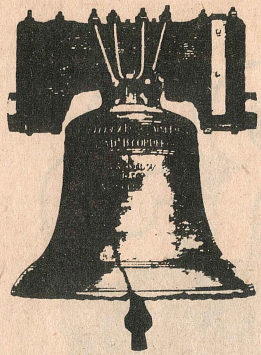
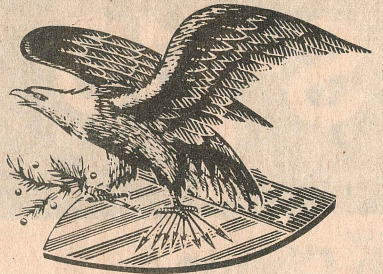


MADRID

AREA



# BIG CENTENNIAL



1776-1976

*"Remembrances of Days Gone By"*

## Public Library Organized By Local PTA

Back in 1934, the Madrid Parent-Teacher Association (P.T.A.) saw the need for a public library for the town and surrounding area.

A committee of PTA members consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Schindler, Dr. Clarence Defur, Mayor Cook and Mrs. F. R. Kenison was appointed to set up a plan. It was the work of these five dedicated citizens that brought the public library into being.

The committee continued to meet with the mayor at every opportunity and finally he gave them permission to use a tiny room in City Hall, adjoining the mayor's office and over the Fire Station. The council also used this room to hold their meeting so heat was provided by a pot-bellied stove.

Enthusiasm continued to grow as people finally realized that the library was becoming a reality. Many volunteered their time to help scrub floors and stairs while the industrial arts class and home economics class at the high school built shelves and made draperies. All the lumber used was donated.

Mr. and Mrs. Schnidler and Mrs. Kenison secured books from the traveling library while a plea went out by means of the Register-News for people to donate books to get the project underway. Mrs. Schnedler and Mrs. Walter Anderson catalogued the books.

Committee members gave their time to be librarian until one was hired. Mrs. Elmer Soderlund, Mrs. J. Edwin Sundberg, Mrs. Edith Burch and many others also helped out.

After a great deal of talking and convincing, the



Madrid's first librarian was Mrs. Trace Embree, who held this position for over 25 years. She was librarian when the library was housed over the fire station back in 1935, and also when the present one opened back in 1952.

As funds became available, a librarian was hired. Mrs. Trace Embree was the first librarian and held this post for many years. When she first began, the library was open only two days a week and she received 75 cents a day for her work.

In 1935 a committee was appointed by the council. Frank Graves was named chairman of the library board with Percy Browne as secretary-treasurer. He

Levy to the City Council for a Public Library. Board members at that time were Frank Graves, Earl H. Brown, and Percy Browne. Mr. Graves was elected temporary president and Mr. Browne, temporary treasurer.

A meeting was held on July 6, 1935 at which time a permanent board was elected and was composed of Frank Graves and Edwin Sundberg, each for a six year term; Percy Browne and Earl H. Brown for a 4 year term and Glenn Grout for a 2 year term.

In December 1936, it was voted to increase the salary of the Librarian from 75 cents per day to \$1.

After the City Hall was built, the library had a new home. At this time, Esther Sundberg was the head librarian with Mrs. Hans Johnsen, assistant and there were well over 6000 books on the shelves.

Many local groups have given money and books to the local library. Among these groups are the Madrid Women's Club and the P.E.O.

Each year the Madrid Women's Club hosts the Library Tea. The silver coins given at this event are used to buy a book in honor of a past president of the club. Over 15 books have been given at this time.

In the beginning, with volunteer help, the Library was open only one day per week, but now, 42 years later, it is open from 2-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9:30-noon on Saturday. The library is also open on Wednesday evening from 7-8:30 p.m. for those who can't use it during the day.

Former Madrid mayor, Guy Lamb served on the Library Board for many years and it is mainly through his initiative and "good will" that the library is where it is today.

Others who have served on the Library board include Mrs. Edith Burch, Mrs. Don Kasser, Mrs. Blanche Halsey, Esther Sundberg, Mrs. Helen Jones

Ostberg, DeLoris Peterson, Mary Smith, Louise Wade and Pat Cronk.

Librarians who followed Mrs. Embree include Esther Sundberg, Louise Zenor, and the present head librarian, Rose Bertini, who took over in January of 1975. Mrs. Sally Myers is her assistant.



Mrs. Rose Bertini, appointed in January of 1975 as head librarian, is shown recording the library Dail-a-Story. A recorded sotry is available to youngsters by dialing the library telephone number.

The first book accessioned for the Madrid Public Library was "The Nazarene" by Sholem Asch in 1942. It was donated by the Past Matrons.

In recent years the dial-a-story has been a successful endeavor by the Library. This is a tape