

HANCOCK FREE LIBRARY

In January, 1902, a small library deposit station was established in Hancock which served until 1934, at which time it was discontinued. It was not until early in 1939 that a committee of the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Hancock began working towards the opening of a Free Library in the town. A year later, April 11, 1940, the Junior Chamber saw the results of its labor culminate in the opening of the library on the second floor of the People's National Bank Building. Since then, the library has moved twice, each time to a more favorable location.

It was the desire of the Junior Chamber, once the Library had been established, to turn over the management and responsibility to a separate organization. With that in mind, a drive was made to secure members for a group to be known as "The Friends of the Hancock Free Library". When the minimum of a hundred members was enlisted, an organizational meeting was called. The late Mr. Charles H. Locher, who had given generously toward the project was elected Honorary President. Mr. R. S. Dillon, Jr. was the first President.

Each year, a campaign is conducted to secure members for "The Friends of the Library". From the membership twenty five are elected to serve as the Board of Directors for the association and the Hancock Free Library.

When the Library opened most of the books in the library had been secured through donations and gifts. In an effort to build a good basic book collection the Directors have wisely budgeted for books most of the income not needed for actual running expenses.

That the Library has been generally accepted as a worthwhile community project is demonstrated not only by the increasing membership in "The Friend of the Library" but by the wide use made of the library. (The circulation for last year was over 10,000 books, and each month so

NOT TO  
CIRCULATE

far in '51 there has been a substantial increase). Further evidence of the Library's importance to the town is manifested by the fact that the Town Council has appropriated \$100 each year toward its support.

The members of the Board of Directors for this year are: President, Mrs. John P. Caspar; Vice-President, Mr. Harold Douglas; Secretary, Miss Thelma Bair; Treasurer, Mr. Charles Dunbar; Miss Ethel Grace Allison; Miss Anne Bradford; Mr. O. N. Carryer; Miss Violet Corbett; Miss Susan Creager; Mrs. Marshall Daniels; Mr. Harper Diehl; Mr. Ralph Donnelly; Mr. Fred Elbin; Mr. Michael Greenspoon; Mr. Clarence E. Kitzmiller; Miss Katherine Martin; Mrs. Roy Pittman; Mr. Philip Rauth; Mrs. Lena Walker; Miss Merle Younker; Mr. Joe Cox; Mr. R. S. Dillon, Jr.; Mr. Frank Getty; Dr. J. Hurst Smith; and Miss Velora Swanger.

Miss Susan Creager has served as librarian since 1943.

organizational meeting was called. The late Mr. Charles P. Caspar, who had given generously toward the project was elected President. Mr. R. S. Dillon, Jr. was the first President.

Each year, a campaign is conducted to secure members for "Friends of the Library". From the membership twenty-five are chosen to serve as the Board of Directors for the association and the Town's Free Library.

That the Library spread most of the books in the library had been secured through donations and gifts. In an effort to build a good basic book collection the Directors have wisely budgeted for books most of the income and needed for other pressing expenses.

That the Library had been successfully launched as a voluntary community project is demonstrated not only by the increased membership in "The Friends of the Library" but by the wide acceptance of the library. (The association for last year was over 100 members.)

NOT TO  
CIRCULATE