

A Brief History of the

Your Connection to the World



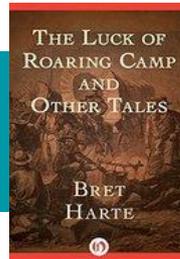
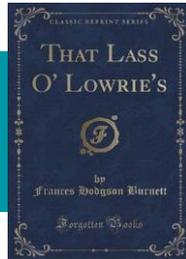
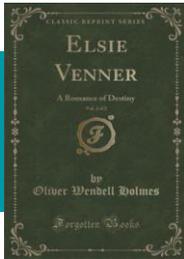
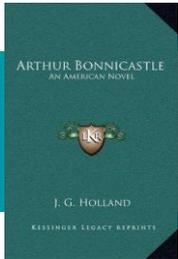
Alamosa
PUBLIC LIBRARY

1902

The first reference of a library appeared in *The Alamosa Journal* on March 20 when the City of Alamosa donated a room in City Hall to the Alamosa Public Library and Reading Room Association, which at that time was supported by membership fees and quarterly dues.

Members of the Current Events Club and other town women volunteered their services as librarians, keeping the reading room open every afternoon and every evening, except Sunday.

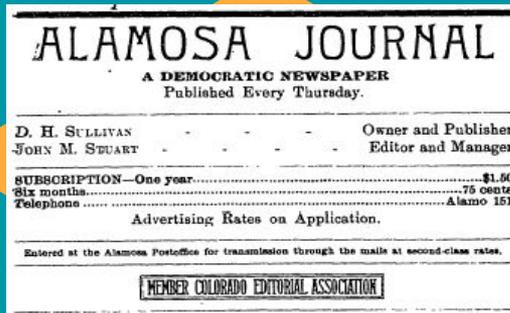
ON THE SHELF JULY 10, 1902



VERY COZY

Excerpt from *The Alamosa Journal*, September 4, 1902:

"Are you a member of the Alamosa Library and Reading Room Association? If not you should be. Dues, \$1 for admission; 25 cents for every quarter. Books may be taken out during the following hours: 8:00 to 12:00; 2:00 to 5:00. Open at all times."



The library used to write a regular article in the *Alamosa Journal* informing the public about new additions to the library, upcoming events and public meetings.

September 4, 1902

LIBRARY NOTES

A number of new books are to be ordered soon. The public library now boasts 110 members and owns about 260 good books. Following are the papers and magazines to be found on the tables of the library:

Denver Times, New York American Journal, Kansas City Star, Chicago Inter Ocean, Commercial Eagle, New Orleans Picayune, Colorado Springs Gazette, Alamosa Courier and Independent Journal, San Francisco Examiner and others.

The magazines are: *Woman's Home Companion, Ladies Home Journal, Collier's Weekly, Success, The Interior, Public Opinion, Brown Book of Boston, Black Cat, Strand, Bookman, Life, Munsey, McClure, Century, Leslie's, Forest and Stream, Sports Afield, Pearson's* and many, many others.

November 27, 1902

LIBRARY NOTES

A neat and serviceable hat rack, compliments of Kinch & Company, is an addition appreciated by patrons of the reading room.

The public library, like the sugar factory, is an assured success. It is as great a necessity, serving the culture wants of the community, as the latter serves its existence needs.

Donations of complete files of magazines have been made the library, and Mr. Chris Wallrich has given lumber for shelving. This insures the proper housing of current literature, which will be most increasing value to the institution.

The committee on choice and purchase of books will have at its disposal a neat little fund in the near future. Patrons are requested to leave with the librarian titles of leading literary works they would like to have added to the shelves.

April 2, 1903

LIBRARY NOTES

The reading table is well patronized. Books are taken out every day.

Since last writing, new shelving has been put in for magazines, which adds to the neatness of the library and convenience of the librarian.

ON THE SHELF April 2, 1903



1908

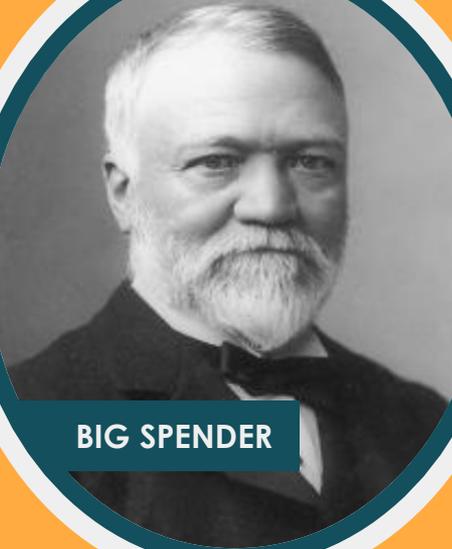
Early in 1908 a movement was started to obtain a Library building. Mr. George S Darley, Presbyterian Minister, and the Reverend Harrison, rector of the Episcopal Church, were appointed to choose a site for the Library building.

The city was awarded \$6,000 from millionaire philanthropist Andrew Carnegie on March 21 for the construction of a public library to be supported by tax dollars.

On May 6, 1908 a motion was passed by the Town Trustees that the vacant lots beside the First Baptist Church on 4th and State be selected for the new library.

Carnegie ultimately gave away \$60 million to fund a system of 1,689 public libraries across the United States.

(Source: Wikipedia)



BIG SPENDER

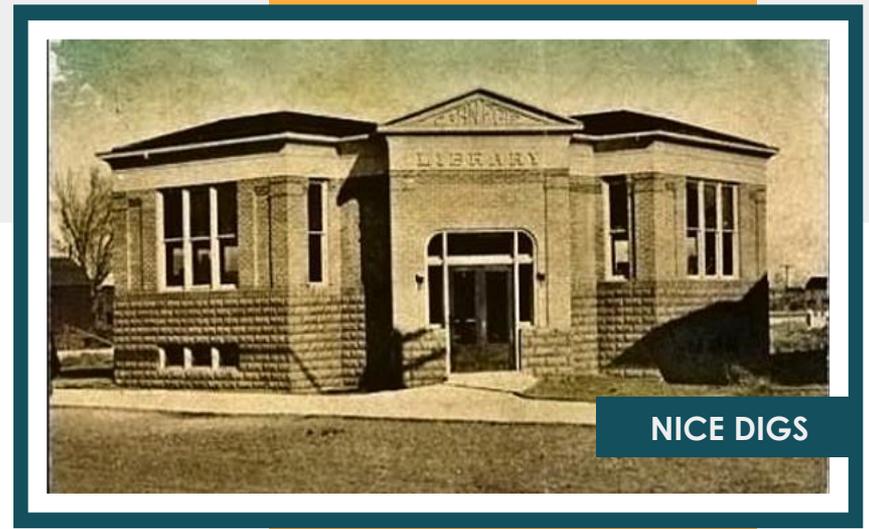
Nov. 25, 1835 – Aug. 11, 1919

Andrew Carnegie was a Scottish American industrialist who led the expansion of the American steel industry in the late 19th century, and is often identified as one of the richest people and Americans ever.

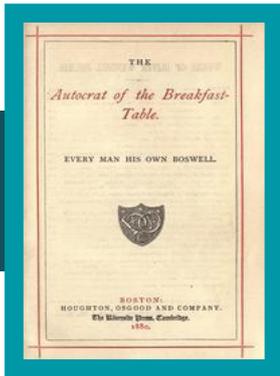
(Source: Wikipedia)

1910

Mrs. Bertha E. Roberts was appointed the first librarian with a monthly salary of \$45.00. The first book officially cataloged was on February 8, 1910, titled Oliver Wendell Holmes' *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*.



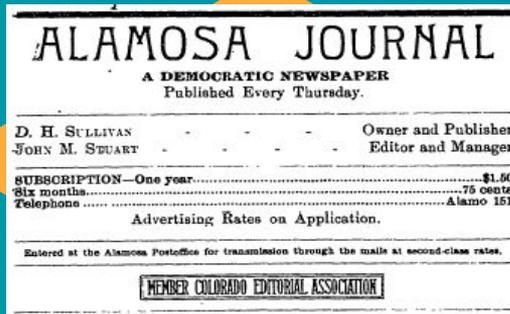
ON THE SHELF February 8, 1910



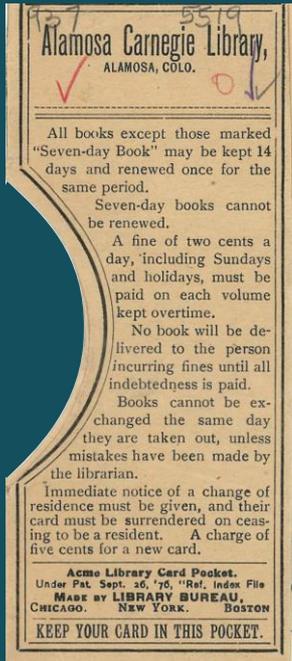
The Alamosa Carnegie Library was dedicated on February 24 with a whopping 1,500 books ready to be checked out.

“The library is an ideal place in which to spend an evening, and the library habit is not a bad habit to take.”

“Library Notes”, *The Alamosa Journal*, April 15, 1910



The library used to write a regular article in the *Alamosa Journal* informing the public about new additions to the library, upcoming events and public meetings.



March 8, 1912

LIBRARY ENTERTAINMENT

The Library Association gave an afternoon tea Wednesday for the benefit of the Carnegie Library. A musical and literary program had been prepared for the occasion which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Lewis Beyle, Miss Wilson and Miss Ella Menke entertained the guests with selections and the high school played several selections. The Duets by Professor Camp and wife, and Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Kilpatrick were heartily encored. Among those who took part in the musical program were: Mesdames Norton, Hansen, Ireland, Thompson, Goodall, Mullins, Shull, Moffat, Reier, Hayt, and Misses Denny, Lowe, Reed and Jennie Ginn.

Pleasing refreshments were served at the close of the program.

The library committee realized \$37 from the affair.

December 21, 1916

OUR LIBRARY

"A jolly good booke
On which to looke
Is better for you
Than much golde."

Among the generous Christmas presents donated to our library for books at this time is as follows:

The Elk Lodge, \$25; Alamosa Lodge, No. 44, A. F. & A. M., \$25; Eastern Star, \$20; Current Events Club, \$10. The P. E. O. and Delphian Clubs also gave generously considering that they are young clubs.

This amount will no doubt purchase a number of much needed books, under the suggestion and supervision of our worthy librarian, Mrs. Roberts.

1961-62



TIME TO MOVE

Crowded conditions of the Alamosa Carnegie Library have reached a point that the library board has announced it must build a new library building.

Office space is used for storage and walls, floors and shelves are crowded dangerously close to each other.

The library moved to its newly constructed home on 4th Street in 1961 and was referred to as the Alamosa City Library or the Alamosa Library.

In December, 1962, the Alamosa Carnegie Library was demolished and the location was turned into a municipal parking lot.



GOODBYE OLD FRIEND

1963

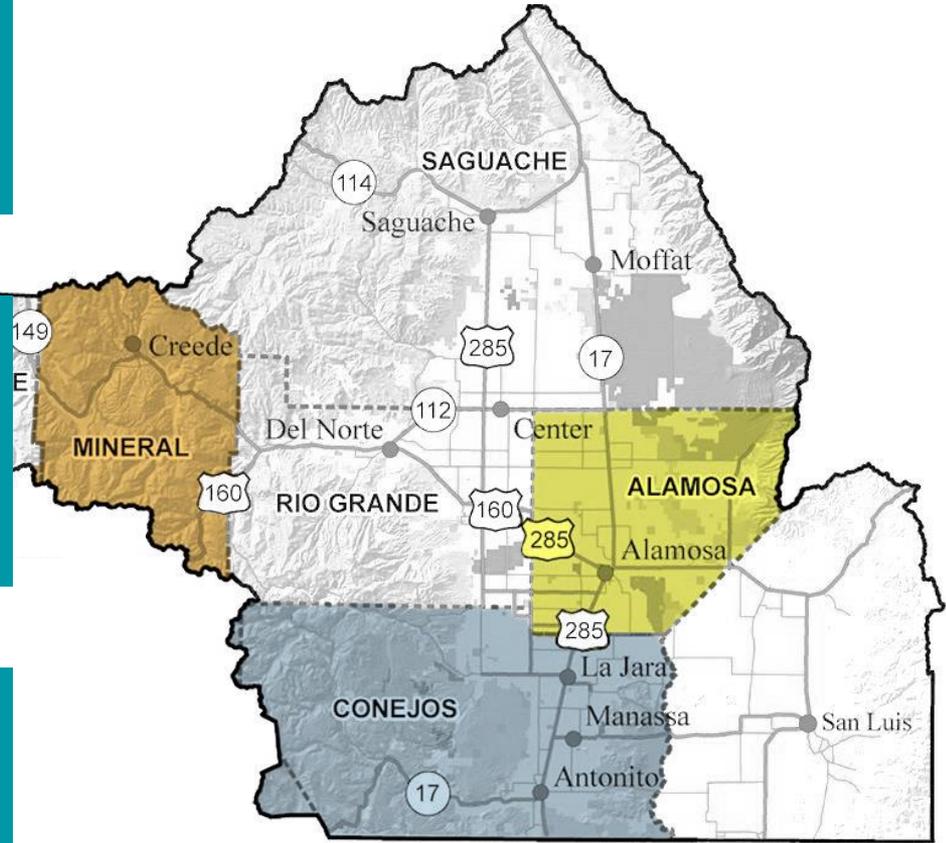
The library became a “regional library” by entering into several service contracts with the counties of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla and Mineral.

1964

The City Council agreed to officially change the library's name to Southern Peaks Public Library, a.k.a. Southern Peaks Library, in honor of the new regional library.

1965

Costilla County withdrew from the regional library system due to lack of funding. Additional funding difficulties among the remaining counties occurred over the next several years.



1975

The library's first recorded involvement with the annual Summer Reading Program, themed "Meet Your Friends in Fantasyland".

The program began on June 18 and ended July 30, with a special Surprise Day happening on August 6.



"MEET YOUR FRIENDS IN FANTASYLAND"
1975--Summer Reading Program
Sponsored by the Southern Peaks Library

Dear Parents:

Your child has enrolled in the 1975 Summer Reading Program sponsored by the Southern Peaks Library. We hope your child will find not only pleasure through reading, but also fun by participating in our special Fantasyland programs on each Wednesday morning.

We will keep a special Tally-sheet at the Library and once a week, except Wednesday, your child may report from 1:00-5:00 P.M., and record the titles he/she has read. The list will be verified by a staff member.

There will be no oral or written book reports. We shall rely upon you, as a parent, to guide your child as to the number of books he/she can read in a week, and to read books that are suitable for their age--AND encourage them to read! This is not a competitive program, but an incentive program to read, with fun programs as the "reward."

The morning Fantasyland Programs will offer varied journeys into the lands of Folk Music, Trains, Puppet Stories, Crafts, Walt Disney Movies, and a special surprise program on the last day, August 6. We will try to announce the weekly schedules by posting in the Library and announcements in the Valley Courier and on radio station KQIM.

Please notice the hours for the morning programs..... 10:00 A.M.--11:00 A.M. The Library will not open until 9:00 A.M. and it will be locked as soon after 11:00 A.M. as possible. These programs take preparation beforehand and clean-up afterwards! THE SOUTHERN PEAKS LIBRARY WILL ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDREN BEFORE OR AFTER THE WEDNESDAY MORNING PROGRAMS.

To participate in the Summer Reading Program, each boy or girl must have completed the first grade, be in grades two, three and four, and will be entering fifth grade in the Fall of 1975. Your cooperation as a parent will be greatly appreciated!!

"MEET YOUR FRIENDS IN FANTASYLAND"
Schedule

June 18--Registration--1:00-5:00 P.M.

"Journeys Into Fantasyland"

Wednesday Mornings--10:00 A.M.--11:00 A.M.
June 25, July 2, July 16, July 30
Special Surprise Day--August 6 *July 9, July 23*

Report on books read--Any day except on Wednesday
1:00--5:00 P.M. (ask for "Pat")



Don't want late fees?
Become a Friend of the
Library.

1980

Alamosa's chapter of the Friends of the Library is created.

Friends are a group of patrons who work to uphold the mission of the library and to create paths between the community and the library.

Anyone can become a Friend. They are always in need good volunteers to help with hauling or unpacking boxes, setting up tables, sorting, shelving, advertising and book collection, or recycling.

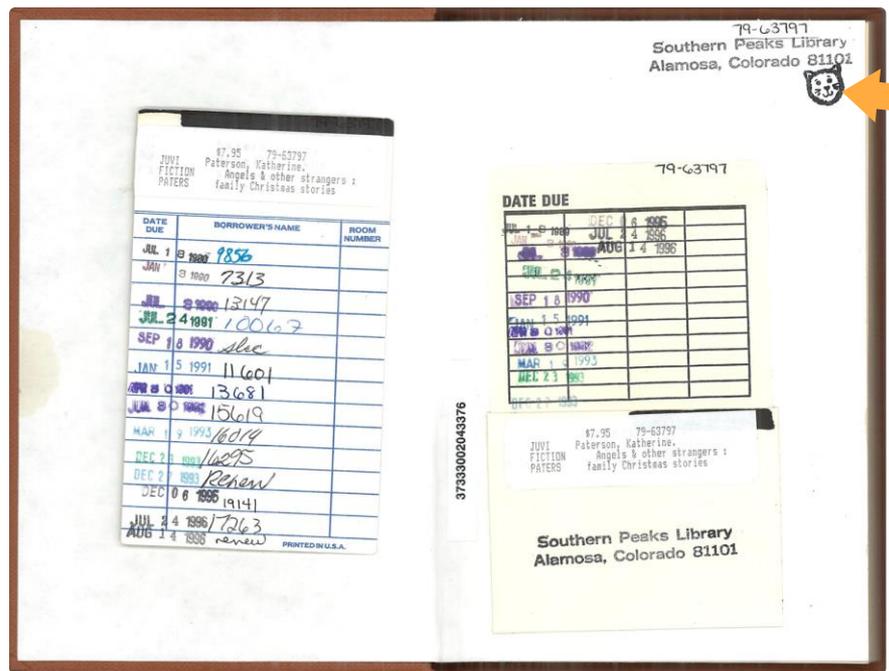


Paper cataloging and manual check out systems had been used for decades before the library upgraded to doing everything on computers some time in the mid to late 1990s.



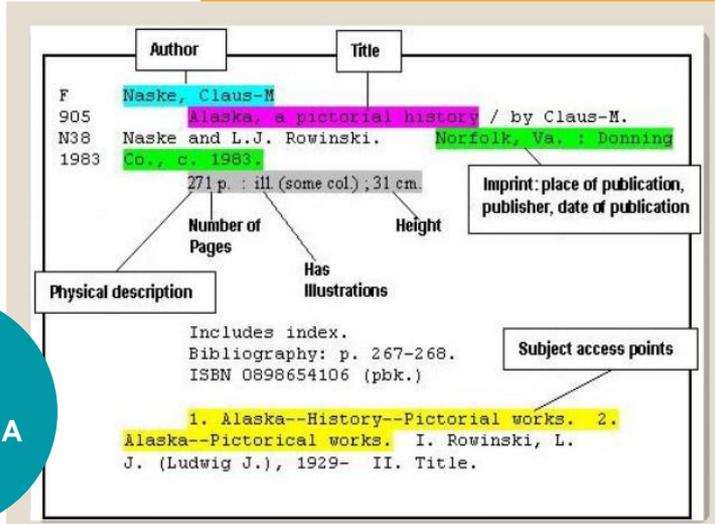
(photo by Ruth Heide, 1989)

REMEMBER THESE?



HELLO KITTY

OH, THE NOSTALGIA



1989

The library goes digital...almost.

Automation of cataloging, overdue billing, interlibrary loan, serials check-in, daily statistics, and petty cash accounting begins.

It would still be another few years before the library would not only do everything completely through computers, but set up an entire computer lab for public use.



(photo by Ruth Heide)

SO HI-TECH

Jean Campbell, works on the computer at Southern Peaks Library, where she handles the overdues.



1989



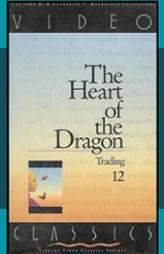
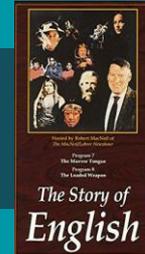
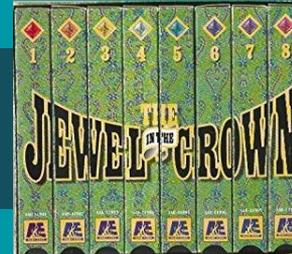
BE KIND, REWIND

(photo by Ruth Heide)

Southern Peaks Public Library staff Dorothy Wilson, Roberta Elfrink, Deborah Nichols and librarian Sue Ann Elkins.

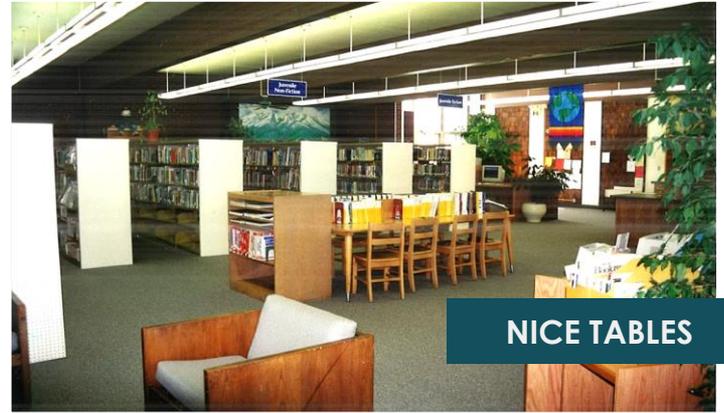
The library begins its video loan program. More than 200 educational VHS videos were purchased through a grant. Check out time was three days with at \$1.00 charge for repair. Senior citizens in nursing homes were allowed to rent videos at no charge.

ON THE SHELF FEBRUARY 22, 1989



1998

The 4th Street library's interior was completely remodeled with new carpet, desks, tables, chairs, shelves and wall art.



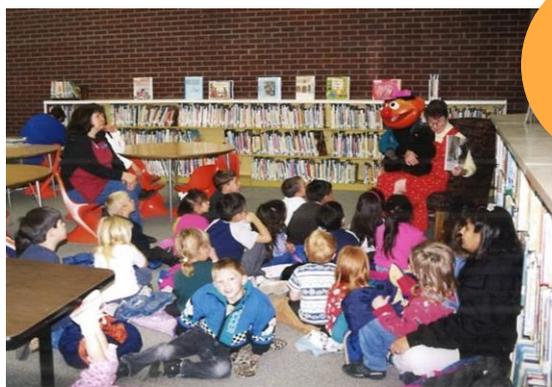


Storytime

Childrens' Storytime has been a very important part of our library's long, lustrous history from 1916 to today, and it's still going strong.

Childrens Hour---

Childrens hour at the Library last Thursday at 2:30 p. m. proved an entertaining time for the children. Under the auspices of the Parenta' Association, Mrs. Robert Van Sands, Mrs. Harry Lawton and Mrs. Ruth Fish, entertained the little ones with bird stories and the life history John Burroughs (and Audobon was told. Mrs. Fish gave the children a much enjoyed treat in the way of victrola music introducing several records of bird songs and bird notes which delighted all present.



ONCE
UPON A
TIME...

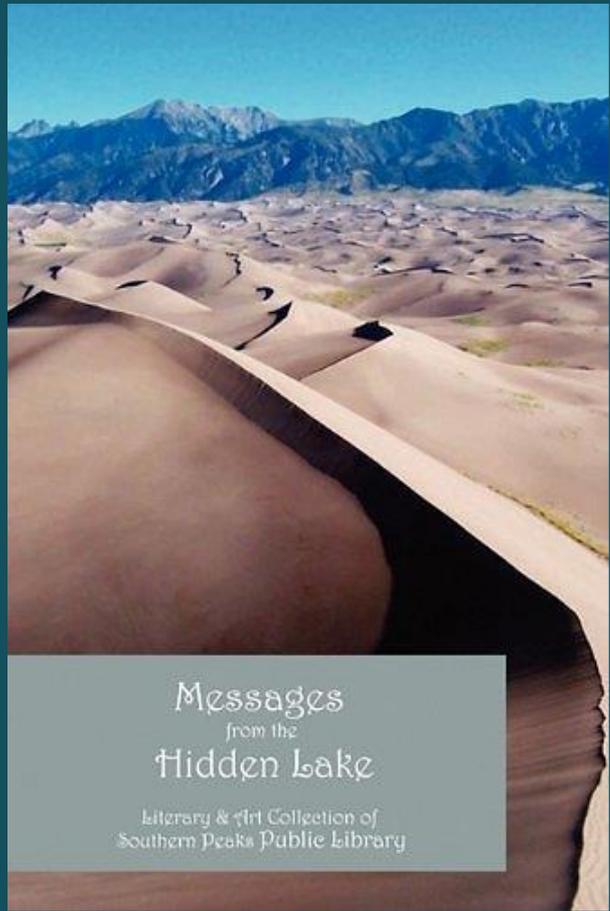


2010

The Friends of the Library published its first literary and art magazine *Messages from the Hidden Lake*.

“Place, Nature, Hope, Loss, Growth, Imagination - these themes surface in the poetry, prose, and artwork collected here from writers and artists of all ages with a connection to the Southern Peaks Public Library of Alamosa, Colorado.”

8 VOLUMES & COUNTING



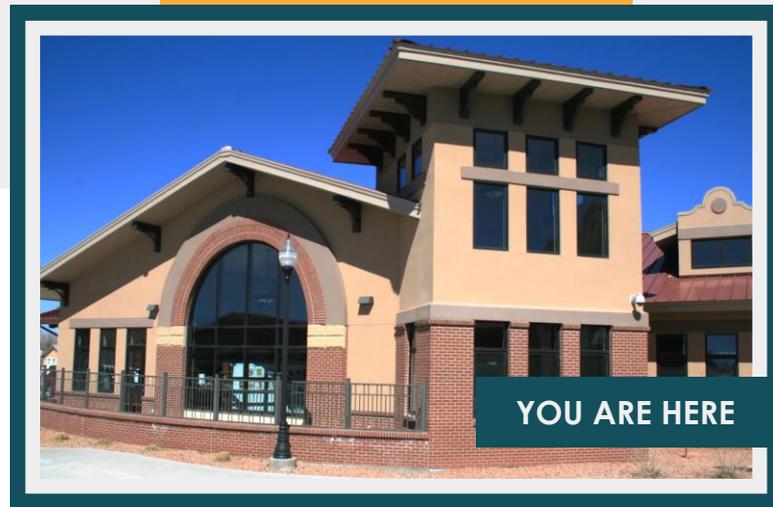
2011

In April, the library changes its name to the Alamosa Public Library as part of the move into the new City Hall complex in November that same year.

The old Southern Peaks Library Building became the Alamosa Police Department.

OUR MISSION:

To inform, educate, and culturally enrich the population of Alamosa County and the San Luis Valley. We offer a broad range of library materials and information services as part of a larger library community with whom we share resources. Our helpful and expert staff provides quality service and programs in a welcoming environment. We encourage lifelong learning, knowledge through self-education, and the joy of reading!



Visit our website for more photos and information:

www.alamosalibrary.org

2015



HORRAY!



Library Manager, Salai Taylor, initiates a valley-wide Little Free Library program. Several of the free libraries were built by Paul Patterson and there is currently a total seven in the city of Alamosa.

The Little Free Library is a worldwide movement focused on providing free access to books by using small “libraries” located in convenient areas in local communities. Their motto is “Take a book, return a book.”



LET'S READ



THEN

NOW



COMPUTERS



City of Alamosa
Southern Peaks Library
Alamosa, Colorado 81101

SEP 25 1989

CALL 1 0 AM

FEB 02 1996

MAR 13 1996

FIC 30485

WIL Wilder, Thornton

The bridge of San Luis Rey

MAY 31 85 7925

AUG 25 86 RENEWAL

SEP 8 86 RENEWAL

SEP 28 1989 7910

FIC 30485

WIL Wilder, Thornton

The bridge of San Luis Rey

CHECK OUT

Alamosa
Public Library

www.alamosalibrary.org
patrons@alamosalibrary.org

Check out receipt

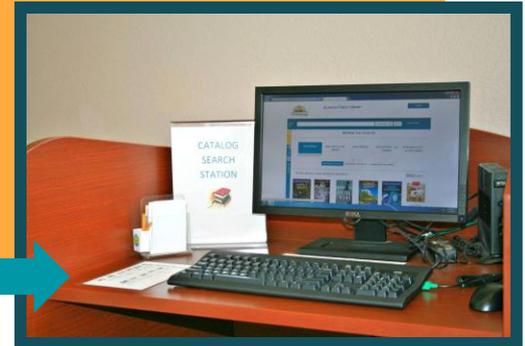
Patron: Jane Doe
Date: 3/24/2017 11:55:42 AM

1. The bridge of San Luis Rey
Barcode 37333002003943
Due by 4/21/2017

We are open daily!

Thank you for using the
Alamosa SelfCheck.

CATALOG SEARCH



October 2, 1902 – *Alamosa Journal*

LIBRARY NOTES

No small effort has been made by the number of citizens of Alamosa and vicinity to give to the public a library and reading room. That the literary movement in Alamosa is a success is already assured, but the greater the effort the greater the interest and the more complete the success. Everywhere in this wide-awake country, of this dawning literary age, are being rooms for the comfort of the great mass of people who are anxious to get the latest as well the more substantial thought from the broad and expanding field of literature.

Let us keep abreast of the times; let us not follow in the rear; let every loyal citizen think something, say something for the benefit of one of the most noble of all enterprises, the founding of a permanent and 20th century library and reading room in Alamosa, so that when we are gone our posterity may find an inheritance without a statutory will to be contested and spoils to be divided.

In order to offer an opportunity to all, the library association will give, in the Oliver, October 24th, a literary and musical entertainment, and ask all of the people of the city and elsewhere to be present in both body and mind.

Communication.

