Chouteau County Library Welcomes Carnegie Libraries Traveling Exhibit

Chouteau County Library invites the community to explore the history of their library through a new traveling exhibit on Montana’s Carnegie Libraries. The exhibit will be on display starting October 10th and throughout the month as part of a year-long celebration of the libraries in connection with the release of the book *The Best Gift: Montana’s Carnegie Libraries*.

The book profiles each of Montana’s 17 Carnegie libraries, including the Chouteau County Library. Built between 1901 and 1922, Andrew Carnegie, the era’s richest man, provided funding to help communities build their libraries.

In Fort Benton, Dorothy McLeish was founder of the Fort Benton Study Club and asked Carnegie for the money to build the Chouteau County Library. Carnegie gave $15,000 toward its construction and the library opened in 1918.

In *The Best Gift: Montana’s Carnegie Libraries*, author Kate Hampton brings each of the libraries’ stories to life, showing how they in turn impacted the people. Captivating photographs by Tom Ferris transport us to the libraries’ doorsteps and within. New York Times bestselling author Jamie Ford of Great Falls provides the forward, sharing his memories on the role libraries have played in his life.

The traveling exhibit highlights the importance of libraries, the financial contributions Carnegie made to help build them, their individual architectural styles and the significant role of Montana women throughout the process.

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The Montana Carnegie libraries traveling exhibit will be on display at the Chouteau County Library at 1518 Main St. for the month of October, starting October 10th. **The library will host Kate Hampton for an author talk and book signing on October 22nd at 6:00 p.m.** For more information, please contact Chouteau County Library Director Sandra Larson at (406) 622-5222.

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