

Story at the library has a happy ending



Jeff Friesen

• Library Link

On June 29, 2004, a still unknown individual marred the fountain in front of Pioneer Memorial Library by tearing off one side of the copper "pods" and bending the centerpiece in the process.

During this act of vandalism, a handmade limestone memorial plaque donated by Clarence Denning was also irreversibly damaged. Regrettably, the limestone memorial plaque will never be replaced.

The good news is that the fountain which has stood for more than 40 years in front of the library has now been restored to its original glory.

It was more than 20 years ago on June 7, 1984, that Kathy Porsch, a staff reporter for the *Colby Free Press*, wrote an article about the fountain. The article began, "It gleams in the sun, light sparkling like diamonds from droplets of water. A shining copper head of wheat surrounded by a copper pool of water, the liquid dropping from the top grain to lower grains and into the pool, the fountain symbolizes the beauty inherent in northwest Kansas."

For anybody who has seen the fountain, these poetic words ring true.

The fountain originated as a gift from W.D. Ferguson in 1963.

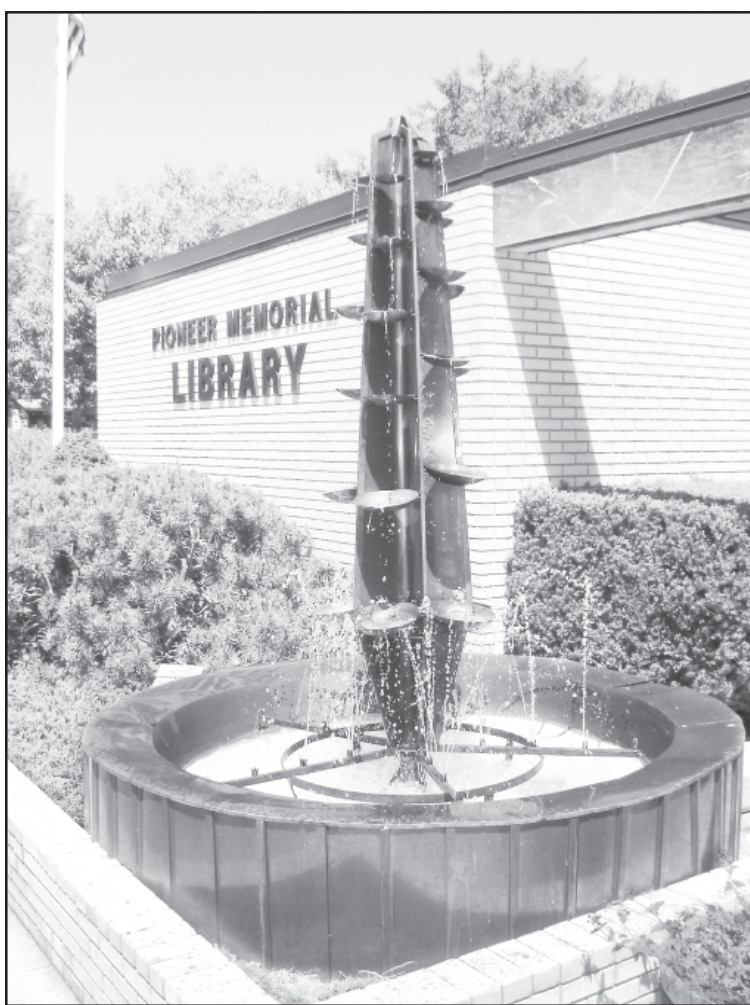
The year 1963, as it happens, was particularly significant for Pioneer Memorial Library. This was the year that the building, where Pioneer Memorial Library resides to this day, was constructed.

This was also the same year, not coincidentally, that Georgio Spadaro was commissioned to design and create the fountain that now stands in front of the library.

Since 1963, the fountain has only been through one other renovation in 1984. Perhaps with more foresight than we know, a fountain endowment fund was established in the 1980s to ensure the upkeep and survival of the fountain. Without the endowment fund, the implications of this act of vandalism could have been much worse than they already are.

Fortunately, with a nod to Butch's Body Shop for the excellent work, we have a happy ending.

Pioneer Memorial Library has and always will be proud of our fountain. Hopefully you will make it a point to stop by the library soon to see the fountain restored to its original glory. We are glad to have it back!



The fountain at Pioneer Memorial Library is repaired and restored. The fountain was vandalized nearly two years ago.

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 West Fourth St. and open seven days a week. Winter hours are as follows: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9

a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. For more information contact the library at 460-4470 or visit our website at www.colbylibrary.com. As always, we are here to serve you.

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Hoxie library to have summer reading program

By JAN KATZACKERMAN
Colby Free Press

Children of all ages looking for reading fun this summer can sign up for the free summer reading program at the Sheridan County Public Library in Hoxie.

Sign up is from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and it continues until May 26. The programs

theme this year is Paws, Claws, Scales, and other Tales.

"Because it is never too early to introduce your child to the wonders and pleasure of reading," library director Cindy Eller said, "we are offering three separate sessions this summer."

Eller said summer reading program will begin the week of June 12 and conclude the week of July 17. On July 26, there will be a party to

recognize each participant and announce the grand prize reading winners. Special activities and program will be held that day as well and will be announced as the program goes along.

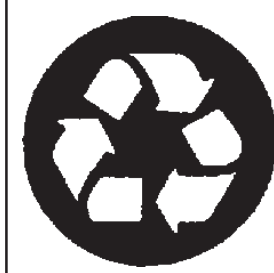
Eller said there will be a story time for children older than 3-years but not yet in kindergarten. That group of children will meet on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Kindergarten and first graders

will meet on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Second graders and older will meet on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

"For independent readers," Eller said, "those who enroll and choose to read on their own this summer, they will set a personal goal for themselves depending on their skill level."

For more information contact the library at (785) 675-3102.



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JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

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