

Loomis Basin Recorder

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For the Historical Record

Origins of the Loomis Library

Loomis Library Association

By Barbara Leak

The first known public library to serve the Loomis community was established in January 1899 by the Loomis Library Association. Six months after the library's opening, the *Placer Herald* reported on its success:

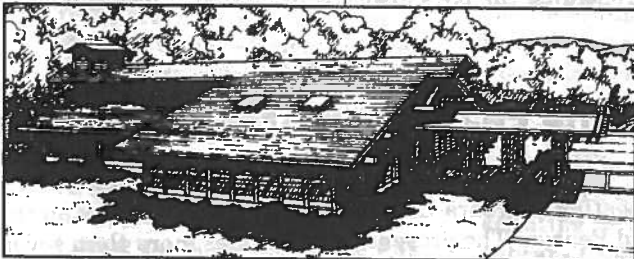
in general and in scientific literature. The greater number of books are scientific, which indicates that the majority of the patrons are of a practical and enquiring spirit.

July 29, 1899

By the following spring, the library had doubled in size. There was no librarian; books were loaned out on the honor system. A report of the Library Association's annual meeting appeared in the *Placer Herald*:

The annual meeting of the Loomis Library Association was held on May 18th, A. Ryder presiding. Mr. Ryder reported the number of books, illustrated magazines, etc., was more than 1,000 volumes; number of books borrowed since January 1st, 1900, 263; number of contributors, 91. The Reading Room contains, besides the above, the leading daily and weekly papers, and the principal illustrated magazines, and is open to all residents of Loomis and vicinity. Notwithstanding that the services of a

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The present home of the Loomis Library was built in 1980.

The public reading room is the pride of the town, and although in use but six months it has become a place of general resort. Its originators and promoters

have reason to be proud of their work. The room is well lighted and provided with desks and tables. The library, though young, numbers 500 volumes besides magazines, journals and newspapers. Leading English and American papers are found upon the tables. The library though miscellaneous contains copies of standard works

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Happenings

LBHS Invited to LFGA Gathering, Dec. 29

A long-standing tradition of the Loomis Fruit Growers Association (LFGA), Loomis' last operating fruit shed, was the annual End-of-Year party. While the LFGA is gone, former employees, growers and friends still gather each year to visit and reminisce. Local history, especially of the farms and fruit sheds, is often a topic of conversation. LBHS members are invited to attend this year's gathering on Thursday, December 29, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, at the home of LBHS member Cliff Kennedy, 2151 Yego Street, Penryn. Cliff's house is located next to the Penryn firehouse, in the old downtown area, north of the Masonic Hall. Refreshments are pot luck.

Origins of the Loomis Library

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librarian are not required, and that all is required of a borrower is to write in the borrowers' book his name, and the name of the book taken, be it said to the credit of the patrons of the library, that no books have yet been lost. The liberality of the residents and the deep interest shown is manifest by the fact that all the books in the library have been donated. The expenses are paid from voluntary contributions which, so far, have been very liberal. A movement is now on foot to secure the *Revised Encyclopedia Britannica* and other books. The residents of Loomis point with pride to their neat reading room, and visitors speak in highest terms of the advantages derived therefrom. Much credit is due Prof. Reineck for his efficient services in instituting the library and keeping up interest therein. The following officers were elected for the ensuing term: President, A. Ryder; Treasurer, H. Winton; Secretary, M.O. Holt. The following executive committee was appointed: Prof. J.E. Reineck, Mrs. S. C. Laird, Miss Ella Ferre, Dr. Brooke, H. Winton, M.O. Holt.

May 26, 1900

How long the Loomis Library Association existed is unknown. The next effort to establish a library occurred ten years later.

Loomis Branch Library

By Beth Enright

Around 1910, Mrs. Anna Blemer made her books available at the Blue Bird Tea Room. The books were privately owned by Mrs. Blemer and rented out by the day. As demand for books in Loomis grew, the Placer County Library in Auburn was contacted and a Loomis Branch Library was established.

After contacting County Librarian, Faye Russell, Mrs. Stacker was appointed as Custodian of the Branch on February 15, 1937. The room by the Loomis Post Office was selected as the site for the library. The Branch was open 9 hours a week and the pay was \$15.00 per month.

The Loomis Branch Library officially opened April 11, 1937. Mrs. Stacker later reported that there had been a fire and the Library had incurred the following damages:

- 1) labor to clean books, \$5.50;
- 2) damage from water, rebinding of 9 books, \$16.20;
- 3) books discarded from damage, \$9.00.

Total claim was \$20.70.

The building was repainted and used until 1954, when the County rented the McKellips Building across the road. From this time until 1960, Magdalena Eckhart was Library Clerk three days a week. Circulation was from 400 to 450 books per month. When Mrs. Eckhart became ill in 1960, Jessie Helms began substituting for her and was appointed Library Clerk after Mrs. Eckhart's death.

The Loomis Library moved across the street into new quarters on June 1, 1963. Mrs. Helms stayed on at the Library until her retirement, September 1, 1973. She continued to substitute and volunteer for the Library. Willa Comstock took charge of the Branch in 1979.

The Loomis Branch Library continued to expand and a new building, dedicated August 24, 1980, was built on Library Drive. The grounds are tended by members of the Loomis Friends of the Library. Beth Enright is the current Clerk. The Jessie Helms Community Room is in frequent use by a large number of organizations, including the Loomis Basin Historical Society which holds its monthly meetings there.



Professor Julius E. Reineck, a well-known music teacher and founder of the Loomis Library Association, appears in this 1905 photo with young accordion student, Fred Fieser.

Pioneer Portrait Professor Julius E. Reineck

By Barbara Leak

Professor Julius E. Reineck, credited by the *Placer Herald* with instituting Loomis' first library in 1899, was born in Germany in 1854. He immigrated to the United States about 1895, coming directly to Placer County and settling in the Loomis-Penryn area. Professor Reineck was a music teacher, having received his training at some of the finest music conservatories in Germany. He was well-known and highly-regarded throughout western Placer County as both a musician and instructor. He had students in nearly every town and district between Auburn and Roseville. On November 13, 1913, Professor Reineck was returning from a lesson at the Roseville residence of one of his pupils when his horse suddenly became frightened at a switch engine along Atlantic Street. Veering sharply, the horse "cramped" the buggy, throwing the professor beneath the vehicle. Professor Reineck died a couple of hours later, without regaining consciousness. His widow, Zella (*nee* Gossett), died the following year at age 31, leaving two young daughters, Gladys and Alice.