

LA GRANDE LIBRARY CIRCULATES 90,000 VOLUMES EACH YEAR

Probably no other institution in La Grande has progressed more rapidly since its organization than has the La Grande public library, which during its 15 years of existence here has grown from 1250 volumes on the library shelves to about 12,000 volumes and has increased its circulation from around 50,000 to about 90,000 volumes annually, making it fifth in the state.

The movement for a public library in La Grande was started during the year 1911, when George W. Cochran, an attorney of the city, began to push for a library. The idea spread rapidly, and about the first of November of that year a meeting was called at the home of Mrs. Turner Oliver for the purpose of effecting an organization. The library law was considered and ways and means were adopted for establishing a public library.

Business Men Aided
Dr. J. W. Laughlin and Mr. Cochran were appointed as a committee to secure the signature of the business men of the town to a petition for the establishment of the public library. This petition with 150 signatures was presented to the city council Nov. 8, 1911, and a resolution to establish a library was passed on that date. A library board was appointed, consisting of R. E. Bragg, George T. Cochran, M. B. Dornine, G. S. Dunn, J. W. Laughlin, Turner Oliver, Mrs. A. T. Hill, Mrs. George Palmer and Mrs. O. E. Silverthorn, and the appointments were confirmed by the city council.

On Nov. 25 of that year the library board caused a petition to be circulated requesting the city to set aside lot 1, block 55, in Chapin's addition, for the purpose of erecting a library building. This petition with 120 signatures was presented to the city council Dec. 6, and was referred to the ways and means committee, which reported favorably and the property where the La Grande library now stands was set aside and dedicated to public library use.

City Furnishes Money
About this time correspondence was started with the Carnegie corporation relative to the securing of a public library building. It was found, however, that it would be necessary for the library to be in existence for a time before a Carnegie building could be secured. An appropriation was secured from the city to operate a library; the library met at stated intervals and on March 27, 1912, authority was given by the board for the renting of the basement of Homan hall for library purposes at a rental of \$5 a month.

On the same date Miss Marian Fagnie-Cowell was engaged as La Grande's first librarian, to begin

her work on the 15th day of May, 1912, which marked the beginning of a public library in La Grande.

Obtaining Books
The next question was obtaining books for the library. In the early days the La Grande commercial club maintained a reading room and collected about 100 books. When the building belonging to the club was sold the books were boxed up and stored in the basement of the La Grande National Bank building. It was these books that served as a nucleus and basis for the building of La Grande's public library. On July 15, 1912, the library was opened with fitting ceremonies.

After the establishment of the library the correspondence with the Carnegie corporation was again taken up and Dec. 12, 1912, a proper application was made for the erection of Carnegie building. The report at that time showed that there were 1250 volumes on the library shelves and that from July 15 to Nov. 20 there had been a circulation of 4355 volumes.

Carnegie Gift Received
On Feb. 19, 1913, the library board was informed that the Carnegie corporation would make a donation of \$12,500 for the erection of a library building, and at the regular meeting of the city council April 15 of that year an ordinance was passed accepting the gift, and agreeing that the city give for the support of the library a sum of not less than \$2500 yearly.

April 14 of that year Miss Cowell resigned as librarian and Miss Jacqueline Noel was appointed to take her place.

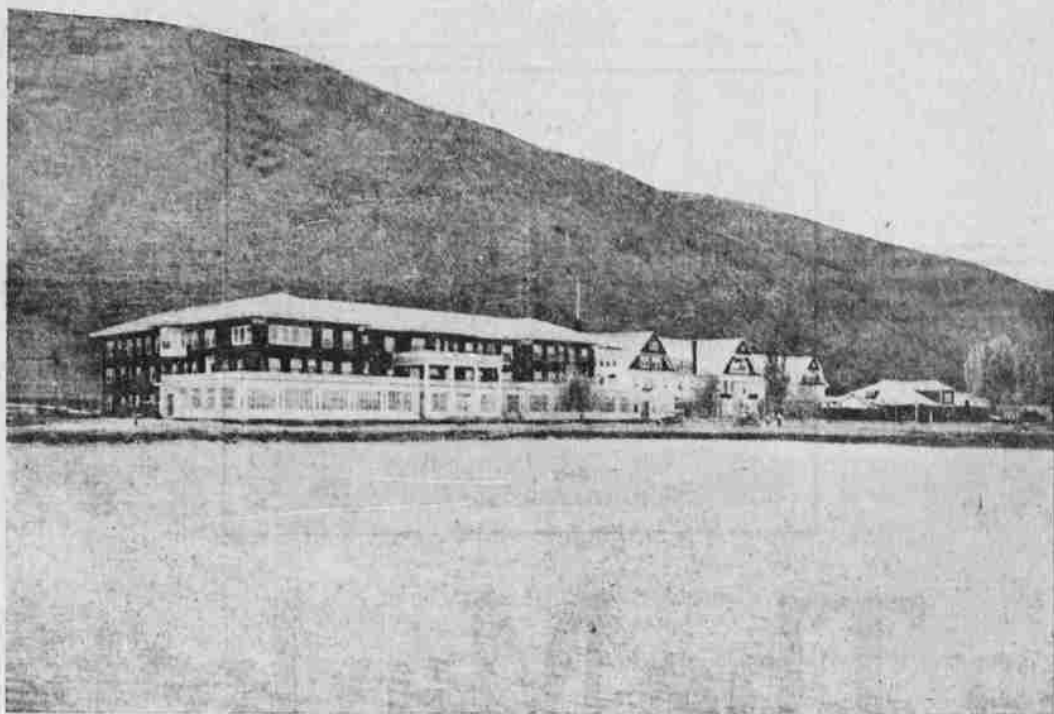
On July 25, 1913, the contract for the library building was let to G. H. Hinch for \$7,777 and the building and plumbing contract was let to Hume and Booth for \$1,208. The architects were Bloch and Bunting.

Built in 1913
The building was practically completed in December and on Dec. 12, 1913, the library was moved from the basement of Homan hall to the new building. The formal opening of the new building was March 16, 1914, when a large crowd of La Grande citizens gathered at the new library. It was at that time that the La Grande public library actually began its work in an efficient manner.

Beginning with the year 1921 a county library service was instituted, wherein the library contracted with Union county to supply library service to all parts of the county. This work continued for two years, \$5,000 loans being made during the first year and 76,000 the second, which showed the value of the library to the people of the entire county.

At the end of 1922, however, this county appropriation was taken away, and the contract with the county was discontinued. The library board felt that it could no longer serve the people of the

THE HOT LAKE SANATORIUM, NINE MILES EAST OF LA GRANDE



Above is a picture of the famous Hot Lake Sanatorium, located on the Old Oregon Trail highway and the Union Pacific system main line nine miles east of La Grande. Two springs, one cold and one hot, feed two lakes side by side. The hot spring is declared to be the hottest developed spring in the world. Dr. W. T. Phipps owns and operates the sanatorium.

entire county free of charge so after a while a rule was established that anyone living outside of the city limits of La Grande may have the use and service of the library by paying a membership fee of \$2 annually.

Establishes Branches
Probably one of the biggest steps in the progress of the library taken within the last two years was the establishment of branch libraries in the Greenwood, Willow and Riviera schools, giving the children living in those districts the same privilege as those living nearer to the library.

Steady Progress
Each year has shown new progress in the library. Where in the year 1914 the circulation amounted to 14,787, this year the number will run over the 90,000 mark. In 1922 the number of books loaned was 45,511, and in 1925 the number had grown to 67,546. Last year the circulation was 88,782, nearly 29,000 less than it will be at the end of this year, according to present indications.

Instead of 7,351 volumes on the library shelves as five years ago there are now a total of about 12,000 volumes and 1,251 new books have been added to the library so far this year. Last year there were 12,600 books on the library shelves. August 1, 1923, Miss Mabel Day came to La Grande to accept the

position as librarian of the La Grande public library. In the place of one librarian to handle the work of the institution, as when it was first established, several assistants are necessary now. Miss Day's assistants are Misses Mabel Herdinger, Gertrude Wagner and Ella Neldner.

Also Caters to Children
A special effort is made by the library to interest the children of the city, knowing that in this way the parents will also soon be attracted. During the school year Miss Gertrude Wagner, who has charge of the children's department, visits every school room and tells the children about the library, and gives every child an opportunity to make application for a

library card, which allows him the use of library books. School teachers of the city cooperate with the librarians and in this manner much is accomplished.

During the school year story hours are conducted for the children every Saturday morning at the library, and are attended regularly by a large group. Henceforth have been built around the library fire place and it is here that the children usually gather for the story hour.

Another special feature for the children is the "White Rabbit," a mimeographed publication to the children from the library's "white rabbit" telling them about the story hour, about new books for children at the library and other things of interest. Miss Doty writes the material for the paper and illustrations are drawn by Miss Herdinger.

Houses Neighborhood Club
The library building in addition to the library itself houses the La Grande Neighborhood club rooms in the basement, in addition to storage space, where book number magazines are kept. School library books, which are owned by

the school district, are also kept there during the vacation months.

Several improvements have been made at the library during the past few months, several floor lamps being added, in addition to a number of new book shelves, which were necessary to make room for new books.

Pine new trees have been planted in the library yard, in addition to shrubs and flowers at either side of the entrance. Other trees and the green lawn make the library one of the beauty spots of the city.

Present members of the library board are: Mrs. J. K. Charlton, president; C. M. Humphreys, Miss Margaret Anson, J. T. Longfellow, and George T. Cochran. This board meets once each month when the librarians report is heard and other business is transacted.

The library is open every day from nine o'clock in the morning until nine in the evening with the exception of Sunday, when it is open only in the afternoon from 2:30 o'clock to 5:30 for reading. During the summer months the library is closed all day Sunday.

Last year the library ranked

FOUR ELECTRIC SHOPS OPERATE

Wide Range of Modern
Service and Goods
Are Offered

Four electric shops—such as modern as any in Eastern Oregon—offer residents of La Grande practically everything that modern electrical invention has devised for both domestic convenience and industrial progress. Electrical business comparatively recent as modern business idea, is one that is constantly growing and widening both in range and products and fields of service. Each year sees the addition of many invaluable electrical products, both large and small, and each year brings with it improvements on products already on the market. Radios have within the last four years, been added to the already wide range of products which are handled in the La Grande stores. Two of the businesses have added to their equipment lines of electrical refrigeration plants.

La Grande Electric
The La Grande Electric company, now in its fifth year of existence, is the city's oldest company. Its owner, H. E. Williams, purchased in 1922 the Mine Electric company, located in the present site of the Service-Yourself store, and moved, three years later to his present location next to the Observer. Business has continued to grow in these five years, until Mr. Williams does a good business in every line of electrical products. The 80-odd electrical refrigerators were only recently installed and promise to be a worthwhile feature of the business. Radios, in both the Grobe and Thorold lines, are completely in stock, together with parts and accessories.

A full line of electrical fixtures is stocked, while lamps and every variety of household equipment is also included.

Mr. Williams' quarters are roomy and his stock is tastefully displayed. The shop is an especially attractive one. Mr. Williams plans to enlarge his radio department this fall and is making arrangements for continuing the radio business in the evening hours for those who do not have opportunity to inspect the machines during regular hours. He is contemplating giving public programs upon special occasions during the winter radio season.

Electrical Service Co.
The Electrical Service company, located in the rear half of the La Grande Electric company location, was organized in February of 1924 in size and fifth in circulation in the state of Oregon. Although statistics for this year are not available, indications are that the rating will be even better.

this year by H. A. Helvey and T. V. Talmith and has in the short time of its existence built up a heavy contracting and repair business, which requires the employment of three skilled electricians besides the two owners, both of whom have had years of experience in the work. One assistant, Harry O'Neil, has had 25 years of electrical experience. Before entering their present business, which includes no retail business, they were employed by Mr. Williams for about four years and bought out the repair department of Mr. Williams' business. Their equipment is among the most complete in this section. They are said to have the best wiring stock in Eastern Oregon. A full line of all electrical parts is kept in stock by the owners, who are enthusiastic over this success which their recently organized business has enjoyed. Recent contract work includes the wiring of the Hoesch hotel.

The H. & S. Co.
The H. & S. Electric company, owned for the past four years by Frank Robinson, possesses one of the most complete businesses in Eastern Oregon. Besides doing a large business in retail work in a stock which includes nearly every available electrical product, large and small, the H. & S. company does one of the city's heaviest electrical wiring and repairing businesses. Mr. Robinson's equipment is especially wide ranged in this department in which the electricians, all skilled in the work, are employed. As Robinson assists in the retail department.

Large contract work in the past few years includes the wiring of the Arcade theater, the Presbyterian church and the city hall. A specialty is made in lighting fixtures, of which Mr. Robinson has a beautiful line, and a heavy business is also done in Mazda lamps. Radios are also a part of the stock. In the four years of existence in the business Mr. Robinson has built up his organization to one of the leading businesses in the city. His shop is located in the Sommer hotel building on Depot street.

Two years ago Jesse Rosenbaum opened the Rosenbaum Electric shop in the New Foley building, featuring the DeLoe lighting system, radios, and a little home vigettes. In the following two years the business has grown until it ranks along with the other established business houses in La Grande. Besides his specialty lines, Mr. Rosenbaum does an extensive wiring and repair business and carries a complete line of electrical goods, including household goods of all kinds.

Mr. Rosenbaum employs two electricians while Mr. Rosenbaum assists him in the office end. Their business has grown and combined the general electrical line with the special larger products to the development of which Mr. Rosenbaum devotes much of his time, has enjoyed a splendid growth.



BETTER HOMES

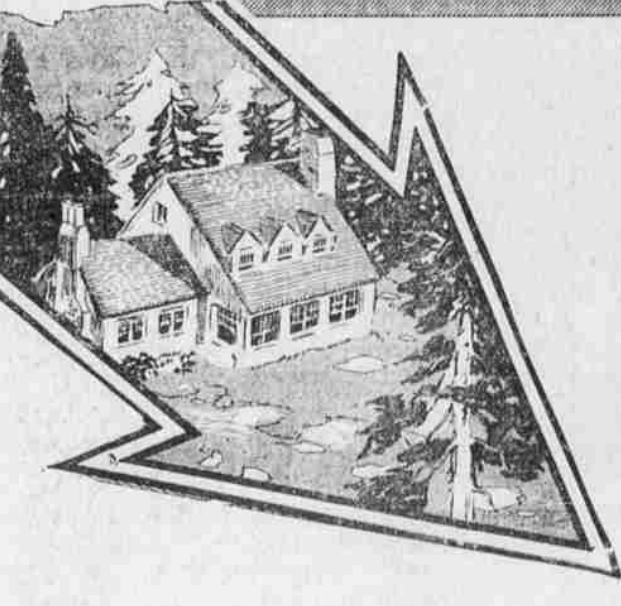
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There is nothing that gives one more satisfaction and enjoyment than to have your own home—a home built for permanency. During the several years of contracting work in this vicinity I have erected many homes and business buildings—in every one of them only the best materials and labor were used.

When you are ready to build, I will be glad to help you plan your home—for comfort, beauty, and durability.

W. C. KELLY

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