

Cache County Library Has Interesting History Radio Broadcast Discloses

Following is a very interesting article about the Cache Library, presented Tuesday evening over KVNU by Mrs. D. W. Pittman. This is another of the weekly talks sponsored by the Advertising Committee of the Logan Chamber of Commerce in the "Know Your City and County" campaign. Next Tuesday May 7 at 7 p.m. Adelbert E. Cranney of the Logan Temple Presidency will present a talk about the Logan temple.

THE CACHE COUNTY LIBRARY

By Mrs. Don Warren Pittman
Member, Cache County Library
Board

Citizens of Logan and of Cache County must have a deep sense of pride when they think of the Cache County Public Library—a building erected a little less than ten years ago. Set close to the ground in its natural setting of lawns and fine old trees and just across the street from Logan's distinctly beautiful Tabernacle grounds, it has an air of friendliness and culture and beauty.

Stepping across its outer threshold, the visitor is instantly conscious that within these walls there reposes a warmth and geniality of atmosphere—a haven of culture and beauty.

At the top of the stairs on the landing the eyes rest gratefully on the bronze plaque on which are inscribed the names of Cache County's young men who some twenty years ago gave their lives for their country.

On entering the foyer through the French doors, attention is directed to the substantial and well-designed charging desk and its plateglass cover, to the two colonial bookcases immediately back of it, to the gay rugs on the floor, to the lovely tall mahogany clock, to the colorful Japanese prints in frames, to the upholstered chair and the comfortable rocking chair.

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chairs—all of which lend themselves to the atmosphere of comfort, beauty, and culture.

In the central arch on the north is a small mahogany case filled with rare and costly prints. In the opposite arch, on the south, next to the Genealogy Study, are high mahogany bookcases in which is assembled an art library comparable to any in the state. Visible from the foyer is the Carnegie International Alcove, with its collection of some 80-odd volumes on international subjects.

To the left, in the large reading room on the north, with its windows attractively draped in tan monkcloth, the eye naturally rests first on some twenty or more colorful modern prints and oils, framed and attractively hung. Below this grouping, on a well-carpeted platform, stands a grand piano—covered to protect it when not in use.

On entering this room one is immediately conscious of other marks of beauty and culture. Against the north wall, under the windows, stands an exquisitely carved East Indian screen. A heavy round solid oak table, looking as if it had just stepped out from some comfortable and well-furnished home, attracts the eye. A magazine and newspaper rack is conveniently placed in the south alcove of the Reading Room. A large original oil painting hangs on the wall between two west windows—the creation of one of Utah's well-known artists, Henri Moser.

Crossing the foyer to the south-east room and entering the Genealogy Study, attention is drawn to two heavy plateglass-covered walnut tables and their 12 equally durable and attractive chairs. This room attracts not only Cache Valley genealogical enthusiasts, but here one may frequently meet out-of-state devotees of genealogy—friends who delight in browsing through the fine and rare collection of family records found here.

Nor have the children been forgotten in this realm of beauty and culture! In the southwest corner, on this same floor, is the Children's Room. Inlaid linoleum covers the floor of their room—a well-lighted room at whose windows hang attractive mohair drapes. Three round solid oak tables of different sizes with their correspondingly sized chairs are arranged for the comfort and pleasure of the children who come here. Around the room are well-stocked bookshelves and in the inner alcove to the north in a glass-doored case some of the rarer and more expensive children's books are found. In this alcove one may read the beautiful prayer written by Dean N. A. Pedersen, read at the official dedication of the Children's Room—on the 22nd of May in 1934. The eye is attracted by six framed colored prints of ships, so dear to every boy's heart, a colored print of "Age of Innocence" by Sir Joshua Reynolds, framed colored prints on either side of the fireplace, with its iron gate—a charming young girl reading, in her colorful flower-bedecked hat on the left and on the right a young boy in his red and blue uniform playing his fife. In contemplative mood on the mantle, at the left, is an intriguing bronze bust of a child with an open book. A large framed mural, known as the Irene Fletcher Mural, graces the unbroken east wall—a mural depicting wellknown and beloved characters from children's books. Delicately

colored prints of wellknown watercolorists hang on either side of the large mural. The quiet beauty and simplicity of the Children's Room bespeak culture and make it comparable to other children's rooms, regardless of size or location of the library housing them.

On the lower floor of the Cache County Library, in the Auditorium, again one wonders at the furnishings—the fine old Knabe grand piano, the forty well-made chairs and table to match, the drapes at the eastern windows, and over the mantle of the fireplace a lovely oil painting of the familiar North Cache hills—created by Esther E. Paulsen, whose paintings are frequently seen not only in various Utah exhibits but in those of the Northwest as well. An iron grate has been placed in the fireplace, making possible a cheery crackling fire for the various groups which in the last ten years have come to look upon the Auditorium as an ideal meeting place. The Auditorium also offers a perfect setting for the annual art exhibits sponsored by Logan's Business and Professional Women. A glance upward reveals the molding for hanging the oils and water colors for these exhibits. A lock on the double glass doors to the north has been provided to protect the paintings shown.

How has it been possible to attain this atmosphere of culture and beauty? An artistic, attractive, livable, and useful setting like this is certainly unusual in any public library. One wonders how this collection of fine prints and so many rare and valuable works of art, for instance, have come to be a part of a library which is restricted financially. How has it been possible to secure this substantial and attractive charging desk? This tall clock with its melodious chimes? How does it happen that so small a library should have on its shelves and in its cases so many choice and valuable books? Whence the two pianos? The iron grates for the fireplaces? The heavy tables and chairs and halltree in the Genealogy Study? How has the library acquired the furnishings for the Children's Room? For the Auditorium? The two colonial bookcases with their unusual collection of books? The drapes in the Reading Room? The occasional chair, the rockers and the rugs in the foyer? The imported hand-carved screen? Such a complete file of reference books on genealogy? Obviously, the money provided by the county and city for the maintenance of the Cache County Library does not permit of their purchase. How then has it been possible for this library to be their repository?

These rare and expensive books, these art treasures, these pieces of furniture, the pianos, the floor covering in the Children's Room, the charging desk, the newspaper and magazine rack—in fact, everything mentioned has come from friends of the library—both individuals and organizations.

As long ago as 1923 Logan's Business and Professional Women anticipated the time when Logan should have a library worthy of its size and citizenry. With \$3000 set as their goal, in 1923—also simultaneously with their inception—these early friends of the library established a Library Equipment Fund. Realizing that it would be a difficult matter for one organization to raise this amount, on the 24th of August 1924 letters were sent to 18 men's and women's civic and social groups extant at that time. The full amount of the proposed \$3000 fund for the library was not realized by this effort, although it did furnish the impetus for other groups to establish individual library equipment funds.

When the present Cache County Library came into being in 1930, the first gifts came to it as a result of these early efforts. With its already-available fund of \$1000, the Logan Business and Professional Women decided to establish and equip a Children's Room. Most of the present furnishings in this room were provided at that time, although, because of their annual individual \$1 membership fee which is set aside for the library, many additional gifts from this and other rooms in the library have been possible.

It was at this time (1930) when this group of interested library friends assumed the responsibility of the Children's room, while the members of Clio took a special interest in the foyer. The large charging desk with its plateglass top was presented to the library by the members of Clio that same year; later the tall mahogany clock came from them, as did 24 volumes of high class literature.

Logan's Business and Professional Women in 1932 enlarged the scope of their continuing community project and decided to furnish the Auditorium. This done, in the spring of 1936 they purchased a large oil painting by Henri Moser which was to hang in the Reading room. In March of the current year (1940) these friends of the library made their second substantial gift to the Reading room—a grand piano and bench. The Library Board cooperated with them to the extent of erecting the platform on which the piano stands; the cost

of carpeting the platform has been borne jointly by the Library Board and the Business and Professional Women.

The early interest and the efforts of these women's organizations—the Business and Professional Women and the members of the Clio Club—in behalf of the library are highly significant. They formed the nucleus for further interest and effort on the part of individuals and other organizations. Today, nearly ten years later, the Cache County Library not only counts its friends by the score, but it has established for itself an enviable reputation as a cultural and art center!

Always actively interested in the promotion of the library and in furthering its use as a community center, F. R. Arnold, a former member of the faculty of the Utah State Agricultural College, sponsored three silver teas on different Sunday afternoons and supervised personal collections among potential friends of the library. Proceeds from these sources were used to purchase drapes for the Reading room and rugs and easy chairs for the foyer. The first Sunday afternoon programs under Professor Arnold's sponsorship included a discussion on and a display of oriental rugs; on another occasion the public listened to a discussion on fine china and revelled in a most unusual display of pottery and fine china; at the third tea, Professor Arnold provided a display of Mexican art, preceded by a review of Carr's book on Mexico. Thus, was born the Sunday afternoon public gatherings in the Cache County Library!

A friendly interest was early shown in the Cache County Library by the Wellsville Ladies' Literary club. Soon after the completion of the library these friends brought to it gifts of living beauty—choice flowering plants and ferns.

A comfortable, substantial, upholstered chair, especially suited to the foyer, was presented to the library by members of the Logan Women's Literary club.

In 1937 and again in 1938 the Rotarians gave to the library 112 and 97 books, respectively, each gift approximately \$100 in value.

Particular interest in the Genealogy study has long been manifested by the U.A.C. Women's club, and to this room these library friends have brought gifts of lasting worth: A hall tree, two heavy walnut tables, and 12 durable chairs to match. The magazine and newspaper rack in the south alcove in the Reading room is also a gift of these friends of the library.

The Logan Hardware company provided the plate glass to cover and protect the two tables in the Genealogy study

MISCELLANEOUS GIFTS

Bronze plaque from Logan Chapter, Service Star Legion, with names of Cache County's young men who lost their lives in the World War. It hangs on the south wall at the top of the stair landing.

Bronze bust of a child with an open book from Mrs. Gretta Cardon Rechow. This bust rests on the mantle in the Children's room.

Inlaid linoleum covering for Children's room, colonial book-cases in foyer immediately east of the charging desk, a colored print of Reynolds' "Age of Innocence" on west wall of Children's room. From "Friends of the Library" in behalf of Logan Business and Professional Women.

Oil painting of hills of Northern Utah by Esther Erika Paulsen, a personal gift from the artist in behalf of the Logan Business and Professional Women. This hangs over the fireplace in the Auditorium.

Oil painting of mother and child, from Mrs. Julia M. S. Green.

Round oak table in northwest corner of Reading room, a gift of the late B. G. Thatcher and his wife, Florence.

Iron grate for fireplace in Children's room, from Logan Business and Professional Women.

Iron grate for fireplace in Auditorium, from Dora Wright in behalf of Logan Business and Professional Women.

Moldings around (1) Irene Fletcher Mural in Children's room and (2) wall in Auditorium for hanging exhibits sponsored by Business and Professional Women. Also lock on double doors in Auditorium to protect these exhibits.

Rubber cover for piano in Reading room from Logan Business and Professional Women.

Bench for Knabe grand piano in Auditorium from Mrs. Mae A. Musser in behalf of Business and Professional Women.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS

Complete sets of works of Charles Dickens, Edgar Allen Poe, Robert L. Stevenson, Mark Twain, William Shakespeare, Victor Hugo, Stoddard's Travel Lectures, Travels with Famous Authors, and a miscellaneous assortment of books. All of these books were given to the Library for the Children's room by "Friends of the Library" in behalf of the Logan Business and Professional Women.

Mr. and Mrs. Adrian W. Hatch: Set of Burbank's works.

Chi Omega Sorority: 6 volumes.

Dr. and Mrs. James H. Linford: 25 volumes.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Hansen: 78 volumes.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Thatcher: 10 volumes of Library Oratory and complete set of Bancroft's History.

Mrs. Emma Eccles Jones: 20 volumes.

collection is to remain here permanently.

The Carnegie Art set, together with the art references contained in the Hatch Memorial and the books in the Lida A. Pittman Art Memorial, brings to Logan a single art collection probably superior to any in the state. The Cache County Library may pride itself on being a rich art and cultural center.

One of the most used and important departments of the Library is the Genealogy. Much credit for the origin and success of this department goes to Walter M. Everton with his weekly editorials and publicity in the newspapers. It is believed this department in the Cache Library is the largest of any in the Mountain states with the exception of the Utah Genealogical Library at Salt Lake City and one at Denver. The department is visited every day and evening of the year. Hundreds of people who visit the Logan Temple from Idaho and elsewhere and even some tourists come to the Cache Library. In the beginning of the department the Logan Temple made a substantial contribution of genealogical books. Since then the L. Boyd Hatch Memorial has supplied many fine and useful genealogical books. Mrs. Susan Shooter and the late James Drinkwater did much to get genealogical books from other people for the department. Miss Dora Wright, the librarian, has also been very helpful and interested in the department. There is no question but that it is a real asset to the library and Logan City.

For the past three years, the members of the Associated Clubs Library committee have sponsored regular Sunday afternoon programs in the Library, usually from the first of December through March or a little later. Members of the community have gratuitously given their time and talent for these programs, which have been varied in nature—art, drama, fiction, international affairs, biography, and music. Two art exhibits have been sponsored by this group of library friends, and on the 17th of March of this year Irving Wasserman, a skilled pianist from Vienna, was presented in a piano concert. Representatives from nineteen organizations of both men and women have made up the personnel of this committee.

Among other friends of the library who have given generously to the library and who have helped in making the Cache County Library a recognized cultural and art center are the following:

The delicately wrought East Indian screen in the Reading room, through the efforts of H. J. Hatch, came from the First Security Bank.

The presentation to the library in 1931 of a collection of 126 rare and valuable books on art, known as the Lida A. Pittman Art Memorial, marked the beginning of the library's present superior art collection.

As a lasting memorial to his parents, Mr. L. Boyd Hatch, now associated with the Atlas Corporation in New York City, established in 1934 the Hatch Memorial. Since that time at irregular intervals, Mr. Hatch has sent to the Cache County Library rare and expensive books not only in art, but in fiction, poetry, biography, travel, genealogy, and children's stories. The Junior Encyclopedia Britannica in the Children's room is also a gift from him. Already over 500 valuable Hatch Memorial books have been received, and it is understood that Mr. Hatch plans to make this a lasting and continuing gift to the library.

Through the efforts of the librarian, Miss Dora Wright, the Carnegie Foundation has sent to the Cache County Library two different types of gifts: The first is a set of 100 books on international subjects, 80 of which have already been received; these books are found on the shelf known as the International Aleeve. In May 1938 the Carnegie Art set, valued at \$2000, was received. This set of 131 books and hundreds of valuable and rare prints is intended primarily for the study and teaching of art. Not only have Logan teachers of art availed themselves of the opportunity to borrow these books and the many boxes of exquisite prints of both old and modern masters, but art instructors throughout the county are regularly receiving both books and prints for class instruction. Trainees from the Utah State Agricultural College make almost constant use of the set in their practice teaching work. A large portfolio containing twelve colored prints of American art and three books (listed at \$75 for the set) were recently received by the library from the Carnegie Foundation.

The groups of colored prints from the Carnegie art collection—some 20 in the Reading room and the four in the Children's room—were selected for framing by a special art committee appointed by the Associated Clubs Library committee. The framing of the blacks and whites, as well as the etchings, the Japanese prints, and the early colored Egyptian prints has also been financed by these same friends of the library, and the entire

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Hendrickson: 16 volumes.

Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Thatcher: 2 volumes of World War and its aftermath (illustrated).

Mr. Samuel Weston: 6 volumes.
Dr. and Mrs. Henry Peterson: 20 bound volumes of Juvenile Instructor.

Business and Professional Women: Bookshelf (some 60 volumes), Annual subscription of Junior Literary Classics.

WHAT OF FUTURE HOPES?

The fulfillment of the early desire of certain individuals and organizations to make of the Cache County Library a cultural and art center has been realized! But shall we stop here? Are there not other goals that we might attain? Cannot we achieve even greater things now that there are so many friends of the library—friends who are genuinely interested in its advancement?

One way in which its friends might help the Library would be to add a door to the Children's room—one which would conform to the glass door immediately east of the charging desk. If such a door were added, the long-dreamed-of hope for a children's hour could be realized!

Another desire of some of its friends is to see a third story added to the present library building. This floor might be the center of the art, literary, and musical life of the community! There might be a large, well-lighted room for community affairs—a room on whose walls would be hung the permanent acquisitions from the Carnegie Foundation and other possible sources, and where the piano would be placed and chairs provided for various programs. In

addition to this large room, there might be two or three smaller rooms—repositories for the art and music collections. In one of these rooms, glass cases might be installed for preserving rare old books, choice bits of statuary, pieces of porcelain, glass, and other precious gifts from friends of the library.

Thus, would the Cache County Library ultimately become the center of culture not only for northern Utah but for the state as a whole. The fulfillment of the desire of many to make Logan the "Athens of the State" would be realized!