

MULDOON LIBRARY OPERATED BY ELECTED TOWNSHIP BOARD

Open Afternoons And Evenings Five Days Each Week

The voters of Mount Pulaski township voted in 1956 to take over the operation of the Muldoon Library, voting favorably on a small tax to assure the library's continued operation.

The wisdom of this move has been more than justified over the past five years. The library is now operated and manned with competent librarians every afternoon and evening, except Friday and Sunday.

The tremendous increase in the use being made of the library the past five years, as well as the wealth of added up-to-date reading material, has more than justified the township assuming the responsibility of operation.

The present members of the board are: Mrs. Wilbur E. Stoll, president; Frank Passmore, Jr., treasurer; Mrs. C. E. Hildreth, Mrs. Edward Ruwe, Gene C. Clear and C. M. Merriman.

Condensed Summary

A condensed summary of the library's founding and operating by Miss Florence Wynd, librarian, follows:

Established March 23, 1897, by the Mt. Pulaski Woman's Literary Society with 126 books on the bookshelf in the Universalist Church in 100 block, S. Marion St. First Librarian: Miss Hilma Jones.

Asst. Librarian: Miss Blanch Rankin, who resigned Jan. 27, 1897.

Second Librarian: Miss Grace Fryer.

Asst. Librarian: Miss Marie Werlich, both resigned Dec. 1897.

Oct. 1897—Library moved to A. K. Shride store on south side square.

Jan. 1898—Library moved to Lushbaugh building northeast corner of square. Librarians having resigned Mrs. Katherine Lushbaugh, president of Literary Society, acted as librarian.

Early 1900—Library moved to old Court House building. Mrs. Mae O'Connor appointed librarian.

1932—Library moved to upstairs room at front of Farmer's Bank building.

1934—Moved to Old Scroggin Hotel building at rear of Farmer's Bank.

Dec. 1939—Mrs. Mae O'Connor resigned as librarian after serving 40 consecutive years.

Jan. 1940—Mrs. Pearl Blackford appointed librarian to fill vacancy. Resigned 1943.

Sept. 1943 — Miss Florence Wynd appointed librarian to fill vacancy.

1943-1945 — All books were classified, cataloged, and the card system of circulation was established.

Dec. 1951—Library moved into the present location - the Muldoon Memorial building, provided for by the late Laura Z. Lipp in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Muldoon.

Jan. 26, 1952—Opened in new home.

Feb. 1952—Mrs. Mary Curtis appointed as assistant librarian.

April 1956—Mt. Pulaski Township Library Board took over operation of the library with tax support. Miss Dorothy Shull and Mrs. Frank Passmore, Jr., have been added to the library staff.

Literary Club Officers - 1897

President, Mrs. X. F. Beidler Vice-Pres., Mrs. Van R. St. John Secretary, Mrs. H. F. Lushbaugh Treasurer, Mrs. George Vonderlieth

Librarian, Miss Hilma Jones Ass't. Librarian, Miss Blanch Rankin.

1952 - Mt. Pulaski Library Club Officers

(Moved to New Building) Pres., Mrs. Henry Christensen Vice-Pres., Mrs. C. E. Hildreth Secretary, Mrs. Charles Schmitz Treasurer, Mrs. Paul Gruber Trustees, Mrs. T. A. Scroggin, Mrs. Chris Weller, Mrs. George Suedmeier.

Librarian, Miss Florence Wynd. Ass't. Librarian, Mrs. Russell Curtis.

Board Members: Mrs. Walter

Schafer, Mrs. Pearle Waddell, Mrs. Russell Curtis, Mrs. Charles Schmitz, Mrs. Louis Sams, Mrs. Pearl Glose, Mrs. Esther Dittus, Mrs. Ellis Downing, Miss Sams.

Credit Due Citizens

Credit should be given to members of the Mount Pulaski Woman's Literary Society and to its successor, the Mount Pulaski Library Club, and especially to the Library Board members of those organizations for their untiring and able assistance in the operation of the library.

Their efforts were untiring in providing funds for the maintenance of the library for 59 years, and their continued cooperation since April 1, 1956, when the Mount Pulaski Township Library Board took over the operation with tax support.

Credit should also be given to the citizens of the community for help throughout the years, and for the funds to furnish the present library building.

The Illinois State Library has made available collections of books and much individual reference material to supplement the local library's materials.

At present some 7,449, with very few duplicates books, are available to the public as well as magazines in the juvenile, youth, and adult sections.

The library is now open five days a week. Much reference work is now done at the library.

Prior to 1952, a circulating library was open once a week.

1943 to 1952—Average annual circulation was 3,700

1953-1955—Average annual circulation was 7,700

1956-1960—Average annual circulation was 11,500

Borrowers register - 1944-1949, before moving into new building shows 425 registered.

By Jan. 1952 to March 1956—795.

By April 1956 to March 1961—1392.

Present registry, 899, of which 575 are active borrowers.

LIBRARY HISTORY— (Continued from preceding page)

The first club meeting in the new location was held in December, 1934, and later as a revenue producer, a food sale and dinner was held in the Community garage on Saturday, Mar. 17, 1935 when proceeds were \$96.35.

It was at the close of 1935 that Mrs. T. A. Scroggin resigned as treasurer after 28 years of faithful service. She was succeeded by Mrs. Ennis A. Downing, then followed by Miss Florence Wynd and now Mrs. Frank E. Turley holds the office.

In January 1940, Mrs. O'Connor, due to ill health, tendered her resignation as librarian following 40 years of faithful service. Mrs. D. W. Blackford succeeded her, and served the club splendidly for three years. Following her resignation the present librarian, Miss Florence Wynd, took over and is doing an excellent job.

In order to be up-to-date and on the same basis with other libraries, and too, for convenience, the Dewey Decimal System of keeping books in order was introduced in 1945. The work was done by club members, with the assistance of Miss Ida Fay Wright of the Illinois State Library, Springfield.

For the benefit of the members I wish to add that the revenue derived from the 13 dinners held in the past, amounted in round numbers to \$2,300. At one of these dinners Clarence Tomlinson made a present of \$100 to the library. Since his death the trustees of his estate have each year presented the library with a check for that amount.

The expense of heat, light and water has been spared thru the goodness of the Farmers Bank and City of Mount Pulaski.

It has been my pleasure during the 15 years as secretary to have served under and worked with the following presidents:

MRS. LORAH Z. LIPP, BENEFACTOR



Lorah Z. Lipp Died October 9 Following Stroke

(Oct. 11, 1945)

Mrs. Lorah Z. Lipp, well-known and esteemed resident of Mount Pulaski, living at 320 N. Washington St., died at 11:20 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 9, 1945, in St. John's Hospital, Springfield, where she had been a patient since July 12, following a stroke.

Lorah Z. Muldoon was born on June 27, 1870 on the old Muldoon farm 5 miles south of Mt. Pulaski, the youngest child of James and Mary Costello Muldoon. She received her first schooling in the old Birks school, east of her childhood home. When her parents retired from the farm and came into town, Mrs. Lipp made her home with them, looking after their declining years.

About 50 years ago Lorah Z. Muldoon married Henry Lipp of this city, and for a time lived in Iowa. The one child born to this union, Marguerite, died when she was 10 years old.

Mrs. Lipp was long active in musical and civic activities in Mount Pulaski and throughout Logan county, and her talents were always recognized for their great worth. Not only was she a musician of special note, but was especially gifted as a speaker, and throughout her years of various activities she was often called upon to appear on programs, and willingly assisted in doing anything she could for her friends and old home community.

Mrs. Lipp was a member of the first graduating class of the old Mount Pulaski high school in 1888.

She early became identified in the musical circles of the community, and many took their first music lessons from her. She was organist at the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic church for the past 43 years. Mrs. Lipp studied organ at Millikin University, Decatur, and also at the University of California.

Mrs. John T. Hershey, Mrs. Wilford Scroggin, Sr., Mrs. M. J. Myers, Mrs. Chauncey E. Glose, and Mrs. Henry C. Christensen.

The present officers are: Mrs. Henry C. Christensen, president; Mrs. C. E. Hildreth, vice-president; Mrs. Charles Schmitz, secretary; Mrs. Frank E. Turley, treasurer. On the board of directors are Miss Katie Volle, Mrs. Charles Schmitz, Mrs. Lillian Goetz, Mrs. Pearl Waddell, Mrs. C. M. Merriman, Mrs. G. F. Wait, Mrs. Henry C. Christensen, Miss Winifred Loetterle, Mrs. Walter A. Schafer.

The board of trustees is composed of Mrs. T. A. Scroggin, Mrs. Chris Weller and Mrs. George Suedmeier.

The librarian is Miss Florence Wynd.

New Library Was Dedicated October 30, 1952

(Oct. 30, 1952)

The assembly room of the new Muldoon Library was well filled with interested spectators Sunday afternoon to participate in the dedication of the new library which was the gift of Mrs. Lorah Z. Lipp.

The speaker of the day was Dr. Harry F. Pratt, Springfield, of the Illinois Historical Society, who has appeared here on several occasions and always has an intensely interesting story to tell. His talk was not only one of praise for the gift of such a fine contribution to the cultural life of the community, but also brought out various ways in which the library could be made of more appeal to the residents, especially the youth.

Pouring at the tea table which was decorated with a centerpiece of yellow chrysanthemums and candles were three women trustees of the club, Mrs. T. A. Scroggin, Mrs. Chris Weller, Mrs. George Suedmeier, and the club president, Mrs. Henry Christensen.

The program in the library assembly room in the spacious basement, began with a few introductory remarks by Mrs. Wilbur E. Stoll, representing the library club. Mrs. Stoll introduced George A. Volle, one of the trustees of the new Muldoon Library building, who spoke in part as follows:

"I want to say something about the history of the background of this fine presentation that was made to this community by the late Mrs. Lorah Z. Lipp, with whom most of you were acquainted during her lifetime.

"In a will made by Mrs. Lipp on March 29, 1943, among other provisions, a sum of \$25,000 was provided for the erection of a library building. Also a fund of \$10,000 was provided, the income of which was to be used in its maintenance. It also specified among other provisions that Ben W. Ely and George A. Volle should be executors of her estate.

"Mrs. Lipp, as you remember, passed away in St. John's Hospital, Springfield, Ill., Oct. 9, 1945.

"After the usual administration of her estate it had been provided in said will that five trustees should take up the matter of the erection and the building of the library. These trustees were the following Mount Pulaski residents: Ben W. Ely, George A. Volle, Harold Hubbard, Walter A. Schafer, and Austin Schaffnacker, all of whom are present at this dedication.

"The appointed trustees were qualified and accepted the duties of the trust, under which this present site was offered as a site for the building of the library. The trustees were well pleased to accept this location as it was not only the former home of Mrs. Lipp, but also the home of her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. James Muldoon.

"On account of the restrictions on the erection of buildings, the materials for same, the start of the building was delayed for some time, but eventually as the restrictions were relaxed the building operations were started, progressed, and finally completed.

"We, as trustees, owe thanks to many individuals in the fine co-operation that was shown. We have fine people in Mount Pulaski, with wonderful co-operative spirit, and with these words of thanks and praise to all who helped, I now wish to introduce Mr. Pratt of Springfield, secretary and treasurer of the Illinois Historical Society of the State of Illinois, who will make the dedication address."

—Back in the 1914's sale ads all had from 10 to 20 horses and mules for sale, as well as cattle and hogs. These were the big items that brought in the most money. No tractors were in the sale ads but discs, binders, bugles, etc., were listed.

CORNERSTONE OF NEW LIBRARY WAS LAID MAY 24, 1951

(May 24, 1951)

The cornerstone of the new Muldoon Library, a gift of the late Mrs. Lorah Z. Lipp, to the community, was laid yesterday morning in the presence of the trustees and Library Club officers.

Placed in the cornerstone were several items which will be of interest to future generations. Among the articles placed there were copies of the Chicago Tribune, Lincoln Evening Courier, and Mount Pulaski Times-News of current issues; list of officers of the Library Club, Woman's Club and Junior Woman's Club; bank statements and tax receipts.

The building was started Nov. 15, 1950 and is expected to be ready for occupancy by September. Trustees are: George A. Volle, Walter A. Schafer, Harold Hubbard, Austin Schaffnacker, and Ben Ely.

REMOVE BOOKS TO MULDOON LIBRARY

(Jan. 24, 1952)

The task of moving the many books from the former Mount Pulaski public library, located in the old Scroggin Hotel rooms on West Cooke Street, has been completed by members of the Library Club, who so efficiently operated the library for many years. The books are now in place in the new Muldoon Library Building on North Washington Street. This new building was made possible by the bequests of the late Mrs. Lorah B. Lipp in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Muldoon.

While the date for the dedication of the new library has not been set, the library will be opened to patrons on Saturday, Jan. 26, 1952. The hours will be from 2 to 5 p.m.