

From the CCC Dora Badollet Archives

FORGET ME NOT

Dora Badollet

First Lady of Astoria

A BIOGRAPHY
SUBMITTED BY THE CLASS OF '28
PENNED BY LEE HANSEN

Transcribed April 2022 from undated mimeograph copy from
the type-written, double-spaced original

All through history, from time immemorial, mankind has left, "footprints in the sands of time." From pioneer days here in the Northwest, innumerable people have left deep tracks in the sands-very creditable not to the overlooked. Here in Clatsop County there are many worthy people. We must weigh these names so we will not choose unwisely for a name for this warehouse of books. Let us not be too hasty or discourteous to others.

I will submit a name, a native Astorian, who arrived on December 8, 1861. The sun that morning rose and smiled so brightly and said, "This daughter will bring joy and happiness to this county because God willed her wisdom." At 18 years of age she selected teaching as her career. In 1879 she started teaching at the high school level. She taught the high school students at McClure until approximately 1912. Then, moving into what is now Towler Hall, teaching here until she retired in 1932. She was the "Rock of Gibraltar [sic]", being a genius in mathematics, Dean of girls, etc.

For 52 years she stood at the helm, directing thousands of students in the excelsior way of learning knowledge. Her knowledge of mathematics was so thorough she did not have to carry books to class. She poured her knowledge from the horn of plenty; it was incalculable as the caravan passed her table of knowledge. Each student will remember her as the dearest person that had trod the path of mankind. In their hearts, each one holds her memory as precious as the most valuable diamond in the world. She understood the storm of youth like a mirror. Asked how she disciplined her students to keep them in line, she replied, "Please be seated." "I never sit down until my students are comfortably seated, then I sit down myself and that is the end of trouble." Her vapor of goodness floated onto all who knew her. Never have I heard any unkind word about her. Even the angels must have thought a lot of her; they tinted her hair a beautiful silver.

She was a beacon for us as we were trying to climb the ladder. She let the blind by ways we did not know. Her radiance twinkled in her eyes, as a smile of contentment, friendliness [sic] and gratitude were everlastingly there. We were willing to conquer all if she would so instruct us. In later years her footsteps were not so sure as in former years, but there were hundreds of eyes to survey her path before her so no harm would befall her as she stood by the forge of knowledge, molding from the best Sheffield steel to the poorest pot metal. In her hands she patterned the first to the last and the last as the first. She accomplished beautiful craftsmanship-no one was better, or best, or a failure. This she carried all the way to the next world.

God gave her guidance through the Presbyterian faith and she became a charter member of the Order of the Eastern Star. The invisible carriage came for her on June 30, 1939 and she rode away on the path of a moonbeam. As she crossed "the bridge", the Master must have met her and told her, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Sorry to call you, but you were so essentially needed."

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As 44-45 years have gone over the waves since you tutored me, my memory is not as sharp as to remember all that should be recorded. I had to find other sources. I tried to find your trestleboard but it had gone with you. Next I tried to find the arch, but to no avail. You traveled many paths and I found so many travelers who had some stone that had been touched by you. There was a sermon in all of them-so many "firsts" that henceforth I will always think of you as the "First Lady of Astoria".

On February 6, 1892 the ship's "library" keel was laid and you were the banker. Your fellow associates were: A.F. Fulton; Pres., J.F. Rogers; V.P., and Carrie Brodie; Sec. You were on the board for 46 years, resigning on July 7, 1938. During that time you and the others begged alms to keep the library alive in the back end of a downtown

store. In this boathouse of books you applied the lesson learned from Lowell's Vision of Sir Lau Cal, to cry, "Alms feeds three; they [sic] hungry neighbor, thee, and me." From your acorn grew the oak known as the Astoria Library. You and your crew performed exceptionally until finally the city came to your aid and took over the library.

Your love for mankind was so great that in the 1890's [sic] you and the women of the library board formed the Y.W.C.A., obtaining financial help from private sources the same as for the library. Again, you and your women did your utmost until once again the city took the reins away in 1914- the stone did not show if you had resigned.

On July 26, 1938 your former pupil Ed E. Brodie (brother of Carrie) wrote you to tell you he attended your school at Liberty Hall on Bond St. Also, I found a stone on this path showing that you attended a private school in 1880-81 to further your teaching abilities. Yet the next one revealed that St. Hellens [sic] Hall had the honor to have had you in 1881-83 where you studied art, music, and language. My stupidity did not find which year you went to Normal School for 6 weeks in Monmouth, Oregon.

Each new treasure was like O.W. Holmes' Chamber Nautilus, "...that each new temple was nobler than the last." From 1916-20 the U. of Oregon was honored to house you while furthered your teaching career. While there, you were honored by becoming Dean of Mathematics. (Again I ask forgiveness for not finding the year. I also recollect that you were advisor for some classes.

Now I asked whomever read this why I should not call you the first lady of Astoria. The first lady teacher in Astoria schools to teach 52 consecutive years; first to be on the Library Board 42 years; one of the first women to start the Y.W.C.A., one of the first in the Order of the Eastern Star, as well as being one of the first officers; one of the first teachers at McClure High School; the first teacher to be

loved by all the students that attended Astoria High School. Why should we not honor you?

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The Eastern Star was established in Astoria on May 18, 1895 as the Fern Chapter with 42 members. Dora Badollet was exulted as their first worthy matron.

I was about to find out more about the first library (Saturday February 6, 1892) at the Presbyterian Church on Bond St. The ladies of the Y.W.C.A. met in the room used by the Chamber of Commerce to form a public library. (There was a library in the Presbyterian Church known as the Sunday School Library.) The library to be formed would be known as the Astoria Public Library Association. This association lasted over 20 years. The committee forming this association elected 15 board members, Dora Badollet being one of them. The ladies of the Y.W.C.A. transferred their fund in the amount of \$813.38 to the new library fund. On Saturday, May 28, 1892 the library opened in the back end of the Astoria National Bank, located in the Kinney Building on Commercial Street. The library had 537 books, 37 yearly subscribers on the patron records, periodicals, public documents, papers and reference books. (One rule was: Children under 10 unwelcome.) The Library Board's Officers were all teachers; Miss Dora Badolett [sic] was treasurer. The library moved to the Page Building on 10th St. Feb 1, 1893.

On December 15, 1913 Councilman Lein Weber cast the deciding vote which put the library under operation of the city of Astoria. The old library board, A.P.L.A., was no more. The turnover produced 5,300 books along with bookracks, stands, light fixtures, periodicals, reference books, etc. On January 5, 1914 Mayor Ed E. Grey [appointed] a nine member committee to oversee library operations. Miss Badolett [sic] was a member of this board, serving until she resigned in July 1938.

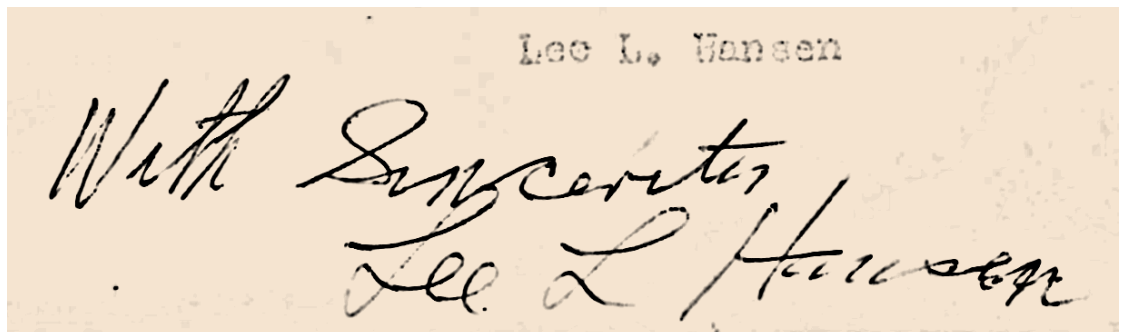
I have been unable as yet to determine the date of the establishment of the Y.W.C.A., but I found it was started by women of the W.C.T.U. using funds from private sources and manna from heaven.

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The first 50 years back was easy to review, but from 50 to 100 years was different. I am so pleased that I have been about to do this and not hurt so many of the deserving people in that era. Each item found was more rewarding and needed more pursuing. I have been fair and honest in all statements about this intellectual teacher. My hope is that the committee and board will find her name as the most fitting for this magnificent building. As Longfellow told us in The Builder, "Leave no yawning gap between. Put each block in their proper place until it will become an ornament of art." So has the life of my teacher become. In my opinion, this building is the only building in Astoria to befit my first lady of Astoria-a place of contentment, learning, consecration. If the committee selects her name, the class of '28 should get credit for it because it was through this class we met her. Also, the advice of our advisor who helped me get the right information. So, in my inward eye I see this building as the DORA BADOLETT [sic] LIBRARY.

Submitted by a friendly ex-student

Lee L. Hansen



Lee L. Hansen
With Sincerity
Lee L. Hansen

[Signed, With Sincerity Lee L. Hansen]