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Friends of the Library annual fund drive

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The annual drive for funds for the Friends of the Library surged ahead this week with a gift of $400 from an anonymous donor, according to Mrs. W. M. Johnson of Missoula, secretary of the organization.

The Friends of the Library got its start in Montana in 1959, at the instigation of Silent Sentinel and Mortar Board, senior honoraries at Montana State University, Mrs. Johnson said. The MSU students set out to enlist bibliophiles around the state in the project to raise money for needs of the MSU Library and to encourage gifts of books, manuscripts and other library materials.

The group was formally organized in the fall of 1960 and John Dietrich of Billings was elected chairman. Chapters of the Friends of the Library are now active in several Montana communities.

MSU students continue to make major contributions to the project, donating money and supplying manpower to stuff, address and mail letters soliciting public support. Tanen-of-Spur, sophomore women's honorary, has made the cause its special project for the year, and Bear Paw, sophomore men's honorary, also actively supports the group.

Ben Franklin may have originated the idea behind the Friends of the Library when he organized groups to collect books in the colonies. The present organization dates from 1925, when the first chapter of the Friends of the Library was formed at Harvard. The organization now has 400 chapters.

Contributors to the current campaign for administrative funds should make checks payable to the MSU Endowment Foundation, Friends of the Library, Mrs. Johnson said. Contributions are tax deductible, she pointed out.

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