CONTENTdm Quick Start Users Panel
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Our Community
Role of the Library in Our Community

Jobs and Economics
City, County, School Issues

Local History

Knowledge/idea cycle assisted by $50,000 gift to public library

"Money invested in a library gives much better returns than mining stock." — Sir William Oddie.

As we understand a quotation attributed to Sir William Oddie, a library is a source of knowledge and knowledge is more powerful than money. Entwined two investments — a library or mining stock — the returns on one can be measured precisely, but it is virtually impossible to measure returns on the other.

Underlying the reason communities tax themselves to have libraries is the wisdom that there would be a knowledges of information and knowledge to ensure continuity and fertilization of ideas. A library performs both ways. In a sense, it also is a quiet giant which not only abridges the mind but also requires nourishment of its own in the form of money. Taxes and "mining stock" are, therefore, important, for if people allocate proceeds from them for library purposes, this giant can carry on.

Rapid City’s good fortune is that public support and private gifts, most notably $50,000 provided by Mr. and Mrs. Ray A. Knox, are representation in works into a new library facility.

The Knox gift is a happy revelation of knowledge and “mining stock,” in this case the financial returns from Knox’s investment of time, money and ideas to the McDonald Corp., America’s hamburger empire. Rapid City’s library now shares in a $5 million contribution to people-oriented institutions in which the Knoxes have an interest. The new bond between Rapid City and one of America’s most successful business leaders is through Mr. Knox who was a library board trustee here between 1951 and 1979.

Knox’s material a small way traveled from where it came. McDonald Corp. is ample of ideas put by this gift. We assure perpetuating Rapid City and people will be the better for it.
Topics for Digital Community Archive

- Creation of Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorials
- Rapid City Flood of 1972
- Homestake Mine
- Presidential Visits
- Rapid City Indian School
- Lakota Art
- Railroads
- Ghost Towns
- Deadwood
Next Steps

- Changing Web Platforms
- Expanding Collections—Partner Libraries
- Community Archives Survey

View the Knowledge Network at http://knowledgenetwork.wikidot.com/

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