

Bicentennial Library

320 Water Avenue

Colstrip, Montana 59323-0817

406-748-3040

No Date

Some back
ground history

Alene Cooper, Coordinator of Montana Library Development, has suggested we contact you for information. As members of the Library Board we are concerned about the future of our library. We are requesting information and suggestions about insuring its financial stability and adequate staffing and possibly becoming a branch library through the Forsyth Public Library.

The library was begun in 1976 as a Bicentennial Project of the Colstrip Women's Club. All work then and since has been by volunteers from the Club and the community. Membership sales have provided support money along with yearly fund-raisers by the Library Board and the Women's Club.

The community, unincorporated still, numbers about 4500 people, but the Women's Club is not thriving, so the Library needs backing and status. The building, heat, light and water services are provided free by Western Energy Company as part of their community service. Telephone and insurance are paid out of our funds.

The following questions are a few we hoped you could help us with.

How do we go about becoming a Branch of a larger functioning library?

What are the benefits of being a branch library? Since this library is already functioning, is a petition to become part of the county system the first step?

Is it possible to receive a copy of your charter or agreement you are using?

Who does the ordering of books and materials for the branch?

Do you have a full time paid librarian and how is she selected for the position and by whom?

Any other information or suggestions that you could give us would be a great help. Thank you for your time and consideration in this request.

Sincerely yours,