

August 10, 2011

Hoquiam's Carnegie Library Building Celebrates 100 Years

Hoquiam's Carnegie Library building, known today as the [Hoquiam Timberland Library](#), is 100 years old this month. One of the first Prairie Style libraries on the West Coast, the library at 420 7th Street is on the national, state, and local historic registers.

An all-ages celebration at the library on Saturday, August 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. will commemorate this important milestone in Hoquiam's history. Throughout the day, visitors can join in guided tours of the building, view displays and listen to music. Children will have old-time games to play and crafts to create.



A ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. with brief remarks by Jack Durney, Mayor of Hoquiam; Michael Crose, Timberland Regional Library Director; John Larson, President of Hoquiam's Library Board; Ken Matheson, President of the Friends of the Hoquiam Timberland Library; and former Hoquiam librarians Christine Livingston and Roberta Holmes. Musical talents, the Aquanotes and Livin' Harmony, will play between and after the speakers. Musicians Andy and Linda Hall will stroll and play through the rest of the afternoon.

The musical entertainers will take listeners back in time to the library's early days. The Aquanotes sing early 20th century standards. Livin' Harmony is a gospel barbershop quartet and Linda and Andy Hall play early 20th century jazz.

The Grays Harbor Genealogical Society will hold a "genealogy café" for those who wish to delve into their own histories. From 1 to 4 p.m. family researchers can come by for free individualized help on using the library's online resources and print material.

Refreshments will be served after the ceremony. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Hoquiam Timberland Library, the Hoquiam Timberland Library, and the City of Hoquiam.

A brief history of libraries in Hoquiam

In 1907, organization began for a free public library for the City of Hoquiam. The next year a resolution was adopted establishing that such a library be quartered in a house and lot purchased for the purpose at the corner of 7th and K Streets. The converted house opened to the public in 1909, drawing over 1,000 registrants the first year.

In 1911, a new Carnegie library was constructed on the site. Louis W. Claude, a former associate and lifelong friend of architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright designed the library in Prairie Style, a rare architectural style in the Northwest. Hoquiam contracted for library service with the Timberland Regional Library District in 1969.

In 1983, the Hoquiam library was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, along with the other remaining Carnegie buildings in Washington State. It was remodeled and expanded in 1989-90, with money left by local citizens and a Bishop Foundation grant, plus a \$1.9 million bond passed by the city voters. Great care was taken to retain the style and symmetry of the original building. The library reopened in its remodeled quarters in June 1991.

Your Hoquiam library today

The library has two stories with the library service area upstairs. Downstairs includes a meeting room, conference room, and restroom facilities. Both levels are accessible by stairs and elevator.

The Hoquiam Timberland Library is part of the five-county Timberland Regional Library District, which includes 27 libraries in Grays Harbor, Pacific, Lewis, Thurston and Mason counties.

Basic services include

- The use of the entire Timberland Regional Library circulating collection of over 1.5 million books, videotapes, DVDs, CDs, newspapers, magazines, audio and videotapes for all ages and interests.
- Downloadable ebooks, audiobooks, videos and music.
- Programs and events for children and adults.
- Public computers with Internet, Microsoft Office, and online reference databases.
- Free wireless Internet access
- A public meeting room that can be reserved for community meetings and programs by calling the library.

The Hoquiam Timberland Library is at 420 7th Street, Hoquiam. For more information, please contact the library at (360) 532-1710 or go to www.TRL.org.

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Timberland Regional Library provides for the information, reading and lifelong learning needs of the Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston county public at 27 community public libraries and 7 library service partner locations. The library system is funded mainly by local property taxes. Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a library's program may contact the library one week in advance.