

mother's name was Ten-ta-see-nah (In morning light). She was the daughter of May-Koota (one deer), born in Nebraska in about 1850, and died in Crookston, Minnesota, in 1928 at the age of 78 years. Grandmother gave much of her time and talents to the church, where she was well known for her preparation of church suppers. She was very active in "Old St. Mary's" church and later in the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception. She and Mrs. Mary Schraeder worked long and hard to help raise money when the new church was built in 1912.

There are many items from the old hotel still in existence, such as dishes, some kitchen ware, and several pieces of bedroom furnishings, wash-basins and pitchers. My brother, Francis Boh of Crookston, has these as keepsakes.

THE POLK COUNTY LIBRARY HISTORY, CROOKSTON

This history has been written with the help of articles published in the "Crookston Times," and histories written by Elizabeth Lommen and Mrs. Luverne Larsen. The wording of the original sources has been used as much as possible in order to preserve the flavor of the times.

"Although there were plays, debates, and social functions, the pioneers of Crookston desired books to read. As early as 1882, public spirited citizens offered to loan their own books, provided a building could be secured. After the Baptist church was built on South Ash street, it was found that the old church could be used. Mr. Ayers, who had arrived in Crookston in 1879, was selected as the first librarian. As in the case of every progressive library, there was always call for more books. In 1883, the call was answered. Albert Muller, who had recently attended Yale University, placed his books in the library.

"Later this first location was sold and the books moved to a structure on the site of the Hotel Crookston (now the site of Ben Franklin). Mrs. Sadie Walker Hussey, then a young girl, was assistant librarian.

"In the year of 1902 a few of the influential people of Crookston got the notion that Crookston needed a more formal library. To get started they had a book shower which brought in 600 books of all descriptions. These books were then sorted and 500 of them were books that could be used for a beginning in this enterprise.

"The second location on the site of the Hotel Crookston was soon sold and two rooms in the Odd Fellows Hall at the corner of Ash and Robert were rented. Under the supervision of Miss Clara F. Baldwin of the State Library Commission, the Crookston Public Library was organized. The books were then classified by the Dewey Decimal system and Mrs. Van Arum was appointed librarian. She served a short time and resigned owing to her leaving the city. Nine applications were submitted and after taking the vote Elizabeth Lommen was duly elected librarian in May 1902. She then went down to the University of Minnesota and took a short course in library work and started to work at a salary of \$20 a month for the first year. The library was then run in connection with a gymnasium.

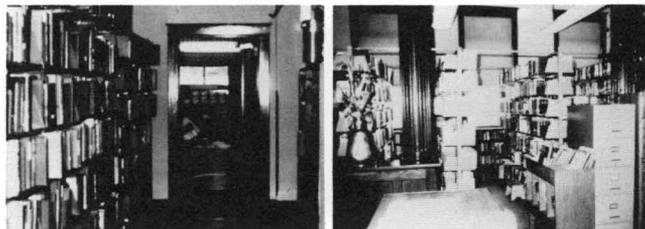
"Next the Board wrote to Andrew Carnegie for a contribution for a new building, but as they never got an answer, Miss Lommen took it upon herself to write, and he at once sent a blank to fill out. The present building was secured at the time that Andrew Carnegie was making his general contributions to cities throughout the United States. Carnegie required the city to provide the site and provide for maintenance of the building. Mrs. Just, Judge Watts, and J. W. Wheeler, library board members, headed the list of subscribers and personally collected funds to purchase the present site. Andrew Carnegie gave \$12,500 for the building which was later raised to \$17,500."

A November 1908 "Crookston Times" article described the new library:

"If present arrangements are carried out, the new public library will be formally opened to the public on the evening of November 27th, the 71st birthday of Andrew Carnegie. It is believed that this date will commend itself to every citizen as being especially appropriate.



Polk County Crookston Library.



Polk Co.
Crookston Library.

Polk Co.
Crookston Library.

"The library is practically completed at the present time (November 1908) but some delay has been experienced in waiting for the furnishings. The building is an exceptionally attractive structure and is a distinct addition to the architectural beauty of the city. The interior of the building will be a surprise to the people of the city.

The Library Board has been making every effort to have the work on the building completed at as early a date as possible and their efforts have been seconded by architect B. D. Keck and contractor Ross. This effort has resulted in giving to the city the use of the building at a comparatively early date."

An article in the November 22, 1908 "Crookston Times" describes a party held at the library:

"About 42 couples enjoyed the informal dancing party given by the members of the Crookston Club last evening in the library building which was undoubtedly a success. Frappé and wafers were served during the evening and the music was exceptionally fine. These parties are becoming more popular as the season advances."

"After the dedication of the building: beautiful gifts were received from time to time. D. F. Turner gave six beautiful hammered brass jardiniers and vases. He also gave ferns to go with them. The next big gift was from the Current Events Club. They had a lecture course and cleared \$432.00, which was all put into books. They also raised money for a piano, which they presented. The Women's Club also helped by giving some sets of books and also in getting some fine pictures. They got a \$250,000 art exhibit to the library for two weeks. The library was filled to its utmost capacity and everybody had a chance to go and see it as often as they pleased free of charge. They later got a picture called "The Source of the Mississippi" by Edwin Blashfield, a Minnesota artist.

"The Matrons Club helped with books; not quantity but quality. J. P. Foote contributed an oil painting in memory of his mother. The name of this picture was "The Age of Innocence" by Reynolds. The Young Men's Debating Club gave pictures of Washington and Lincoln. A tag day was held which netted over \$100 which was used for furnishing the rest room in the basement. During the war the library gathered 400 books for the boys at Camp Cody and then canvassed the town for money and raised \$400 in town and \$400 more in the county, amounting to \$800 which was also sent. The library also furnished a room for the Red Cross for years, both heated and lighted. Magazines were given to the hospitals and the