

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
1961-62

OCCIDENT CLUB
Meridian
Idaho

Idaho Daily Statesman.

JULY 30, 1961

Occident Club Sets Breakfast

MERIDIAN — Meridian Occident Club members are making preparations to serve their annual pancake breakfast on Aug. 9 in their club house. They will begin serving at 6 a.m. Sausages and eggs also will be on the menu.

There will be no charge for the breakfast, but each one attending is asked to contribute whatever he wishes. The proceeds will be used for club projects, including the Meridian library, the emergency loan closet, and possible repairs on the building.

The committee in charge of the breakfast includes the Mmes. Nina Egbert, Myrtle Neibaur, Zelma Rose, Susie Cairns, Myrtle Cook and Clysta Gray.

Meridian News Times
October 12, 1961.

Library adds book on important topic

A new book has been added to the Meridian library that is in great demand for study by groups and persons seriously interested in world conditions.

The book has the title "You Can Trust the Communists." It is by Alfred C. Schwarz. Contrary to its title, the book is anti-communist. "Its message is vital to every American as a valuable weapon to use against the propaganda so freely spread by the communists," said the librarian, Mrs. Nancy Sage. "Few books of this type are available. If you want to read it, place your name on the list at the library."

Meridian News Times
November 30, 1961

Club gift

Books by Idahoans or about Idaho lore featured on special shelves at library

Books by Idaho authors or about some phase of life in Idaho are featured on special "Idaho shelves" at the Meridian public library.

Mrs. Nancy Sage, librarian, said the books were purchased with funds donated by the Amity Neighborhood Club, with each book designated as a gift from the club.

Books by Idaho authors include the adult book, "Gods of Soldier Mountain" by Katherine B. Hanford; and a book suitable for adults and youths, "Where the Red Fern Grows," by Wilson Rawls.

Also written by Idaho writers are the following books for youths, including junior high school students, "Indian Fur" and "Spotted Horse," by Glenn Balch; "Benjamin Bonneville, Soldier and Explorer," "Ski Fast, Ski Long," and "Thunder Rolling, Story of Chief Joseph," all by Helen M. Miller.

Books written about some phase of Idaho life or history include the following. For adults and youth—"Red Eagle and the Absaroka" (Nez Perce Indians), by

Francis Haines; "Owyhee," a study of the Owyhee Desert, by Earle J. Larrison; "Tall Timber Pilots," about Bob Johnson and the crews of the Floating Feather airport, by Dale White and Larry Florek.

For youths and children, "Firm Hand on the Rein," by Jack Stefan; "Eliza and the Indian War Pony," about Eliza Spaulding, by Paul and Beryl Scott; and a book for five-to-eight year olds, "Hog Wild!," by Julia B. Riddle.

The Meridian library is sponsored by the Occident club. It is open Monday afternoon from 1:30 to 5:30, Monday evening from 7 to 9; and Friday afternoon 1:30 to 5.

Meridian News Times
November 30, 1961.

Library reports growth for year

Meridian's library board met Monday and reviewed recent work done in and for the library.

During the last seven months, nearly 450 books have been added to the shelves of Meridian library, 120 new ones are being processed to put on the shelves, and nearly 100 are on order.

The library is constantly expanding to meet the needs and desires of the readers in this vicinity.

Many problems

Occident club speaker tells status of Indians in Idaho at present time

Several guests attended the Monday afternoon meeting of Meridian Occident Club to hear Mr. Harold Farley of the United States Indian Agency.

The speaker told of the education, social, and economic problems of Indians in Idaho. Guests included the Mmes. Dan Barker, Harry Radloff, E. L. Bennett, Elmer Yates, Lee Headrick, George Hardin and Bertha Downer.

Mr. Farley said many people have misconceptions of the Indian's status and abilities. Included was the belief that Indians get regular checks from the government treasury. "This is not true," he said. "The only checks they receive are for groups of money that is theirs, held in trust for them. Indians are the minority group in Idaho."

Quoting statistics, Mr. Farley noted that 67% of Indian students drop out of school after the sixth grade. He said that 20% of the boys and girls in St. Anthony Industrial School come from the reservation—not because they are less law-abiding, but because they get a better home and care in the institution than in their own homes.

"But, tragically," he commented, "they have to be housed with those who are delinquent, and thus pick up criminal thoughts and ways from the environment." Home conditions on the reservations are very poor, he said, mostly due to drinking. Few of the Indians seem concerned for their future or for the value of time or money. Part of this, said the speaker, is due to the Indian tradition of the man being a hunter and the woman doing the work.

Indians have been citizens since 1950, but do not have all the protection enjoyed by other citizens.

Mr. Farley says there are two distinct classes on the reservations. The smaller group are the ones who have taken advantage of education and are now taking advantage of their fellow Indians by making money off of them. The others are the very poor, who have nothing.

In the business meeting the Community Improvement committee announced three goals for the immediate future. They are—1) for each member of the club to purchase a library card; 2) encourage elementary teachers to take their classes to the library for a get-acquainted visit; 3) an appreciation tea and open house in the library to show the group's appreciation for all the assistance given during the years to build

up the library to its present adequacy.

The tea will be Tuesday, October 31, from 2 to 4 in the afternoon and from 7 to 9 in the evening. The public is invited.

Another state and national project of Federated Women's Clubs is the women's crusade for safety belts. Mrs. Francis Veach made a report on the reasons for using safety belts.

Mrs. Susie Cairns, Mrs. Mabel Cairns and Mrs. Chester Chapman were the hostesses for Monday's meeting and Mrs. Lee Headrick and Mrs. Dan Barker presided at the tea table.

Meridian News Times
September 21, 1961

September 25

Sorority slates Meridian style show featuring local residents as models

Latest styles for boys, girls, men, and women will be modelled at a style show here Monday, September 25.

Sponsored by the Alpha Alpha chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, the style show will be held at the Meridian grade school, beginning at 8 p.m.

Proceeds from the event will be used to buy additional books for the Meridian public library—at \$1.25 for adults, 75c for children. Models will include children from one year old up, teenagers, and men and women—all community residents. Theme of the show will be "September Song."

Chairmen for various commit-

tees of the style show include Marilyn Marks, Dorothy Morgan, Marian Cherry, Jean Hunter, Ovetta Fisher, Betty Goodwin, Lila Kehler, with Jackie Wood as publicity chairman.

Meridian News Times
November 26, 1961

Afternoon, evening

Occident club invites area residents to appreciation tea next Wednesday

The Community Improvement Committee of the Meridian Occident club will be hostesses for an appreciation tea Wednesday, November 1, at the clubhouse.

Hours will be from 2 to 4 in the afternoon and 7 to 9 in the evening. The tea was planned to show appreciation to the personnel who have managed and operated the library, the patrons who have used it, and everyone who has supported it.

Open house planned

The event will include an open house at the library to acquaint

the patrons and prospective patrons with the services available. Members of the improvement committee are Mrs. Ray Ulmer, Mrs. V. R. Botkin and Mrs. Ray Anderson. They will be assisted by the members of the library board.

The date of the tea was originally set for Halloween, but, not wishing to compete with ghosts and goblins, or be away from home when they called, the date was changed to Wednesday, November 1.

The hostesses ask all interested people to join in this venture to make the club's "thank you" a real community expression.



MERIDIAN SORORITY, Alpha Alpha chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, is represented by Miss Bernhardine Hoseley, left, shown presenting check for

almost \$250 for purchase of books at Meridian library. Accepting gift is Mrs. Elsie Mosman, center, library board member, and Mrs. Nancy Sage, librarian. (Creason photo)

Since 1924

Occident club fetes 37th anniversary of starting community library here

Marking its 37th anniversary, the Occident Club of Meridian held an "appreciation tea" for the club-sponsored public library last Wednesday.

Miss Bernhardine Hoseley, representing the Alpha Alpha chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, presented the group with a check for almost \$250, to be used for the purchase of children's books.

Mrs. Elsie Mosman of the library board accepted the gift, in the absence of the library board chairman, Mrs. Francis Veach.

Displays at the Wednesday tea included new books for children, books by Idaho writers, and other new books. It was announced that the library now had more than 6,000 books on the shelves, with about 500 more awaiting repairs.

Donations acknowledged

Many of the books were donated by clubs, families, and as memorials. In 1958, the Amity Neighborhood Club made a substantial gift of money to buy books and materials, and to assist the club's emergency-loan closet.

Private donors have included Mr. and Mrs. Clare Hunt. Library and club officials also expressed thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Lee Stansbury of Boise, who last week donated 97 books, all of which are now available to library patrons.

Appreciation Tea.

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Continued

The library is now operating on the following schedule: Monday afternoon, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday evening, 7 to 9 p.m. Friday afternoon, 1:30 to 5 p.m.

Library officials emphasized that students of outlying schools of the Meridian district are urged to use the library for reference material or for just plain reading-for-pleasure. Even kindergarten teachers have been welcome visitors, along with their small students. A nominal charge of 10c, 15c, and 25c is made for library cards.

Club is formed

The history of the library dates back to the formation of the Occident Club back in 1924. A group of women gathered at the home of Mrs. Lee Egbert, to form a club whose primary function was to be the sponsorship of a community library. There were 25 charter members, of whom five are still on the roll and who have been active workers on the club's community projects through the years. They are the Mmes. Susie Cairns, Nina Egbert, Zelma Rose, Ed Baldwin, and Myrtle Songer. Prior to the formation of the li-

brary, Mrs. Songer's husband had maintained a shelf of books for loan at his drug store.

When the interurban railroad from Boise suspended operations, the club bought the depot and remodeled it into the club house—located at Meridian and Idaho Streets, across from the city building.

In 1945, the club became affiliated with the Federated Women's Clubs, and joined in projects with other women's clubs of Idaho.

Now tax-supported

The library was standardized in 1950, to make it eligible for tax support, and Miss Ruth Cline was appointed librarian, assisted by Mrs. Nancy Sage. Both women gave hours of individual attention to patrons, particularly the community's children, and use of the library showed a rapid growth despite the coming of television to the area.

Residents of surrounding communities were invited to use the library, and many requests for books and reference material were filled by the local librarians' obtaining the books from the Boise and state libraries. Teachers became aware of the library's full facilities, and brought classes to visit and to become acquainted with the library's services.

Miss Cline was forced by illness to resign in September of 1958, and Mrs. Amy Ambrose was named librarian. She brought with her valuable training and experience as a teacher and librarian. Under her direction, the books were classified and rearranged.

Steady growth

As the town grew, the library expanded to meet the needs. Starting more than a year ago, the library joined in a county-wide demonstration of a proposed county library district, receiving additional operating funds and the loan of hundreds of books. When the proposed library-district formation was defeated in an election, the Meridian library returned to its current status—as a club-sponsored unit, supported by city tax funds on a one-mill levy basis.

Last May, Mrs. Ambrose resigned because of a health problem, and Mrs. Sage was appointed temporary librarian, assisted by Mrs. T. D. Howell. They are still working as a team, spending many extra hours caring for the library and the hundreds of newly-donated and purchased books.

Use of the library has been on a steadily-increasing basis, with a record total of 1,644 books being withdrawn during the month of June, this year.

Meridian News Times
January 11, 1962

Added reading

Librarian lists names of 36 new books available at Meridian public library

Mrs. Nancy Sage this week announced a list of new books now available at the Meridian public library.

The librarian said that one group of the new books was purchased with funds received from the Beta Sigma Phi sorority; and one group was purchased with funds received as a gift from the Amity Neighborhood club.

Children's books

Grades 1 through 6

Little Lonesome Colt, by Anderson; 900 Hundred Buckets of Paint, by Becker; Poems, for Seasons and Celebrations, by Cole; State Trees, by Earle; Benjamin, a horse story, by Elmer; Dr. George Washington Carver, by Graham; Wonderful Visit to Miss Liberty (statue of), by Hill; Electronics, by Irving; Broomtail (a horse story), by Mason; Where the Panther Screams (a pioneer story), by Robinson; The Cat in the Hat, and The Cat in the Hat Comes Back, by Seuss (2nd copies); Word Twins, by White; Jump-the-Rope-Jingles, all the old rhymes for this, by Worstall.

Youths' books

Realm of Algebra, by Asimov; Fancy Free, by Cavanna; High Timber, the story of lumbering, by Coombs; Science of Life, a good reference text on biology, by Darling; Robinson Crusoe (memorial book) by Defoe; Dirt Track Summer, a car story, by Gault; The House of Seven Gables, by Hawthorne; The Touch of Magic, by Macy (the biography of Ann Sullivan Macy, companion to Helen Keller).

Adult books

I Was Born Tomorrow, by

Grace Nies Fletcher; Case of the Bigamous Wife, by Gardner; The Rancher Takes a Wife, by Hobson, a story of modern day pioneering in British Columbia; Since You Ask Me, by Anne Landers, a book on teen-age morals and conduct; A Nation of Sheep, by Lederer, author of The Ugly American; Flame of Fire, by Jane Oliver, a memorial book; The Divided Union, by Randall; The Joys of Chess, by Reinfeld, for chess fans; A Civil War Sampler, by Sobol, (facts gleaned from people, places, and happenings during the war); Tragic Island, by Pflaum, the story of how Communism came to Cuba.

New Idaho books

Idaho City: Queen of the Gold Camps, by Florence Adams, small paper-back; Historic Silver City, the story of the Owyhees, by Mildred Adams, also a paper-back; The King's Pines of Idaho, by Grace E. Jordan. This is a biography of the Carl Browns of McCall, and the life and growth of the families, the town, and the lumbering industry.

Spotted Eagle, by Pearl Roam. A child's story.

Meridian Clubs Discuss Sponsoring Study Groups on Anti-Communism

By CATHERINE FRANKLIN

MERIDIAN — Several Meridian organizations are considering the sponsorship of a community study group on the issue of the encroachments of communism, and the possibilities of helping with the project will be explored at today's meeting of the Occident Club.

Members will meet at 1:30 p.m., and a guest speaker who will talk on communism will

appear at 2 p.m. Mrs. Ralph Soucie, president, has invited all interested persons to attend.

The Community Improvement Program committee of the Occident Club is completing its record of advancing the library facilities and promoting its greater use in the community, Mrs. Ray Ulmer, chairman, reported.

Meridian News Times February 8, 1962.

For one thing, our Meridian li



brary added 237 borrowers during 1961—an impressive 25% of the total of 944 borrowers.

But for real impressiveness, consider this—in a town of 2,000 and some people, the Meridian library last year loaned out a total of 15,313 books!

* * *

Taken from an editorial comment; this all adds up to what the committee is endeavoring to achieve.

A number of out-of-town guests were present Sunday for a tea at the YWCA honoring Miss Helen Miller, new Idaho State Librarian. They included the Mmes. Nancy Sage and D. T. Howell of Meridian; Amy Ma-berry, Notus; Blanche Kurl and Pat Flennikan, Mountain Home; Kay Dunlap and Nancy Jarvis.

Our librarian and assistant share the enthusiasm of the C. I. P. committee.