

From The Ruth Hummel-Klippert Collection

## **HISTORY OF THE CARSON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

By Lucile Ralph, Librarian

The October 19, 1900 issue of the Carson City Gazette has a front page item about the Ladies Literary Club which says: "The Library will be open today and all who have paid their dues will be permitted to draw a book".

The September 29, 1905 issue of the Carson City Gazette carried the following front page article:

"The necessity for a library to which the public would have access has been apparent for some time and September 22, 1900 several ladies of the Literary Club formulated a plan by which a start could be made. Books were donated from private libraries and bought from dues paid by the members.

A small building was for sale, but first, the Ladies had to organize under the laws of the State of Michigan. On January 17, 1903 the petition for incorporation was signed and soon the building was purchased from George Fred Pratt for \$350.00. The Literary Club and the Library Association in 1905 had a paying membership of seventy and 350 volumes on the shelf. -- Mrs. Minnie Vickery, Librarian."

In 1931, the Library was moved from this building to the upstairs in the city firehall and the library building was rented.

October 1938, The Ladies' Library Club, a Michigan Corporation, transferred the building and other goods to the Woman's Club, a Michigan Corporation, of Carson City. About this time, Mrs. Alwilda Pechtel, Librarian, moved the Library to the Bloomer township hall, where it is today.

On January 15, 1963, Mrs. Dorothy Hutting, Chairman of the Board and Mrs. Lucile Ralph, Librarian, transferred the Library from the Woman's Club to the City of Carson City.

There are now 6,450 volumes in the Carson City Public Library.

A total of 5,126 people borrowed books in 1966, with 12,167 books being loaned.

A flag pole stands in front of the library given by the Julius T. Barrett Post GAR at the time the GAR Hall stood on the site.