

NELSON'S LIBRARY 1895 — 1985



NELSON c. 1900. The first library situated in the Broken Hill Block.

Courtesy Nelson Museum



BY FRANCES WELWOOD
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NELSON DAILY NEWS PRINTERS



1890 - 1920

THE SEARCH FOR A HOME

Nelson in 1890 was a collection of rough wooden structures, on a rugged landscape, inhabited by a hardy collection of miners and lumbermen and a growing community of resourceful, ambitious businessmen. One such respected businessman was a tobacconist and newsdealer, Gilbert Stanley, who by 1891 was custodian of Nelson's first reading room and "library".

In the 1900s his shop was located on the east side of Ward St., just north of the corner of Ward and Baker Streets. (Possibly this was not Stanley's 1891 location). Charles St. Barbe, who compiled Nelson's first "history" in 1897, noted, "A popular feature of 'Stanley's' is a social hall and reading room, where many patrons are wont to take a quiet smoke while reading the latest papers received from all parts of the world."

A similar establishment for which a subscription fee was charged, called the Nelson Public Reading and Amusement Rooms, was opened in the Victoria Hotel in January, 1895. The Canada Drug and Book Co. in the KWC Building at Baker and Ward Streets featured a "lending library" collection well into the 1920s.

By 1898 real progress was being achieved for Nelson's reading public. A book collection had been assembled and three rooms in the Broken Hill Block — the northwest corner of Baker and Ward Streets — became the site of a real library. The Nelson Library Association, which was incorporated April 7, 1899, met regularly; President Mrs. J. Roderick Robertson championed fund-raising and Librarian H.G. Harrison gave encouraging reports of attendance at "the rooms" and the number of books loaned to subscribers. The concerned Daily Miner records on Feb. 21, 1899:

"Yesterday a Miner reporter had considerable difficulty in making his way through the crowd of people gathered in the reading room to the librarian's office. The library has become very popular and that Nelson needs such an institution has been amply demonstrated."

There is no doubt that the library had a considerable following. John Houston, Nelson's first, and most colourful and controversial Mayor, in seeking re-election promised a \$300 civic grant to the fledgling library. The day prior to the election on Jan. 13, 1899, his promised grant was raised to \$500. No matter, Mr. Houston lost out to Mr. Neelands, a photographer, in the mayoralty race and the Library Association was compelled to make application to the new Council through the Finance Committee for the much needed funds.

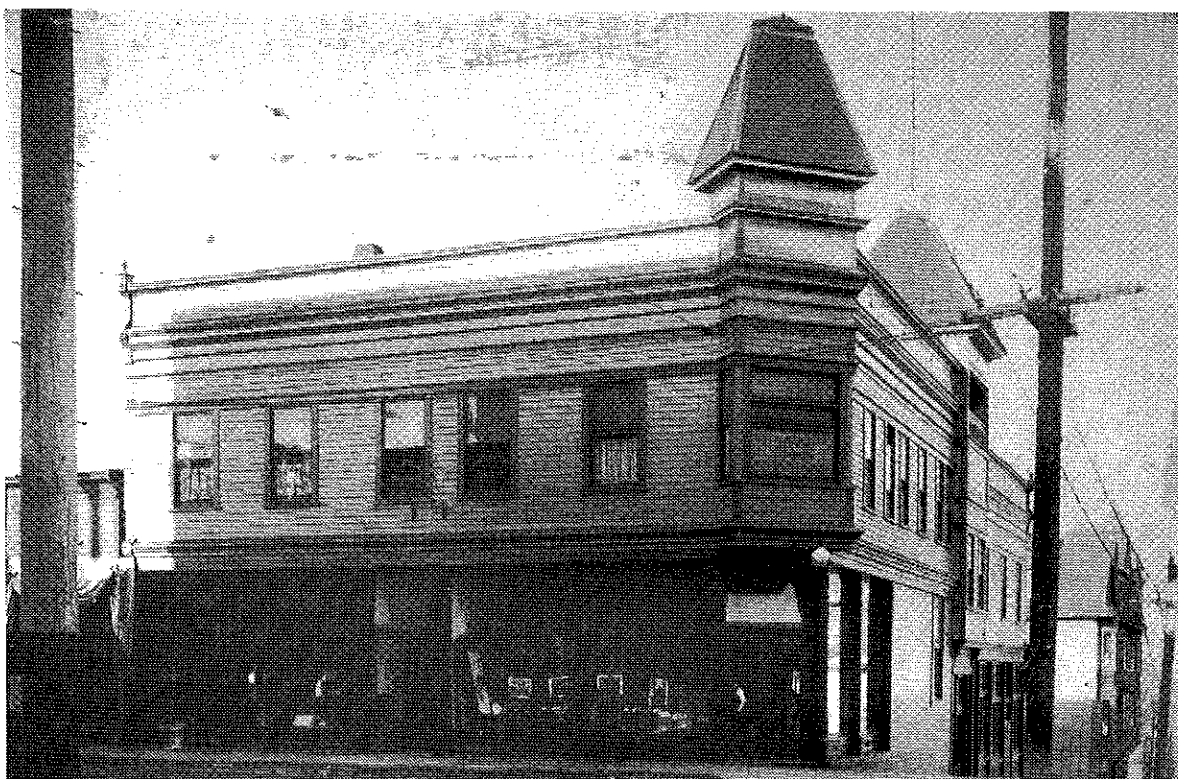
The book collection was moved to a small building in the 400 block Victoria Street, near the Stanley Street corner (presently occupied by a B.C. Telephone Co. building) and diagonally opposite the popular Phair Hotel (later the Strathcona Hotel), on May 26, 1900. The building belonged to Nelson's future Mayor (1909-1911), frequent alderman and real estate agent, Harold Selous (pronounced Sel-oo).



HAROLD SELOUS, Nelson mayor and alderman in the early 1900s, encouraged the growth of the library.

Courtesy Nelson City Hall

The source of Nelson's early library collection is a matter of speculation. Mr. Selous, as well as four of the five gentlemen recorded as trustees of the Nelson Library Association, were members of the socially prominent Nelson Club. The Nelson Club, viewed by some as a centre for drinking, smoking, and card playing, had a membership of 112 and boasted a fine home in the 300 block Silica Street, with property holdings of 6.5 city lots. The Club had a reading room and a book collection, and it may be that these respectable business and professional men contributed to Mr. Selous' "library". The Ladies' Literary Society and the University Club would have approved and been early participants.



BROKEN HILL BLOCK included three reading rooms that housed Nelson's first public library in 1898. This site now houses Wait's News, the building pictured having burned just after 1900.

Courtesy DTUC Library

From City of Nelson directories held in the Public archives in Victoria, it can be learned that the library occupied the Selous building (on the present B.C. Telephone property) until at least 1910.

The Selous building must not have been altogether satisfactory, and the Library Association seemed most anxious to establish a permanent, fitting structure. Applications were made in 1901 and again in 1906 to the Carnegie Foundation of New York, which was funding public library construction all over the United States and Canada at this time. Over 100 Carnegie Libraries were built in large and small towns in Ontario, but B.C. managed to attract Carnegie approval for only three, the Vancouver Public Library at Hastings and Main Streets being the most notable.

Carnegie money was not forthcoming, as it was a requirement of the American philanthropist that the town make a 10 per cent per year grant for the maintenance of the library — which Nelson City Council refused. In fact, Ald. Harvey Bird, chairman of the finance committee, warned in his report of March 18, 1904 that "... increasing demands for assistance from the city by local organizations and associations are assuming alarming proportions ..."

That year the Library Association had received a generous grant of \$750 from the city. However, the Library Association continued to make annual appeals to council for donations and innovative fund-raising cam-

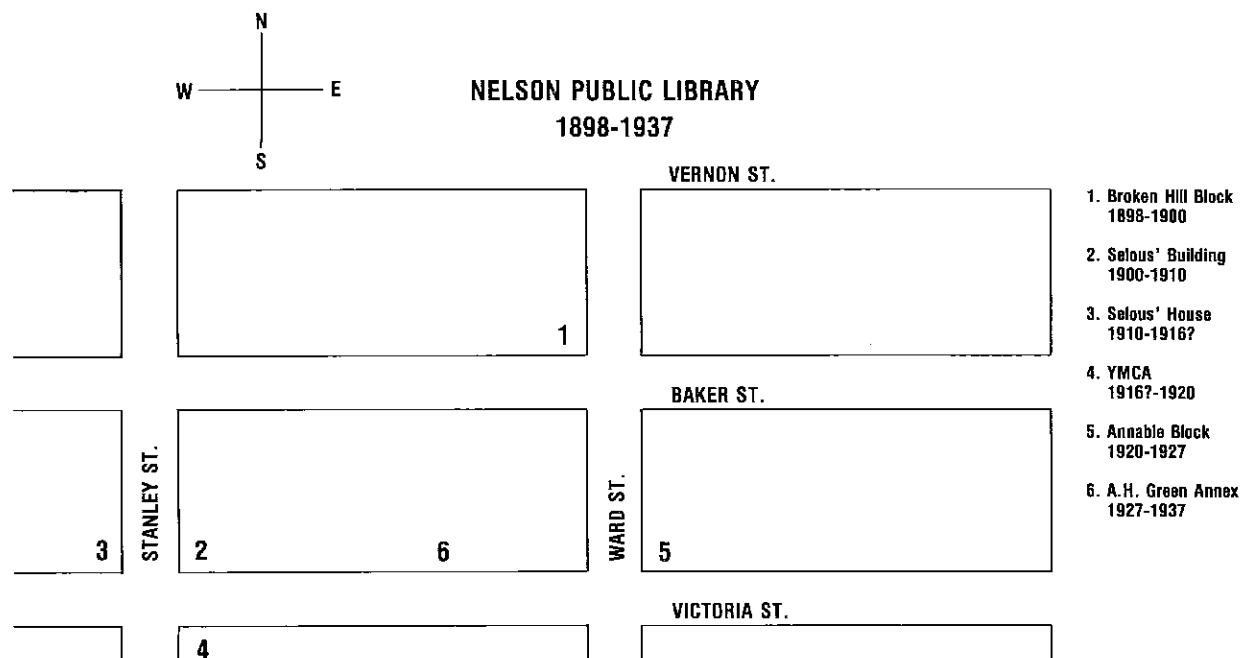
paigns and events were hosted by the avid library supporters.

For many years to follow, the library community continued to pursue a suitable habitat for the library. The Daily Canadian suggested the "old" City Hall building on Front Street in 1906, but it was not until 1910 that the library made its next move.

It was shuffled across Victoria Street to another property belonging to Mr. Selous. This third library location was an unprepossessing house on the northwest corner of Stanley and Victoria Streets, numbered 323 Victoria. It was Mr. Selous' personal residence, yet it had already been the home of the Christian Science Reading Room since March, 1908.

The Selous house was rather an unusual setting for a public library. Many Nelsonites still remember this little two-storey building which one entered from the upper floor, and always comment on the beautiful garden of wisteria, sweet pea and roses that surrounded the "shack".

Charming though that location may have been, it was obviously found wanting, and another corner of Stanley and Victoria Streets, the new (1909) YMCA Building — which in 1926 became the Canadian Legion — was elected to house the Nelson Library. This move was rather short-lived also — from 1916 until 1920. On June 15, 1920 the library was carted down the street to a store-front in the Annable Block, on the corner of Ward and Victoria Streets.



HOPSCOTCH from one downtown location to another has been the story of Nelson's library.
Ron Woodward design

The provincial government passed the Public Libraries Act in 1919, and established the Public Library Commission with the mandate to supervise all public libraries in B.C.

Even though Nelson's Library was by 1920 a city-administered Municipal Library, children were not admitted to the library without parental supervision and could not borrow books from the library.

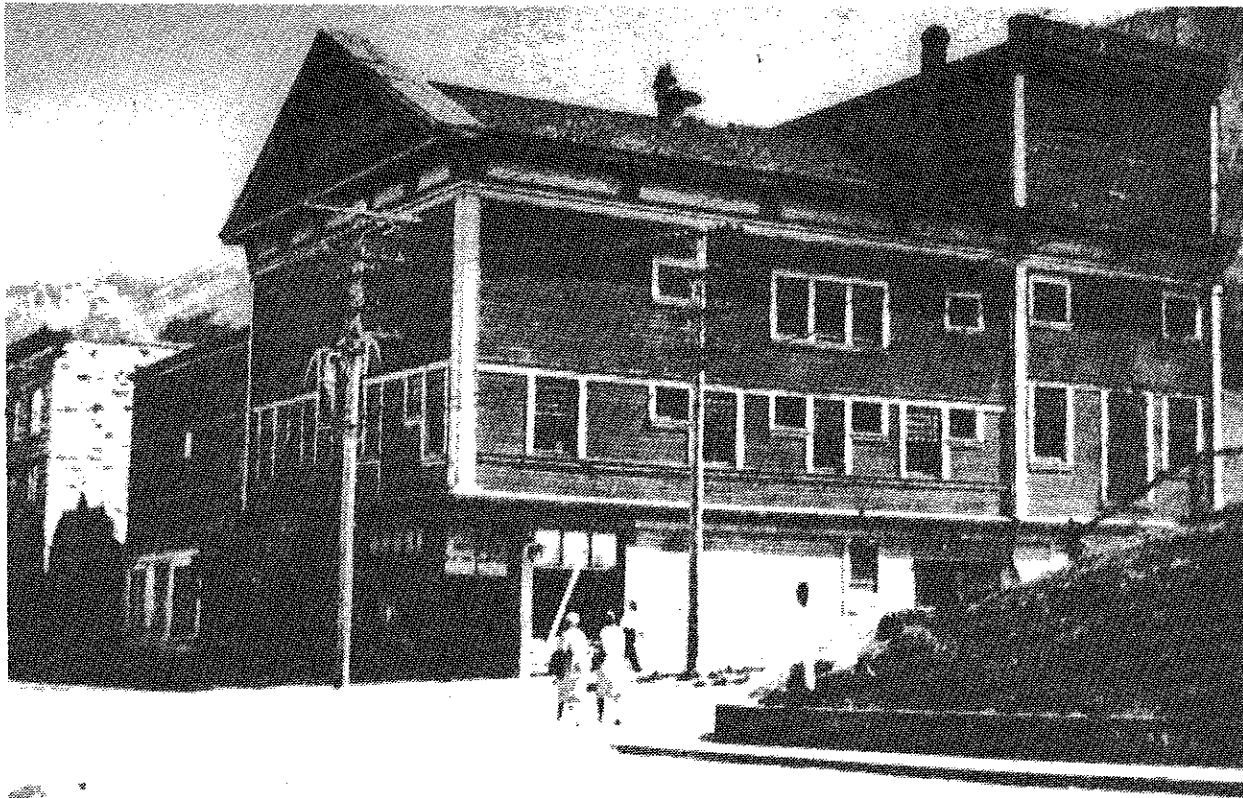
This did not sit well with the P.L.C. authorities in Victoria and Marguerite Fahrni, a children's librarian, was quickly dispatched to Nelson in March 1922 to deal with this and other vexing technical matters. Miss Fahrni spent three weeks reshelving, redecorating, unpacking boxes of juvenile books and explaining matters to the staff and the Library Board.

She then turned her attention to the school libraries and found them sorely lacking also. Miss Fahrni's report to the Public Library Commission found: "The supply of good books for children was hopelessly inadequate in the city — there could be but one result — the children were filling their minds with the trash which it seems, is always available, and which will be read if not replaced with something worthwhile." Nevertheless, she declared her visit a success and found satisfaction in "soothing the feelings of irate publics who on principle object to change."

She concluded, "Nelson is a most fertile field for library work — the possibilities are unbounded. The district is large and the people enthusiastic. Excellent work is being done at present but it barely touches the fringe of library development."



EARLY FUND-RAISING ENDEAVOURS



NELSON OPERA HOUSE, the city's pride in 1899, was the setting for a lavish ball to raise funds for the library.

Courtesy Nelson Museum

If there had been a "Citizen of the Year" award in Nelson in 1899, Mrs. J. Roderick Robertson would most certainly have been the worthy recipient.

This civic-minded woman, whose first name was never divulged in the pages of the Nelson Daily Miner was the wife of J. Roderick Robertson, general manager of London and B.C. Gold Fields. She was on the Board of Directors of the Kootenay Lake General Hospital, president and moving force in the Nelson branch of the National Council of Women, and president of the first executive of the Nelson Library Association.

The Nelson Library Association was incorporated under the Benevolent Societies Act on April 7, 1899 with the purpose to furnish a library and reading rooms for the City of Nelson. Mrs. A.L. McCulloch, wife of the city's first city engineer, was secretary of the infant association. However, the first trustees or managing officers are recorded as: Robert Hedley, manager of the Hall Mines and father of the town that bears his name; Grange V. Holt, agent for the Bank of B.C.; George Kydd, manager of the Nelson branch of the Merchant's Bank of Halifax; George F. Beer, city alderman; and Mrs. Robertson's husband, J. Roderick Robertson.

On behalf of the Nelson Library Association, Mr. Robertson had approached the January 28, 1899 meeting

of Nelson City Council's finance committee, requesting a grant of \$300. This grant had been an election promise of ex-Mayor John Houston. Following a motion by Ald. McKillop — a general assayer and exporter of ores — the committee recommended this grant be awarded by city council. However, on Feb. 8, newly-named city solicitor, W.A. Galliher, wrote from his office in the Broken Hill Block to city council. "I have satisfied myself that the council have (sic) no power to donate by Resolution, any sum to the (Nelson Library Association)." Neither the Nelson Daily Miner nor the minute book of the finance committee report further on the state of a city grant to the library that year.

In spite of council's non-support, Mrs. Robertson set about raising funds from other sources. Under the auspices of the National Council of Women, Miss Bessie Livingstone — "that peerless exponent of the art of cooking" — conducted a two-week series of eight lectures and demonstrations of her craft. More than 100 ladies paid \$3 each to attend these educational evenings, the profits of which were donated to the new public library. Each lecture was reported with enthusiasm by the Nelson Daily Miner, and the treasurer of the Library Association could report to the March meeting, held at Mrs. Robertson's residence, a profit of \$103 from the cookery classes.

A long-awaited shipment of 400 books from a bookseller in Toronto had arrived at the library on March 8, 1899. A full listing of the new titles was reported in the newspaper with the opinion given that "... subscribers to the library will no doubt become more numerous now." The library certainly needed more funds. Within days a committee was formed, and plans were moving along merrily for a grand ball to be held at the brand new Nelson Opera House, opened only weeks previously on February 13. Proceeds were destined for the Library Association.

The Daily Miner reporter became quite caught up in the preparations for the ball and reported, in detail, the arrangements for decorations, refreshments, tickets and flower sales.

The reasonable price of the tickets — \$2.00 for gentlemen and \$1.00 for ladies — in addition to the worthy objectives of the cause, led to rapid ticket sales. Six days before the event the dance program was published, showing a fine variety of musical steps — valse, schottische, polka, Jersey, two-step — for a total of 24 selections. One was even told to enter by the Ward Street entrance, which would lead the guest into the Opera House dressing room. On the eve of the ball, the reporter could not help but editorialize on how another civic matter related to this happy social occasion:

"It is hoped that some of those who stumbled across the corner of Ward and Victoria Streets tonight on their way to and from the Ball, and pick their steps over broken sidewalks and ruts in the darkness, will be sufficiently impressed by the need of an electric light at the corner to press the matter on those in power."

Our Daily Miner reporter declared May 20th in a lengthy article A Most Successful Dance. Bunting, flags, emblems and evergreen were much in evidence. Behind the orchestra which occupied the stage, the "tables groaned under the load of choice delicacies . . . There was everything from the fluffy and deceptive "kiss" to the somewhat hideous-looking but delicious lobster salad. Jellies kept up an agitated movement as the dancers glided over the floor . . . The Nelson Library Association will net a neat sum as a result of the efforts of theirs to provide the people with the big ball given in the new Opera House."

The ball also had a happy personal conclusion for Mrs. J. Roderick Robertson as we read the last word on the ball in the newspaper four days later. "The valuable bracelet lost by Mrs. J. Roderick Robertson on the night of the Library Ball was returned to her yesterday. It was found on the street in front of the Opera House, where Mrs. Robertson must have dropped it on her way home."

EXTRACT FROM City of Nelson,
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES, Jan. 28, 1899

Mr. J. Roderick Robertson attended the Committee with reference to proposed grant to the City Library of \$300. and the matter having been considered and moved by Mr. Alderman McKelvey seconded and Resolved

That it be recommended that the Council make a grant of \$300 towards the funds of the City Library. -

1906 — KERMISS

Who or what is a Kermis?

The Library Association in 1906 instituted a special Kermis Committee. Originally a religious service popular in Belgium and Holland, "kermis" had come to describe a dramatic festive event comprising indoor entertainments and outdoor fairs and games for an entire community. The modern purpose of a kermis is to raise money for a specific charitable purpose.

Nelson's Kermis of 1906 was a three day extravaganza in aid of the public library. Both the Daily Canadian and Nelson Daily News outdid themselves with florid, laudatory descriptions of the event.

The Daily Canadian: "We do not think it has ever been equalled in B.C., if indeed Canada." The Exhibition Hall — the site of the present Civic Centre Grounds — was the scene of a grand international display. Decorative booths depicted the culture, costume and cuisine of twelve nationalities. Citizens were more than anxious to part with their dollars in purchasing exotic souvenirs and crafts.

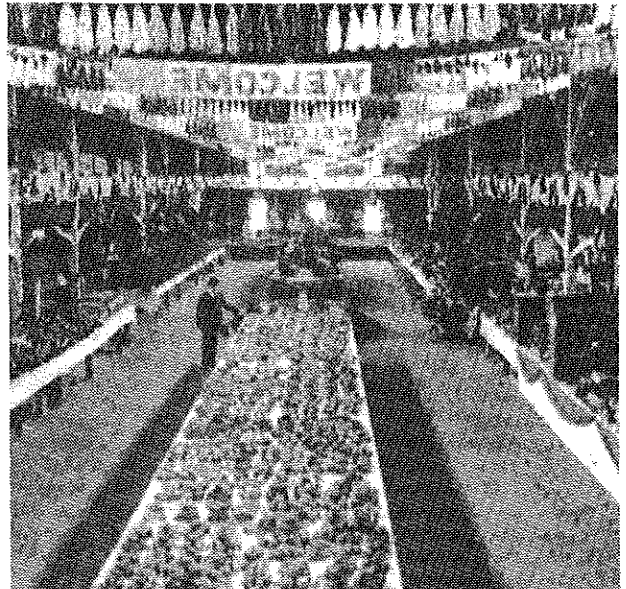
In the evenings, a gala entertainment was held in the Exhibition Hall annex. The city band played. Over 100 performers in ethnic costume took part in a Grand March. Well-rehearsed city children danced through a flower drill. Musical renditions were numerous, and it all climaxed in a one-act comedy, Dearest Mamma.

Success takes its toll, however, as the Daily News reported on June 23: "As a single instance of devotion to a good cause, it may be mentioned that Mrs. Melville Parry, quite exhausted with her efforts, fainted away at her residence yesterday morning, and her condition was not discovered until one-half-hour had passed. Notwithstanding her misadventure and the fact that she had hurt herself when she fell, the plucky lady insisted on taking part last evening and bravely went through with it all to the very end." Apparently Mrs. Parry's vocal rendition of Merrily I Roam from The Bohemian Girl had indeed been "brilliant".

And the result of all this talent and devotion? One thousand dollars went to the Library Fund and Mrs. McCulloch, the "indefatigable leader", saw to it that thanks were published in the newspapers repeatedly over

the next week. The Daily Canadian gloried, "... that the Nelson people appreciate their home talent and are free from that despicable characteristic of so many small towns which pooh-poo everything that is done at home to the laudation of the foreign."

NELSON EXHIBITION HALL



NELSON'S EXHIBITION HALL was the site of a 1906 Kermis to raise funds for the library.

Courtesy Nelson Museum

THE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

1920 — 1985

After 21 years of valiant supervision by the Nelson Library Association, the organization turned over the reins to the City of Nelson Jan. 20, 1920, when Bylaw No. 310 provided for the establishment of a Municipal Public Library. Dr. Helen Gordon Stewart of the Public Library Commission came to Nelson, and through public and private meetings negotiated the takeover of the library. She envisioned Nelson becoming the centre of a regional union library system. Along with construction of a proper library building, this regional library concept was to be a familiar theme for the next 65 years.

In the new Annable Block locale and "under new management" the city hired a custodian-librarian at an annual salary of \$1020.00 for a 42-hour week. A tax levy of 1.25 mills raised the necessary funds. Mrs. Agnes Cane, a well-educated, elderly woman "ruled" the library. Harry Cane liked to spend many hours in the reading room poring over the books with the aid of a formidable magnifying glass.

Fred L. Irwin's community activities during his 75-year lifetime included: "Founder of the City Band" (1903), Secretary of the School Board for over 30 years, conductor of the Nelson Operatic Society, leader of the Nelson Glee Club and the Trinity United Church choir, member of the Masonic Lodge, member of the Nelson Old-

Timers Association and professionally, Assistant City Clerk (1905-1943). He was the guiding light and Secretary of the Municipal Library Board for 27 years (1920-1947). Most correspondence and reports directed to Victoria bore his signature. On the day of Mr. Irwin's funeral both the School Board Office and Library were closed in his memory.

Dr. W.O. Rose, respected Nelson physician, former Mayor (1903) and alderman was appointed in 1920 as the first chairman of the new Nelson Municipal Library Board. With a cast like this the library was bound to succeed — and to find, in time, a location more desirable than the Annable Block store.

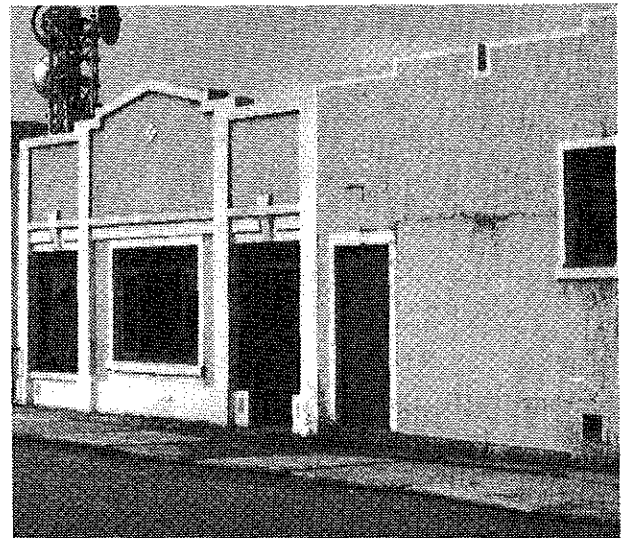
Another unsuccessful overture was made to the Carnegie Foundation in 1926. Undaunted, Board Secretary Fred Irwin initiated a series of letters with the Public Library Commission. Mr. Irwin had a lead on "... the building of a new home for us, 24 x 80, entrance at the end, as many windows as desired the long way, on one side only. An inside lot, with no buildings at present on one side. Could I trouble you for your advice?"

The building described is the westernmost portion of the Green Building in the 400 block Victoria Street. The building is to be renovated as the entrance, bar and lobby of the restored Capitol Theatre.



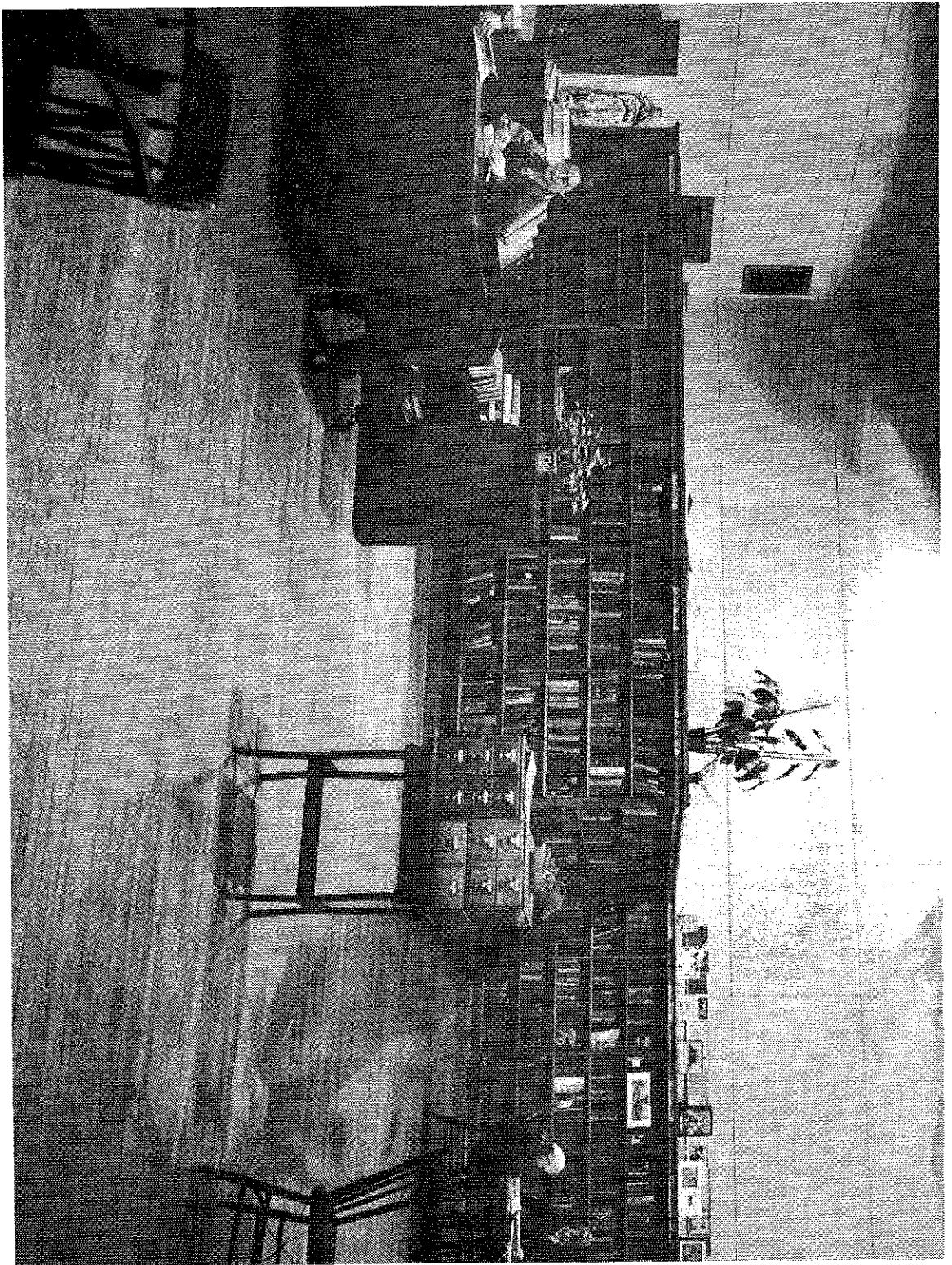
DR. W.O. ROSE was chairman of the city's first Library Board, appointed in 1920.

Courtesy Nelson Museum



GREEN BUILDING, the library from 1927 to 1937, is now slated for renovation to expand the restored Capitol Theatre.

Courtesy Capitol Theatre Society



Inside the Nelson Municipal Library c. 1938. Courtesy of Margaret Hincks

Victoria responded with "congratulations on your opportunity to having a new home", but questioned the long, narrow design of the proposed building. Much consideration was given by both parties to the desirability and suitability of a separate and inviting children's area.

Negotiations moved along quickly, and on Aug. 1, 1927, Mr. Alfred H. Green and Nelson Mayor J.A. McDonald signed a 10-year lease for the new facility. The quarters were to be shared with the "Nelson Women's Exchange and other similar Public Welfare Institutions". The Women's Institute was to remain in co-habitation with the library until 1961. Rent was \$780 per annum, and in order to keep expenses down the librarian's salary remained at the 1922 figure. Mrs. Cane, and soon after, the new professional librarian Miss Margaret Hincks, settled in for a 10-year stay.

Throughout her tenure, Librarian Hincks held out hope for the formation of a regional library, and attempts to implement this concept were made again in 1934, when demand and circulation figures indicated considerable need for library development.

Social services of all types are overburdened during times of recession and restraint and libraries are one of the agencies where demand for services is always increased. Margaret Hincks, city librarian, noted to the Public Library Commission in 1933: "Naturally, owing to the times, there is increased use made of the Library."

Circulation of books in 1930 was 31,365 and the figure for 1933 was 47,978, an increase of 35 per cent. It is a credit to the city administration that municipal grants to the library were maintained and increased annually at the pre-Depression rate throughout the 1930s.

Circulation figures dropped slightly in 1934, but this was due to a library closure of 15 days in October, when a ban was twice imposed by health authorities because of an outbreak of infantile paralysis and diphtheria.

1935 was a memorable year in Nelson. November 29th was the official opening of the grand Civic Centre, a first of its kind to be built during the bleak Depression years. There were skating and curling rinks, with an auditorium, gymnasium, badminton hall and "other facilities" to be completed soon.

Nelson was justifiably proud. No mention was made of the Civic Centre becoming the potential home for the leisure activity of Nelson's bibliophiles. However, in June, 1937 tenders were called for "... alterations in that portion of the Civic Centre known as the gymnasium to enable it to be used as a library." By August the A.H. Green building had been vacated, and the Municipal Library — and the Women's Institute — moved "temporarily" into the Civic Centre Gymnasium.

1940 saw another increase in book loans. Miss Hinck's report for that year surmised: "World conditions account for an increase of interest in books on current affairs, but also many keep repeating 'They can't concentrate on anything but lightest tales nowadays.'"

About this time Miss Hincks introduced book reviews, book talks and storytelling for children over the local radio station. Unfortunately Miss Hincks left the library in 1942 and few changes were implemented until relatively recently.

Honor roll

ROSTER OF NELSON'S LIBRARIANS

1898 - 1901	H. G. Harrison
1902? - 1931	Miss Agnes Naomi Williamson ("and her sister"). Miss Williamson became Mrs. Harry Cane some time between 1914 and 1921 Assistant: Mrs. Cummins
1932 - 1942	Miss Margaret Hincks
1942 - 1954	Miss M.A. (Molly) Irving Assistant: Mrs. Angela Holmes
1954 - 1964	Mrs. Angela Holmes
1965 - 1978	Mrs. Gerda Stockell
1978 - 1983	Eva Walters
1983 -	Bonnie Sullivan

There seems to be little to report from the 1950s. In 1955 — most probably at the urging of the Public Library Commission — the librarian was made responsible for the selection of book purchases — a task previously accomplished by the Library Board, which had resulted in the "... acquisition of a very 'uneven' collection."

The 1960s were considerably more interesting to the library observer. Unsatisfied again with the Library's accommodation, Library Board Chairman C.B. Garland attempted unsuccessfully in 1959 to obtain the old Post Office for the library. Instead, it became the City Hall in January, 1962.

From opening day in 1937, the Civic Centre location had been an inappropriate one, and there were frequent troubles with lighting, ventilation, sound, heating, lack of space and of course, access to the second floor. City Museum supporters making do in cramped quarters in the City Hall had similar aspirations for better accommodation, and City Council itself was anxious to acquire the Museum quarters for Council Chamber space. Abruptly on February 27, 1961 the City Council awarded a contract for the construction of a mezzanine floor in the Library. The mezzanine would house the Museum, and the Library would gain space vacated by the Women's Institute, who were being displaced without notice.

Library Board members, personnel and patrons were naturally dismayed. The Daily news was on the spot:

"Clash of wills followed presentation of a brief by Dr. C.E. Bradshaw, temporary Chairman of the Library Board and Chairman of the Civic Centre Commission, two boards directly involved in the matter. He charged that the move was almost dictator-like as neither the Library Board nor the Civic Centre Commission had been informed of the plan until tenders had been called. The plans of the changes were never submitted or discussed with the Library Board at any time." An editorial supported Dr. Bradshaw's views and described the Council's treatment of the Library Board as "cavalier".



Council obviously backed down. During the summer of 1962 the library was closed for seven weeks during a major renovation project, costing an estimated \$8,000. Staff and patrons settled in for another decade — or two.

Dr. Bradshaw however, did not settle back. In December of 1964 he presented a brief to the "Citizens of the City of Nelson and District". Looking ahead to Canada's Centennial in 1967, Dr. Bradshaw urged the construction of a new city library as the most worthy Centennial project.

He foresaw federal government subsidies of up to 50 per cent of construction costs and reiterated the familiar plea: "... By 1967 the present quarters will be extremely congested and services disrupted. ..." Somehow Nelson missed out on getting a new library, and acquired a fountain for Lakeside Park as a Centennial commemoration. Even after 14 years on the Library Board, Dr. Bradshaw was not to be the one to present Nelson with a new library.

However, the Library Development Commission in Victoria — successor to the Public Library Commission — was watching and listening. In 1968, a Regional Library Survey of the West Kootenay area investigated the possibility of establishing a regional library district in the West Kootenay. Firm recommendations for the early creation of the library system were published.

Toward this goal the LDC sponsored an All Kootenay Conference on Libraries under the Chairmanship of Ron Welwood, Notre Dame University Librarian, in May 1972.

Some 200 delegates to the Nelson conference were enthusiastic, and the City of Nelson helped to draw up plans for a regional library headquarters located in Nelson. These best-laid plans fizzled with a newly-elected provincial government which shifted its priorities to matters other than libraries.

The new West Kootenay Library Association learned to pursue less formal communications and cooperation between Kootenay libraries, and the Nelson Library Board returned to the familiar tour of making regular requests to city council for a new building. The Civic Centre grounds, the provincial Land Registry Office, the Fire Hall and numerous other "heritage" sites have all come under the hungry eye of library backers during the 1970s and 1980s.

Quite recently, two more groups have joined the age-old search committee. The Friends of the Nelson Municipal Library, formed in May 1983 with Elizabeth

Wallach as chairman, plans to gain publicity and sympathizers, as well as funds for the library. The Library Board has appointed a New Library and Facilities Committee which is following several optimistic leads.

And so the story of Nelson's Municipal Library comes to 1985. At 65 years of age the Library Board is not looking for retirement — just more comfortable, invigorating lodging!

Today the Nelson Municipal Library is bursting its seams in a space less than half the provincially-recommended size. More people than ever belong to the library — 55 per cent of Nelson residents. An average of 300 books, records, and magazines are checked out each day. Programs for children and adults are expanding. The Library's dedication to friendly, personal service has overcome many physical limitations.

Steep stairs make the Library inaccessible to the elderly and the handicapped, and cramped, poorly-lit facilities limit use. A street-level access regional library is the goal of several active library support groups. The Library Board has been working towards a new location for many years. Alma Baillargeon, who chairs the Board, emphasizes the importance of handicapped access and enough room for more new books and more programs. Jan Culham, who chairs the New Library and Facilities Committee, states that the Regional District of Central Kootenay has given the Library Board a grant to prepare a feasibility study for a regional library, serving and supported by the greater Nelson area, and incorporating the former David Thompson University Centre Library under one larger roof. The Friends of the Library, an active support group, creates funds for special projects, solicits donations of needed equipment and furniture, and encourages public support for expanded library services.

Bonnie Sullivan, Librarian, wants the library to become a dynamic community centre — in a building that encourages rather than limits the ability to serve the whole community. A separate children's area for puppet shows, storytelling, and other activities; a meeting and multi-purpose room for slide shows, films, readings; display or gallery space; study space for quiet reading; enough shelving for an attractive arrangement of books — this is the kind of Library Nelson deserves. Her anniversary wish for the Library is "congratulations on your service to the community — and may your next birthday party be in a bigger and better home!"





The _____

Library Ball.

Nelson Opera House.

May 19th, 1899.

