History of the Public Library Building.

In the year 1904 and for several years prior thereto, there existed in the city of Wausau a public library, supported by small private donations in the way of money and books, which since 1897 received also an annual appropriation from the city, varying from $600.00 to $1750. For over three years it occupied the north west room on the second floor of the Court House by the courtesy of the County Board of Marathon County, free of rent, then it was removed to the basement of the 1. National Bank of Wausau, from whence it was taken in the fall of the year 1904 to the store building of A.W. Wiechmann on the corner of Fourth and Jefferson Sts. where it remained until April 1907, when it was established in its present quarter.

The President of the Library Board Mr. E. C. Zimmermann having been elected in the charter election of that year as Mayor, resigned then as a member of the Board, and appointed Mr. Louis Marchetti to fill the vacancy, who was thereupon elected as president of the Board.

The condition of the library as an educational and popular institution at that time was not very encouraging and the prospect for immediate improvement not very bright. The rent, salaries and other running expenses consumed much of the already too meagre allowance/leaving but a trifling amount for books to say nothing of the want of space for the reading public.

Under these circumstances the Library Board made energetic efforts to obtain the funds for the erection of a building, large enough to meet the estimated growing demands of the growing population, and durable enough to prevent repairs and alterations for a long time to come.

On July 1, 1904 the Library Board consisted of the following persons:

Mr. Louis Marchetti Pres.       Mrs. D. L. Plumer Vice Pres.
Mrs. Mary Dickens Secty.        Mr. H. G. Flieth Treas.
Mrs. Helen Van Vechten, Mrs. Eva Quaw, Mr. Eugene B. Thayer,
F. W. Genrich, Mr. Joseph Ripczinski, and Mr. Carl Mathie ex officio. member
as Supt. of Public Schools, Trustees.

In order to obtain the funds and make progress, the President of the
Library Board called together a number of citizens for that purpose, where
a committee was appointed of which he was made a member, and the committee a
acting through the President of the Library Board presented to the City
Council on the 5th. day of July 1904, a petition, securely bound, signed by
a clear majority of all the voters of the city, each signer giving number of
residence and street, requesting the city council to enact the following
ordinance, to wit:

( First Ordinance )

"Whereas Mr. Andrew Carnegie has offered to donate to the city of Wausau
the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars for the erection of a public library
building in said city on the condition that a suitable site be furnished and
and the city appropriate the sum of twenty five hundred dollars annually for
the maintenance thereof,

Now therefore, it is hereby ordained and resolved as follows:
Section 1. The said offer of Mr. Andrew Carnegie is hereby accepted upon the
conditions above stated, and the city of Wausau in consideration therefore
hereby obligates itself by this ordinance to levy and hereby levies an annual
tax to be collected in the general tax roll of the city of Wausau, the sum
of twenty five hundred dollars each year, commencing with the year 1904, and
each succeeding year for the support and maintenance of such public library,
and the proper officers of said city are directed to include such levy in the
tax roll for the year 1904, and each succeeding year, and to pay such amount
to the Library Board of said city each year."