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Second Biennial Report

OF THE

Colorado Traveling Library Commission



1906

DENVER, COLORADO
THE SMITH-BROOKS PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS
1906

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Second Biennial Report

OF THE

Colorado Traveling Library
Commission

Office: Room 6, Capital Building, Denver

"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."



1906

DENVER, COLORADO
THE SMITH-BROOKS PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS
1906

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COLORADO TRAVELING LIBRARY COMMISSION, 1906

Mrs. Julia V. Welles, President.....Denver
Mrs. Harry E. Churchill, Vice-President.....Greeley
Mrs. James D. Whitmore, Secretary.....Denver
Mrs. B. F. Stickley, Historian.....Leadville
Mrs. Z. X. Snyder, Reader.....Greeley

TRANSPORTATION CLERK.

Miss Carrie Cushing.....Denver

To His Excellency,
JESSE F. McDONALD,
Governor of Colorado.

The following biennial report is respectfully submitted.

JULIA V. WELLES,
President.

MRS. ANNIE G. WHITMORE,
Secretary.

Denver, Colorado.

5137
1903

Second Biennial 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.

PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION.

The purpose of the Commission, as expressed in the law, is to maintain the Colorado Free Traveling Library system, through which books and magazines should be accessible to every community in the State, subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as will secure in the most practical manner the free use and enjoyment of said libraries by the people of this State.

INCREASE OF TRAVELING LIBRARIES.

The Commission has completed the third year of its work as a State Commission, previous to which its work had been carried on for two years by a committee from the State Federation of Women's Clubs. The Traveling Libraries have increased since our last report from 122 boxes, of fifty volumes each, to 177 boxes, with the same number of books in each box, an increase of fifty-five boxes, valued at \$8,850. Of these, eighty are juvenile and ninety-seven miscellaneous boxes. In spite of the rapid increase in the number of boxes, the supply is still not equal to the demand, there being fourteen unfilled applications on our list, owing to a lack of boxes, as this report goes to press.

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. Alice Polk Hill, Round Table Club.
11. A. M. Stevenson, C. T. L. C.
12. Ben B. Lindsey, W. C. of Denver.
13. Boulder Fortnightly, Boulder.
14. City Improvement Society, Denver.
15. Centennial Club, Colorado Springs.
16. Canon City Convention Souvenir Box.
17. Christ Sunday School, Canon City.
18. Columbine Club, Fort Collins.
19. Collegiate Alumnae, Denver.
20. Carrie Christian Kunkelly, Woman's Press Clubs.
21. Carrie Chapman Catt, New York.
22. Clio Club, Denver.
23. Carrie P. Dawson, C. T. L. Commission.
24. Dora Kerngood Wile, Memorial Jewish Woman's Council.
25. Denver Fortnightly Club, Denver.
26. Elizabeth W. Goddard, W. C. of Denver.
27. Eliza A. Routt, Fortnightly Club.
28. Eurithe K. La Barthe, W. C. of Denver.
29. Emma Lentz, Memorial, Humane Education Society.
30. Erminia Forbes, Reviewers Club.
31. Estelle Fulton, Young Ladies' Clio Club.
32. Eliza Folsom McClelland, W. T. K. Club, Greeley.
33. Equal Suffrage Association, Denver.
34. Emma M. Herey, Arapahoe County Teachers.
35. Federation No. 3, C. F. W. C.
36. Francis B. Belford, Social Service Dept. W. C. of D.
37. First Congregational Church, Denver.
38. First Congregational Church Sunday School, Denver.
39. Fonetta Flansberg, City Federation, Colorado Springs.
40. Friends in Council Juvenile, Canon City.
41. Friends in Council, 1896, Canon City.
42. Friends in Council, 1901, Canon City.
43. Flora T. McHarg, Woman's Club of Boulder.
44. Florence Kelley, Sunshine Society, New York.
45. Hypatia Club, Boulder
46. Hypatia Club, Trinidad No. 1.
47. Hypatia Club, Trinidad No. 2.
48. Hypatia, Picirian and Tourists Clubs, Trinidad.
49. Helen M. Grenfell, Teachers' Institute, 1904.
50. Halsey V. and Merritt-Welles, Denver.
51. Helen Leimer, Memorial, Pi Pi Kappa.

52. Harriet Scott Saxton, Social Science Dept., W. C. of Denver.
53. Hattie U. Stevens, Parliamentary Aux. W. C. of Denver.
54. Home and Education Dept., W. C. of Denver.
55. Helen Marsh Wixson, Woman's Press Club.
56. Historic Art Club, Denver.
57. Ione T. Hanna, H. and E. Dept. W. C. of D.
58. Inah Lewis Fox, Monday Extension W. C. of D.
59. Inez Thornburgh, Young Ladies Clio Club.
60. Isabelle Churchill, C. F. W. C.
61. Jennie Helton Baker, Woman's Club of Boulder.
62. Julia von der Lieth-Welles, Young Ladies Clio Club.
63. James H. Peabody, C. F. W. C.
64. Janet R. Storrs, Social Science Dept. W. C. of D.
65. Jessie I. Hanna, Young Ladies Clio Club.
66. Junior Clio Club, Denver.
67. Kate Reynolds Lobingier, Collegiate Alumnae.
68. Kliothalian Club, Greeley.
69. Katherine Grafton Patterson, Woman's Press Club.
70. Katherine Grafton Patterson, No. 2, Denver Fort-nightly.
71. Ladies' Fortnightly, Boulder.
72. Lola Maloney, A. and L. Dept. W. C. of D.
73. Lillian H. Kerr, Woman's Club, Colorado Springs.
74. Lucy E. Peabody, A. and L. Dept. W. C. of D.
75. Horace De Long, C. T. L. C.
76. Mary B. Stover, Fort Collins.
77. Minnie Lahm Harding, C. F. W. C.
78. Mrs. B. F. Stickley, C. F. W. C.
79. Mary B. Ragan, North-Side Woman's Club.
80. Myrtle Ruble, Young Ladies Clio Club.
81. Mrs. O. G. Otis, C. F. W. C.
82. Mame M. Sprague, Young Ladies Clio Club.
83. Martin P. Pels, Memorial, Denver.
84. Martha B. Tuttle, Centennial Club, Colorado Springs.
85. Mann and Winthrop Page, Denver.
86. Mrs. Mahlon D. Thatcher, Pueblo.
87. Mary L. Shears, North-Side Woman's Club.
88. Mrs. J. J. Brown, Denver.
89. Minnie J. Reynolds, Woman's Press Club.
90. Minnie J. Reynolds, No. 2, C. F. W. C.
91. Mary C. C. Bradford, Social Science Dept. W. C. of D.
92. Mrs. James Cowie, Boulder.
93. Marietta Jefferson, Friday Musical Club, Boulder.
94. Margaret White O'Leary, Western Slope Conference.
95. Margaret Patterson Campbell, Collegiate Alumnae.
96. Mary B. Morris, A. and L. Dept. W. C. of D.
97. Mira S. Sprague, Colorado W. C. T. U.
98. Mary N. Perkins, New York.

99. Monday Evening Clio, Denver.
100. Monday Literary, Denver.
101. Monday Literary No. 2, Denver.
102. Mrs. L. M. Barney, Woman's Literary, Colorado Springs.
103. Mrs. Clay B. Steele, Reviewers' Club.
104. McKinley No. 1, F. A. Reynolds, Canon City.
105. No. 2, Mrs. A. R. Guemar, Florence.
106. Mary C. Bancroft, Denver Fortnightly.
107. Mary N. Chase, North-Side Woman's Club.
108. Mary Byers Robinson, Denver.
109. Dr. Minnie C. T. Love, H. and E. Dept. W. C. of D.
110. Nettie Edwards Casper, Twenty-second Avenue Club.
111. Norma Purchase, C. F. W. C.
112. Nettie C. Jacobson, A. and L. Dept. W. C. of D.
113. Ouray Woman's Club, Ouray.
114. Pearl Gallup, Young Ladies' Clio Club.
115. Pieirian Club, Trinidad.
116. Pearl B. Wheeler, Young Ladies Clio Club.
117. Progress Club, Greeley.
118. Queen Esther Branch Sunshine Society, New Haven, Conn.
119. Rebecca P. Utter, Memorial, Unity Alliance.
120. Round Table Club, Denver.
121. Rev. J. Monroe Markley, First Congregational Church.
122. Reviewers' Club, Denver.
123. Rene C. Pels, Young Ladies' Clio Club.
124. Sarah K. Walling, Jane Jefferson Democratic Club.
125. Senator Hume Lewis, C. F. W. C.
126. Susan R. Ashley, Fortnightly Club.
127. Sarah Platt Decker, W. C. of D.
128. Scio Art Club, Denver.
129. Sophia Lovejoy Dickinson, W. C. of D.
130. Susan Moffet Hayward, Clio Club.
131. Social Science Dept. W. C. of D.
132. Sarah C. Irish, North-Side Woman's Club.
133. Social Art Club, Littleton.
134. Sphinx Club, Denver.
135. Thomas Scott Hayden, Jr., Memorial, Denver.
136. Tribune Sunshine Society, New York.
137. Tuesday Musical Club, Denver.
138. Twenty-second and Around the World Clubs, Denver.
139. Valeria N. Church, Memorial, Denver.
140. Violet Toovey, Young Ladies' Clio Club.
141. W. M. Church, Memorial, Denver.
142. Woman's Club of Leadville.
143. Woman's Press Club of Denver.
144. Woman's Club of Grand Junction.
145. W. T. K. Club of Greeley.
146. Woman's Club of Canon City.

147. Wednesday Current Events and Fourth Ave. Reading Clubs.
148. Wednesday Morning Club of Pueblo.
149. Woman's Club of Denver.
150. Woman's Club of Littleton.
151. Woman's Literary Club of Colorado Springs.
152. Woman's Lunch Club, Denver.
153. Woman's Club of Victor.
154. Woman's Club of La Junta.
155. West Side Woman's Club.
156. Young Ladies' Clio Club, Denver.
157. Mary M. Collins, Georgetown.
158. Colorado Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution.
159. Mary E. Parks, North-Side Woman's Club.
160. Denver Fortnightly Club, Quarto Centennial.
161. Jacob von der Lieth, Memorial.
162. Francis A. Kimball, Ouray Woman's Club.
163. Mary M. Grant, Regent Colo. Chapter D. A. R.
164. Ella A. McNeill, Denver.
165. Nellie W. Wood, Tourist Club, Trinidad.
166. Susan B. Anthony, Memorial, Colo. Equal Suffrage Association.
167. A. Merritt-Welles, Jr., Memorial.
168. Ellis Meredith, First Charter Convention.
169. Anna Willetts Stuard, Memorial, Y. L. C. C.
170. Anne Beatrice Chittenden, Memorial, Y. L. C. C.
171. Edward Walter Hurlburt, Memorial.
172. Martha B. Rogers, Century Club, Denver.
173. Rebecca P. Utter, Memorial No. 2, Monday Literary.
174. Blanche Roosevelt, Machette Memorial.
175. Federation No. 11.
176. Mrs. Tilden, Memorial, Y. W. C. A.
177. Jewish Woman's Council.

CONDITIONS FOR NAMING A BOX.

The conditions for naming a box after a club or an individual are: \$5 in cash, to pay for box and name-plate, and fifty books to fill it. The books are packed in neat, uniform cases, which serve as library shelves after reaching their destination. Boxes are named for individuals, for the president of a club, for some individual member for valuable services rendered, or are memorial boxes named for some deceased friend or relative.

If an individual desires to contribute a box outright, \$50 pays for box, books and name-plate.

The State keeps the libraries up to the required standard, replacing boxes and books as they are worn out.

APPLICATION BLANK.

The undersigned asks that the Colorado Traveling Library Commission ship to.....

one of the traveling libraries, and promise to take personal charge of the books lent..... and 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.

Signed

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.

Signed

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 of books 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 in as good condition as when received, barring natural wear and tear.

4. If a book is lost, one of the same standard and in equally good condition must be substituted for it.

5. In order that the person in charge of box 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.

6. These books have been given 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.

7. 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.

8. Return all boxes to transportation clerk by freight, Room 6, Capitol building, care Colorado Traveling Library Commission. Notify her of the return of a box and enclose bill of lading. Always advise her of the receipt of a box, otherwise she has no means of knowing that it has reached its destination.

9. Always return boxes by freight.

10. Do not fasten boxes with nails; it damages them very materially. Proper bolts for fastening are always sent with the box.

11. A second box will not be sent to any town failing to comply with these rules.

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.

Fifth—Leaflets for the sick. Sent to hospitals, relief corps and societies, and branches of the Sunshine Society. These leaflets are short stories taken from the magazines and daintily mounted in such a way that invalids and convalescents can hold them without becoming tired.

DISTRIBUTION OF PERIODICALS.

The fourth branch of our work—the distribution of periodicals—bids fair to outclass even the circulating of the books. Four thousand magazines and unbound books have been given out since our last report. We do not require that these be returned, but that they be used and passed on until they are worn out—thus enabling a score of readers to see them before they become waste paper. There is no more valuable material for reference work than that found in periodical literature, which often contains material not found in any other form. If you have a magazine which you have read, pass it on. You can do this by sending it to Room 6, Capitol building. A plan is under consideration by the Commission which, we trust, will be practically developed during the next two years, whereby they hope to establish a chain of stations throughout the State for the distribution of periodicals. When you take into consideration that this system will have to be operated at long distance, without personal supervision, and located for the most part in stores, banks, railroad stations or post offices, where the attendants have many other duties, and serve without compensation, it is not going to be an easy task to accomplish; but the demand

is so great that the Commission feel they must devise a way to supply it.

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, to have more good books read per capita than in any other State.

A FEW EXPRESSIONS QUOTED FROM LETTERS RECEIVED.

"Up here, in this stormy, snow-bound country, the luxuries of life are somewhat limited, and the magazines, books and papers are good material for occupying the mind, and many pleasant hours will be spent as a result of the kindness of the C. T. L. C."

"If the traveling libraries you send elsewhere are as much appreciated as the ones I have charge of, here in Pine Grove, the club women certainly are doing a great and a glorious work."

"For every book I have given out I have said, 'The Colorado Traveling Library Commission send these gratis,' and they all reply, 'How very kind!' So, you see, kind, grateful thoughts are vibrating toward you, and the snow-capped peaks which stand between us can not keep these vibrations from reaching you."

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

"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."

"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."

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

"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, who convene here during the summer."

"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."

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 ninety towns in the State have been visited by traveling libraries. They are as follows:

No.	Town	County
1	Aguilar	Las Animas County
2	Alcott	Denver County
3	Arvada	Jefferson County
4	Akron	Washington County
5	Arriba	Lincoln County
6	Agate	Elbert County
7	Anthracite	Gunnison County
8	Amity	Prowers County
9	Bovina	Lincoln County
10	Bonanza	Saguache County
11	Brighton	Adams County
12	Bland	Elbert County
13	Buffalo Springs	Park County
14	Buena Vista	Chaffee County
15	Bailey	Park County
16	Brush	Morgan County
17	Bennett	Adams County
18	Broomfield	Jefferson County
19	Byers	Arapahoe County
20	Breckenridge	Summit County
21	Brookside	Fremont County
22	Berwind	Las Animas County
23	Crystal	Gunnison County
24	Conrad	Park County
25	Colona	Ouray County
26	Conifer	Jefferson County

No.	Town	
27	Calhan	El Paso County
28	Chase	Park County
29	Cripple Creek	Teller County
30	Como	Park County
31	Cotopaxi	Fremont County
32	Canon City	Fremont County
33	Cardiff	Garfield County
34	Crested Butte	Gunnison County
35	Coal Basin	Pitkin County
36	Castle Rock	Douglas County
37	Del Norte	Rio Grande County
39	Dyke	Archuleta County
40	Daffodil	Douglas County
41	Dillon	Summit County
42	Dumont	Clear Creek County
43	Delta	Delta County
44	Edgewater	Jefferson County
45	Englewood	Denver County
46	Evans	Lake County
47	Engleville	Las Animas County
48	Eastonville	El Paso County
49	Elizabeth	Elbert County
50	Empire	Clear Creek County
51	Eagle	Eagle County
52	Eaton	Weld County
53	Eckhart	Delta County
54	Edlowe	Morgan County
55	Eldora	Boulder County
56	El Nura	Las Animas County
57	Florence	Fremont County
58	Fort Lupton	Weld County
58½	Fondis	Elbert County
59	Florissant	Park County
60	Fort Logan	Arapahoe County
62	Franktown	Douglas County
63	Gulch	Pitkin County
64	Glendale	Fremont County
65	Grover	Pueblo County
66	Garos	Park County
67	Granada	Prowers County
68	Gault	Weld County

No.	Town	
69	Gardner	Huerfano County
70	Glenwood Springs	Garfield County
71	Grand Junction	Mesa County
72	Georgetown	Clear Creek County
73	Grant	Park County
74	Glacier	Gunnison County
75	Granite	Chaffee County
76	Golden	Jefferson County
77	Guffey	Park County
78	Harris	Adams County
79	Howville	Gunnison County
80	Harvey	Garfield County
81	Henry's Spur	Jefferson County
82	Haxtum	Phillips County
83	Holly	Prowers County
84	Hardin	Weld County
85	Highland Lake	Weld County
86	Hudson	Weld County
87	Howard	Fremont County
88	Hellrose	Morgan County
89	Henderson	Adams County
90	Holyoke	Phillips County
91	Hotchkiss	Delta County
92	Hammond	Park County
93	Harman	Denver County
94	Howbert	Park County
95	Jamestown	Boulder County
96	Johnstown	Weld County
97	Kokomo	Summit County
98	Kiowa	Elbert County
99	Littleton	Arapahoe County
100	La Salle	Weld County
101	La Jara	Conejos County
102	La Veta	Huerfano County
103	Lyons	Boulder County
104	Longmont	Boulder County
105	Livermore	Larimer County
106	Leadville	Lake County
107	Loveland	Larimer County
108	Lamar	Prowers County
109	Lawson	Clear Creek County

No.	Town	
110	Louisville	Boulder County
111	Lafayette	Boulder County
112	Lake George	Park County
113	Las Animas	Bent County
114	Melvin	Arapahoe County
115	Maher	Montrose County
116	Morrison	Jefferson County
117	Maitland	Huerfano County
118	Masters	Weld County
119	Merino	Logan County
120	Minnequa	Pueblo County
121	Montrose	Montrose County
122	Manzanola	Otero County
123	Midway	
124	Mosca	Costilla County
125	New Windsor	Weld County
126	New Castle	Garfield County
127	Meeker	Rio Grande County
128	Otis	Washington County
129	Oversteg	Gunnison County
130	Orient	Saguache County
131	Ohio City	Gunnison County
132	Piceance	Rio Blanco County
133	Petersburg	Arapahoe County
134	Pinon	Montrose County
135	Powers	Bent County
136	Parker	Douglas County
137	Pagosa Junction	Archuleta County
138	Paonia	Delta County
139	Platteville	Weld County
140	Pine	Jefferson County
141	Pemberton	Douglas County
142	Pueblo	Pueblo County
143	Primero	Las Animas County
144	Parachute	Garfield County
145	Pitkin	Gunnison County
146	Quimby	Arapahoe County
147	Rye	Pueblo County
148	Robinson	Summit County
149	Rouse	Huerfano County
150	Redstone	Pitkin County

No.	Town	
151	Rand	Larimer County
152	Rockvale	Fremont County
153	Rocky Ford	Otero County
154	Rifle	Garfield County
155	Roggen	Weld County
156	Ridgway	Ouray County
157	Russell Gulch	Gilpin County
158	Semper	Jefferson County
159	Sedalia	Douglas County
160	Sterling	Logan County
161	Salida	Chaffee County
162	Silver Plume	Clear Creek County
163	Silverton	San Juan County
164	Steamboat Springs	Routt County
165	Segundo	Las Animas County
166	Starkville	Las Animas County
167	Smuggler	San Miguel County
168	Sopris	Garfield County
169	Stewart's Mesa	Delta County
170	Sulphur Springs	Grand County
171	Sugar Loaf	Boulder County
172	Seibert	Adams County
173	Texas Creek	Fremont County
174	Tin Cup	Gunnison County
175	Torres	Las Animas County
176	Turret	Chaffee County
177	Telluride	San Miguel County
178	Undercliff	Pueblo County
179	Twin Lakes	Lake County
180	Victor	Teller County
181	Walden	Larimer County
182	Wagon Creek	Costilla County
183	Winfield	Chaffee County
184	West Creek	Douglas County
185	Wanamaker	Jefferson County
186	Watkins	Adams County
187	Walsenburg	Huerfano County
188	Westcliffe	Custer County
189	Yuma	Yuma County
190	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.

ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF TRAVELING LIBRARIES IN COLORADO.

That wonder working branch of library extension known as the traveling library system has during the last twelve years been made a part of the educational work in twenty-two states through the efforts of the different State Federations of Women's Clubs. It is as yet largely a potential force, but is working toward the development of a national institution as distinctive and influential as our common school system, and is destined to play as important a part among the twentieth century forces that make for the uplifting of American country life, as mail delivery, good roads, telegraph and telephones.

We say American country life advisedly, for while as far as possible these little traveling library boxes are placed wherever there is a demand for them, the work is pre-eminently inaugurated for those removed from the centers of civilization. The farmers, the miners, the lumbermen, the railroad men, and above all, for the benefit of the children in the country schools. In no state is there greater need for this institution than in Colorado, with its youth, its magnificent distances, its widely scattered towns, and its large percentage of floating population. At the annual meeting of the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs held in Denver October, 1899, the convention voted to take up the traveling library work. The committee appointed realized that one of the problems of our State was the dearth of reading matter among its citizens. By the united efforts and hearty co-operation of those interested in library matters with the committee, a good start was made toward solving the problem. Impoverished and poorly equipped country libraries have been strengthened, new libraries have been started, reference and reading matter has been furnished to clubs far away from a good public library, and the children in thirty of our rural school districts have been put in touch with good, wholesome reading matter, which tends to create a love for and the habit of reading good books. Nor have the boys and girls in the rural districts been the only beneficiaries of this new movement. It has opened a new world for many of the parents, carrying mental stimulus and enjoyment into their lives, as well as giving the children of these people opportunity for a wider, richer and more hopeful outlook upon life. From its inception the work grew so rapidly that it soon became too large for the Colorado Federation of

Women's Clubs to carry on alone. At the close of the first year thirty-five boxes had been contributed and placed in circulation. By the end of the second year this number was doubled. To-day, although the work is only five years old, we have in circulation 177 boxes, and except during the summer months, when the schools are closed, the demand for boxes has far exceeded the supply. Accordingly, a bill was introduced by Senator Hume Lewis of Pueblo, during the legislative session of 1903, which was a bill for an act for the establishment and maintenance of a system of free traveling libraries in the State of Colorado, and to appropriate money for the support of the same. This bill was passed by the Fourteenth General Assembly, was signed by the Governor April 13, 1903, and became a law July 1, 1903. As soon as the law went into effect the plant that had been accumulated by the women of the Federation, and which was valued at \$4,000, was formally turned over to the State.

The first boxes were named for the clubs contributing them. Those that followed were named for the president or some member whom the club delighted to honor. A few boxes have been contributed by individuals, but the feature of the last three years' work has been the Memorial boxes named for some deceased relative or friend. What more beautiful tribute could one pay to the memory of the departed? These little libraries are not monuments of granite or stone, but living monuments that build character and continue to bring light and sunshine into the lives of those into whose hands these books fall. There are two classes of boxes with fifty books in each box—miscellaneous and juvenile. They contain works upon science, travel, biography, history, poetry, nature study, mythology and current fiction. Boxes may be retained six months, but can be returned whenever they have been read. Thus interest is kept alive at every point, and books which used to become mere lumber after a few readings are now promptly worn out in actual service.

From the eighty juvenile boxes the best results may be hoped for. The teachers co-operate with the traveling library commission by sending suggestive lists of books, chosen with a view to their relation to the school work, as well as to the tastes and ages of the children generally, thus developing the reading habit along lines that provoke wholesome and well balanced thought, that leads into channels of truth and beauty.

The traveling library system has not been in operation long enough yet to form a basis of observation from which to deduct definite results, but when the children who within the last few years have been brought in touch with this system shall have reached maturity, a better estimate can be made of what the libraries are doing for the State. We do know that the ratio of readers is increasing far more rapidly than the number of libraries. In the first years of the work each book was read from one to three times. The present average is from five to seven times, with 177 boxes in circulation, as against thirty-five in

1900. Then if you will take into consideration that we are only in touch with thirty out of the 1,700 school districts in the State, you will have an idea of the possibilities of the work. Undoubtedly no greater educational and, we might say, social protective measure was ever undertaken with such small means. This has been made possible only by the cheerful volunteer service of the club women. It is authoritatively stated that over half of the inmates of reformatories, jails and prisons are under twenty-five years of age, and that between the ages of ten and sixteen are the most important years for the care and formation of character. By common consent the supreme thing in education is the building of character. What more potent factor for the building of character in the young than the books they read? From these their ideas and their ideals are chiefly drawn. Books and magazines more readily than sermons and addresses set in motion the effective currents. Therefore, in spite of the short time that the traveling library system has been in operation, 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 it has been a paying investment. The work has received the most enthusiastic endorsement from the people who have come in touch with it—ministers, teachers, editors, mine superintendents, postmasters, station agents, and clubs. We have many letters of appreciation and encouragement.

The library boxes reach all classes of patrons, those in small hamlets of mountain and plain, and the isolated school and ranch houses, as well as the inmates of the State institutions. To each reader we endeavor, as far as is within our power, to give what, to him, is most valuable. Experience has proved that books are one medium through which knowledge may become as free as the air we breathe. In conclusion, may we ask the co-operation of the members of the Sixteenth General Assembly of the Colorado Legislature in fostering the little kernel that was planted January sixth, 1900, thereby helping it to expand into broad fields of grain that will in time furnish intellectual food to every person within the borders of our State?

LIBRARIES ASSISTED.

During the biennial period just closing the commission have donated to

	Books
Mancos, for purpose of starting local library.....	50
Arvada, for purpose of starting local library.....	50
Sterling, for purpose of starting local library.....	50
Arickaree, for purpose of starting local library.....	50

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	Books
Added to South Side Library, Platte Park.....	25
Added to State Reformatory Library, Buena Vista.....	50
Total	275

These books were histories, encyclopedias, poems and dictionaries, which were not suitable to send out in the boxes, but were valuable to a local library. The result of this branch of the work has been the establishing of eight local libraries, namely: year before last at Henderson, Silver Plume, Louisville and Platteville, and this year at Mancos, Arvada, Sterling and Arickaree. If some member of the commission could visit the different points in the State where libraries are sent, we feel satisfied that the work could be greatly increased, and many more local libraries be established. The traveling library commission 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.

Two hundred and fifty leaflets for the sick have been sent out. They have been a factor in helping people to forget their ills, and have helped to bring them back to health and strength. The following libraries have been assisted:

We have furnished information to a missionary from India who desires upon her return to establish traveling libraries in that country.

The commission have also assisted in establishing the traveling library system in Rhode Island, and are now giving information and assistance to a committee in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for the same purpose.

BOOKS ADDED.

New books purchased	600
Second-hand books purchased.....	200
Contributed by New York Sunshine Society.....	150
Contributed by Mrs. Mary M. Perkins.....	50
Ladies' Aid, Plymouth Church.....	25
Mrs. H. J. Dean	6
Mrs. Richard Crawford Campbell	100
Mrs. Helen Grenfell.....	15
Total	1,146

The State has honored our vouchers to the full extent of the appropriation made at the last session of the Legislature—

\$3,000—but the work is growing so rapidly, the expenses for replacing and rebinding books is increasing, boxes are wearing out, and the railroads—owing, they tell us, to recent legislation—have been compelled to withdraw their gift of free transportation, making this sum wholly inadequate to the carrying on of the work during the next two years. Therefore, the traveling library commission recommend that the next Legislature appropriate \$6,000 for the carrying on of the work during the next two years, \$3,000 for 1907, and \$3,000 for 1908, to become available as soon as the appropriation bill has been signed by the Governor. The traveling library commission hope that your Excellency is convinced of the value of the work that they are carrying on, to the extent that you will be willing to endorse their recommendation and make mention of the work in your message.

THE MODEL BOX.

We feel that the fact should not be lost sight of that the James H. Peabody box, named in honor of a Governor of Colorado, and presented by the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs to the State Traveling Library, sent to the St. Louis World's Fair Purchase Exposition, as a model traveling library box, was awarded a bronze medal by the commissioners of award, and that Colorado has every reason to feel proud of this recognition, as the Centennial State is the only state that was thus honored.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The federation committee that will co-operate with the traveling library commission are as follows: Miss Carrie Cushing, Denver; Mrs. Katherine Thompson, Denver; Mrs. E. A. Sawyer, Colorado Springs; Mrs. Dexter T. Sapp, Gunnison.

Office of the commission, Room 6, Capitol building.

Regular meetings of the Traveling Library Commission will be held in January, April, July and October. Time and place of meeting to be decided upon by the president.

The commission take this opportunity to express their thanks to all who have co-operated with them in their work, especially to the W. P. Herrick Book Company and Pierce & Zahn for cut rates on books.

AN URGENT REQUEST.

Will patrons of the traveling library bear in mind that, under all circumstances, boxes must be returned by "Freight?"

Address all boxes to Room 6, Capitol building, care of Colorado Traveling Library Commission.

