

MS 70  
(2)

LIBRARY HISTORY NOTES  
1921 - 1936  
*author unknown*

Library History  
Notes 1921-1936  
Author Unknown

In 1921 - The Okanagan Centre Women's Institute decided to be responsible for a local library. This was continued until 1936 when it was passed over to the Union Library -

(I think that the people who actually run the library - paid \$1.00 a year.) The Librarian was appointed by the Institute - + money voted to buy books - also in the beginning members donated books to form a nucleus - at one time as many as 556 books were in the library - Books were exchanged with Oyama + one or two other Institutes, who also had libraries -

The Book Cupboard was kept in the Presbyterian Church (also used as the school + since pulled down)

(This is short, as I imagine what you wish - Mrs. Macfarlane got the enclosed out of Institute records - + thought I would send it along as well,

In 1921 - The Okanagan Centre Women's Institute decided to be responsible for a local Library. This was continued until 1936 - when it was passed over to the Union Library (I think that the people who actually used the library paid \$1.00 a year)

The Librarian was appointed by the Institute & money was voted to buy books. Also in the beginning members donated books to form a nucleus.

At one time as many as 556 books were in the Library. Books were exchanged with Oyama & one or two other institutes, who also had Libraries.

The Book Cupboard was kept in the Presbyterian Church (also used as the school & since pulled down).

(This, in short, is I imagine what you wish)

Mrs. Macfarlane got the enclosed out of Institute records & I thought I would send it along as well.

1923  
 Mar 1<sup>st</sup> - Books purchased for circulation among members  
 " Institute decided to be responsible for the library & convenor of local needs. to try to exchange books with other libraries (Mrs Brixton)  
 Mar 24 - 1921 - Mrs Goldie Mrs. H Glead small amount of money be used for books Mrs Gray (Librarian)  
 May 3 1923. Mrs Brixton reported on an effort to secure books from Public Library Commission - Victoria 15 new books given to the library  
 June 26 1923 - Bought books from Willits Circulating Library  
 Nov 8<sup>th</sup> - Mrs Brixton reported the purchase of 52 new books - 50 withdrawn from circulation until needed

March 1st 1923 - Books purchased in Circulation among members. The institute decided to be responsible for the library and convenor for local needs. It was also decided to try to exchange books with other Libraries (Mrs. Brixton).  
 March 24 1921 - Mrs. Goldie, Mrs. H Glead small amount of money be used for books. Mrs. Gray (Librarian)  
 May 3 1923 - Mrs. Brixton reported on an effort to secure books from Public Library Commission - Victoria. 15 new books given to the Library  
 June 26 1923 - Bought books from Willits Circulating Library  
 Nov 8th - Mrs. Brixton reported the purchase of 52 new books - 50 withdrawn from circulation until needed

June 12 1924  
Mrs. Brixton resigned Mrs. Carter  
& Miss K. Hare took over

Dec 18 - 1924 Miss K. Hare reported  
on library -  
4 rules ~~about~~ concerning library

Cash 2<sup>00</sup> Donation - "  
18<sup>00</sup> " "  
Books for library 23<sup>00</sup>

Mar 17 - 1925 - new books to the library  
on history, travel & some novels  
Rubber stamps for books

July 29 1926 - Exchange of books with Oyama  
24 books being exchanged  
Miss K. Hare reported 14 subscriptions  
19 new books donated  
Chosen by subscribers  
Bought cupboard for books -  
Special books bought on request  
of subscribers

June 12 1924 - Mrs. Brixton resigned.  
Mrs. Carter & Miss K  
Hare took over

Dec 18 1927 - Miss K Hare reported  
on Library - 4 rules  
concerning Library.  
Cash - \$2.00 donation  
\$18.00 "  
Books for Library \$23.00

Mar 17 1925 - New books in the library  
on history, travel &  
some novels. Rubber  
stamps for books

July 29 1926 - Exchange of books with  
Oyama 24 books being  
exchanged. Miss K. Hare  
reported 14 subscriptions.  
19 new books donated  
chosen by subscribers.  
Bought cupboard for  
books. Special books  
bought on request of  
subscribers

May 10 1928  
 10 signatures required for use of  
 Travelling Library  
 Donation to and from  
 Institute in 1928 \$11.00  
 in 1928      11.00

Jan 9th 1936 18 new books  
 on this date there were 538 + 18 = 556 books

May 7th 1936 another exchange from travelling  
 library.

Mrs Cheesman Librarian

Nov 19 1936 library passed over to  
 Union library, after a sale  
 of books requested by subscribers  
 23.40 obtained from this sale

May 10 1928 - 10 signatures required for  
 use of travelling Library.  
 Donation to and from  
 Institute in 1928 \$11.00

Jan 9th 1936 - 18 new books. On this date  
 there were 538 + 18 = 556  
 books

May 7th 1936 - Another exchange from  
 travelling library. Mrs.  
 Cheesman Librarian.

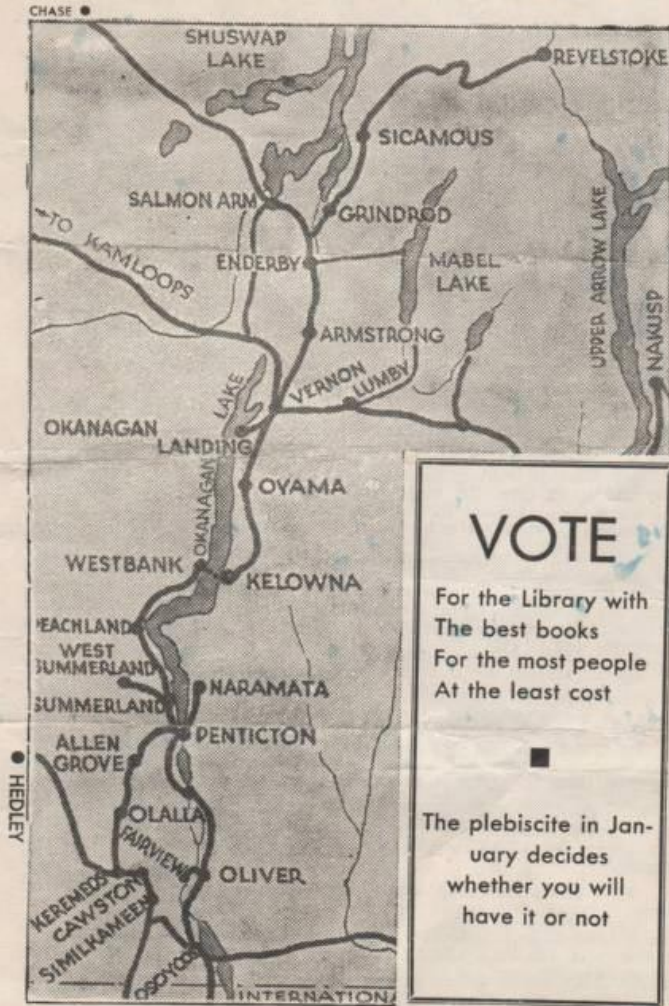
Nov 19 1936 - Library passed over to Union  
 Library, after a sale of  
 books requested by  
 subscribers \$23.40 obtained  
 from this sale

May 9 1935 - \$3.00 from library fund for repair of church steps  
 Jan 5th 1935 - 495 books in library  
 Jan 1929 - librarians Mrs Goldie & Mrs Carter  
 340 books  
~~Jan 1930~~  
 Jan 1930 - 27 new books added  
 Total 367 -  
 Mar 13 1930 - Subscription to Reader's  
 Digest discontinued & \$3.00 donated  
 to library fund.  
 Nov 13 20.00 donated for books  
 July 7 1932 Donation 6.00  
 Dec 14 1933 " 10.00  
 Dec 10 1936 Sale of books 23.40

May 9 1935 - \$3.00 from Library Fund for  
 repair of church steps  
 Jan 5th 1935 - 495 books in Library  
 Jan 1929 - Librarians Mrs. Goldie & Mrs.  
 Carter 340 books  
 Jan 1930 - 27 new books added total 367  
 Mar 13 1930 - Subscription to Reader's  
 Digest discontinued & \$3.00  
 donated to Library Fund.  
 Nov 13 - \$20.00 donated for books  
 July 7 1932 - Donation \$6.00  
 Dec 14 1933 - Donation \$10.00  
 Dec 10 1936 - Sale of books \$23.40



# THE OKANAGAN UNION LIBRARY



## VOTE

For the Library with  
The best books  
For the most people  
At the least cost



The plebiscite in Jan-  
uary decides  
whether you will  
have it or not

To be or not to be?

# UNION LIBRARIES

## WHAT THEY DO:

Union Libraries provide the best way known so far, of giving city privileges to readers of town and country. They pool the interests of a number of Municipalities and Rural School Districts in one large service area, and set up a good stock of up-to-date books on all subjects, which everyone can use.

The towns have branch libraries usually open part of every day except holidays, with Children's Sections and Reading Rooms attached. People from smaller centres may use these town branches if near enough, or may get what they want through local deposit collections open two or three times a week.

There are books for all tastes and ages—25,000 of them or more to choose from. Fiction, standard and new, Science, Economics, Travel, Literature, Engineering, Carpentry, Aviation, Gardening, Music, Art, and whatever people like to read and think about.

The annual budget sets aside a substantial amount for new books, and lists of additions appear quarterly.

The collections are changed frequently with those of other branches, and any member wanting special books not on the shelves in his centre, may get them from the main stock. Every branch has a catalogue of the whole Union Library for reference, and packages of requests are sent out weekly or fortnightly.

A trained, professional Librarian visits all branches once a month or thereabout, checks on their needs, and consults with those who want advice on either personal or community reading matters. In connection with the latter, the Library willingly gives help with the programs of Drama Leagues, Musical Societies, Open Forums, Farmers' and Women's Institutes and so on.

Special services for the schools may also be arranged.

## HOW THEY ARE USED:

Everyone living in the district may join the library if he is old enough to read, and may borrow two books or more at once. The time limit on these as a rule is two weeks, with renewal privileges except in the case of volumes much in demand.

There is no subscription fee, but all members must obey the rules of the library, and fines may be imposed for overdue books or for loss or damage.

All requests are dated when received, and supplied in chronological order.

Usually from 40% to 50% of the total population of a district joins a library of this kind, and on an average, every member takes out 15 to 20 books every year.

The fact that it appeals to so many interests makes it much more

widely used, and ensures for a large proportion of the ratepayers a direct return on their investment.

## THEIR ORGANIZATION:

When Municipalities and Rural School Districts want to form a Union Library, they send Petitions to the Lieutenant Governor signed by 10% of their "Electors" asking for authority to hold a Plebiscite on the question. This has been done by 63 separate units in the Okanagan.

The Orders-in-Council issued in response to these requests, arrange for a vote to be taken at or about the time of the Municipal elections in January 1936, the ballot reading—"Are you in favor of the Municipality or Rural School District as the case may be) of joining a Union Library District under the provisions of the Public Libraries Act?" A straight majority vote decides the issue.

If units with an aggregate population of 25,000 or more vote "Yes", the Plebiscite carries, and the Union will be established. Otherwise it is considered defeated, since a District which is too small cannot be administered economically.

Districts voting to join the Union must stay in it for three years. After that time they may dissolve the partnership if they wish by holding another Plebiscite and reversing their previous decision.

Only "Electors" eligible to vote on money-by-laws may cast a ballot in the Library Plebiscite.

## HOW THEY ARE RUN:

A local Board of Management administers the affairs of a Union Library, and makes its budgets. Every Municipal Council appoints one member of this Board to represent its interests, and on a rough basis of representation by population, the Rural School Districts group together and appoint one member for each group.

The Board appoints a trained, professional Librarian to direct the practical work of the library, and whatever other assistants it needs. The recommendation is that a small trained staff will give the leadership required at this stage, while the routine work of the branches is done by paid but untrained custodians on a part time basis.

All branch expenses come out of the common fund, and the Board of Management decides the number of hours each branch shall be open, and the amount to be spent on its maintenance according to a scale based on membership and circulation figures.

If the Plebiscite carries, the work of organization will begin as soon as the new Board of Management has been appointed.

Districts not in the original Union may approach the Board of Management later, and arrange to enter by agreement.

The Carnegie grant which has been given to help with the establishment of Union Libraries, is to be spent on organization and the purchase of an initial stock of books. It is not available for maintenance after the library has started.

## WHAT THEY COST:

Every Municipality and Rural School District voting to join a Union Library, pays its share of maintenance costs. As the scheme is set up now, this amounts to approximately \$40 per year, per hundred of the population.

Councils and School Boards may decide to raise their allotment on a mileage basis, or by a flat rate. The flat rate seems the fairer way in



a service of this kind, and is the one chosen by practically every district.

According to it, property owners and poll tax payers pay the same for library maintenance, regardless of the extent of their holdings. In the case of the latter, the authorities have the right to impose a special levy for the purpose, on all who are eligible under the Municipal or School Acts.

In the present plan, the estimated costs amount to something less than \$1.00 per ratepayer per year on the above basis. The law sets \$2.00 per ratepayer per year as the maximum which can be levied on a flat rate in any one district, but it is doubtful if actual charges will exceed \$1.25 each for years to come. The fact that the Board of Management is appointed by the Councils and School Boards is a sufficient safeguard against undue inflation.

In Rural School Districts, the Provincial Assessor collects from property owners as and when other charges are paid: Poll taxes are subject to the provisions of the Municipal and School Acts.

The Library rate is legally collectable, and penalties may be imposed for default. However, non-payment does not debar anyone from the use of the Library, which by law must be open to all residents of the districts, free of membership fees.

Non-resident fees may be imposed on those living outside the bounds of the library district who wish to borrow books, and transients may or may not be charged, at the discretion of the Board of Management.

The owner of several parcels of land in one district, pays on one only, and joint owners are also regarded as one.

The flat rate of less than a dollar a year, covers the cost of Library service for the whole family, whatever its size. It also provides a budget for the Union large enough to take care of all maintenance costs—New books, and replacements, salaries, overhead charges, transportation, office expenses and so on.

Residents who pay neither property nor poll tax, are invited to contribute their share of costs on the same basis as the others.

## To Keep Up With The Times,

You Need a Library

The Children Need It

The Youth of the Country Need It

Vote to Get This Service For Your District

---