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Contact:
Danielle Buehler
Lewistown Public Library Director
(406) 538-5212

Melissa Jensen
Community Outreach Coordinator
The Montana History Foundation
(406) 449-3770

Lewistown Public Library Welcomes Carnegie Libraries Traveling Exhibit

Lewistown Public 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 November 5th 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 Lewistown Public Library. Andrew Carnegie, the era’s richest man, provided funding between 1901 and 1922 to help communities build their libraries.

In Lewistown, it was January of 1905 when Carnegie’s secretary replied to the Lewistown library board chairman with an offer of $10,000 to construct their own building. Local contractors, the Tubb Brothers, laid the cornerstone in October of 1905, employing Croatian master stonemasons. Jeff Tubb overran the budget by $4,000, but refused to accept a penny more than his contracted price.

In The Best Gift: Montana’s Carnegie Libraries, author Kate Hampton brings each of the libraries’ stories to life, showing how they impacted communities. 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.

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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.

The Montana Carnegie libraries traveling exhibit will be on display at the Lewistown Public Library at 701 W. Main Street for the month of November, starting November 5th. The library will host Kate Hampton for an author talk and book signing on November 7th at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Lewistown Public Library. For more information, please contact Lewistown Public Library Director Danielle Buehler at (406) 538-5212.

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