



## NCPL 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the Natrona County Public Library has freely provided educational and business resources experiences to all citizens of Natrona County since 1910 and will celebrate its Centennial Anniversary this year; and

**WHEREAS**, in the early 1900s, civic leaders in Casper and Natrona County recognized that a library could provide a "Window to the World" and help create an informed citizenry by connecting residents to books, information and new ideas otherwise limited by the county's geographical isolation; and

**WHEREAS**, Natrona County officials, in accordance with the sentiments of county citizens, began allocating funds in the early 1900s for a public library, a building which was eventually funded by the Carnegie Foundation following a request from the City of Casper Mayor; and

**WHEREAS**, Natrona County took responsibility for the completion of the Carnegie library, its staffing and upkeep after city funding faltered in 1909, and opened the library to the public on May 20, 1910 with one staff member and 850 books; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Commission has presided over building expansions in 1925, 1952 and 1972 to meet rising demand for library services from a growing population which increased from 4,800 county citizens in 1910 to 73,100 currently; and

**WHEREAS**, the Natrona County Public Library now circulates over 630,000 items annually (compared to the 1910 circulation of 2,800), has 35,400 cardholders, serves over 1,100 people daily, and provides over 193,000 items for checkout including books, movies, audiobooks, magazines, and online resources, and continues to integrate new technologies and formats as requested by community members; and

**WHEREAS**, library services have reached all county municipalities and rural areas, through outreach stations in country stores and small book collections sent to outlying schools in the early 1900s, a branch library established in partnership with the Midwest Refining Company in 1930, bookmobile service in 1956, an Edgerton branch library established in 1971, and a Mills branch since 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, The county's investment in the library have been extremely cost-effective with the library currently returning \$9 in service value for every \$1 of expenses, while actively improving the county's economic vitality and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the library's century of service, County Commissioners have appointed a total of 59 Trustees to oversee the operations of this cost-effective community resource, beginning in 1909 with local civic leaders John E. Schulte, Charles H. Townsend, Jim Crawford, and Charles C.P. Webel in 1909; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Natrona County have, for the past century, used the library's resources to pursue lifelong education, engage in community discussion, improve their business and personal economic well-being, and prepare their children for school through early literacy resources and classes;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Rob Hendry, Chair of the Natrona County Commission, ask all citizens to join us on May 20, 2010 to celebrate 100 years of public library service to our community. I encourage all residents to use their library for the purpose of fostering literacy and education as community values. Come see how your library is honoring the past while helping to create a better future for Natrona County.

DATED this 20th day of April, 2010.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING



ATTEST:

  
Renea Vitto, County Clerk

  
Robert L. Hendry, Chairman

*My term of office expires  
January 6, 2011*