

At the WSLA Conference in Sheridan, the county librarian was given the LSA plan for 1961-1962 put out by the state library. LCLS got \$7,222 for equipment and books which represented an opportunity to open a branch in east Cheyenne. The county librarian investigated location, costs, and other issues. In August, a state library memorandum noted that Congress had not made LSA appropriations for the current year. Until funds were received by the state treasurer, no bills for books or equipment would be paid.

The American Library Association newsletter dated May 22, 1962 announced a Comprehensive Bill to Amend the Library Services Act proposing the removal of the 10,000 population limitation for eligibility for LSA funds. Subsequently the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) S2265 and HR4879 was passed on November 26, 1963 erasing the 10,000 population limit in the original LSA. Mr. Murphy spoke to Senator John Hickey about Wyoming interest in the bill.

An LSA consultant workshop held in 1963 was very helpful in formulating the Wyoming Public Library Standards which were adopted at the annual conference in May 1963. A publicity workshop held in July by the LSA consultant noted that information about the act was not utilized as well as it should have been.

In May 1964, the Laramie County Library Association and Wyoming State Library personnel hosted the Wyoming Library Association conference. The banquet theme was the 75th Annual Wyoming Statehood Survey of Laramie County Libraries by Dr. Stuart Bailie (Director, Graduate School of Librarianship, University of Denver) and Claude Settlemyre (Librarian, Boulder Public Library). They recommended a new library and site.

The city commissioners agreed to consider the recommendation; however, an application for LSCA funding was refused for lack of actual building plans. Furthermore, by law the library could not own or buy property

LCLS's ability to legally buy or rent land and buildings encouraged interest in enlarging the Carnegie library or building a new library. John Noyes, former county treasurer, wrote an editorial entitled "Let's Build a New Library" in the *Wyoming State Tribune* on April 17, 1964. He noted the lack of parking and "a string of people waiting to check books in or out due to lack of space." He considered the library the biggest problem facing the city, bigger than the schools or anything else. On April 24, 1964, a very thoughtful, informative letter to the editor of the *Wyoming Eagle* by East High School senior Pamela Purdy noted the crowded, noisy atmosphere, excessive height of the book shelves, rickety shelving, poor lighting, creaky floors, worn rugs, lack of art, and lack of audio facilities such as records and music.

In June 1964, the board of trustees asked the city council about available sites for a new library. An editorial in the *Wyoming State Tribune* on June 25, 1964 noted the opinion of architect Frederick H. Porter that the Carnegie library was one of the three buildings in Cheyenne which should be retained because of their classic architecture. The article acknowledged that the trustees were looking toward a larger building and suggested that they consider an addition to the east.

In 1964, the board authorized a survey of "Libraries, Information and People" by Settlemyre and Baillie. The survey concluded that while the Carnegie library was a fine building and asset to the community, the growth of the population and its needs revealed its multiple deficiencies. They proposed plans for location, space, and personnel requirements. The board was very pleased with the thoroughness of the survey.

At the July board meeting it was decided to have a dinner for Settlemyre and Baillie, attended by the trustees, county commissioners, mayor, city commissioners, state librarian, and the newspaper editors. In December, Baillie and Settlemyre stopped in on their way home from Casper to inquire about progress in purchasing land for a new library.

In February, the Women's Civic League expressed a wish to help the board in its efforts to purchase land for the building. The board thanked them for their interest but noted that until the state legislature passed new laws and Washington made a decision regarding matching funds under the LSCA, the board was unable to make a statement.

At the February 1965 meeting, since it had become apparent that LSCA funding would not be available and the legislature had enacted a law allowing the county library to buy and own land, the board authorized the president to enter into an agreement with the city to purchase all of the original city Block 17 for \$50,000 on July 12.

A special meeting on May 24, 1965 was held to reorganize the board of trustees to comply with Chapter 23, Section 2 of the Session Laws of Wyoming, 1965. The reorganization was filed with the county clerk and the secretary of state to accomplish the incorporation of said board of directors. In the reorganization, the organization previously known as “Laramie County Library Association” and/or “Carnegie Library of Laramie County” would henceforth be known as the “Board of Directors of the County Library of Laramie County.”

By September 1965, the movement toward a new library was well-known, to the point where letters had been received from local and out-of-county architects expressing interest in the project. Letters of acknowledgement and a copy of the Baillie-Settlemyre survey were sent to each. The warranty deed for Block 17 and the city resolution to sell it and vacate the alley were filed with the Laramie County clerk.

Because the construction of a new facility involved local and federal legislation under the LSCA provisions, it seemed best to proceed with further consideration under legislation, realizing that a number of other topics would be introduced from time to time.

At the December 1965 meeting, county librarian Stan Oliner proposed a tentative outline for a planning team responsible for a new library building.

THE PLANNING TEAM

Laramie County Library

December 10, 1965

A. Composition

1. County Librarian
2. Library board
3. Architect
4. Building consultant
 - a. Additional specialists as needed
5. Interior consultant

B. Function of each member of the Planning Team

1. County Librarian: This member is in the position of knowing the most about the particular library and its needs. He drafts the library program and is responsible for preliminary planning. Though in the latter stages he is working in cooperation with the architect, consultant and designer, the responsibility for a building which is adequate and functional for his own specific needs is still largely the librarian's.
2. Library board: Each member of the board relates the building plans to the community, helps during the bond issue, and helps in public relations during the building period.
3. Architect: Work includes help in site determination, schematic designs, preliminary drawings, working drawings, and specifications, estimations of construction costs and supervision. Fees are usually a certain [*sic*] of the construction cost ranging from 6 to 8 percent.

4. Building consultant: This person is knowledgeable in both library and architectural problems. He usually aids in site selection, advises on the building program and consults with the librarian and architect on the functional layout of the building. If the consultant is involved from the very beginning of the building program, he may receive up to 1% of the total cost of the building plus travel expenses and/or a per diem rate of \$100 to \$200 plus travel expenses.
- 4a. Additional Specialists: Advises on specific portions of the building program, i.e. subject areas, music listening area, educational machines, lighting.
5. Interior designer: Aids in the development of the functional and aesthetic quality of the structure by advising on color and equipment. This includes suggestions on choice of materials for walls, floors, lighting and equipment. Writes specifications for these items, examines bids and makes recommendations on acceptance of delivered items. Fees are usually a fixed percentage.

B. Activities for the Planning Team

1. Assemble and analyze information on recent public library buildings.
2. Visit recent Library buildings and determine desirable and undesirable features of buildings for the specific needs of a community.
3. Assemble and analyze written library building programs.
4. Assemble and analyze written reports prepared by the library staff concerning their suggestions for the library building requirements for public and staff services.

The state library provided a list of potential building consultants in the region. John Eastlick of the Denver Public Library and John L. Kopischke of the Scottsbluff Library were contacted. Claude Settemire was not available. It was generally felt that the board, the county librarian, and the consultant should interview all architect applicants during the second and third week of January 1966.

Chapter 26: Epilogue

Although the Carnegie building was constructed according to current codes and with the best materials and building practices of the period, within a short time repairs and modifications were required, details of which can be found in the chapters on *Finance*, *Improvements*, and *Maintenance*. Over the years, the needs of the public outgrew the facilities of the library (see *Legislation*) and the costs of bringing it “up to code” were prohibitive.

When the Carnegie library closed, the building reverted to the City of Cheyenne in accordance with the original documentation. Efforts to preserve the building would require a financial angel. The unenclosed wooden staircase to the second floor had not met fire code for years, the gravity-feed heating system with its blown-up furnace and rusted pipes and radiators was beyond repair, and the front stairs continued to leak water into the basement. Once empty, vandals and a cold winter took over.

Despite the compelling reasons for abandoning the library, there were letters to the newspapers and heartfelt arguments with officials to preserve this historic building, an architectural icon, a memorial to Andrew Carnegie’s generosity, but the die was cast. On April 26, 1971 the city sold the building to the Capital Savings and Loan Association and it was subsequently demolished.

Memories of the past glory remained and people flocked to the site to obtain souvenirs, “a piece of history.” The wreckers demolishing the building told a newspaper reporter that they had trouble working because of the souvenir hunters. Ted Gill, owner of DeLuxe Cleaners, dug up and took home some of the shrubbery from the front of the building, as did Liz Byrd, legislator and wife of Police Chief Jim Byrd. Loads of bricks went into retaining walls, outdoor barbeques, and indoor fireplaces. For many citizens, larger remnants were purchased. Only postcards, photos, and online information remain as reminders of a disappeared historical structure.

The Carnegie Library closed September 30, 1969 at 9:00 p.m. The last person to check out a book was a young student. He was in a hurry, checked out his book and started for the door. He didn’t know he was the last person to use the old library. He was just after culture and education. Andrew Carnegie would have liked that.
Sunday magazine, May 2, 1971