

Taken from the 1919-1920 library scrapbook of Helena LaFevre. The scrapbook contains pictures, financial records, letters, library bulletins, newspaper clippings, etc. This specific transcript covers LeFevre's trips in 1920 to set up library points in various towns for the traveling book service for Menominee County. Home base was the Spies Public Library in Menominee.

REPORTS OF COUNTY TRIPS BY LIBRARIAN

February 3. Leaving Menominee on the noon train (1Hr. late). I reached Carney early in the afternoon. With very little trouble, secured a boy who transferred the box to the post office. The paper sign announcing the Carney branch was placed in the window and after the noon mail had been distributed Miss Olson assisted me in opening the box and in finding the best location. Realizing the value of advertising I then went to the school building and while there visited the three rooms saying just a few words in each. After school I returned to the post office and was kept busy explaining all about the library – no money – books free and willingness to supply any non-fiction book form [sic-from] our own collection. Over 20 books were checked. Mr. Neece requested 2 hog and poultry books. Had supper with Miss Olson and then took the 7 O'clock train (1 hr. late) for Nadeau.

Mrs. Nadeau met me and her son came for the books. Unfortunately the store was closed so that her books were circulated. Explanations were made regarding the rules and regulations to Miss Stella Nadeau who is to have charge in the store. Mrs. Nadeau took me to her home to wait for the train. (1 and one half hours late.

February 5, 1920. Left on the noon train for Ingalls. One box of books was left off at Wallace, the conductor giving Mr. Schuette the baggage check. With the help of a small impatient boy I got the box lifted on the sled and four High School girls coming to our rescue we carried the box in the store and opened it so the school people might see the books during the noon hour.

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Later when Mr. Clawson came he extended the window shelf for one case, splendid location. I then went [sic- went] up the hill to the new school house introduced myself to the teachers. The teacher of the primary grade was very much dissapointed [sic-disappointed] in the group of books sent by the County Supt of Schools. She had reasons to be, there was none that she could use in the primary grades. We decided that the 10 books suitable for the lower grades would be of more service in the school room and she was given permission to take them there.

I then returned to the store to "Catch a hitch to Wallace". More than 20 books were charged. At 5 o'clock Miss Helen (Primary teacher) thought that her landlord might take me so I walked home with her. (One-half mile).

After supper they took me to Wallace, where again I was unfortunate, the Post Office being closed. By telephone I made arrangements to meet Miss Landre, and a little later I explained the work of a branch library to her, in the post office. I then spent a very interesting hour in the Wallace C.N.W. [Chicago Northwest] Station to a free lecture on Mental Science as illustrated Mary Baker Eddy, the breath and health movement, etc.

February 7, 1920. The librarian left town on the noon train (1 and one half hrs. late). At Stephenson the checks for baggage and charging file were left with a representative of Miss Loth. Mr. Swanson was at the station in Daggett with a hand sled and the box was conveyed to the hotel. The entire family gathered around and pounced upon the books for their own personal use, having their father check them at once. As soon as the detail work was explained the librarian went downstairs to wait for the cutter. There she found that two of the girls had washed their hair and with towels over their shoulders for protection from dampness

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were sitting before the base burner reading. At four fifteen we started for Stephenson reaching there shortly after five. With the help of Mr. Larson the boxes were opened and placed one on top of the other in a vacant wall space at the right of the front door. The drug store closes from 6-7:15 and so the librarian went to the hotel for supper. Here she advertised the library to Father Liedgen and several school teachers and a half dozen [sic-dozen], calming all fears concerning the chances for contagion thru the books.

Returning to the drug store, Miss Loth and Miss LeFevre were kept busy picking and checking out books until closing time, shortly before nine. Thirty books of all kinds going out. Europe history, Life on the Mississippi, et etc.

It was particularly interesting to hear the comments regarding the need of a library, expectations for future patronage.

Miss Loth regretted that there had not been more time for advertising but the confusion of the week delayed the receipt of our letter until Friday P.M. too late to notify the school and many individuals.

Crossing the street with Miss Loth at 9:40, to get the evening train we heard the following. "Say Buddie, have youse started your book yet?" I am on page seven."

On the train Mr. Schuette joined me and suggested that the next box to Wallace contained more religious books of. The Swedish Lutherans and Mission Friends particularly wanted books by Mrs. E.D. Southworth, Bertha M. Clay, E.P. Roe, and H.B. Wright.

The librarian explained that the Spies Public Library would do its best to provide religious books of fiction but that these particular authors had been read so little of late in Menominee that they had not been ordered for the County.

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March 3, 1920. The fourth group of libraries was located on March 3, 1920. As usual the train was over an hour late in spite of the change of ownership. I reached Daggett at two o'clock. Thru the aid of Mr. Swanson, our branch librarian a drive and cutter with box attachment was secured. While waiting for them I had time to examine the Daggett collection, which had been in service for over three weeks. Only half of the books were in and practically all of the books were from 3-4 charges.

After driving 8 miles against a cutting wind and snow storm for part of the time we reached Banat. Taking 20 or 30 minutes, to explain details to Mr. Roth, we drove on to Nathan. Mr. Wilkins

welcomed us cordially in spite of his dislike [sic-dislike] of my previous slur on the W & M R.R. Due to the fact that the weather prevented much outdoor work there were a number of men in the store while Mr. Wilkins supplied them with snuff, kerosene, candy, cigars and the likes I arranged the books and attracted their attention to the library. On the way before we left each was supplied with a book and was exceedingly thankful, that the severe storm held no terrors for the Spies Public Library. On the way back we stopped at Banat for our boxes of carefully [sic-carefully] packed fresh eggs and found that Mr. Roth had placed the Book Container in plain view from the doorway.

We then returned to Daggett by way of a logging road thru Virgin timber, and thus avoided the wind and drifts. Casualty, one frosted heel.

At the hotel that evening I met Rev. Brumen who with his congregation had been attending a Ladies Aid party in the Country. Mrs. Swanson had spoken of the library during the supper time (four kinds of baked beans, scalloped potatoes, angel and other kind of food)

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Saturday March 6. I telephoned the hotel at Hermonsville [sic-Hermansville] of my plans for the library trip that day. I left on the noon train and found Hermansville still very much upset by the recent fire and strike. Mr. Jensen [? Possible different spelling] had not received my message and was very busy shaving his Saturday patrons.

However after a delay of an hour the boxes arrived at the Company's Boarding House [sic-House]. With the awesome assistance of the chief loafer the boxes were unpacked and the adult one placed on top of the other. All afternoon, the men came [sic-came] in and gazed at the boxes, books and me as if we were species sent out for curiosity's [sic-curiosity's] sake. After a time I took out some of the books and placed them on the table. These they looked at and when I returned from Supper at Miss Radfords I found that during my absence they had gained courage and picked out books ready for charging.

Other men came in taking confidence from their companions daring drew books. We had 3 calls for Robinson Crusoe. One woman and one little girl took books, the rest were drawn by men.

I expressed at Radfords a fear that women might not want to go to this location of the Hermansville Library but Grandma Dallan, who is 85 and still very keen said she knew of no cleaner place than the barber shop, and that Mothers might send their daughters in the P.M.

Gelinda (an unusual maiden of Italian birth) said when asked about her wishes for Italian books "Sure I can read 'em, but I'd rather read American cause I am American now-"

Monday, March 15, 1920. Four book containers and I left Menominee on the noon train. Mr.

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Bradner, the storekeeper at Powers, met me at the station and two boys from the Powers-Spalding H.S. with their hand sled conveyed th [sic] the boxes to the H.S. and Post Office. As soon as they arrived at the school, Mr. Carpenter assembled the 7-12 grades and I spoke to them about their libraries. At the close of the talk the boxes were opened and the boys and girls given an opportunity to examine the

books. Luckily Mr. Carpenter was foresighted and the children came forward in groups. The application cards were given out and the children were allowed to select a book to take home with them that day.

For a while I was swamped with requests "Gimme this one" "Naw wait on me first. When all the children had been served I went into the sixth grade room, spoke to them a few minutes, and then checked out books. (Later Mr. Carpenter said that wighty [sic-?] -nine books were circulated that day in the upper grades alone.)

It was decided that a certain day would be set aside for each grade to have access to the library, with their teacher in charge.

Mr. Carpenter then went with me to Spalding and we located the Spalding branch in the Beatson store, with Miss Beatson in charge. Miss Shannon joined us here and we next called on Father Fillion, to bespeak his support for the branch library. He is a very influential citizen in this community.

After supper the branch was opened at the Powers P.O. and telephone station, with Miss Montpas in charge. There had been a discussion in regard to the best location, and the wuestion [sic-question] was finally placed before the town council, who made the decision.

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We placed in the box, the book "Eat and grow thin" by Thompson. This was gleefully selected for "Dolly", a bouncing young man, by his friends. The boy, however, turned to me an [sic-and] in all seriousness, inquired if it "honest to John" would help him to reduce. Being answered on this score, he sighed with deep satisfaction, and requested me to check it on his card.

I found that if I remained in the background, more interesting comments were made regarding their likes and dislikes, and so I did this.

Thursday, March 18, 1920. As usual I left town on the noon train, and was met in Wilson by Mr. Harris. We went at once to his store, opened the box, and explained. Mr. Haris [sic-Harris] had the real old library idea that books were not to be handled by the children. I am sure that he will outgrow this.

Mr. Bagley came with a cutter, a big white horse, and the Harris box. I got in and after turning around like a dog in order to get into the space left in the cutter, we started for the thirteenth branch. The road was bare in many places, but there was plenty of snow at the Harris schoolhouse corner, where we turned too short and over went the cutter, out went the librarian tangled up in the robes, and under the box of books, Buried in three feet of snow.

After floundering in the snow the cutter and box were finally righted and we continued on our way.

Miss Fahey had dismissed her classes and although they lingered anxious to get a bo [sic-book], they were disappointed, for she refused ti [sic-to] give [pages were out of order.]

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to give any an unfair advantage over the others. After pictures, were taken, we returned to Wilson, and from there on the late train to Menominee.

April 13, 1920. At one o'clock the Carlson taxi stopped at the Library. After placing the three boxes in the back part of the auto the librarian started for the towns on the Bay Shore. The first stop was at Ingallston at Mrs. Grabowsky. Here we placed the collection in the sitting room which also housed the post office. After the explanations were made we drove on to Arthur Bay. The post office located at J. Christiansen's is some distance from the road but with the assistance of Miss Christianson the library was finally opened in the combined kitchen-dinning [sic-dining] room and post office combined. Miss Christiansen expressed a willingness to take care of the books and agreed with the need for rules. She said the children were "crazy after reading" and that grown folks were just as bad.

The roads between Arthur Bay and Cedar River were not as good as those previously traveled but we made good time and reached Cedar River at 3 o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. Nesbitt were in Milwaukee but Miss Nesbitt was at home and explanations [sic-explanations] were made to her. They have a good sized [sic-sized] collection of books but [sic-but] many of them are old and out of date, particularly the children's books and they have very few of these.

The return trip was made without any unusual incident. It is much more satisfactory to make these trips by automobile. The fifty mile drive with three stops only took three hours.

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April 9, 1920. [Incorrect date?] After many requests from Mrs. Miller for books, arrangements were finally made. Mr. Larsen called at the library for a collection of books. Fifty books were sent and these will be kept in the Gtange [sic-Grange] Hall. The Grange meets every two weeks on Sunday and it is felt the books will be well cared for and used from the Grange Hall as a base.

April 29, 1920. At 1:45 o'clock [sic-clock] the librarian left the librarty [sic-library] with the Carlson Taxi for Birch Creek, Carbondale and Greenwoods.

At Carbondale the collection of about 50 books was left with Mrs. Wagner at the store.

At Birch Creek, the library of 50 books was placed in charge of Mr. Chas. Bayerl at his store.

In both places the branch librarian was very willing to care for the books.

Greenwoods was reached after a long stretch of bad road. Here a little difficulty was experienced [sic-experienced]. It was found that Mrs. Spitzer suggested by Mr. Allgeyer as librarian lived at the edge of the farming commynity [sic-community]. The cheese factory centrally located was thought to be an ideal place. Two of the cheese were in Menominee but a third was found ploughing who was willing to allow the library to be placed there. However as the factory was open only every other day he suggested that the collection be placed in the school for the present. A change could be made later. He agreed with us that Mrs. Spitzer was too far away from the center of activities and that while he might go out of his way to get a book, there would be others who would not care to do so.

We then returned to the school. Here the librarian spoke to the children on the care of

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books and described the kinds of books in the collection. School was dismissed and explanations were made to the teacher after which the return trip to Menominee was made.

May 8, 1920. After much delay we left on the noon train for Stephenson. Dr. Sawbridge secured a taxi and after a bumpy trip in a ford we finally reached Swanson. Mrs. Kralowetz apologized [sic-apologized] for her husband's absence but made a good substitute. She was very glad to have the books in the store, and seemed much surprised to find children's books included. She told me that there were forty in the school and that they did their share in keeping the teacher and supplying children.

The cheese girl was summoned from the factory and despite portests [sic-protests] of dirt etc, we took their pictures. After this a visit was made to the factory which was in operation.

Returning to Stephenson the circulation statistics were taken from the books in and the cards of those still out.

Comments: Taxi driver, "Well, My boys git a book most every night and it sure keeps, 'em off the streets.

Patron "There's some thing to choose from now!"

June 8, 1920. The Librarian with four half-sized boxes left Menominee at 8:30 in the Carlson Taxi. The first stop was at Fox where the Library was placed temporarily in the home of Mr. Zettle. Gourley was the next stop, this town having been reached by a driver on the river road. Mr. Wauters the new supervisor has charge of this station which is located in his store. He was quite skeptical about the people using it ax [as] they are all Bohemians and there is a great deal of difficulty in getting the children to speak English in the schools.

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We reached Parronville about tow [sic-two] thirty and left the collection with Miss. Devine. Later we hope to place it in the store where Mr. La Violette is in charge. We drove on to Whitney. The fourth branch we intended placing at La Branch but when we reached Whitney we were told that all the houses has been torn down and loaded on flat cars so we changed our plans and left the collection with Mr. Aldrich in his store a very attractive building. Mr. Aldrich was rather discouraged. He had come from the city with community ideas and had met with indifference on the part of the Whitney natives. As a result he felt the hopelessness of tempting to educate the adults. Altho he admitted that the children could be reached. At last however he decided to rey [sic-try] to make it go.

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