sanitorium.

"Miss Carey, state organizer of the library commission, made a card catalog file for the library. She came here and worked four days, free of charge, and her catalog answered the purpose beautifully for many years. Eventually the library board decided to have a new one which was put in by a lady from South Dakota. This cost the city over $500. This lady discarded 1,000 books which Miss Lommen got permission to distribute as she pleased, so she gave most of them to the "White Elephant," where they were loaned to people who live out of town.

The traveling library proved a godsend as two were rented every year of 50 books each, and as the library got little else Miss Lommen was glad to get them. It was quite a task to run a library with no money. These traveling libraries cost $2.50 each and she managed so they paid for themselves.

"Miss Lommen was librarian from 1902-1924 — 22 years, during which she kept a struggling library at first alive and helped it then grow stronger. Miss Lommen was a tall, slender lady, quite austere in appearance. She wore glasses, often dressed in a white shirtwaist with high collar and a long black skirt. Outwardly she was very stern — one look over the top of her glasses or occasionally one shout of "quiet!" kept perfect order in the library. There were no problems of discipline in those days when Miss Lommen was about. Inwardly she was a very kind-hearted person.

"Miss Virginia Heston was the librarian from June 1924-June 1926. She introduced the children's story hour and the children's vocational reading club. A prize was given to the girl and boy reading the most children's non-fiction books during the summer — and the first prizes were won by Gladys Garvin and Lea Spring (still a good library user in 1976)."

From 1926 to 1930, Mrs. Clara Bordwell was librarian. One interesting event during her term of office was the attempt made by the city council in 1929 to reduce the library budget by 1/10 mill. The mayor, Dr. Locken, vetoed the measure saying "while the reduction of taxes is a worthy ideal, I personally do not believe that it is our obligation to reach that effort by sacrificing the work of the center of our culture in this community."

In 1931, Miss Claire Winzenburg became librarian. She served for 23 years and retired in 1954 as Mrs. Claire Madden. During her time the library continued its gradual growth in circulation, increased its equipment, and made many building improvements.

Mr. Leonard Stasney was then librarian for one year. From 1955-1972, Cleo McDonald was librarian. In November 1958, it was decided by a vote of the people to establish a county library. In 1959 the county commissioners levied a one mill tax to raise money for the project. Existing libraries in Fosston and McIntosh joined the Polk County system. Other branches were started in Climax, Fertile, and East Grand Forks. Through the addition of new branches and a bookmobile, library service for all residents of the county became a reality.

In 1972, Cheryl Bjorn became librarian. In 1975 the Polk County — Crookston Library became part of the Lake Agassiz Regional Library, which is headquartered in Moorhead. Lake Agassiz serves Polk (excluding East Grand Forks) Norman, Becker, and Clay counties and the city of Breckenridge. The majority of Minnesota libraries now belong to some type of a regional library system, allowing for closer cooperation of neighboring public libraries and thus better service. Regionalizing has also given Polk County access to a much larger book collection and access to the staff expertise of a major Minnesota library.

In 1959 the Library Board became a county board with 9 city and county members. In 1975, the county board appointed four of its members to serve on the 19 member Lake Agassiz Regional Library Board. The city-county board also still meets on a regular basis.

It would be impossible to name all of the Library Board members who have given so generously of their time to serve throughout the years. But, to them goes a special thanks for their sound leadership and direction of the Polk County-Crookston Library.

This history covers the history of the Polk County-Crookston Library from 1882 to 1976. In 1908, its first and only permanent home given by Andrew Carnegie was dedicated. At that time the library housed 5,000 volumes. It now houses over 37,000 volumes in the very same building. The Polk County system now owns over 47,000 volumes housed throughout the County in Climax, Fertile, Fosston, McIntosh, and Crookston. The headquarters library in Crookston is bursting at the seams, but the future looks bright that the need for a new home for the library will be realized.

Neby

Neby was the name given to a place which contained a store, post office, dance hall and blacksmith shop. It was located on the southwest corner of Section 36, Tynsid township. If it were in existence today, it would be approximately one-half mile south and five miles west of Eldred, Minnesota.

In the 1870's to early 1900's as far as we apprehend, this location was used as a distribution place for the mail which had been brought from Fisher's Landing. We have found from the history and biography of Polk County, 1916 edition, page 414, that Helge Thoreson was one who carried the mail for two years between Fisher's Landing and Neby. The second year he also carried the mail between Halvor Grove and Donald Hamilton. We also have a letter from Maria Krogseng of Saum, Minnesota with the following facts taken from an old letter and document left by her parents. She says, "I have a very worn official document from the post office department February 14, 1882 that states: "I, Postmaster General have appointed you postmaster of Neby, county of Polk, state of Minnesota". It is signed by Peter Krogseng and the assistant Postmaster General.

We have no positive record as to who was postmaster at Neby after Peter Krogseng left for Norway in 1885. Possibly Ole Wolden took over the job. Andrew Sand is another name mentioned but this writer has no proof or facts at this time as to when or if he was postmaster there.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Stortroen were married June 1892 at

Old Neby Store (Tynsid Township).