



FINDING AID

Mammoth Community Library Records 1940-2003

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Catalog Number: MSC 187

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HISTORY

The Mammoth Community Library records contain the administrative records of a volunteer public library that operated in Mammoth in Yellowstone National Park. The organization began as the Yellowstone Women's Club about 1940 and in the winter of 1940 the club decided to take on a project, the creation of a public library. Card parties were held to raise funds to purchase books and donations were accepted. Initially known as the Yellowstone Park Woman's Club Library, the name Mammoth Community Library was adopted in October 1942 when the Women's Club voted to focus solely on the Library; the club officers were converted to the Library's Board of Trustees. Board members volunteered to staff the circulation desk on a monthly basis. In addition to purchased and donated books, the group subscribed to a publisher's book club to receive books on a rotating basis. A small number of popular books were "rented" to the borrower for a cost of \$0.10 per week; the remaining books circulated freely. By 1942, Park employees stationed outside of Mammoth were allowed to borrow books and a card catalog and circulation system was begun. During World War II, the group added showings of war movies to its activities along with a Halloween party and other fundraisers. Additional funds were raised through overdue fines.

Although located in the former Army Canteen building, the library moved locations within the building at least four times as the collection grew. By the 1960s, the group was cataloging weekly and offered both daytime and evening children's story hours. Although there was discussion of relocating the library to the Mammoth School, once completed, this does not appear to have happened. The school did support a library for the students until it was closed in 2008. A small community library in Gardiner, Montana, also began operation sometime in the late 20th century. It is not known when the Mammoth library group disbanded, though it appears to have been sometime in the early 2000s.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

MAMMOTH COMMUNITY LIBRARY RECORDS 1940-2003

CATALOG NUMBER: MSC 187

VOLUME: 0.5 LINEAR FEET (1 BOX)

DESCRIPTION

The Mammoth Community Library records contain the administrative records of a small, volunteer-run public library that operated in Mammoth, Wyoming, within Yellowstone National Park. The records consist of foundation documents, minutes of the Board of Trustees, book accessions, circulation records, and financial records. The foundation documents include several versions of a constitution and by-laws. The minutes cover three decades of activities and include the reports of various committees, decisions concerning acquisitions, financial accounting, and planning for fundraisers. There is some duplication in the minutes, possibly due to typing a record after first recording by hand. The accession records document the book acquisitions as well as eventual disposals. Again, there is some overlap of documentation for unknown reasons. The circulation statistics record the usage of the library and show that use was by both adult and child readers. The procedures manual is a detailed description of the library's operation and documents the amount of work contributed by the volunteers to operate the library. Finally, the account book records the financial operation of the organization and includes income from rentals, fees, fines, and donations as well as expenditures for acquisitions and operations. The collection provides detailed information on the operation of a community library and may prove useful to those interested in the social life and customs of living inside a national park, particularly for women and families.

ARRANGEMENT

[Organization]The collection is arranged by format and then chronologically.

PROVENANCE

Found in collection, 2000, and found in the Canteen, 2016.

RESTRICTIONS: NO

ASSOCIATED MATERIALS: None

CONTAINER LIST**Box 1**

File Unit Nbr	Title
01.01	Constitution & By-laws, 0945, 1952, 1969
01.02	Minutes, 1942-1947
01.03	Minutes, 1948-1951
01.04	Minutes, 1952-1957
01.05	Minutes, 1958-1963
01.06	Minutes, 1960-1966, 1977
01.07	Book accessions, 1940-1977
01.08	Book accessions, 1953-1966
01.09	Book accessions, 2003
10.10	Circulation statistics, 1957-1967
01.11	Procedures manual, 1965, 1970
01.12	Treasurer's account book, 1969-1999
01.13	Example book with marking, circa 1940