

GRESHAM'S CARNEGIE LIBRARY IS OPENED

Handsome Structure Graces Valuable Corner on Main Street.

The most important event, from a social or educational standpoint that ever occurred in Gresham, was the formal opening of the new Carnegie library building last Saturday afternoon. The structure has been finished and occupied, and was put into actual use with its dedication to the uses for which it was intended.

Several hundred persons attended the opening of the library, among them being the County Library Board composed of W. B. Ayer, president; W. L. Brewster, chairman of the Extension Committee; Rev. T. L. Eliot; W. L. Lightner, county commissioner; W. L. Woodward and Robert H. Strong. Miss Mary F. Isom, head of the Portland library, and Miss Nelly Fox, county librarian were also there.

Mr. Brewster presided and made an opening address in which he said that the cost of the building had been somewhere around \$9000, with about \$1500 additional for the furnishings. To this will have to be added the cost of drainage, which is estimated at \$1000 more. He paid a high compliment to the people of Gresham upon their enterprise and successful efforts in securing the library from the Carnegie fund, and asked that the donor be held in reverence as one who had placed with the people here an institution as educational as the public schools and as social as the grange.

Medallion Windows.

He called attention to the medallion windows, each of which represented the trade mark of famous printers, and told his audience that Gresham now had one of the most beautiful and convenient small library buildings that could be erected. Before announcing the numbers of the program he apologized for the absence of Hon. W. W. Cotton, who was unable to attend on account of illness, but had promised to come at an early date prepared to give a stereopticon lecture on Egypt.

Mr. Brewster then introduced Mrs. H. L. St. Clair who read a carefully prepared history of the Gresham library from its inception down to the present. Her article excited the wonder and admiration of everyone for its completeness and for the co-operative spirit that has held the people steadfast for ten years from a beginning of the privilege to borrow books at the Portland library to the vast proportions now reached. Mrs. St. Clair's article is reprinted in full.

A song by Miss Lucile Parker of Portland was the second number, followed by Theodore Brugger who voiced the thanks of the Gresham association and the people of the vicinity to those who had placed here the splendid monument of learning and progress that they now had.

The gem of the entertainment was a violin solo by Miss Frances Gill, of Portland. It was loudly encored and was followed by another of equal beauty and feeling.

Cordial Relations.

Mayor Lewis Shattuck was introduced and spoke of the cordial relations existing between the Library Board and the Gresham city government, as two official bodies that had co-operated in the work. He promised that future relations would be as cordial on the part of the city as in the past and expressed the satisfaction of the people in having such an auxiliary added to the educational and social features of the town.

A second song by Miss Parker was listened to with rapt attention, then followed the introduction of F. H. Crane, grange county deputy, who was introduced as the representative of the farming community tributary to Gresham. It was here, in his introduction of Mr. Crane,

Appropriate Addresses and Music at Opening on Saturday.

that the chairman urged the people of the whole county to use the building as much as possible. He said it would be useless unless it could be used as an educational institution like the public schools, or as a social center like the grange. If not so used, as it is intended it shall be, the Board will be disappointed. He urged the boys' and girls' clubs to make it their center and hoped the rooms would be used by all such social and civic gatherings. He said the opposite course would only give offense, and a full use of the building and its contents would be gratifying to Mr. Carnegie and the Board, and that the people could take a living interest here in all public works for the most they could get out of it.

Book Farming Approved.

Mr. Crane spoke upon the connection of the farmer and the grange with the public library especially that part which placed standard authorities on the shelves for reference in agricultural pursuits. He encouraged the use of them as a means to success.

Another violin solo by Miss Gill, and a few closing remarks by Mr. Brewster closed the pleasant ceremony of dedicating the new building to the uses for which it is intended, after which a thorough inspection was made of it by as many as wished to remain.

Miss C. H. Haile, the librarian, was a charming hostess and made everybody feel at home in her spacious and beautiful new quarters. She will continue the work she is so well qualified to perform.

The arrangements are perfect and the facilities are now adequate for adding 10,000 books to the lists in all departments and classes of literature, and the Gresham library will rank with the best in many cities of ten times the size of Gresham.

History of the Library Movement in Gresham.

The following history was read at the Carnegie library building March 1, 1913, by Mrs. Lena St. Clair, and embodies a report made to the Gresham Library association on Jan. 31, 1908, and which was published in the Beaver State Herald under date of Feb. 7, 1908:

Gresham, Ore., Jan. 31, 1908.—To the members of the Gresham Library association: I have the honor to submit to you the following report of the doings of the Gresham Library association for 1907, which I beg to preface with a brief history of the effort to establish a reading room in Gresham. This history I have compiled from reports of the Portland Library association, and from the records of the Gresham Library association, which I have supplemented with many incidents which have been told me by those who had to do with the beginning of things. My only object in writing this history is to gather together items of interest which, if not soon recorded, will be forgotten.

In January, 1903, the legislature of Oregon authorized a county tax for library purposes. The county court of Multnomah county ordered a tax of one-fifth of a mill, and entered into a contract with the Portland Library association to extend the privileges of the library to residents of the county. This fact was at once advertised in the daily papers, and later a personal letter was sent to each postmaster in the county, explaining the library privileges, and enclosing a notice to be placed in the postoffice, also applications for membership to be filled out and returned. A number of the residents of Gresham and vicinity availed themselves of this opportunity, taking out cards through the post-

Shows What Confidence and United Effort Can Accomplish.

mistress, Mrs. I. McColl, and going to Portland for their books.

Books from Portland.

In the fall the public school teachers, consisting of Prof. A. F. Hersher, Miss Hattie Pierce, Miss Harriett Alexander and Mrs. Clara Anderson, became interested in the project of furnishing a reading room to which books from the Portland library might be brought. They, together with Mrs. McColl and Rev. C. A. Nutley, solicited funds for the carrying out of the project. Mrs. McColl gave several month's rent for the back room over the postoffice. A stove, table, hanging lamp and six wooden chairs were purchased. D. C. Ross donated a load of wood which was brought from his farm by the Misses Pierce and Alexander. Early in November a box of 50 books was installed with Mrs. McColl as custodian. The reading room was kept open as a branch of the Portland Library three evenings in the week under the care of Miss Pierce and Miss Alexander. Miss Pierce soon became custodian, and at the close of school the care of the books was given to Rev. M. L. Haringham, who was in charge for about a year. The circulation of volumes during 1904 was 567.

During the early months of 1905 the branch was continued with more or less success, but the difficulty of finding some one to give his time regularly to the care of the reading room made it necessary to discontinue it in May, and the books were returned to Portland.

Library Reorganized.

In October of the same year the room over the postoffice was again secured, a bookcase was made and presented by D. J. Culy, a box of books was installed, and the reading room was reopened with H. L. St. Clair as custodian. Miss Alida Culy, Mrs. Clara Anderson, Mrs. Grace Metzger, Miss Pearl Lindsey and others assisted in the care of the reading room.

Through the efforts of the East Multnomah Record interest was aroused in the organization of a library association to provide better quarters for the books. At a mass meeting of citizens called on Nov. 4, 1905, the matter was fully discussed and preliminary steps taken. A committee consisting of Timothy Brownhill, Dr. J. M. Short and Mrs. J. W. Shattuck was appointed to draft constitution and by-laws. On Nov. 13 a constitution and by-laws were adopted and a committee appointed to nominate a Board of Di-

Complete in All Appointments Will Be Incentive to Higher Art.

rectors of nine persons and report at a subsequent meeting. This committee reported on Jan. 6, 1906. The report was adopted and the following persons were elected directors: Rev. C. A. Nutley, Mrs. J. W. Shattuck, Mrs. A. Meyers, Mrs. Hattie Wostell, Miss Lucy Gedamke, Dr. A. Thompson, Dr. J. M. Short, Mrs. M. Clananahan and D. J. Culy.

First Officers.

The first officers of the association were, president, Dr. J. M. Short; vice president, Mrs. Clananahan; treasurer, D. J. Culy; secretary, H. L. St. Clair. An additional 100 books were soon secured from the Portland library, making a total of 150. Besides these several valuable books were donated to the Gresham Library association. In September, 1906, H. L. St. Clair resigned as custodian. The association authorized the opening of the reading room on Wednesday evening, and Saturday afternoon and evening, and the securing of a custodian at \$1 a week. Up to this time many persons had given care to the reading room gratis. Miss Culy was secured as custodian, which position she held until March, 1907.

In December, 1906, the directors rented the back part of the room in the Metzger building where the library now is, cleaned it and fitted it up for a reading room. An "at home" was given here Dec. 15, which was attended by thirty or forty persons.

More Assistance Given.

In January, 1907, new officers were chosen as follows: president, Rev. C. A. Nutley; vice president, Mrs. J. W. Shattuck; treasurer, Mrs. Hattie Wostell; secretary, Mrs. Hattie Brownhill. J. W. Shattuck, R. R. Carlson and Mrs. Lena St. Clair were elected directors for three years in the place of Mrs. Wostell, Mrs. Shattuck and Dr. Thompson whose terms had expired. At this meeting resolutions were received from the Odd Fellows lodge and from the Gresham Development league, assuring the Library association of the hearty co-operation of these organizations. A number of men proved their sincerity by paying the initiation fee and a year's dues, and becoming members of the association. Soon after this the city council passed an ordinance granting to the Library association the sum of \$5 a month to be used toward the maintenance of a reading room. Next came the offer on the part of the Portland Library association to pay for the services of a librarian every afternoon and even-

Will Be Mecca for Readers and Students from All Parts of County.

ing of the week and to give her special training, provided the books could be placed in a suitable room. After much discussion the directors decided to rent the lower part of the building one door east of the city hall. One dozen new chairs were purchased, two large reading tables were donated by E. C. Lindsey, the reading room was neatly furnished and on the evening of April 3, the formal opening was attended by a large and enthusiastic crowd. A piano had been secured by C. A. Nutley and B. W. Emery for the occasion, and the Gresham orchestra furnished music. Mrs. Hattie Wostell was appointed the first custodian under the new regime. In July, 1907, on account of the removal of Rev. C. A. Nutley the association was left without a president. At a meeting of directors Mrs. Hattie Wostell was elected director, and Mrs. Lena St. Clair, president, in his place.

New Location.

The location of the reading room did not prove satisfactory because of the probability of the building being sold at any time, and when in August it was learned that the present reading room could be rented, the directors immediately secured it. It was remodeled and painted, and new book cases built at a cost of about \$40. The reading room was reopened in its present quarters Sept. 1, 1907. Mrs. Wostell resigned as custodian, and on Nov. 4, Miss Alida Culy was appointed in her place.

During the year the sum of \$32 was received from the Fourth of July committee, and the proffer was made by Dr. Short of a lot near the First State Bank for the erection of a library building.

During the present month the bequest of \$25 from the estate of Mrs. M. K. Howitt was received.

The Library association owes very much to all those who by their interest and unselfish efforts have helped to place the library where it is today. The good that has been done to the people of this community can not be measured. Especially is it indebted to Miss Isom, the Portland librarian, and to Miss Fox the county librarian, who have labored earnestly for the upbuilding of this branch, and whose unflinching enthusiasm have encouraged when the prospects were darkest.

Respectfully submitted,
MRS. LENA ST. CLAIR,
President.

A brief history of the Gresham Library association from that time, Jan. 31, 1908, follows: there were then in the library, according to the estimate of Miss Fox, about 400 volumes. Several magazines were being furnished by the main library, and in the following month the Gresham association subscribed for Literary Digest, and R. R. Carlson for Review of Reviews.

First Money for Site.

The greater part of the Mary K. Howitt bequest was used for permanent reference books, but \$10 was set aside as a nucleus for a library fund, and was finally used toward the purchase of a site for this building.

In October, 1908, occurred the first hallow'en social, which became an annual event, and which was the one money making scheme of the library association. Everyone took an interest in it, old and young worked for it, and it was always a great financial and social success.

In February, 1909, Mrs. J. W. Shattuck was elected president, which office she held for three years, though for many months, during Mrs. Shattuck's residence elsewhere, Theodore Brugger was acting president.

Assistance of Many Influential Persons Is Gratefully Acknowledged.

In the fall of 1911 a number of new Carnegie libraries were in line for Portland and other Oregon cities. This led Chas. Cleveland first to make a little personal investigation as to the possibility of securing one for Gresham. He became so enthusiastic in the matter that he brought it before the Commercial club, and a committee was appointed to work with the Library board to that end.

This committee consisted of M. O. Nelson, Dr. A. Thompson, Chas. Cleveland, H. L. St. Clair and G. R. Robinson. The library board at that time was composed of T. R. Howitt, W. H. Bachmeyer, R. R. Carlson, Mrs. M. Clananahan, Theodore Brugger, Mrs. J. H. Metzger, Mrs. Chas. Cleveland, Miss Alida Culy and Mrs. L. P. Manning. These committees met and organized with Chas. Cleveland as president. It was deemed advisable that the people show their good faith by purchasing a site, and early in January, 1912, a soliciting committee went to work. This committee consisted of Jas. Elkington, C. S. Smith, A. Meyers, L. L. Kidder, G. R. Robinson, Chas. Cleveland and Theodore Brugger. Later several others volunteered their assistance and did good work on the soliciting committee. Among them were Mrs. Jas. Elkington, Mrs. O. A. Eastman, Mrs. Chas. Cleveland, Mrs. Max Schneider, R. R. Carlson and J. N. Clananahan.

Carnegie Library Secured.

In the meantime the Portland Public Library had taken full charge of all branches in the county, and the matter of securing a Carnegie library for Gresham was turned over to the County Library Extension committee. Miss Isom was in New York City at the time, and added her personal influence to that of the communications already sent from Gresham. Word was soon received that the library had been granted, and in February, 1912, this site was decided upon and secured for the building. This site comprises lots purchased from Ed. Osborn and Mrs. J. H. Metzger at a total cost of \$1,900, and has a frontage of 100 feet on Main street and 145 on 4th street. In the same month new officers were elected in the Gresham Library association, Mrs. Minnie Clananahan becoming president. The association has not disbanded, and now can do a great deal to aid in making the library useful, and in extending its influence.

On February 1, 1912, Miss Culy gave up her position as librarian and Miss Schaffer had charge for a few weeks, when she resigned and Miss C. H. Haile has been the efficient librarian to the present time.

Special mention should be made of Mrs. Hattie Brownhill who was secretary of the Gresham Library association from March 1, 1907, to May 28, 1908, and of Geo. R. Keller, who held that office from the latter date to March 11, 1912, and whose carefully kept records have made this history possible. The Mutual Telephone company has donated the rent of a telephone to the library for several years, and persons too numerous to mention have worked in various ways for the upbuilding of the library.

Great credit is due those who, through these ten years have given of their time and influence for the good of the people. Just ten years have passed since the first efforts were made to take advantage of the opportunity to get good books. They were at first years of discouragement, and success seemed far away. The meeting reported above formed a half way point between the then, and the now. This climax to our efforts was made possible by the faithful work of the Portland librarians, the Gresham library people, the county library board, and the Gresham Commercial club.

New Postmaster at Corbett.

R. M. Dodson, of Dodson Bros., has been appointed postmaster at Corbett to succeed A. A. Loeb, resigned. Mr. Dodson has been in charge of the office pending the appointment of Mr. Loeb's successor. There has been a spirited contest between Mr. Dodson and W. R. Knight which resulted in the post-office department sending a special officer to Corbett to investigate the situation and report, which resulted in Mr. Dodson's appointment. The office has been formally turned over to Mr. Dodson.

SCOPE OF LIBRARY IS BROADENED

In looking over the list of persons who have built up the Gresham library one is impressed with the absence of names of people living outside of the town. People from all around have "patronized" the library and have been welcome to do so, but those living on the farms have always felt that their assistance was not required, and in most cases have held aloof. The library has been looked upon by many from the outside as a distinctive Gresham institution, and, so far as we can remember, the grange has never been invited to take any part until Saturday last when it was given representation on the program in the person of one of the county deputies.

The Gresham school and all the churches have been considered a part of the make-up of the library, and it is fitting that they should be; but they are all distinctly local as far as leadership and management is concerned.

Now that the scope of the library has been enlarged, and it is no longer an institution supported by Gresham alone, it would be a wise policy to go beyond the town limits in the election of new directors. Those who have directed its destinies for ten years could not be improved upon as managers, but the admonition sought to be impressed by the county board in recognizing the farmers should be favorably considered, as the new library is for all the people of Eastern Multnomah, and many of those on the farms are just as capable as the people living in the towns.

It is something unusual, as Mr. W. B. Ayer stated on Saturday, for a town of the size of Gresham to get a Carnegie library. Twelve hundred people do not usually have \$10,000 given them for their benefit or pleasure, but the surrounding population was considered by the extension committee, the county board and Mr. Carnegie. The people of Gresham should consider them also.

Rockwood and Fairview. Those who missed the initial performance will have another chance to witness it in the near future.

Fair Trip Easily Financed.

If you have the slightest intention of going to San Francisco in 115, you can finance the trip by commencing today to make small monthly payments for your local bank write to or see L. H. Stone, at Portland headquarters, San Francisco Tour Co., in Multnomah Hotel.

Good Shooting.

Gresham's trap shooters had a good day Sunday, making fair scores, Martin Roberts shooting down 58 clay birds out of a possible 75, giving him the highest per cent. Individual scores:

	Shot	Killed
D. M. Roberts.....	75	58
L. Shattuck.....	150	108
A. Leland.....	25	16
J. J. Halligan.....	113	73
H. Matthews.....	188	127
Dr. W. J. Ott.....	75	45
F. E. Todd.....	75	45

Notice of Annual Meeting.

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the Gresham Library association will be held Monday evening, March 17, at the library, for the purpose of electing three directors, and for voting on reducing the annual dues of the association, and conducting such other business as properly comes before this meeting.

By order of the president,
MRS. M. CLANAHAN.

Revival Meetings Continue.

Revival efforts are being continued in the Free Methodist church with an encouraging outlook. Every resident of Gresham is urged to attend these meetings. Those who are attending say they have received help. Several have knelt for a deeper work of grace and many more are seeking. The surrounding country has felt the impulse of these meetings.

Those who do not attend do not realize the great opportunity they are missing. Come tonight and every night this week, and tell others

Drama a Success.

The drama, "Doings at Elk Ridge" given at Pleasant Valley on Saturday evening last, was a glittering success from every standpoint. A record breaking attendance greeted the rendition of the play, the house being filled to overflowing. Over \$50 was realized. There is an insistent demand that the drama be repeated which will probably be done soon, and several other localities are calling upon Mr. Snashall and his troupe to come to them with a promise of good support. Among these places are Gresham, Lents,