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COLORADO STATE PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY
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Colorado Traveling/Report of the Colorado local
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First Report
of the
Colorado Traveling
Library Commission

1904



DENVER, COLORADO
THE SMITH-BROOKS PRINTING COMPANY
1904

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University of Colorado
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First Report of the
Colorado Traveling Library
Commission

"Books are strange things. Although untongued
and dumb,
Yet with their eloquence they sway the world;
And, powerless and impassive as they seem,
Move o'er the impressive hearts and minds of men
Like fire across the prairie. Mind sparks,
They star the else dark firmament."



1904

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THE SMITH-BROOKS PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS
DENVER, COLORADO

MADE IN U.S.A.
DALLAS TEXAS

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COLORADO TRAVELING LIBRARY COMMISSION, 1904.

Mrs. Julia V. Welles, President.....Denver
Mrs. Harry E. Churchill, Vice-President.....Greeley
Mrs. C. P. Dawson, Secretary.....Canon City
Mrs. Flora McHarg, Historian.....Boulder
Mrs. Z. X. Snyder, Reader.....Greeley

TRANSPORTATION CLERK,

Miss Mame Sprague.....2807 Colfax avenue, Denver

To His Excellency,
JAMES H. PEABODY,
Governor of Colorado.

The following report is respectfully submitted.

JULIA V. WELLES,
President.
CARRIE P. DAWSON,
Secretary.

Denver, Colorado.

First Report
of the
Colorado Traveling Library Commission

The act creating the Colorado Traveling Library Commission was passed by the Fourteenth General Assembly, was signed by the Governor April 13, 1903, and became a law July 1, 1903.

AIMS OF THE COMMISSION.

The aims of the Commission are to co-operate with the teacher in developing the child's reasoning power, by placing in her hands good, wholesome reading matter, thereby guiding the children to the right sort of reading, and thus creating in them the love and habit of reading good books; to send books to the bookless; to place within the reach of the citizens of every town in the State, no matter how small, one of our compact little traveling library boxes, and, ultimately, in spite of our youth, our magnificent distances, our widely scattered towns, and our large percentage of floating population, to have more good books read per capita than in any other state.

BRANCHES OF THE WORK.

First—We have the miscellaneous boxes, composed of recent fiction, with a judicious admixture of travel, history, biography and sociology intended for the general public and suited to the general taste. Each box contains fifty books.

Second—The juvenile boxes, composed entirely of the best juvenile books, chosen with a view to their relation to the school work as well as to the tastes and ages of the children generally. These are for use in the country schools, Sunday schools, and the industrial schools. There are also fifty books in each of these boxes.

Third—Small collections of reference books for the use of clubs and study classes. If you write for books of this class you must be resigned to some delay, for they often have to be ordered from the East.

Fourth—Magazines and paper-bound books. These are shipped to farmers, millmen, railroad men, barns, hospitals, engine houses, stations, jails, reformatories and prisons. We do not require that these be returned, but may be used and passed on until they are worn out, enabling a score of readers to see them before they become waste paper.

Two thousand magazines have been distributed during the past year, and they have been as thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated as the library boxes have been.

RULES GOVERNING STATE TRAVELING LIBRARIES.

1. The person to whom this box is sent shall be held personally responsible for the safe return of its contents.
2. This box is free to the public. No charge is made by the State for its use, and no charge is to be made by any person in authority, except to replace books lost or destroyed.
3. The only requirement made by the State is that this box and contents be returned at the end of six months.
4. If a book is lost, one of same standard and in equally good condition must be substituted for it.
5. A second box will not be sent to any town failing to comply with these rules.
6. In order that the committee in charge of a box in each town may protect themselves, they should loan books only to persons known to them, or to those presenting satisfactory references. A second book should not be loaned to any person until the first is returned in as good condition as when loaned.
7. These books have been donated by friends of free libraries. The State asks all borrowers to treat them well, for the sake of those to whom they may give pleasure and profit after leaving you.
8. Address all communications and applications to the president, stating whether you wish a miscellaneous, a juvenile, or a reference box.
Always state what road you are on, and exactly how to direct box. Never pay freight or express charges unless so instructed.
9. Return all boxes to transportation clerk by freight—Miss Mame Sprague, 2708 Colfax avenue. Notify her of the shipment of a box, and enclose bill of lading.
Always inform her when you receive a box. Otherwise she has no means of knowing that it has reached its destination.
10. Never return boxes by express.

JULIA V. WELLES,
President State Traveling Library Commission.

APPLICATION BLANK.

The undersigned asks that the Colorado Traveling Library Commission ship to.....one of its traveling

libraries, and promises to take personal charge of the books lentand to keep a record of their circulation in the form provided by the library, guaranteeing their return to the library in good condition and the return of the library to Denver by freight at the end of the specified time.

The Commission reserves the right to withdraw this privilege at any time, on non-compliance with these conditions.

.....
I recommend the above applicant as a responsible person and promise to make good to the library any loss that may be occasioned by his failure to comply with the above requirements.
.....

ORIGIN AND GROWTH OR TRAVELING LIBRARIES.

The traveling library work in Colorado was started by the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs. The first box was sent out January 6, 1900. This organization carried on the work until it grew to such proportions that it could no longer be administered by the federation. Then the women of the federation, numbering some 5,000, petitioned the Legislature to make the traveling library a State work, which they did, making Colorado the twenty-second State in the Union to legalize traveling libraries. As soon as the law became operative, the seventy-five boxes accumulated by the federation were formally turned over to the State. Since then the federation have presented the State forty-seven additional boxes, making a total of 122 boxes now in circulation, valued at \$6,000. Of these, eighty are juvenile and forty-two miscellaneous. In spite of the rapid increase in the number of boxes, the supply is still not equal to the demand.

LIST OF BOXES.

1. Annie G. Whitmore, C. F. W. C.
2. Adah Wiley Jones, Social Union.
3. Anne Hathaway Shakespeare, No. 1.
4. Anne Hathaway Shakespeare, No. 2.
5. Art and Literature, W. C. of Denver.
6. Alice Robinson, La Junta.
7. Art and Literature, North Side Woman's Club.
8. Amanda Kerr Lewis, Scio Art Club.
9. Alfred Robinson Memorial.
10. Ben. B. Lindsey, W. C. of Denver.
11. Boulder Fortnightly, Juvenile.
12. City Improvement Society, Denver.
13. Centennial Club, Colorado Springs.
14. Canon City convention, souvenir box.
15. Christ Church Sunday school, Canon City.
16. Columbine Club of Fort Collins.
17. Collegiate Alumnae.

18. Clio Club of Denver.
19. Dora Kerngood Wile, Jewish Women's Council.
20. Denver Fortnightly Club.
21. Eliza Folsom McClelland, W. T. K., Greeley.
22. Equal Suffrage Association.
23. Emma M. Herey, Arapahoe county teachers.
24. Federation No. 3, juvenile.
25. Frances B. Belford, social science department, W. C. of Denver.
26. First Congregational church, Denver.
27. First Congregational Church Sunday school, Denver.
28. Fonetta Flansburg, City Federation, Colorado Springs.
29. Friends in Council, juvenile, Canon City.
30. Friends in Council, 1896, Canon City.
31. Friends in Council, 1901, Canon City.
32. Flora T. McHarg, Woman's Club of Boulder.
33. Hypatia Club of Boulder.
34. Hypatia Club of Trinidad No. 1.
35. Hypatia Club of Trinidad No. 2.
36. Hypatia, Pierian and Tourists' Clubs, Trinidad.
37. Helen M. Grenfell, Teachers' Institute, 1904.
38. Halsey V. and Merritt Welles, Denver.
39. Home and Education Department, W. C. of Denver.
40. Helen Marsh Wixson, Woman's Press Club.
41. Historic Art Club, Denver.
42. Ione T. Hanna, H. and E. department, W. C. of Denver.
43. Inah Lewis Fox, Monday extension, W. C. of Denver.
44. Inez Thornburgh, T. L. Clio Club, Denver.
45. Jennie Hilton-Baker, Women's Club of Boulder.
46. Julia von der Lieth Welles, Y. L. Clio Club, Denver.
47. James H. Peabody, C. F. W. C.
48. Jessie I. Hanna, Y. L. Clio Club, Denver.
49. Junior Clio Club, Denver.
50. Kate Reynolds Lobingier, Collegiate Alumnae.
51. Kliothalian Club of Greeley.
52. Katherine Grafton Patterson, Woman's Press Club.
53. Katherine Grafton Patterson, No. 2 Denver Fortnightly.
54. Ladies' Fortnightly of Boulder.
55. Lucy E. Peabody, art and literature department, W. C. of Denver.
56. Lillian H. Kerr, Woman's Club of Colorado Springs.
57. Minnie Lahm Harding, C. F. W. C.
58. Mrs. B. F. Stickley, Leadville, C. F. W. C.
59. Mary B. Ragan, North Side Woman's Club.
60. Myrtle Ruble, Y. L. Clio Club, Denver.
61. Mame M. Sprague, Y. L. Clio Club, Denver.
62. Mrs. O. G. Otis, C. F. W. C.
63. Martin P. Pels, memorial.
64. Martha B. Tuttle, Centennial Club, Colorado Springs.

65. Mann and Winthrop Page, Denver.
66. Mrs. Mahlon D. Thatcher, Pueblo.
67. Mary L. Shears, North Side Woman's Club.
68. Mrs. J. J. Brown, Denver.
69. Minnie J. Reynolds, Woman's Press Club.
70. Minnie J. Reynolds, No. 2, C. F. W. C.
71. Mary C. C. Bradford, social science department, W. C. of Denver.
72. Monday Evening Clio, Denver.
73. Monday Literary, Denver.
74. Mrs. L. M. Barney, Woman's Literary, Colorado Springs.
75. Mrs. Clay B. Steele, Reviewers' Club, Denver.
76. McKinley No. 1, F. A. Reynolds, Canon City.
77. McKinley No. 2, Mrs. A. R. Guemar, Florence.
78. Mary C. Bancroft, Denver Fortnightly.
79. Monday Literary, No. 2, Denver.
80. Mary N. Chase, North Side Woman's Club.
81. Mary Byers Robinson, Denver.
82. Nettie Edwards Caspar, Twenty-second avenue, Denver.
83. Norma Purchase, Denver, C. F. W. C.
84. Nettie C. Jacobson, art and literature department, W. C. of Denver.
85. North Side Woman's Club, art and literature department.
86. Ouray Woman's Club.
87. Pierian Club, Trinidad.
88. Pearl B. Wheeler, Y. L. Clio Club.
89. Progress Club of Greeley.
90. Round Table Club of Denver.
91. Rev. J. Monroe Markley, First Congregational church, Denver.
92. Reviewers' Club of Denver.
93. Rene C. Pels, Y. L. Clio Club, Denver.
94. Senator Hume Lewis, Pueblo, C. F. W. C.
95. Susan R. Ashley, Denver Fortnightly.
96. Sarah Platt Decker, W. C. of Denver.
97. Scio Art Club of Denver.
98. Sophia Lovejoy Dickinson, H. and E. department, W. C. of Denver.
99. Susan Moffett Hayward, Clio Club of Denver.
100. Social science department, W. C. of Denver.
101. Sarah C. Irish, North Side Woman's Club.
102. Social Art Club of Denver.
103. Sphinx Club of Denver.
104. Tuesday Musical Club, Denver.
105. Twenty-second Avenue and Around the World Clubs, Denver.
106. Valeria N. Church, memorial.
107. Wm. Church, memorial.

- 108. Woman's Club of Leadville.
- 109. Woman's Press Club, Denver.
- 110. Woman's Club of Grand Junction.
- 111. W. T. K. Club of Greeley.
- 112. Woman's Club of Canon City.
- 113. Wednesday Current Events and Fourth Avenue Reading Club.
- 114. Wednesday Morning Club, Pueblo.
- 115. Woman's Club of Denver.
- 116. Woman's Club of Littleton.
- 117. Woman's Literary Club, Colorado Springs.
- 118. Woman's Lunch Club.
- 119. Woman's Club of Victor.
- 120. Woman's Club of La Junta, Silvia Woodruff.
- 121. Young Ladies' Clio Club, Denver.
- 122. West Side Woman's Club.

BOOKS READ.

As a result of the traveling library work thirty thousand books have been read, and while the system has not been in operation long enough yet to form a basis of observation from which to deduce definite results, we feel that we are safe in saying that it will not be many years before the number of inmates in the public institutions will be lessened, as a direct result of this work to such an extent that aside from adding to the number of good and useful citizens, and considering the question from a financial standpoint only, the State will find that this has been a paying investment.

TOWNS VISITED BY THE LIBRARIES.

The essential principle in the traveling library system is economy. We endeavor to get the best reading for the largest number at the least cost. After the boxes have been used for a given period by one community, they are sent back, checked over, put in good repair, and sent out for service in other fields, thus keeping interest alive at every point. Books which used to become a back number after a few readings, are now worn out in actual service. One hundred and fifty towns in the State have been visited by traveling libraries. They are as follows:

No.	Town	
1	Aguilar	Las Animas County
2	Akron	Washington County
3	Anthracite	Gunnison County
4	Bovina	Lincoln County
5	Bonanza	Saguache County
6	Brighton	Adams County
7	Buffalo Springs	Park County
8	Buena Vista	Chaffee County

No.	Town	
9	Bailey	Park County
10	Brush	Morgan County
11	Bennett	Adams County
12	Broomfield	Jefferson County
13	Byers	Arapahoe County
14	Breckenridge	Summit County
15	Brookside	Fremont County
16	Berwind	Las Animas County
17	Crystal	Gunnison County
18	Colona	Ouray County
19	Conifer	Jefferson County
20	Chase	Park County
21	Cripple Creek	Teller County
22	Como	Park County
23	Cotopaxi	Fremont County
24	Canon City	Fremont County
25	Cardiff	Garfield County
26	Crested Butte	Gunnison County
27	Coal Basin	Pitkin County
28	Castle Rock	Douglas County
29	Del Norte	Rio Grande County
30	Daffodil	Douglas County
31	Dillon	Summit County
32	Dumont	Clear Creek County
33	Delta	Delta County
34	Edgewater	Jefferson County
35	Evans	Lake County
36	Engleville	Las Animas County
37	Elizabeth	Elbert County
38	Empire	Clear Creek County
39	Eaton	Weld County
40	Edlowe	Morgan County
41	Eldora	Boulder County
42	El Nura	Las Animas County
43	Florence	Fremont County
44	Fondis	Elbert County
45	Fort Morgan	Arapahoe County
46	Franktown	Douglas County
47	Gulch	Pitkin County
48	Grover	Pueblo County

No.	Town	
49	Garos	Park County
50	Gault	Weld County
51	Gardner	Huerfano County
52	Glenwood Springs	Garfield County
53	Grand Junction	Mesa County
54	Georgetown	Clear Creek County
55	Grant	Park County
56	Glacier	Gunnison County
57	Granite	Chaffee County
58	Golden	Jefferson County
59	Guffey	Park County
60	Harris	Adams County
61	Harvey	Garfield County
62	Henry's Spur	Jefferson County
63	Holly	Prowers County
64	Hardin	Weld County
65	Highland Lake	Weld County
66	Howard	Fremont County
67	Hellrose	Morgan County
68	Henderson	Adams County
69	Holyoke	Phillips County
70	Hotchkiss	Delta County
71	Hammond	Park County
72	Harman	Denver County
73	Howbert	Park County
74	Jamestown	Boulder County
75	Kokomo	Summit County
76	Kiowa	Elbert County
77	Littleton	Arapahoe County
78	La Salle	Weld County
79	La Veta	Huerfano County
80	Lyons	Boulder County
81	Longmont	Boulder County
82	Leadville	Lake County
83	Loveland	Larimer County
84	Lamar	Prowers County
85	Lawson	Clear Creek County
86	Louisville	Boulder County
87	Lafayette	Boulder County
88	Lake George	Park County

No.	Town	
89	Las Animas	Bent County
90	Melvin	Arapahoe County
91	Morrison	Jefferson County
92	Masters	Weld County
93	Minnequa	Pueblo County
94	Manzanola	Otero County
95	Mosca	Costilla County
96	New Windsor	Weld County
97	New Castle	Garfield County
98	Meeker	Rio Grande County
99	Otis	Washington County
100	Oversteg	Gunnison County
101	Orient	Saguache County
102	Ohio City	Gunnison County
103	Piceance	Rio Blanco County
104	Pinon	Montrose County
105	Powers	Bent County
106	Parker	Douglas County
107	Paonia	Delta County
108	Platteville	Weld County
109	Pine	Jefferson County
110	Pemberton	Douglas County
111	Pueblo	Pueblo County
112	Primero	Las Animas County
113	Parachute	Garfield County
114	Pitkin	Gunnison County
115	Quimby	Arapahoe County
116	Rye	Pueblo County
117	Rouse	Huerfano County
118	Redstone	Pitkin County
119	Rockvale	Fremont County
120	Rocky Ford	Otero County
121	Rifle	Garfield County
122	Roggen	Weld County
123	Ridgway	Ouray County
124	Russell Gulch	Gilpin County
125	Semper	Jefferson County
126	Sedalia	Douglas County
127	Sterling	Logan County
128	Silver Plume	Clear Creek County

No.	Town	
129	Silverton	San Juan County
130	Segundo	Las Animas County
131	Starkville	Las Animas County
132	Sopris	Garfield County
133	Stewart's Mesa.....	Delta County
134	Sulphur Springs.....	Grand County
135	Seibert	Adams County
136	Texas Creek.....	Fremont County
137	Torres	Las Animas County
138	Telluride	San Miguel County
139	Undercliff	Pueblo County
140	Twin Lakes.....	Lake County
141	Victor	Teller County
142	Walden	Larimer County
143	Winfield	Chaffee County
144	West Creek	Douglas County
145	Wanamaker.....	Jefferson County
146	Watkins	Adams County
147	Walsenburg	Huerfano County
148	Westcliffe	Custer County
149	Yuma	Yuma County
150	Woodland Park.....	Teller County

In addition to the towns visited, the following State institutions have been supplied with books:
 State Industrial School for Boys.
 State Industrial School for Girls.
 State Reformatory.
 State Home for Dependent Children and the Detention School.

LIBRARIES ASSISTED.

During the year just closing the commission have donated to a

	Books
School library at Henderson.....	25
School library at Silver Plume.....	25
School library at Walsenburg.....	25
School library at Evans.....	25
West-Side Neighborhood House.....	25
State Industrial School for Girls.....	25
State Reformatory	50
School library at Platteville.....	25
Total.....	225

These books were histories, encyclopædias, poems, and dictionaries, which were not suitable to send out in the boxes, but which were valuable to a local library. The result of this branch of the work has been the establishing of four local libraries, namely, Henderson, Silver Plume, Louisville and Platteville. If some member of the commission could visit the different points in the state where the libraries are sent, we feel satisfied that the work could be greatly increased and many more local libraries be established. The traveling library is responsible for the establishing of the traveling library system now being carried on by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company in their coal camps. This company secured three boxes from the commission as an experiment; it worked so well that the number increased to thirty-seven, which they circulated for two years. Being convinced of the value of the system, they established their own traveling library system, and now have forty-five boxes in circulation.

A FEW EXPRESSIONS QUOTED FROM LETTERS RECEIVED.

"The books were greatly enjoyed; in fact, they have been in constant use since their receipt. Another box of the same kind would be greatly appreciated."

"Through the traveling library our community for several years has been provided with a high standard of literature, appreciated by the adult and juvenile, the summer guests, the shut-ins, and most by the students from the School of Mines, which convened here during the summer."

"The Colorado Traveling Library Commission has not only been a great aid, but the whole thing for communities far removed from Carnegie and other libraries, and the longer it lives the more firmly will its merits be appreciated by the people."

"The traveling library box arrived three weeks ago, and I assure you it is a boon to this village."

"I wish you might know what a treasure your box has been to us, how it has been appreciated, with what enthusiasm received, with what eagerness read, and how thankful we all are to you."

"We rank the traveling library as among the strongest educational agencies. The fact that tired miners, who find it as hard to read as to dig coal, will take these books home or to the reading room, and read them, is one of the strongest evidences of the good work that the books are doing."

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The state has honored our vouchers to the extent of \$763.19. The appropriation made by the last legislature was \$1,000 per annum, but the entire amount was not available. The State Federation, seeing that an emergency existed, came to the rescue

