

of E. J. L'Engle, C. D. Rinehart, C. E. Garner, J. R. Parrott, W. W. Cummer, D. U. Fletcher, A. F. Perry, C. Drew, J. W. Archibald. These were the first Library Trustees.

The contract for the library building was awarded to Owens Contracting Company for \$44,897, and on October 3, 1903, ground was broken for it. The library was opened to the public June 1, 1905. The balance remaining from the building fund was used in improvements and shelving. The building is practically fireproof, the only woodwork being the flooring, sash and doors. Most of the shelving is steel. The style of the building is Greek Ionic, similar to all Carnegie libraries. Its official name is Jacksonville Free Public Library.

George B. Utley, an experienced librarian of Baltimore, was appointed librarian of the new library here; he and Miss Elizabeth V. Long were the first officers and they prepared the library for its opening in 1905, at which time there were 6,600 volumes on the shelves and 50 periodicals on the subscription list. The first year or two the city failed to meet its appropriation in full and considerable embarrassment resulted, but public-spirited citizens came to the rescue by providing enough funds to tide it over. Secondary only to the schools in the work of education, the library stands today a monument to the citizens of Jacksonville who gave their time and money for the perpetuation of this valuable institution.

In December, 1924, the library's subscription list comprised 20 prominent newspapers and 254 periodicals and it had 69,940 bound volumes on its shelves. The total number of active borrowers holding cards was 18,881. A statement of the number of visitors to the library during the year would be only an estimate, for many thousands use it for reading and reference without taking cards. It is the same with the children's room; more than 5,000 active borrowers are recorded, but this represents but a small fraction of the young people that the library assists every year and especially during school terms.

Librarians of the Jacksonville Free Public Library: George B. Utley to February, 1911; Joseph L. Wheeler, March 1911, to October, 1912; Lloyd W. Josselyn, November, 1912, to December, 1919; Joseph F. Marron, January, 1920, to date.