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**BIENNIAL REPORT** 

OF

# The Colorado Library Commission





From July 1, 1930 to June 30, 1932 Denver, Colo., June 30, 1932.

# To His Excellency,

### HON. WILLIAM H. ADAMS, Governor of Colorado.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit herewith, as required by law, the biennial report of the Colorado Library Commission, for the period beginning July 1, 1930, and ending June 30, 1932.

Very respectfully,

MALCOLM G. WYER, President.

# THE COLORADO LIBRARY COMMISSION

MRS	. MAUDE CROSBY	Denver	July 5,	1929-July	5, 1930
MRS	J. SHERMAN BROWN	Littleton .	July 5,	1929-July	5, 1931
MIS	s Elfreda Stebbins Died August 16, 1		sJuly 5,	1929-July	5, 1932
MR.	MALCOLM G. WYER	Denver	July 5,	1929-July	5, 1933
MRS	LUCY I. HARRINGTON	Denver	July 5,	1929-July	5, 1934
Mrs	. MAUDE CROSBY Died March 6, 193		July 5,	1930-July	5, 1935
MRS	. HELENORE R. LERG	Lakewood	July 28,	1931-July	5, 1935
MRS	LUCY F. HALL	Denver	March 2,	1932-July	5, 1932
MRS	LUCY F. HALL	Denver	July 5	1932.July	5 1937



#### MRS. MAUDE CROSBY

#### Member Colorado Library Commission

Born in New York March 23, 1880—died March 6, 1931. Mrs. Crosby was appointed in 1928 a member of the Traveling Library Commission and was appointed a member of the new Colorado Library Commission in 1930 and served until her death in 1931.

Mrs. Crosby was keenly interested in all movements to improve the condition of women and children. She was a member of several clubs and held important offices in each. In politics she was a Democrat and was a delegate to the national convention at Houston, Texas, in 1928. At the time of her death Mrs. Crosby was deputy county recorder of Denver, having served since June 11, 1923.

She was a devoted wife and mother. Her husband, James Crosby, and her son, Captain Robert Crosby, U. S. A., survive.

#### MISS ELFREDA STEBBINS

#### Member Colorado Library Commission

She was a member of the Board of Library Commissioners and was appointed in 1929 a member of the new Colorado Library Commission and served until her death in August, 1931.

For twenty-seven years Miss Stebbins was the librarian of the Fort Collins Public Library. Her influence towards purposeful reading in that city was so great that she was named "the most important woman citizen Fort Collins ever had."

Miss Stebbins was touring the cities and towns on the western slope in the interest of County Libraries when she was suddenly taken sick at Rifle. She was treated in the Andrus Hospital, but a chronic ailment from which she had long suffered, aggravated by influenza, hastened her death.

A graduate of the Library School of Drexel Institute at Philadelphia, Miss Stebbins had taken a six months' course of graduate work in New York; had spent her vacation in 1930 at Detroit, Michigan, studying rural library work. Her companions on the western slope tour, Mrs. Anna V. Duffield, librarian of the Loveland Public Library, and Miss Anne Marie Strasser, librarian of the Colorado Library Commission in charge of the Traveling Library, were at her bedside.

Colorado has suffered a great loss in the death of these two active, efficient, useful and happy women. They exemplified all that is best in womanhood and in citizenship.

# BIENNIAL REPORT

OF

# The Colorado Library Commission

July 1, 1930, to June 30, 1932

#### COLORADO TRAVELING LIBRARY

The Colorado Traveling Library was started in 1898 by the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs. They gave one box and books to fill it, packed it themselves and sent it out upon its travels. Individual clubs and organizations gave boxes and books; the clubwomen gave personal service and from all parts of the state came a demand for these traveling libraries. For a few years the railroads carried these libraries free of charge but the demand grew until it imposed a burden too great for the railroads to carry free and for the clubwomen to supply. The state took over this work in 1903, created THE COLORADO TRAVELING LI-BRARY COMMISSION to care for this library, to which the club women gave all their boxes, books and supplies, appraised at that time to be worth over \$10,000.00.

THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS was created in 1899, its chief duty being to extend library service over the state and to give advice on selection of books, cataloging and other aids to librarianship needed by communities seeking to establish new libraries or to improve the service in libraries already established. The members, for the most part, were librarians, each occupied in his own library and unable to give much time, money or personal service. The appropriation they received from the state was too small to give them an opportunity to do more than make a start at the work they could see all about them. Still they did organize the librarians of the state into an association, sent out a pamphlet of information from time to time and slowly, through the years, educated the state to a point where it demanded more efficient library service.

These two boards realized their need, each of the other. The Legislature was appealed to and, after ten years' effort, passed a law merging the BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS and the COLORADO TRAVELING LIBRARY COMMISSION into one board, the present COLORADO LIBRARY COMMISSION.

#### COLORADO LIBRARY COMMISSION

The Colorado Library Commission is charged with the duty of promoting library extension throughout the state. It is also given the management of the Colorado Traveling Library.

#### LIBRARY EXTENSION

There is no appropriation expressly for this service. The Commission must achieve what is done through the unpaid, unselfish assistance of interested citizens and, especially, of the librarians of the Colorado Library Association.

In the fall of 1930 Mr. Albert J. Carter, Librarian of the Teachers College, Greeley, arranged a series of meetings in nine counties of Colorado, the subject being the advantages of county library service.

Mr. Carter was for years a member of the Board of Library Commissioners, is the author of our county library law, and is deeply interested in extending book service and general reading through this means. He had prepared charts showing the extent of library service throughout the state and the lack of library service in twenty-six counties. Mr. T. A. Bagshaw, a dealer in books and picture machines, cooperated in this series of meetings most helpfully by showing a film sent out by the American Library Association which showed pictorially the manner in which this library service works. The County Superintendents of Schools presided at the meetings, which were held at the following points:

Sept. 1 Castle	Rock	.Douglas County	y Mrs.	Elizabeth	E. Bennet
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2 Cold	rado Springs	.El Paso	"	Miss Lucille Dee Norton
3 Pue	blo	.Pueblo	"	Miss Lillie O. Baker
5 Las	Animas	.Bent	66	Mrs. Allie V. Richmond
8 Litt	leton	.Arapahoe	**	Mrs. J. Sherman Brown
10 Brig	, hton	.Adams	"	Mrs. Bertha L. Baker
12 Fort	Morgan	. Morgan	**	Mrs. Laura Burchsted
13 Wra	y	.Yuma	"	A. E. Stevenson
13 Bur	lington	.Kit Carson	**	Mrs. Della Hendricks

There was a good attendance at these meetings. This was nearly a year after the depression started and, although little hope was felt for the establishment of county libraries in the manner provided by law, still it gave so clear a picture of the need existing that many cities were stimulated to extend service from their public libraries to points in the surrounding rural districts.

In August, 1931, a trip to the western slope was made by three representatives of the Colorado Library Commission. Mr. T. A. Bagshaw, whose helpfulness was recorded in connection with Mr.

#### COLORADO LIBRARY COMMISSION

Carter's meetings, was making a business trip to the western slope and offered free transportation. The three representatives used their vacation time in this public-spirited effort to sow the seed for county public libraries. Miss Elfreda Stebbins, Librarian of the Fort Collins Public Library and a member of the Colorado Library Commission; Mrs. Anna V. Duffield, Librarian of the Loveland Public Library and member of the former Board of Library Commissioners; and Miss Anne Marie Strasser, Librarian of the Traveling Library, represented the Commission.

On August 10th they reached Alma and met four people interested in library work—G. F. Galloway, engineer and surveyor; Mrs. W. A. Sheldon, Mrs. Cora Osborn and Mrs. Mary Stewart, who is the secretary and librarian of the public library. The Public Library building had recently been destroyed by fire, the books saved were stored. There is a fair sized library, for the use of pupils only, in the new school building. The citizens of Alma have already raised \$250 by entertainments and individual gifts for a new library building.

Over Hoosier Pass to Breckenridge. Their Public and School Library is housed in the school building. As this was during the summer vacation this library was not open to the public.

Leadville was the next stop. The Public Library, located on the second floor of the Town Hall, has a very pleasant reading room and children's room on either side of the charging desk. The magazine room is located on the first floor. Miss Leona Kitt, the Librarian, and her assistant, Miss Green, were most anxious to show the library and how they were serving their people. They are proud of their library—and justly so. Besides a small tax levy, this library receives the interest of the Stickley Memorial Fund, given by two eminent citizens of Leadville. A spirit of loyalty and service is found in these two librarians and with the help of their library board Leadville will become the library center for Lake county.

At Buena Vista the Librarian, Mrs. Thomas Frame, representatives of the Woman's Club, and the library board met the delegation. Their library is housed in the Community Hall, surrounded by cool, green lawns. Nearby are playgrounds and a good swimming pool. The manner in which the Community Hall is managed, the cordial atmosphere, the equipment, all give evidence that the citizens are building for the future generations. They were much interested in the possibilities of a county library.

At Salida the Librarian of the Public Library refused to meet the representatives of the Commission. At Gunnison Mrs. Florence Hornaday Sommers, the Librarian, showed the library and explained their method of library service. This library is in the Western State College and is mainlyfor the college students. The townspeople have access to the books but Mrs. Sommers regretted to state they made little use of it. The county library program was discussed at a meeting attended by several college professors and advanced students who showed much interest.

Montrose was reached next morning. Mrs. Mary Townsend, the Librarian, and Mr. Mark T. Warner, President of the Library Board, welcomed the visitors. The Montrose Public Library is in the new courthouse. The rooms are well lighted and ventilated, the equipment is new and it receives a good appropriation from the eity and also a fund from School District No. 1 to provide school books for the school children of Montrose. This library, like many other public libraries, gives service for a very small fee to the people in the rural districts. The county public library was discussed with much interest.

At Olathe the delegation arrived at a time the library was closed, but the Librarian, Miss Julia Smith, and Mrs. D. C. Goddard, Chairman of the Book Committee, met the delegation and were greatly interested when Miss Stebbins explained what the new county library service could mean to Montrose county.

At Delta the delegation met with Miss Anna Nutter, Librarian, members of the library board, Mrs. Weeks, County Superintendent, and Mr. Ross, Superintendent of the Delta Public Schools. The county public library program was discussed and, although the depression was even then felt in Delta, these people were greatly interested and hoped that in the near future they could carry out this plan. The Delta Public Library has its own building and a very well-managed and efficient library.

At the Grand Junction Public Library the delegation had a most interesting visit. The building was constructed thirty-one years ago and the library has outgrown its quarters. A new library building is sorely needed. Miss Stebbins explained the county library program and all agreed that it would be a fine thing to construct a library building large enough to be the book center for Mesa county.

Visits were made to Fruita and Collbran, both in Mesa county, and the delegation was impressed by their spirit of cooperation.

On Friday afternoon the delegation reached Rifle where Miss Stebbins was taken seriously ill and late Sunday afternoon passed away—a sad ending to this tour. Appointments at Meeker, Maybell, Glenwood Springs, Craig and Hayden were cancelled.

An account of this visit is given in detail as an example of the work which could be done by a well-qualified, tactful Field Secretary.

#### PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Statistics upon the activities of local public and school libraries throughout the state, which will be complete to January 1, 1933, will be placed in the hands of the Legislature as a supplement to this report.

#### SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP

Through the efforts of Malcolm G. Wyer, President of the Colorado Library Commission, the University of Denver was enabled to open a School of Librarianship in September, 1931.

Mr. Wyer is a member of the Advisory Group on Library Fellowship of the Carnegie Corporation. It is through his efforts that the need of this western territory for better library service was brought to the attention of the foundation, with the result that an appropriation of \$35,000 was made, \$5,000 when the school opened and \$10,000 each year for a period of three years thereafter.

\* This school is affiliated with the College of Liberal Arts and other schools and colleges, and the University will confer the degree of bachelor of arts or bachelor of science. It provides an opportunity to secure training for library service in Denver and thus the University of Denver offers a form of special training which has not been available in any college or university in the Rocky Mountain region.

Denver is an ideal location for such a school because the local libraries provide excellent facilities for observation, thus relating theory to practical experience. To this end the school works in close cooperation with the Denver Public Library, the libraries of the Denver Public Schools, of the University of Denver, and special libraries in the city. The School is located at 1511 Cleveland Place.

The University of Denver School of Librarianship has been organized as a senior undergraduate school in accordance with the standards of the American Library Association. This means that applicants must have senior standing in an approved college or university. A transfer of credits from other institutions is accepted. College graduates are eligible for admission.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Colorado Library Commission renews a recommendation made two years ago, that some way must be found to place the state-owned, state-supported libraries under a central control which would correlate their services, avoid the waste of money caused by unnecessary duplication and secure a wider usefulness.

The state-supported library work of Colorado affords an unusually fine opportunity for coordination and correlation—not consolidation—for each library, as now constituted, serves a distinct clientele—performs service needed by an important but different class of citizens and its identity should be safeguarded.

The library work of the state has been scattered through many departments, to whom the library is a secondary consideration. A centralized control would evolve a unified program which would increase service to the state. Together they could accomplish more than by working separately.

Properly to equip a Library Commission which would be given the duty of correlating these libraries would require:

1st. Adequate working space.

2nd. Adequate trained personnel.

3rd. Adequate appropriations.

#### 1. ADEQUATE SPACE.

For many years the Capitol Building has given space to the Law Library, the State Library, the Traveling Library and the Legislative Reference Library. The Museum Building gives space to the Historical Library.

The Law Library occupies	5,285 sc	q. ft.	of floor space.
The State Library "			permanently and
	500 ''		office room which it must vacate when the Legislature meets, and
	1,560 "		in the basement.
The Traveling Library occupies	865 ''		
The Legislative Reference Library occupies	274'		
The Historical			
Library occupies	1,000 '		on the first floor and
	636 '		on the third floor of the Museum Building.
Total floor space given			

over to libraries

12,020 sq. ft.

All these libraries are cramped for space—their work is hampered because of inadequate space.

These libraries are not standing still or growing smaller, as their constantly lessening space would imply—every library is growing in size of collections of books and other material and growing in usefulness to a constantly enlarging population. All need more room.

Our state-owned libraries are indispensable to the proper functioning of the state government. The Legislature needs the Legislative Reference Library and the Law Library; every lawyer in the state would be up in arms over an attempt to curtail the Law Library; students of every sort find answers to their search in the State Library, and authors, news-writers and students of Western History value the collections of the Historical Library; school teachers, women's clubs, small libraries and communities find assistance in their work from the compact, well-chosen boxes of books sent them by the Traveling Library.

On the other hand, the space they occupy is urgently needed for other activities. After each session of the Legislature a rearrangement takes place, usually resulting in still further curtailing the small library space. Two years ago the Traveling Library was deprived of more than one-third of its space. Its shelves were made over ten feet high, but books so far above the line of ready vision may be overlooked.

The time has come to face facts.

Similar conditions led, several years ago, to the erection of the Office Building and the Museum Building. These buildings are now filled. Lately the Auditorium in the Museum Building has been divided for offices.

In no other way can so much space in the Capitol Building be obtained as by the construction of a

#### STATE LIBRARY BUILDING

This is a time when public building may serve two great needs, the need for employment, keenly felt by many of our citizens, and the need for space, felt by many departments of our state government.

A State Library Building, devoted to library purposes alone, a building in which there should be ample space for each existing library to carry on its particular service and maintain its identity, for not only should the existing libraries continue their activities but they should have ample facilities for the inevitable growth that marks such effort everywhere and, if the expansion of Colorado should command the founding of new libraries—scientific, medical, technological, etc.—there should be room to house their books and make them accessible to those who need them.

It could be so constructed that additions could be made as needed, for the state now owns building sites ample for this purpose.

A tunnel connecting the Library with other units of the Capitol would allow speedy service between the different offices and the Library.

#### 2. Adequate Trained Personnel.

Colorado is most fortunate in possessing a Library School where training in every branch of library science is given to our own Colorado students. Library service of the best type is now to be had from among our own citizens.

A library is not merely a collection of books, of pamphlets and magazines. The most important part of every library is the Librarian—the trained, intelligent officer who can put the right book into the hands of the reader, the student, the searcher—the Librarian who knows how to find the knowledge looked for. The books are the tools of knowledge. In the hands of the trained personnel they are made to work. Books that stay on a shelf gather dust.

The Colorado Library Commission is entrusted with the duty of encouraging the development of local libraries and county libraries, in addition to the duty of giving direct service, in the form of traveling libraries, to all sections of the state. That it may carry out these functions effectually, it must be given efficient and trained personnel.

Its minimum personnel should include:

An Executive and Field Secretary, whose chief duty should be to plan the entire extension work of the state and to assist all efforts to found new libraries or to improve those already existing, and especially to assist in securing county-wide library service.

The Librarian of the Traveling Library, who should have charge of that library and direct its work.

An Assistant Librarian.

A helper on full time.

The great demand for books from the Traveling Library cannot be fully met, despite the utmost efforts of the two employees, the librarian and a part-time helper. During the past biennial period they achieved a fifty per cent. greater service, the result of more experience, the accumulation of more books, etc., but still the waiting list grows.

#### COLORADO LIBRARY COMMISSION

A description of the actual physical work to be done in sending out a box of fifty books may enable the members of the Legislature better to understand the necessity for more assistance in the Traveling Library.

In June, at the end of school, great numbers of the boxes are returned to the library. The books come back soiled with much handling; some are torn, pages are loose, backs are off. A box is unpacked, its contents compared with the typewritten list that is sent with each box. If a book is missing, notice is sent and the price of the missing book requested so that it may be replaced. Every book is cleaned, finger prints and pencil marks removed, the covers washed with ammonia and made sanitary for the next user. The torn places are mended, the loose leaves fastened in place, the covers replaced, if possible, for it may be that only rebinding ean salvage the book for further use. Mended, dry and clean, the book goes to its place on the shelf.

The shelves slowly fill, a few new books are bought or are given to the library by the clubwomen, who have been the staunch friends of this library ever since its first box was filled and sent out by them in 1898. These must be accessioned and shelf-listed. Now the librarian is ready for the pleasantest duty of all.

Always many teachers send in orders in advance to be filled and ready for the first of September. The lists of books sent to each school are kept on file. They are consulted so that different books may be sent; if the teacher has named titles she wants, they are found and a selection made for the school; a list of them is made, new cards inserted in the book-pockets, the box is packed, a bill of lading written, a label directed and the box is locked, ready to start for school.

All through the summer this work goes on. The advance orders are ready to be sent out; then come hurry orders from teachers who have just received their appointments and want a box of supplementary reading with which to start the year; also clubwomen send for books to review or to read, community libraries send for some new books they cannot afford to buy, etc. These orders cannot be cared for so promptly. The librarian and her part-time helper do their best, but the waiting list grows longer and at the end of every school year there are many disappointed patrons.

Every business man knows that a quick turnover means a profitable business. One person can do but one person's work. In three hours the part-time helper cannot do as much as if she worked six or eight hours. The books are in the library, the boxes are ready, but the workers to make them available are not provided.

#### We petition the Legislature to give this library more help.

#### 3. ADEQUATE APPROPRIATIONS.

To carry out the intent of the law, the personnel named above should be employed. The Executive and Field Secretary should receive a salary of \$2,500 per year; the Librarian of the Traveling Library \$1,800 per year; the Assistant Librarian \$1,200 per year, and the helper on full time \$600 per year. For the next biennial period these salaries would amount to \$12,200.

For books, boxes, office supplies, freight, cartage and other necessary expenses, \$5,400 per year should be provided, or \$10,800 for the biennial period.

For traveling expenses \$1,000 per year or \$2,000 for the biennial period should be provided.

The Colorado Library Commission requests an appropriation of \$25,000 for all purposes for the ensuing two years.

TRAVELING LIBRARIES SHIPPED DURING PERIOD

County	Libraries	Books
Adams		1.050
		304
		1.069
		806
		743
		435
		400 53
		55 115
Clear Creek		115 70
Costilla		
Crowley		461
Delta		406
Eagle		112
Elbert		269
El Paso		55
Garfield		91
Grand		645
Gunnison		156
Huerfano		883
Jackson		50
Jefferson		1,016
Kiowa	12	626
Kit Carson	12	613
Las Animas	13	629
La Plata	1	54
Lincoln	26	1,242
Logan		1,317
Mesa	7	276
Moffat		75
Montezuma	4	208
Morgan	14	550
Otero		446
Park	8	232
Phillips		102
Prowers	4	220

#### COLORADO LIBRARY COMMISSION

County	Libraries	Books
Pueblo	6	299
Rio Grande	3	155
Routt	7	359
Saguache	1	69
San Miguel	5	114
Sedgwick	18	908
Washington	26	1,274
Weld	45	2,326
Yuma	12	600
Total, 43 counties	432	21,483

There were forty-four individual loans made. These packages contained material for club papers and special school subjects. Approximately 500 reference questions, through correspondence and individual calls, were answered.

The total circulation reported for this period is 75,248. In many cases a record of the circulation has not been kept by those in charge of traveling libraries. Therefore, our report on the circulation is not entirely complete.

A multigraphed list of encyclopedias, hand-books, atlases and dictionaries, recommended by our leading librarians, was sent to 176 county superintendents and superintendents of second and third class districts. A letter accompanied this list offering our assistance in giving further information on the reference works listed, and also on any sets not on the list.

Material obtained from the George Washington Bicentennial Commission, in Washington, D. C., was sent to the rural schools. We have received many reports from the teachers stating how helpful these pamphlets have been in preparing programs for the schools in celebrating the 200th birthday of George Washington.

A card index of the librarians in the State of Colorado and also a card index of the public library trustees in Colorado have been completed. The Library Commission was moved from Room 40 to Room 24, State Capitol Building, the first of August, 1930. This made it necessary for our metal trunks to be re-stencilled, 102 in number. Our part-time helper did this work.

Four issues and one index of our bulletin, Colorado Libraries, have been published. This bulletin carries suggestions to librarians of public and school libraries; book-lists; information on reference works; messages to library trustees, and news items of interest to librarians.

As we serve as a clearing house for books given by clubs and individuals interested in library development, suitable places have been found for encyclopedia sets and books of reference for High School students. These are as follows:

Arvada High School, Arvada	72 books
Berthoud Woman's Club Library, Berthoud	40 books
School of Librarianship, Denver	75 books
W. W. Weller, Fraser	72 books

During this period the following organizations have made gifts of books and of metal trunks in honor of their retiring presidents and members whom they have wished to honor:

Colorado Springs Woman's Club, in honor of Emma I. Cunningham-1 trunk and 87 books.

Reviewers Club of Denver—three trunks and 157 books.
Mrs. Arthur S. Donaldson, President, 1926-1928;
Mrs. Vincent Perini, President, 1928-1930;
Mrs. G. Frank Coit, President, 1930-1932.

Central District of the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Minnie Bright, President, 1929-1931.

Daughters of Colorado, in honor of Miss Lillian Noce.

Young Ladies' Clio Club—1 trunk and 3 cartons of books, in honor of Mrs. Angela Gilmore Herstrom.

East Side Woman's Club—3 trunks and books.
Mrs. W. W. Wessner, Parliamentarian, 1930-1931;
Mrs. F. A. Robinson, President, 1930-1931;
Mrs. J. E. Courter, President, 1931-1932.

North Side Woman's Club—2 trunks and books. Mrs. Myrtle P. Gair, President, 1930-1932; Mrs. Helen Coors.

Mrs. Wm. K. McAllister, 1265 Downing St., Denver—2 boxes of children's books.

Mrs. Ida C. Hutson, Metal Mining Bureau, Denver—78 encyclopedias and reference books. This was an exceptionally fine gift.

18

## EXPENDITURES

	uly 1, 1930 to me 30, 1931	July 1, 1931 to June 30, 1932	Total
Salary of Librarian	\$1,320.00	\$1,320.00	\$2,640.00
Salary of Helper		300.00	600.00
Book Binding		354.70	525.15
Books		1,020.50	1,936.73
Biennial Report			57.25
Cartage and Freight		190.42	370.72
Colorado Libraries		138.65	304.66
Office Supplies and Expenses		310.51	447.66
Traveling Expense		52.46	94.06
Trunks			270.00
Association Dues		7.50	15.50
Total	\$3,566.79	\$3,694.74	\$7,261.53

