

HISTORY OF THE TIMBERLAND AMANDA PARK LIBRARY

By

Elizabeth Carlyle

My Grandmother, Maud Osborn, was an old time schoolteacher. I think I inherited my love of reading from her. She had an attic full of Children's magazines and books. She read to my young uncle and me a lot. I was also allowed to take several magazines and books home with me. I would read these and return them for others. One year at Christmas time she gave me a subscription to the "Wee Wisdom" magazine. Needless to say, I looked forward to this very much and the magazine was read over many times.

When I was in the sixth grade my Grandmother passed away. This broke my heart, as I had never lost anyone I loved before. I am not sure what happened to all the books and magazines but that was the end of my access to that source.

Growing up in the 1930s the only library here was at the school. This was fine in the winter but in the summer we didn't have one. My mother, Isabel Fishel, was a Hoquiam girl and had used the library there. When she had to go to Hoquiam she would stop and get books that were discarded. The books that she brought home, I read many times over.

In 1940 a dream came true when the Bookmobile from the Grays Harbor County Library started servicing Quinault. It came twice a month until the War caused gas rationing, and they had to stop.

My mother just couldn't see the community losing access to a library, so she organized what was known as the Neilton Literary Club. The sole purpose of this club was to sponsor the library. We did have a lot of fun with the name, as people that didn't know would think we were reviewing books, etc. All we really did was decide which member would take the library duty for the month. The library was open twice a week.

My parents were running the Neilton Store and Post Office, so mother decided that the Library could have a home in a back room at the store. We obtained bookshelves, file cards, etc. from the County Library in Montesano. Part of the time members of the club would use some of their gas coupons to get books from the library in Monte, and sometimes the Montesano people were able to bring us some from there. In 1947 my folks sold the store and moved back to the farm. This left the library once more without a home.

The congregation at the Neilton Church allowed us to put books in the church building, with the Literary Club members still taking care of it. We had the same arrangement as before with just a different location.

Thru the generosity of member Alice Ashennbrenner and her husband Joe, we were to obtain our own building. They had purchased a house next to the one they lived in and had intended to demolish it. Both of them were gifted carpenters and got the idea to remodel it into one large room and move it next to their garage for a library. With their expertise and help from Literary Club members and some of the husbands, it was made into a very nice library. The County Library Staff was very helpful too.

The Librarian helped Alice and Joe with the plans and they also supplied shelves, desk, files, card files and other needed supplies.

The arrangement was very satisfactory for many years. It was a lovely little building with Joe Ashennbrenner mowing the lawn and Alice supervising the club members in keeping up flowerbeds and painting inside and out, it was well maintained. Neilton had its library even after the War and the Bookmobile started coming again. The bookmobile would stop at the library where Alice would meet it and the books would be exchanged. This went on until the 70s when Alice and Joe couldn't keep up with it any more because of their age.

The Bookmobile came twice a month until about 1977 and the Bookmobile itself was brought to the school yard and put along side of the play shed. It was dismantled and put there permanently until 1991 when we moved into the lovely building that we have now. Mildred Jolaibois was librarian when it was at the school and she was in the present building as librarian for several years. We now have Kathy Clayton and Karen Crevison as our library staff.

Charter Members of the Literary Club were:

Isabel Fishel—founder and first president
Alice Ahsehbrenner
Elizabeth Carlyle
Emma Fishel
Mickey Fishel
Lucy Paull

Later members that should be mentioned were:

Mary Alice Carlyle	Shirley Binion
Mildred Blechschmidt	Rella Binion
Mrs. Jim Branson	Martha Carr
June Brunner	Lynn Slimp
Betty Jean Miller	Muriel Wiggan
Merle Partridge	Lynn Slimp
Inis Paull	

This was a real fun club. We met once a month in the home of one of the members. We always had delicious food as each member would try to out do the others. It as a dress up and a visiting time, was looked forward to by all of the members. In those days there was no TV and people really enjoyed getting out and visiting their neighbors.

One memory I have is of a money raising project. I happened to by president at this time. I am not sure now what we needed the money for but I guess it was my job to think of a way to raise it. Even in those days I loved to quilt. So raffling off a quilt seemed a good way to go. So we decided that each one of us could make a log cabin block. We would put the pieces on a 12 inch square of material so it had to all fit. Well, of course, when I got them back they were anywhere from nine inches to fourteen inches. All I could think of was to dump the whole thing. That was when I really got to know Alice Ashennbrenner. She said "Elizabeth don't do that, I will help you and we will get it straightened out". So she came to my house several different times and she patiently tore them all apart and I sewed them back together. We raffled the quilt and got our money. Ellen Brumstad, a lady living in Amanad Park, won the quilt. Alice was a dear person and very patient. She was a dear friend to me until the day she passed away.