

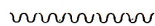


Above: The earliest known picture of the newly completed library from a postcard with a June 23, 1915 postmark.

Left: Invitation to a “birthday party” held by the Ladies’ Library Association in 1894 to raise money for books.

Below: Early set of library rules at about the turn of the twentieth century but after hours had been increased from the original two hours per week.

To Our Friends :—



We are getting up a party,
 And we’re doing it for you;
 It will be your BIRTHDAY party,
 And a jolly one “for true.”

If you come—of course, you’re coming—
 We will do the best we can
 To feed you well and please you
 With good things for inner man.

A taste of right good music, too,
 A poem or two recited—
 By these and others like them
 Will your coming be requited.

But, like other Shiawasseans,
 We are not here “for our health,”
 So we quietly would solicit
 Just a trifle of your wealth.

Please just count your age by years up,
 And in this pretty sack
 Put just as many pennies
 As are years upon your back.

And, if in generous-heartedness
 The pennies should be nickels,
 There will be no quarrel on our part,
 We’ll not feed you on sour pickles.

And if, still better, they are dimes,
 We’ll thank you all the more,
 Because we need to get new books,
 And the treasury is poor.

And this is all we have to say,
 Except the place and date—
 Ladies’ Library, Wednesday, Nov. 21—
 At evening. Don’t be late.

Compliments of
 OWOSSO LADIES’ LIBRARY.

LIBRARY RULES.

Books. One volume may be drawn by each reader and kept two weeks.

See Set of Rules on Page 1 of Catalogue.

ADDITIONAL RULES.

FINES.

FINES! A fine of one cent a day shall be paid for each book kept overtime, and any money thus received shall be used under direction of the trustee for the purchase of new books. No books shall be lent to anyone to whom a book or an unpaid fine is charged.

LIBRARY HOURS.

TUESDAY - - 7 TO 9 P. M.

THURSDAY - 7 TO 9 P. M.

SATURDAY-- { 4 TO 6 P. M.
 7 TO 9:30 P. M.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

SEE THAT YOU HAVE CREDIT FOR THE BOOK YOU RETURN, BEFORE GIVING IT UP.



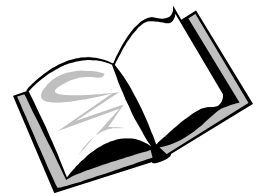
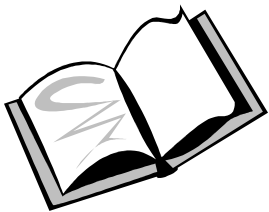
There were few books available in the early years. This interior picture, looking towards the rear of the library, was probably taken during the 1940's. Maude Thompson is at the far right. The original lighting and flooring were still in place. The circulation desk was located in about the center of the main floor facing the front door which was being used as the main entrance.



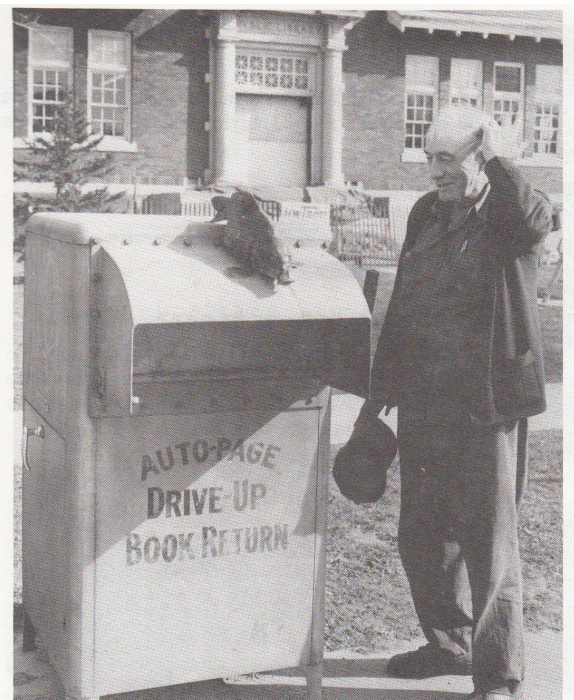
Right: The library in about 1930. Note the house to the west and flagpole on the roof. Shiawasse street has not yet been paved.



Harold G. "Dick" Johnson, Owosso's first professional librarian. He would go on to become the joint director of the Baldwin Public Library and the Bloomfield Township Public Library. He was named Librarian of the Year by the Michigan Library Association in 1980.



The library staff, probably in 1957. Left to right, seated: Helen Mollema, cataloger; Lilian Bartholomew, secretary; Betty Schirle, page; and Marcella Britz, circulation and reference librarian. Standing: Leo Haden, maintenance; and Donald Hendricks, librarian.



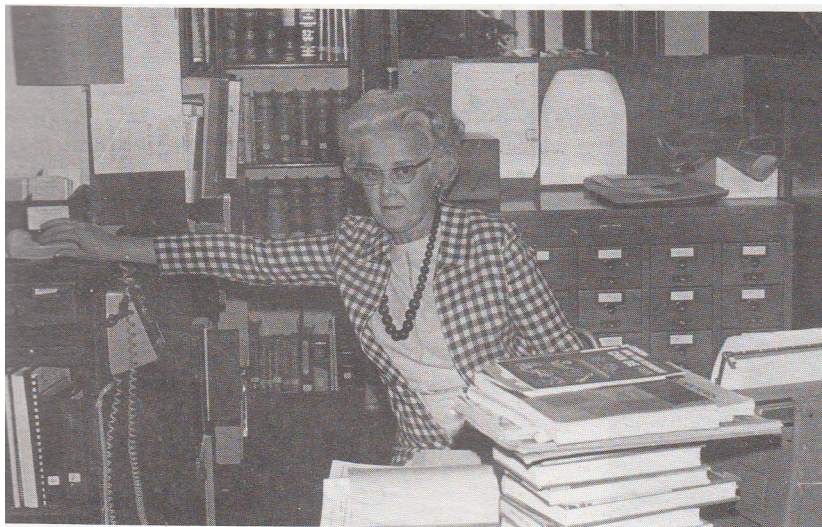
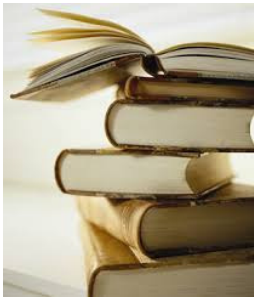
The book return was originally located along Main Street. Unfortunately, books were not always the only items to be "returned." Leo, Haden, maintenance, must decide what to do with the fish. Notice the original front door and the collapsed front steps in the background which date this picture to 1957 or 1958.

The library park in the rear of the building was removed in 1958 to make room for a parking lot. When the building was built in 1914 few people had automobiles and parking was allowed along Main Street.



Lillian Bartholomew, Marcella Britz, Helen Mollema, and Don Hendricks with the latest technology in the late 1950's.

The building in about 1961. The flagpole is no longer located on the roof and ivy covers much of the exterior.

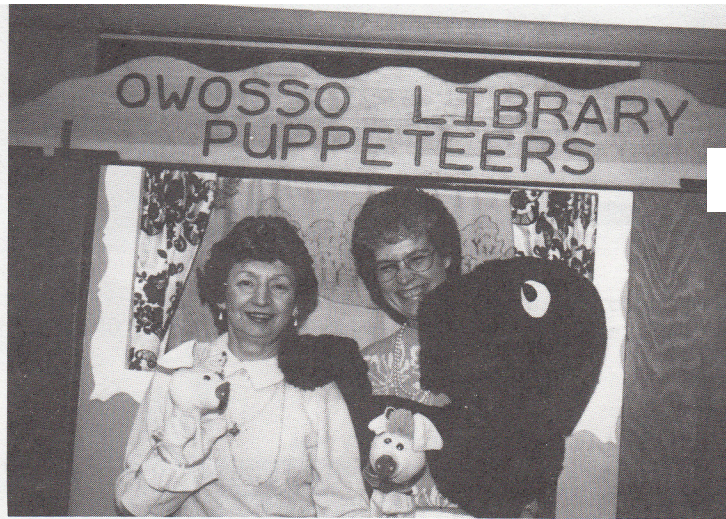


Mrs. Britz worked in various capacities at the library from 1955 to 1979. This picture was probably taken in 1975. She was remembered by many people for her helpfulness and love of reading.



The library staff in 1989 (75th anniversary): Seated, left to right: Margaret Bentley, Adult Services Librarian; Amy Hartson, Page; Kenneth Uptigrove, Director; Beatrice Steck, Children's Librarian; and Marjorie Cox, Secretary and Children's Programming. Standing, left to right: Barbara Holt, Library Assistant, Sherry Woodard, Part-time Librarian; Mike Maxwell, Page; Fred Dibeau, Page; and Nancy Barlage, Overdues Clerk. Calvin Austin, Adult Page, is not pictured.

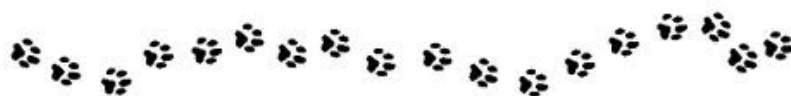


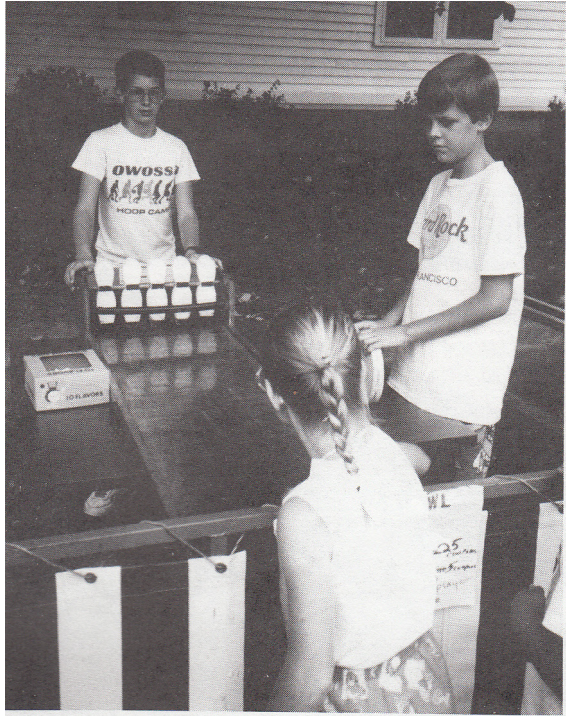


Beatrice Steck and Marjorie Cox (above) were the original Owosso Puppeteers. Shows continue to be held several times a year.

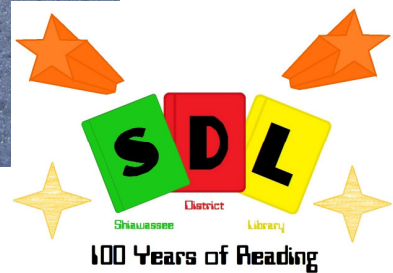


Bonnie Neff shows Kathy Uptigrove a snake as part of a 1983 Living Science Foundation program, and today's children are just as interested in animals.



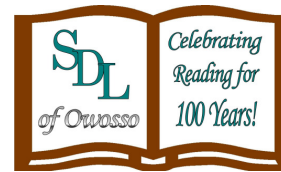


Above Left: Jeff Smithers and Chad Uptigrove help with one of the games at the 1987 Library Carnival. This fun event has been a highlight each year since 1972 ; children earn library dollars during the summer reading program to spend on games and prizes at this annual event..Additional photos are from 2009 (bottom) and 2010 (top right).





At the time of Kenneth Uptigrove's retirement he had earned the distinction of being Owosso's longest serving director, working in that position from 1970 to 2007. He also oversaw the transition from a city library to the Shiawassee District Library.



The Staff from the Owosso Branch in 2014 (centennial year). Front row, left to right, Steven Flayer, Director; Margaret Bentley, Adult Services Librarian; Megan Lang, Page; Chicaro Napier-Hoffman, PT Librarian; Natalie Young, Youth Services Librarian; Middle Row: Jodi Fox, Administrative Assistant; Alyssa Gauthier, Page; Cindy Brunger, Secretary, Lyndsey Young, Page, Back Row: Barbara Holt, Adult Library Assistant; Justin Siebert, Page, Cindy Sizemore, Clerk, Michaela Rose, Page, Darla Siebert, Clerk, & Joseph Hosjak, Custodian. Missing from the photo are pages David Vandermark & Madeleine Ardelean.



Library Board Members in 2014. Front row, left to right: Kitty Campbell, Rush Twp.; Denice Grace, City of Owosso; Rosemary Schultz, City of Owosso. Back row: Thomas Smith, City of Durand; Donald Smith, Owosso Twp.; Robert Teich, Jr., City of Owosso; Robert Smith, City of Durand, Edmond Humphrey, Bennington Twp.

