

"to shape a new generation..."

Governor McCall Praises Board and Town In Public Library Dedication Address Here

A crowd estimated at over 100 local citizens plus state representatives and members of the county court were on hand Sunday afternoon to witness the dedication of the new library, highlighted by the appearance of Oregon Governor Tom McCall.

The gathering was begun with what in effect was a "double flag presentation." The local Veterans of Foreign Wars post and their ladies' auxiliary presented the flag in the traditional manner, and then presented it as a gift to the library.

LIBRARY BOARD chairman Mrs. Robert Edwards greeted the gathering, following an invocation from Fir Lawn Lutheran Church pastor Rodney Ellertson.

Mayor Frank Kikel was to have accepted the library from architect Loyal Lang of Portland, but in the architect's absence simply presented the key to the new structure to librarian Mrs. Jay Gould.

Both the governor and state librarian Miss Eloise Ebert had words of praise for the board and the community on the progress of the library since 1942 when it began with two rooms in the basement of the old city hall, staffed voluntarily by board members.

WHILE MANY politicians take any opportunity to push for whatever programs are important to them at the time, the governor's

prepared text and all but one of his departures from the text were concerned with the library.

That one reference to fish, which the governor said are as important to him as libraries and schools, as they are the base of two important parts of our economy, fisheries and recreation. Even that departure had local significance, as it was interpreted by most to be a reference to the governor's last visit here, when he dedicated the fish hatchery at Foster.

Governor McCall also departed from his text to recount his growing up in eastern Oregon without a library, for which his mother compensated by reading

to her children from the classics, for hours on end.

AGAIN THE governor interrupted himself, in his outlining of the history of the library here. "I realize that most of you are familiar with this history, but I say it again here because the story of your determination in securing this intellectual center for your community is worthy of repetition and because I am certain my wife will appreciate it as well, as she hasn't read this speech," he said.

His prepared text was as follows:

It is not possible to over-praise or over-endow with words what a library is to man. It has been

the arsenal of intellectuals who have given man his ideas, his philosophies, his sense of purpose, his need for definition, his taste for method, and his talent for using creative means to build better worlds.

The Roman emperor Hadrian was convinced that the perpetuation of ignorance could only bring continuing strife, dissension, and bloody confrontation. He accurately foresaw that to sustain ignorance leads to human bondage—that human bondage leads to outrage—and that outrage leads to chaotic anarchy.

Hadrian built libraries in the Roman empire. And he fostered both the elevation of knowledge and the development of the arts. He was convinced that the powerful—by whatever means they may gain power—cannot keep it unless they serve the just needs of the people governed.

Hadrian's wisdom could be well applied today—and not only in the field of libraries. He feared the consequences of suspicion, distrust, and hatred. He was right in his fear—and in what it would bring to any order—no matter how powerful. Hadrian—a strong general—did not trust military might alone. He truly knew the massive impact and possibility of the mind of man, and that accord came from wisdom.

But it is not necessary for me
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