

1029 Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Forest Grove City Library March 5-10, 1984
1030
1031 Produced by Forest Grove City Library and the Metropolitan Area Communications
1032 Commission
1033
1034
1035
1036 Jubilate! 75th Forest Grove City Library 1909 – 1984
1037
1038
1039
1040 Narration: The Forest Grove City Library celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 1984 with
1041 a week of activities in March. Backed by the Friends of the Forest Grove Library and
1042 many contributions from businesses and organizations in the community, library staff and
1043 volunteers organized an Oregon film festival, a computer fair, a performing arts night, an
1044 Oregon authors fair, a Forest Grove Way of Life Day and a library birthday party. The
1045 Forest Grove Way of Life Day brought more than 30 exhibitors to the library
1046 representing community businesses, schools, manufacturers and cultural and service
1047 organizations.
1048
1049 (Including Hope Co-op and Café, Portland Community College, Forest Grove Police
1050 Department, Pacific University, and Tektronix)
1051
1052 In the evening, the middle of the library floor was cleared for demonstrations. Jackie
1053 Hicks and Debbie Hill represented their business “Head to Toes” with a massage

1054 demonstration. Sheila Strand from the Coral Jungle Pet Center showed how to trim a
1055 parrot's feathers. Dr. Robert Stockhouse, who is on the faculty at Pacific University,
1056 demonstrated stir-fry cooking for a creative kitchen. Bob Mason, owner of The Color
1057 Shop, demonstrated furniture finishing. Susie Sherwood brought her students from
1058 Pacific Elite Gymnastics. A group of instructors from Vitality Plus gave a
1059 demonstration of aerobic dancing. And Brent Olgren (?) who teaches kindle in Forest
1060 Grove, gave a demonstration of that martial art.

1061
1062 On Saturday, March 10th, the Diamond Jubilee concluded with a library birthday party.
1063 Birthday cake was served by the Forest Grove Women's Club and live music was
1064 provided by Rick Williamson and Anson Wright.

1065
1066 The past, present and future of the library was celebrated in speeches by Dr. Margaret
1067 Gilbert, Forest Grove mayor Gib Patterson, State Senator Jeanette Hamby and Connie
1068 Fries, President of the Forest Grove Women's Club.

1069
1070 Mike Smith, the library director, introduces Dr. Gilbert:

1071
1072 "Dr. Margaret Gilbert is a retired professor of anatomy from Pacific University. She did
1073 pioneer work in human embryology, that you may not know, and she also published one
1074 of the first books for expectant mothers describing the development of the child. She said
1075 she is still getting royalties from that after 50 years since it has been published. She is
1076 very active in Forest Grove cultural life. I am sure she is the foremost authority in town
1077 on the 19th century history of Forest Grove, she is president of the Harvey W. Scott
1078 Friends of the Library, and she is also a member of the city library commission and has
1079 been a big help to me personally in that role. Peg."

1080
1081 **Peg Gilbert:** "Thank you Mike. Mike warned me ahead of time that I didn't have any 50
1082 minutes, which are what college professors are used to having, and to stay under 10
1083 minutes, so I'm going to start right away.

1084
1085 The precursors of the library in Forest Grove were two reading rooms that I found out
1086 about. In 1895, there is an ad in the newspaper every week for a freethinker's library
1087 which was apparently in a room in Vertz (?)Hall, as far as I can find out. What the
1088 definition was of "freethinkers" and how many freethinkers there were in Forest Grove I
1089 haven't any idea, but they had a reading room. Then later, around 1900 or so, the
1090 WCTU started a reading room. They rented an upstairs room in one of the buildings and
1091 each person who wanted to use it would pay 25 cents a month and with this they would
1092 get books somehow. Some suggestion that they got books from the state traveling
1093 library. In 1905, Miss Emma Penfield, a woman in town, felt that there were two lacks
1094 in Forest Grove: One was that there was no place to get books, the other was that there
1095 was no place to get stationary. So she persuaded a Mr. and Mrs. Burden, who had a
1096 millinery store in the building over on 21st and College Way that used to be the Rogers
1097 Library, that we knew as the Rogers Library. They had a millinery store there and they
1098 gave her one, she could use one side, one corner of it and what she did for rent was she
1099 took care of the rest room. There was a restroom at the back of this building, and she did

1100 that and had then stationary and books. Some books that were for sale, some books that
1101 were hers, or were other people's. And from this, a year later, there was a library board
1102 established by the city council, and they met and asked Miss Penfield if she would be
1103 librarian of a library and she agreed, so that was, in one sense, the beginning in 1906 of
1104 the library. In 1908, this library board asked the city council if they would levy a one
1105 mill tax to support the library and they did that and have levied a tax ever since then.
1106 The date we are celebrating this year, is the time in 1909 when Mrs. Adeline Rogers, who
1107 was the widow of Dr. Rogers, a retired dentist in town, who was a member of the
1108 Women's Club, became very much interested in having a library on a regular basis, and
1109 she bought the building that was then later the Rogers Library, bought the building that
1110 Miss Penfield had her bookstore, in effect, in at the time, and gave it to the city. "Gave"
1111 or "sold". The city paid her a \$4,000 warrant, but not in cash. What they paid was a
1112 promise that they would levy taxes regularly to support the library and have a supply in
1113 it, have in it all the books and magazines that were usual for a library and that they would
1114 always have a free reading room and a free rest room open in perpetuity, and that if any
1115 time the city council renegeed on this, they owed Mrs. Rogers or her estate \$4,000. So
1116 that, as I say, she neither gave nor sold, but kind of a combination of these two things.
1117 This was, in effect, the beginning of the Forest Grove Library. When Mrs. Rogers then,
1118 in her will – she died in 1922- left \$6,000 to the library which the interest of which was to
1119 be used to buy books. At least \$200 of it was to be used each year to buy books for the
1120 library. From then on, there was a small library that gradually grew slowly.

1121
1122 Miss Penfield left the library and started a bookstore on her own. I've been told that it
1123 was on Main St about where the West Coast Bookstore is now, and the librarian was Mrs.
1124 O.M. Sanford. She and her husband were, in effect, librarians. Mr. Sanford had a small
1125 store on Main St., Mrs. Sanford was the librarian but they both worked in the library a
1126 great deal of the time, and she was librarian for 20 years, from 1908 to 1928. I have
1127 talked to people in town who went to the library in the teens and they said she was a very
1128 strict disciplinarian as far as the reading room goes. When you went into the library, the
1129 first room was a big room that was the reading room, had magazines and newspapers all
1130 around the walls and two long tables that people sat at to read, and there you had to have
1131 absolute silence, no question, and that Mrs. Sanford was very strict on that. But with the
1132 children who came in often, she would take them into the back room, there was a second
1133 room in back of a partition, and there she would ask them how they liked the books, and
1134 recommend other books for them to read, and she helped them to find out things, look up
1135 things in the books of knowledge that they had to have for schoolwork, and was
1136 apparently a great friend and a very important person to the children who used the library
1137 at that time. She had a story hour, sometimes she would bring cookies. I talked to one
1138 woman who said she never missed one of the story hours when she was a child. She
1139 always came to it.

1140
1141 The building was a long, narrow building, just about like what we knew. The library that
1142 we all, the ones of us who came to Forest Grove since 1920, knew was a building that
1143 was built after the fire. The first library burned down, but it was the same size and shape.
1144 It was a long, narrow building, 25 feet wide, about 90 feet long, with a front room that
1145 had newspapers hanging on racks along the wall and magazines, and in the teens and

1146 after that, there were a great many people in town, particularly men, who went to the
1147 library regularly when the newspaper came, when their favorite newspaper came and
1148 when their favorite magazine came, and there would be disputes, as there sometimes are
1149 in families, as to who got to read the magazine first when it came. But this was the front
1150 reading room, the big room, and there was a woodstove in the northwest corner of this
1151 library. I talked to one man who, well I asked everybody that I talked to who had gone to
1152 the library before 1920 where the stoves were. "What stoves?" was the reaction. People
1153 were so used to woodstoves that they didn't pay any attention to them. I finally found
1154 someone who remembered, yes, where the woodstove was. It was in the northwest
1155 corner of the first reading room, the far west corner. One man remembered noticing the
1156 huge cords of wood that were stacked against the outside wall of the library up on
1157 College Way and he wondered what they were there for. I talked to one person who was
1158 on the library board at one time and she said most of the business that the library board
1159 did was to arrange to get the cords of wood that it took to heat the building, and those
1160 woodstoves stayed there until 1948 when the building was remodeled and they put in
1161 electric heat. One more thing about in the teens, the 19-teens. The Women's Club in
1162 town played a very active role in supporting the library, in buying books, in doing what
1163 was needed from then and particularly after the fire. The refurnished the library after the
1164 fire and later on they provided the money to establish the children's needs in the library.
1165

1166 In 1919 there was a big fire on a Sunday afternoon when there was a wind. It started on
1167 the east side of Main St. just north of 21st St, and went up Main St on the east side of
1168 Main St. and went down 21st St to College Way. All of the buildings on 21st St. were
1169 more or less burned. The fire was slow enough, the progress was slow enough, that the
1170 college students and townspeople were able to take all the books out of the library and
1171 take them over on the campus, and then after the fire people took the books home and
1172 kept them in their homes and then a year or so later they brought them back when there
1173 was a new library finished. So, there is, as far as I know, no record at all as to how many
1174 books there were before the fire. The building was not entirely burned down, part of the
1175 walls were left, and the newspaper said right away the next week, it will undoubtedly be
1176 rebuilt, but the Women's Club didn't leave anything to chance. They sent a committee to
1177 speak to the city council about rebuilding the building and offered to help in any they
1178 could, and the building was rebuilt very promptly and the Women's Club helped to
1179 refurnish it.
1180

1181 After the fire, the library was open soon, by 1921 at least, the library began to grow. And
1182 during the 20s, 30s, and 40s, it's very interesting to read the records, the reports they
1183 make to the city council and to the state library board. There is one report about how the
1184 library is run for the whole year on \$900. The librarian got \$300, the janitor got \$100 and
1185 that left \$500 to buy all the books, the magazines and the wood to keep the library
1186 running. By around 1932, 60% of the people of Forest Grove were borrowers at the
1187 library and a number of people outside of town were borrowers. The biggest need in the
1188 late 30s was for a children's room, particularly for books and proper furniture that the
1189 children could use, particularly in the summer time. And the city council then provided,
1190 the Women's Club put pressure on this, the Rotary Club provided money and the city
1191 council some, and the children's department was built into the library. Then in 1948, the

1192 building was renovated, new furniture and one thing that I found interesting that I forgot
1193 to say is that when the rebuilt it after the fire, the rebuilt it like a store, that it is you see it
1194 had been a store before with a storefront which we all remember from Rogers Library.
1195 They rebuilt the storefront purposely, so it still has a storefront that was rebuilt after the
1196 fire.

1197

1198 The books were not catalogued during these decades. The amount of money that the city
1199 appropriated for the library went up gradually, the librarians pay went up from the \$300 a
1200 year which it started. The books in the early 50s were finally catalogued with the
1201 Dewey Decimal System and they got in 1953 a card catalog, their first card catalog.

1202

1203 In 1968, Dick Boling's son Tom was the first professional librarian who had a master's of
1204 library science, and then Gregory and Mike Smith have been the librarians since then. In
1205 1974, the library trustees as they were called before were made a library commission by
1206 the city council and the library became a department of the city. And in 1978, this
1207 wonderful new building was built on a federal grant with no debt on it, and we moved
1208 into this building." (applause)

1209

1210 **Mike Smith:** Thank you, Peg. Our next speaker who will catch us up on the news of the
1211 current library is Gib Patterson. Gib is the Mayor of Forest Grove and in that role, he
1212 continues a tradition of public service in his family, as Gib's father before him, again a
1213 resident of Forest Grove, of course, was Mayor about the years 1916-1920. Gib says he
1214 can pin down those dates because he remembers his father giving the order the church
1215 bell should be rung at the Armistice of 1917. Gib?

1216

1217 **Gib Patterson:** "Equal chance now, those of you that wish to leave, may, and those who
1218 are still standing come on up and have a seat. Virginia, would you like to have a chair?
1219 And come on in and be sociable if you care to. Uh, I must make one correction. Mike, I
1220 didn't hear him say that because I wasn't born then, but he did evidently request that the
1221 church bells be rung at the time of the Armistice, at least that's what he told me and I'm
1222 sure that would be true. It says here, "Jubilate" (shows an invitation). Mike sent me
1223 this and it says "Cordially invited to celebrate in the Diamond Jubilee of the library".
1224 You know, sometimes these professionals give you a little pause for thought. I said
1225 "Jubilate". I don't remember that word. It's kind of like Mike Solomon, my city
1226 manager, he throws some things in sometimes and I gotta look him up just to keep him
1227 honest. Well you know, I might have known, Mike is honest because, all these books and
1228 everything, I looked it up and sure enough it says, jubilate. It comes from a very old
1229 word, to rejoice, to be joyful, so Mike, you're okay. You got off the hook.

1230

1231 Now, briefly just I wanted to tell you that probably the library, having been born here in
1232 Forest Grove, it's touched my life in several ways, has probably touched everyone's life
1233 that has lived in Forest Grove and this is a fine thing. There's a couple of things. Now,
1234 when I came on the scene, Dr. Holmes and his wife May were at the head of the library.
1235 Because of her illnesses most of the time the good doctor was more or less the librarian
1236 because he did take over. But the thing I remember, starting to talk about how it touched
1237 your lives, which was the fact that as a young boy at that time, which I was about six or

1238 seven, I remember a very vibrant Dr. Holmes marching down the street with his cane, and
1239 very well dressed, and sometimes in a cutaway, because he was, of course, minister of the
1240 Congregational Church, and then had moved on later in the years and had come back here
1241 to retire. But, you could hear his voice mostly all over Forest Grove, at least uptown, and
1242 those of you who remember Dr. Holmes will verify that fact. But the thing that I
1243 remember particularly is a saying that he had on cold mornings, and it was always
1244 astounding to me until later I finally realized what it meant, but on a cold, slippery,
1245 frosty, morning he would stand up in the middle of town and say, "This is a musical day,
1246 a musical day, see sharp or you'll be flat". And I always thought about that and finally it
1247 came through to me what the gentleman had meant. That was one of my first memories
1248 of life connected with the library.

1249
1250 The second one I'll share with you was when Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Anna Moore was
1251 librarian, and I started high school at the age of 12. I like people to think, of course, that I
1252 was some sort of a gifted youth starting that early, but really what happened was my
1253 birthday fell in January and so I had to go to school a year earlier than I should have
1254 started school. But anyway, starting school at 12, then when I was 13, I had a wonderful
1255 idea that I should have a car because, after all, when you're in teens, you've reached the
1256 age of maturity. So, unbeknownst to anyone else, I bargained and got a Model T. It was
1257 quite a dilapidated thing, so I went to the library and I said "Mrs. Moore, have you
1258 anything that will help me restore this wonderful car" and at that time it should have been
1259 in the junk heap, but she said "Why yes, I think I can, Gilbert". So, very helpfully, we
1260 went through the stacks and we did find, of course, Clinton's Review of the Mechanical
1261 Aptitude of Taking Care of a Model T. And so, I got that, took it out, took it home and
1262 went through it completely. And about that time, after acquiring the Model T, I parked it
1263 behind the house. The next morning my father got up and he said to me, "Gib, is that
1264 yours?" and I said, "Well, yes Dad" and he said (and I bless him for this, he didn't say,
1265 "hey at 13, you aren't going to have a car, now get it out of here) "Well, son, because of
1266 insurance, because of the mechanical liability, and because of the fact that it would be
1267 quite expensive to restore that car, I feel that by tonight it shouldn't be back there
1268 anymore, it should be gone." And that was kind of the way he always talked to me, and
1269 I got the point, believe me, because he was about my size and I wasn't that big yet. And
1270 so I thought, well, that's a problem but I guess I better do it, so I sold it to Eldon
1271 Bartlett's dad, at the time he had a garage, in fact, that sat right about here and I got
1272 \$7.50 for it, and that is just what I paid for it. So, I started out right that way, but I took
1273 the Clinton's mechanic paper back to Mrs. Moore and even at that time, I had a little
1274 sense of humor and so that has helped me through the years, and I said, "well, you know
1275 Mrs. Moore", in inquiry to her question "How did you make out with that Gib?" I said,
1276 well there was a chapter missing, and she said a chapter missing?, and I said yes, and she
1277 said pray tell what was that? And I said well, that was the chapter on your father's
1278 reaction and that wasn't there, and it would have saved me a lot of time if it had been.
1279 But anyway, I'm not sure Mrs. Moore ever did quite figure out what I meant by that, but I
1280 knew.

1281
1282 But anyway, now Mike says you can bore them to death and this is a chance to leave,
1283 because I'm going to tell you some figures. They're kind of important and kind of

1284 interesting though, and I won't keep you very long. But as you remember, most of you
1285 do, this building was dedicated in 1978 and it was build by federal funding. And it was
1286 the Local Public Works Act that did this and our city did receive \$2.4 million at that time
1287 which was a lot, even yet today, and of that amount we spent \$880,000, almost a million,
1288 for this building and for its furnishings, which we have used ever since. This building is
1289 six times bigger than the one we talked about up on the corner. It has over 10,000 square
1290 feet of floor space which ahs been put to good use. They serve about 12,000 people a
1291 month. Now that's a lot of people. That's more people than live in Forest Grove, come
1292 through our doors here every month to use the library. Last year, Mike said that he put
1293 out 130,000 items, checked them out to the people who wished to avail themselves. At
1294 the present time we have about 36,000 books, I believe, in the library. Mike subscribes
1295 to 180 publications. You can find almost anything from how much a used car should cost
1296 to Life magazine. Whatever you need, it's here. We've got a new approach too, in this
1297 library today, and it's I suppose what you would call the no print media. Mike has over
1298 1200 tapes and records which people now are availing themselves of, instead of having to
1299 come in to look at something, they can hear it, they can read it. For the partially blind or
1300 for those that can understand this better, it is quite a godsend. It's a thing that we
1301 probably will go for more and more as time goes on. For eight years, I know for a fact,
1302 that the library has cooperated with Washington County in helping people in the county
1303 that cannot come to the library, or that need that additional help, or that cannot because of
1304 some reason, avail themselves of it here. We've had a contractual operation with the
1305 county in that respect. And along with that of course, we've cooperated with all the
1306 libraries in the county so that there is a rapid exchange of books and services which helps
1307 everyone in this county. We are probably in a computer age, we all hear that word. I
1308 know that Mike's staff uses a microcomputer to keep up with the records. I'm sure that is
1309 going to become more and more prevalent. In fact, it may come a day in which you and I
1310 sit at home and press a little red button that says library and then we'll dial in what we
1311 want and it will appear on our screen and also the audio will be there. I don't think that's
1312 too far off. I don't know how Mike's going to work that. At that time, I don't know why
1313 we'd need a librarian really, well we'll see about that Mike.

1314
1315 Well anyway, in conclusion, I still feel that this is Mrs. Stamford's library. The reason
1316 for that is, people come, they mingle, they talk, they come in out of the cold, they read,
1317 they associate, and they Jubilate, if that's the word, and I find that people can still come
1318 and sit and be themselves, and I think this whole thing is the cause of many of you people
1319 that are out there, the way that you've reacted to our library and I must say that Mike
1320 Smith, our librarian, has done a lot to help us get this library started and have it mean to
1321 the people of Forest Grove what it means today. Thank you very much. (applause).

1322
1323 **Mike Smith:** Thank you Gib. Our next speaker is Jeanette Hamby. Jeanette is our state
1324 senator. She represents District 5 which goes from Forest Grove all the way through the
1325 middle of Beaverton. Jeanette has been eight years on the school board in Hillsboro. In
1326 1981 she was a state representative in Salem. She just finished her first year as a state
1327 senator. She served on the senate judiciary committee and on the senate's mental health
1328 for children committee. She returned a few months ago from a trip to Nicaragua. She
1329 also authored a bill in the last session to create a commission on futures research and has

1330 been appointed by the governor as a member of that commission. So, appropriately,
1331 Jeanette will speak to us about the future of libraries.

1332
1333 **Jeanette Hamby:** Thank you so much. I can't tell you what an honor and a personal
1334 delight it is to be here today to help celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Forest Grove
1335 Public Library. And unlike Gil, because I am a politician, if you don't mind, if I don't
1336 use my script I may well go off on a tangent, so I'll follow my script a little closer than
1337 Gil did.

1338
1339 As we look back, and most especially today in looking back, through our rearview mirror
1340 of our road on down to the future, one must recognize that Forest Grove started early as a
1341 center for both education and culture. In a day when women were allowed to be a little
1342 more than household drudges, and as a matter of fact it was not until 1872 that the
1343 Oregon legislature enacted the first law recognizing the existence of married women, and
1344 it was called the Married Woman's Sole Trader's Bill. But 25 years before this earth-
1345 shaking legislation, Tabitha Brown assisted by Harvey Clark founded a boarding school
1346 for children and settlers and Indians. The Tualatin Academy finally evolved into Pacific
1347 University. Classes in higher education were begun in 1854 and Pacific University's
1348 library was begun in 1855. While education here in the Forest Grove community, began
1349 in the late 1840s, more than a half a century passed before the beginnings of the Rogers
1350 Library, and significantly, through the dedicated efforts of yet another woman, Mrs.
1351 Adeline Rogers. The history of the perseverance and interest of librarians Barker,
1352 Sanford, Penfield and to the present day reflects the close community ties enjoyed by the
1353 library. The support, of course, that it has received from the city council, the community,
1354 sparked by the Forest Grove Women's Club represented municipal cooperation at its
1355 strongest and at its best. And of course, today in 189, pardon me – 1984, we continue to
1356 see the support of community strength given to the Rogers Library, and the university
1357 library at Pacific continues to be the leader in interlibrary cooperation in the county to
1358 ensure that their resource is available to all while preserving the rights for the students
1359 and the faculty.

1360
1361 A look to the immediate future reveals plans for a county-wide computer network that
1362 will link the holdings and the records of all the public libraries and Pacific University.
1363 This will make it possible from any library at all to see the holdings of all the libraries
1364 and allow us to use our resources far more fully, and most especially to avoid
1365 unnecessary duplication. Computer terminals yes, are replacing our card catalogs in
1366 libraries today all over the country, and we can expect this to happen in Forest Grove
1367 also. And as the role of computers in storing and transferring information grows, their
1368 use in our libraries will also. The city library, of course, will certainly see
1369 microcomputers for direct public use, and microcomputers used to help answer reference
1370 questions with online databases.

1371
1372 And we can expect to see the start and the growth of videocomputer software collections
1373 and the transfer of live television programs between the libraries in our country. And just
1374 as the library was recognized yesterday as a community center with a room to rest, this
1375 role will certainly continue as the library and its patrons learn to use the new avenue of

1376 cable television. Imagine, televised local government meetings followed by
1377 commercials offering and showing what's new at the Forest Grove City Library. And
1378 just as our cable system develops, the future will allow us to request library books, as Gil
1379 mentioned, right from the comfort of our own living rooms. Couple this with a state-
1380 wide communication between all libraries allowing quick access for all Oregonians to all
1381 of the entire state's library resources. Yes, these changes will come to pass before the
1382 turn of the century, but the role of the public library as a key information provider,
1383 essential in a free society, will not change.

1384
1385 I'd like to share with you very briefly a news clip from the Oregon Statesman-Journal,
1386 just a few days ago, about a debate over a city tax support for the Stayton Public Library,
1387 and if I may quote, it reads "A debate over city tax support for the Stayton Public Library
1388 is a tragic insight into why the U.S. educational system and technology base are going to
1389 hell in a handbag. The Stayton Mail reports that city councilman George Carter told a
1390 delegation of library supporters he opposed city funding for the library because reading is
1391 a hobby and the city has no business financing a hobby. When community leaders
1392 consider reading a frivolous past time, this country is in trouble." Yes, I don't need to
1393 stand here and remind this audience that free access to information is as important to our
1394 way of life as free speech. And we, the public, must continue to defend and support both
1395 principles. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your celebration today.

1396
1397 Mike Smith: Thank you Jeanette. Thank you for reminding us that public support is
1398 probably the most important thing. We see in all three of the speeches we have had
1399 today. This kind of support in Forest Grove is certainly represented in the Forest Grove
1400 Women's Club. You heard the name of the Women's Club mentioned a number of times
1401 in Peg's presentation and they have been a pivotal organization toward the development
1402 of the city library. Connie Fries is the current president of the Forest Grove Women's
1403 Club and she will speak to us next. She has quite a formal library background, working
1404 in both public school libraries and at the Florida State University Library. She has lived
1405 in Forest Grove a number of years now and is the director of the C Notes singing group at
1406 the senior center. She is a realtor for Bump and Green, she is past president of the
1407 Hillsboro chapter of AAUW and she is a registered parliamentarian, there aren't many of
1408 those around, and she gives instruction in this skill. She is also a past matron of Eastern
1409 Star here in Forest Grove. She is going to speak to us on the role of the Women's Club in
1410 the history of the library. And then, we're going to have our drawing, which Connie
1411 will do as well. Connie... (applause)

1412
1413 Connie Fries: Thank you. Actually the role of the Women's Club is perhaps
1414 considerably broader than any of the other folks you've heard this afternoon have alluded
1415 to. Let me take you to Miami. Now this is Miami quite some years ago. We're going to
1416 go to the public library; it's called the Flagler Memorial Library named for Henry M.
1417 Flagler who was instrumental in developing south Florida as a great recreational area.
1418 The library is on the main floor of the Women's Club Building. If you are familiar with
1419 Miami, it's right across the street from the back entrance to the large Jordan Marsh
1420 department store in downtown Miami. The library was in the building that belonged to
1421 the Women's Club right on Biscayne Bay so as we would walk in the door we could hear

1422 the swishing palm trees outside and the sloshing of the bay water as it would pound up
1423 against the sea wall which was immediately surrounding the area where the building is.
1424 As a youngster, I delighted in going there. My dad was always a very avid reader. We
1425 went almost every Saturday. We did not have a car, so it involved walking to the library
1426 some little distance, but I loved going in there. It had marble floors, so it was always
1427 kind of cool and pleasant. If you know tropical climates, you know it's quite hot. So it
1428 was sort of cool and pleasant in there, and this was also B.A.C, before air conditioning,
1429 so it was a delightful opportunity to have a little cool time in a beautiful building and
1430 share exciting books. My dad introduced me early to Zane Grey who was one of his
1431 favorite authors, so I knew all about the Riders of the Purple Sage and Moab, Utah, a
1432 place where we spent a lot of time afterwards. But, that was my introduction to the great
1433 West. And also he loved Rex Beach, who sometimes lived in Florida too. He loved Rex
1434 Beach and the stories about Alaska so I knew all about the silver horde and thought, 'My,
1435 wouldn't it be exciting to live in a great place like the West', never dreaming that I would
1436 actually wind up in this great country. So, my introduction to your great country was
1437 actually via the printed page, "the great hobby" as the fellow down in Stayton considers it
1438 to be. But really much more than a hobby, a great way to open one's eyes to what is
1439 available.

1440
1441 As a youngster, not only did I delight in reading, but I loved to watch the library lady.
1442 Do you know Eleanor Estes wonderful books about Rufus M? If y'all don't, you must
1443 get them. If you're a youngster yourself, ask the librarian at school to show you Eleanor
1444 Estes. If you're an adult, have your children or grandchildren read about Rufus M.
1445 Rufus M learned to write his name in the library, with the direction of the lady whom he
1446 always called the library lady. He didn't know her name. New Haven, Connecticut, a
1447 wonderful story, charming. At any rate, I loved the library lady at the Flagler Memorial
1448 Library. The thing I liked best was the little gadget she had on her pencil. Now, if y'all
1449 are old enough, you'll remember that years ago, at the checkout desk, the library lady
1450 used her pencil with a sort of metal gadget into which the pencil was inserted and by
1451 tipping the pencil down, the date would be stamped because at the end of this little gadget
1452 was a way to insert letters and numbers to spell out the date. I thought that stamping
1453 arrangement was just the neatest thing and I can remember thinking, "Oh, if one ever
1454 could get to be a librarian, then one could stand at the desk and just have such a great
1455 time stamping books.

1456
1457 As a college student, I worked in the public library. It had been moved out of the
1458 building that belonged to the Women's Club, it was downtown then. And one of the
1459 neatest things to me was when the librarian said to me, "Would you like to work at the
1460 desk?", Oh would I like to work at the desk, get to stamp the books with that marvelous
1461 little gadget on the end of the pencil.

1462
1463 As Mike told you, later on I became a school librarian. I was head librarian in a school
1464 where we had about 15,000 volumes, about 1300 youngsters coming and going every
1465 day. When I got to be head librarian, I thought, "Oh, I'm going to have a whole
1466 collection of those cute little things that stamp". Mike has something else that I think is
1467 just darling. I used to look in the library catalog and see those wonderful kick-stands,

1468 there are three of them over here at my left. I always thought if I ever got to be a rich
1469 librarian, I'd have a whole assortment of those so I could just have stands everywhere and
1470 pop up and down to get books off the high shelves because short people always struggle
1471 as you know. At any rate, here I was, head librarian, and I had about a dozen of these
1472 little stamping gadgets. There's only one little problem, when you're working with wee
1473 little kiddies, wee little youngsters can open, can break, can tear up, can undo anything.
1474 Did you know that? A salesman came to me one day and he said, "Mrs. Fries I am going
1475 to sell you a piece of equipment that is absolutely childproof. It's earphones so that
1476 youngsters can listen to cassettes. No child can ever take this apart". The next day after
1477 the salesman left, two of my youngsters had already figured out how to take it apart. So,
1478 you see, nothing is really childproof. So here I was with my dozen little stampers and
1479 my little youngsters all ready to stamp. Children learn very quickly that by one quick flip
1480 the little screw that turns the little ___??? place there can be undone, and do you know
1481 what happens?, the type flies out. So I discovered I was spending half my day down on
1482 my hands and knees picking up these miniscule pieces of type and sticking them back in
1483 this little dater thing. So, it didn't take very long before we chose to use the kind of band
1484 dater that you see Mrs. Hunter and other folks in this library using. But it was an exciting
1485 thought while it lasted.

1486

1487 I told you that we used to go to the library in the Women's Club. I didn't realize why we
1488 went to the library in the Women's Club. When I was a college student in Tallahassee, I
1489 used to go to the library there and it was also in the Women's Club building. I did not
1490 put two and two together until much later. In fact, not until just a few years ago, did I
1491 learn something that I think is very significant and very exciting. Women's Clubs in the
1492 United States were responsible for the inception of 93% of all the libraries in the United
1493 States. And that's kind of exciting to think that all across America women, at the turn of
1494 the century or slightly before, were busy figuring out a way, how can we have this
1495 centerpiece right in the middle of town, or someplace where patrons can get to it easily.
1496 How can we have this wonderful place where everybody can come and read and share
1497 and have wonderful times like the folks in Forest Grove have had. Just think what
1498 America would be like if women all over America had not been eager to do that. Later,
1499 our library, as I said, did move out of the Women's Club Building. It has in most
1500 communities. It has gone into a building of its own, but always there will be that great
1501 feeling of gratitude for the impetus that Women's Clubs everywhere have given to library
1502 service.

1503

1504 As a classroom teacher, I went every two weeks to our public library to take books back
1505 to my classroom. I would like y'all to know that I did that for seven years, every other
1506 week, and I took 50 books at a time, and out of all those books, we lost only one book,
1507 which I think is rather a creditable record. I'm telling you this because I want you to
1508 know the name of one of my students. Some of you, who know me well, know my story.
1509 Those of you who have not heard it will rejoice to know that the young man who is the
1510 president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, here in Forest Grove, a young fellow
1511 named Hal Andrews was in my fourth grade 30 years ago. So, he was one of the
1512 youngsters for whom I went to the Miami Public Library and got books every other week.
1513 There are lots of Florida crackers coming and more are going to be coming because those

1514 of us who've moved here from Florida are singing the praises of Oregon as loudly as we
1515 can.

1516
1517 One of my longtime friends was state librarian in Kansas and she has told me too of the
1518 small towns in Kansas, which would be like small towns in Oregon, small towns
1519 everywhere, where the library staff perhaps working on a very informal basis was able to
1520 provide service for the patrons. You've heard the others refer to working out a card
1521 catalog. The first card catalog that I saw in a small town library had cards all written by
1522 hand. It's been a long time since librarians have done cards by hand. We're in a very
1523 sophisticated period now. Senator Hamby referred to new horizons of sophistication.
1524 Just think, we have spanned the period between handwritten catalog cards and the ultra
1525 sophistication of being able to plug in to a computer terminal and talk to libraries all over
1526 America. You can imagine sweet little housewives everywhere and sweet little friends of
1527 the library struggling with their copies of Dewey, trying to figure how a catalog card
1528 might be worked out, doing it by hand. Now step into Mike's workroom and see all the
1529 sophisticated material that he has to work with. With the exception of a few of the major
1530 libraries in the United States like the New York Public, the Boston Library, and by the
1531 way for those of you who have not been to Boston lately, the new Neiman-Marcus
1532 department store is right across the street from the Boston Public Library, think how neat
1533 it would be to be a librarian there Mike. You could have lunch at the Copley Plaza, and
1534 then shop in Neiman-Marcus, and then come back to the great Boston Public which has a
1535 tremendous collection of books. Chicago, some of the other big cities, were actually
1536 started as city libraries, but just think of all the other libraries in America, most of which
1537 were started just because women in Women's Clubs saw the need for having the
1538 centerpiece, the focal point of the community be its library.

1539
1540 Some of y'all will remember seeing "The Music Man". Remember the heroine in "The
1541 Music Man" was a library lady named Marian Caroo (Paroo). Do you remember the
1542 song about "Marian The Librarian"? I saw that in New York City by myself one Fourth
1543 of July quite some years ago, and when she sang the line about her patrons could lie like
1544 carrion because Marian always was very quiet, you know ssshhh, very quiet type
1545 librarian, I was the only one in the theater who laughed, and I decided maybe I was a
1546 Marian librarian type, or maybe I was the only one who knew what the word carrion
1547 meant. At any rate, nobody else laughed, I was the only one who was just absolutely
1548 hysterical.

1549
1550 After the women's clubs in America had gotten libraries started, it became evident that
1551 more money, more types of financing would have to be forthcoming. You will recall that
1552 during the 1930s and the early 1940s, much money from Andrew Carnegie, even as early
1553 as the late 1920s, much money from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation was channeled
1554 into libraries and it was at that point that many libraries in the east, in the south and in the
1555 Midwest, were able to build fine buildings and were able to really make an impact, a
1556 bigger impact on the community than ever before. It is a joy to see that the library in this
1557 community is the centerpiece. It's a joy to see many people coming to the library and
1558 using it in all the wonderful ways that Mike and his staff have worked out. As a former
1559 school librarian, I can tell Mike that the floor in his library today looks very much like a

1560 disaster area in a school library and I understand exactly what it's going to take to work
1561 over here, but we'll give you a little hand on that. Also as a former librarian, it's a great
1562 privilege to Jubilate with the Forest Grove Library at the time of its 75th Anniversary. I
1563 bring you greetings from the Forest Grove Women's Club because we love libraries and
1564 we love Forest Grove. Thank you so much. (Applause)

1565

1566 This concludes our program. The Forest Grove City Library Diamond Jubilee
1567 Celebration is supported entirely by private donations.

1568

1569 Jubilee Participants: Computer Fair, Col. Edward Blackman,

1570

1571

1572

1573

1574

1575

1576

1577

1578

1579

1580

1581

1582

1583

1584

1585

1586

1587

1588

1589

1590

1591

1592

1593

1594

1595

1596

1597

1598

1599

1600

1601

1602

1603

1604

1605