
History of the
MATTYDALE FREE LIBRARY

as prepared by
Fred Bauer

History of the

MATTYDALE FREE LIBRARY

The Mattydale Mothers Club, organized in November 1939, was formed to promote and encourage community projects, particularly for the youth of the area. Mrs. Richard Salisbury was president.

In February of 1940 the Mothers Club held a dance in the school auditorium and the proceeds of \$47.15 was used to start a Library Fund.

Dr. Paul Paine and Miss Frieda Yates of the Syracuse Public Library addressed the April 1940 meeting of the Mothers Club and explained how small libraries are founded, operated and maintained.

On May 14, 1940 Mrs. Salisbury appointed a Library Committee consisting of Mrs. William Saam, Mrs. Fred Brennan, Mrs. Carleton Lephart, Mrs. Philip Goettel, Mrs. Harry Wiggins, Mrs. Stanley Germaine, Mrs. Arthur Griffin, Mrs. Kenneth Cummings, Mrs. Charles Tortellote, Mrs. Ray Hummer, Mrs. George Eifler, Mrs. Fred Bauer and Mrs. Richard Salisbury. This group conducted a series of activities, or rather a campaign, of popularizing the community library idea — they raised funds and accumulated books. Members attended instruction sessions at the Syracuse Public Library for the purpose of learning how books are prepared and maintained for circulation. The first real "drive" for the community library was instigated by this group and carried on with the cooperation of the Mothers Club membership. The week of June 23 in 1940 was named as "Library Week" for our community.

By July 1941 the work of the Library Committee had become well known and prompted Mr. and Mrs. John Kirsch to donate a building site to this library effort. This lot, at 105 West Molloy Road, Mattydale, is the location of our present library. This building site plus 650 donated books and \$250 cash comprised the total assets accumulated to date by the Library Committee and represented a major triumph for this committee, the Mothers Club and the people of our community as we, like many others, were barely recovering from the bad effects of the depression years of the early 1930's.

On September 2, 1941 Miss Suzanna Young of the New York State Department of Education, Division of Library Extension, met with the Library group and, after reviewing our progress, suggested the following form of procedure.

- I - Election of Trustees for a library, all contributors of record to this cause be eligible to vote.
- II - Apply to the New York State Department of Education, Division of Library Extension for articles of incorporation under the New York State Law. (Legal work needed in this instance to be performed by the N.Y. State Library Extension Dept. at no charge to us).
- III - Arrange for supervisory services of a qualified, registered New York State Librarian.
- IV - Apply to the School Board for a grant of cash to purchase books required for children of school age.
- V - Request the Town Board to furnish funds needed for operation of library as the Town Board has the right by law to use tax moneys for this purpose.

Mrs. William Saam, president of the Mothers Club, called a meeting of all contributors to the Library Fund for September 23, 1941. The purpose of this meeting was to determine what type of library (Public or Association) should be formed and to elect the trustees for this library so that legal standing could be established. The meeting was held in the Mattydale School and resulted in forming an association library. This type of library was selected because only the association membership could elect a trustee, and since disinterested persons would not be association members, only interested members could be placed in control of the library. The following were elected Trustees:

Mrs. Richard Salisbury	for 5 years
Mr. William Saam	" 4 "
Mrs. Jessie Buchanan	" 3 "
Mr. Fred Bauer	" 2 "
Mrs. Elizabeth Goettel	" 1 year

One trustee to be elected each year at an annual report meeting and that such elected trustee serve for five years.

On September 30, 1941 the Library Group met with the trustees and apportioned the library requirements to the following committees:

OPERATION - Mrs. Richard Salisbury, to act as president of the Library Workers Group, arranging service schedules with the volunteer librarians thereby assuring regular library operating hours.

BOOKS - Mrs. Elizabeth Goettel with Miss Bertha Switzer, Mrs. Harry Wiggins and Mrs. Carlton Lephart were to acquire new books (within our limited budget) that would best meet our community's needs and also to keep all books in good repair.

FINANCES - Mrs. Jessie Buchanan, Mrs. Ray Hummer and Mrs. George Eifler were responsible for organizing and conducting the yearly Library Association Membership drive and managing of the Library Funds.

ADMINISTRATION

of PROPERTY - Mr. William Saam, Mrs. Brennan, Mrs. Cummings, Mrs. Tourtellote and Mrs. Bauer were responsible for acquiring equipment needed by the library, the maintenance of same and keeping the library in good operating condition.

TREASURER - Mrs. Raymond Hummer

SECRETARY - Mrs. Fred Bauer

Chairman of
the BOARD - Mr. Fred Bauer

Early in October 1941 an unused gas station at the corner of Lemoyne Avenue and Grand Blvd. (now Boulevard Street) was rented for \$7.00 per month and the group was kept busy painting, building book shelves and generally cleaning up the building.

October 28, 1941 - the name Salina Free Library was decided upon.

Friday, January 16, 1942 - Open House - to show our community what had been accomplished. Our visible assets consisted of 1100 books arranged on home-made shelving (including 100 new books), a librarian's desk and chair and a small oil heater. We had completely lined the interior with insulating board, installed fluorescent lighting, put linoleum on the floor and painted both the interior and exterior areas. Our cash balance was \$306.00. Monday, January 19 was the official opening date of the library. Hours of operation and staff on duty as librarians were as follows:

Monday 3 to 4:30 P.M. Mrs. Saam and Mrs. Brennan
Tuesday 7 to 9:00 P.M. Mrs. Lephart, Mrs. Hickok and Mrs. Bauer.
Wednesday 3 to 4:30 P.M. Miss Switzer and Mrs. Bobenhausen
Thursday 7 to 9:00 P.M. Mrs. Stasko and Mrs. Patterson
Saturday 2:30 to 4:30 P.M. Mrs. Bobenhausen and Mrs. Brennan

In eleven days of operation during January 1942, 198 books were issued. At December 31, 1942 the circulation for our first year was 4,453 books.