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Railroad Coach, Without Wheels, Gives Adams Nontraveling Library

Journal Special Correspondence

Adams, Wis. — A library is a library even if it is in a discarded railroad coach. Adams is proud, and rightly so, of its tastefully decorated haven for book lovers in a North Western passenger car, vintage of 1858.

Until 1929, Adams' library was in a crowded schoolroom. Mrs. J. F. Duncan and Mrs. Pearly Bennett of the Adams Library association wrote to F. W. Sargent, former general manager of the North Western road, asking if he could arrange to send an old railroad coach. Sargent immediately sent the faded, weather beaten veteran of the tracks.

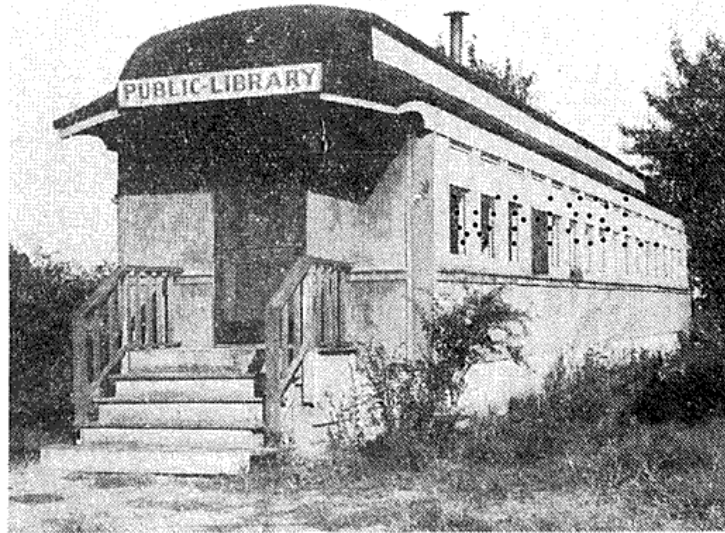
Despite many discouragements, Mrs. Hazel Fease saw to it that the coach became a library of sorts. Improvements were made regularly, and in 1933 and 1934 new floors

were laid, shelves built and a new coat of paint put on, all through contributions of library association members, benefit programs and the like.

Last year 976 persons borrowed 8,757 books. At present the library owns 2,088 books and receives 2,000 more from the Wisconsin traveling library commission. When the library started out, it had 300 volumes.

Sources of revenue for the library are meager, but the city pays only \$314 annually. The remainder of the expenses comes from rentals and fines. Nevertheless, the library has never run into debt, despite spending \$125 annually for new books.

This is one library that has received no bequests or endowments. It was started at the beginning of the depression, but it has flourished. Adams is more than satisfied.



Coach of culture

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DUPLICATE EXPOSURE