

July 1 - 1936

HISTORY OF ANNANDALE BRANCH LIBRARY

1923. Annandale Improvement Association started the movement for a public library for Annandale. A county branch was started under Miss M. Keyes. After outgrowing the space given to them in McVey's Hardware store and Green's Hall, it was decided to get some Annandale resident to put up a building and rent it to the county for library and post-office purposes. Mr. Fred Meyers and Mr. William McLean built a little frame building at 864 Annandale Blvd. Miss Eva Hatch was made custodian.

In 1924 Annandale became part of Los Angeles. The library became a branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. The post-office being transferred to Kemble's Drug Co.

September 1926, Miss Hatch was transferred to check room at the Central Library. Miss Mercia Hess, Junior at Arroyo Seco Branch was put in charge. At this time Mrs. Florence Don Carlos was doing children's work one day a week. Efforts were made to attract more people to the library. Aid was asked of local newspaper and its editor, Harris Ingram, offered his services to do whatever he could to promote interest. Articles were published, dodgers distributed and talks given. In September circulation was averaging two thousand books per month. The campaign started, worked wonders. Circulation was increased over a thousand gain each month. At the close of the fiscal year, July, 1927, the total circulation was 43,558 books, a gain of 34%. The staff had been increased, a page part time and a janitor, 22 hours per month. In September 1927 Miss Muriel Bowler was transferred to take the place of Miss Clara Locklin who had been transferred to Sawtelle Branch. Instead of one day, two days were given due to increased work with children.

With the increased circulation and additional books we soon found we had inadequate space in which to work successfully. Consequently the matter of discipline became a problem. The police, Mr. Wardlow, appeals through the newspaper, helped to some extent, but because of crowded conditions, it was impossible to keep silence.

Our lease was to expire in April 1928, and as we had out-grown our quarters, efforts to find a location at more central point between the two large branches, Arroyo Seco and Eagle Rock, were made. The owners were willing, with an increase of rent, to enlarge building and renovate. The opening of the Luther Burbank Junior High had taken many of our students to Arroyo Seco. Their objection to getting off the street car to stop in at the library, then climb up-hill to end of car line seemed to be the reason.

On April first, 1928, the branch was moved to the only vacant store space available at the end of the car line. It was hoped by this move that it would benefit those students that came from Franklin High and Luther Burbank Junior High. It is also most central point between the two large branches. Petitions were circulated in Rockdale to have the library moved down there. The people who started movement were those that used the library perhaps every six months.

We were handicapped in this location by traffic conditions, and poor parking conveniences. Traffic Commission, Automobile Club and police department were appealed to. All except police dep't. were in favor of pedestrian crossings. We succeeded, however, in getting one

across Annandale Blvd. But due to bus line, Oak Grove is more important.

On July first 1928, Mrs. Miriam Meyers, a senior, was transferred from Central library, to Annandale Branch, two days per week.

In 1928 statistics show over seven thousand per month. Total circulation for year being 50,776 books. At this time the staff included Miss Hess, ~~Junior~~ full time; Mrs. Meyers, two days per week; Mrs. Shepard, Children's librarian, two days per week; one one-half time page.

September 1930, Mrs Meyers was transferred to Henry Adams Branch and Mrs. Floy E. Drake, ~~C.L.A.~~ from Eagle Rock Branch was in charge full time, with Mrs. Betsey Foye Veazey, in charge of the book ordering for adults, and Mrs Shepard, Children's Librarian, two days per week; also one-half time page. Miss Hess resigned to become Mrs. Clancy.

Mrs. Drake found the over-crowded condition unbearable, and the old incinerator just back of window in children's room, smoldering all day with the debris from the corner grocery store, was obviously not very enticing to sit and read and relax, in the library. In questioning the people in the community, the best location for the branch would be near the end of the W car line. Very few vacant lots were available and no modern store buildings.

One lot was found where the branch now stands. Mrs. Mueller, the owner was asked if she could or would build for us, and has co-operated in an attractive building, brick outside and stucco inside. Large plate-glass windows, plenty of good ventilation.

The building was completed in December 1930, and our lease did not expire on the old building until April and could not be broken, so Mrs Mueller let us move in rent free until the old lease expired.

The change has been indeed successful. It is now a credit to the Los Angeles Public Library system. It is large enough now to fill the needs for some time to come and is comfortable and clean and restful.

The name of the street was changed to N. Figueroa St. our address now being, 7121 N. Figueroa St.

The hours of service at this time were: two to five, every afternoon except Saturdays; seven to nine, Monday, Wednesday and Fridays; and nine to twelve Saturday mornings. The staff at this time was, Mrs. Drake, full time; Miss Jacobson, Junior, half time; Mrs Shepard, work with children, two days per week, and Miss Robertson, page, one-half time.

We had an adequate allowance for books both adult and juvenile, and continued until the depression; then it seemed advisable to make a change. The book budget was cut almost entirely, Mrs Drake was transferred to the Central Library, History Dep't. Miss Jacobson was transferred to Henry Adams full time, Mrs. Levenson, Senior was sent to Annandale, half time with Mrs. Shepard two days per week. Finally, Mrs. Shepard resigned, leaving Mrs. Levenson with Miss Robertson, half time page. The hours were cut to two to five, seven to nine, three days per week, Monday, Wednesday and Fridays.

In June 1934 Mrs. Drake was transferred back to Annandale Branch, full time, with Miss Robertson, page, one-half time. Mrs Levenson was transferred to Science Dep't., Central Library.

At the present time, we have the same hours of service, two to five, seven to nine, three days per week, Monday Wednesday, and Friday. The staff is: Mrs Drake, full time, Miss Robertson, one-half time, and Mrs. Mueller, janitress, twenty-two hours every two weeks, Miss Cherniss, work with children, one to five Friday afternoon.

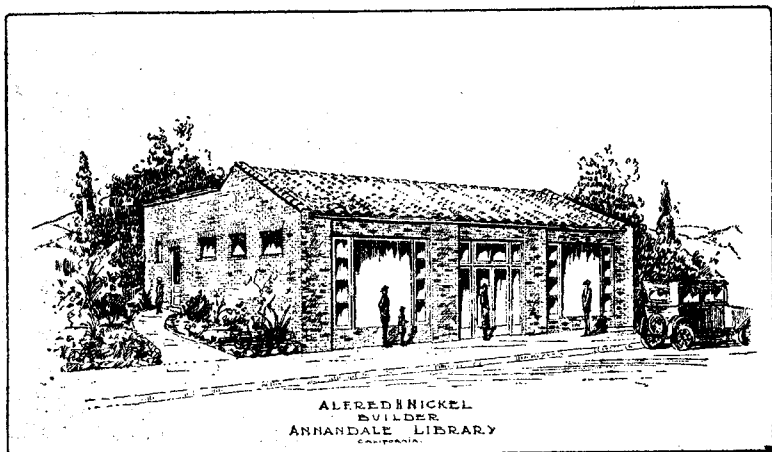
I feel we are serving the community between the two larger Branches, Eagle Rock and Arroyo Seco, and giving the people in this little community in the hills, the service they need. We have Rockdale, Annandale and Strickland Ave. Home for Boys schools, having classes for instruction on how to use the Library, and story hours. Miss Cherniss is doing very good work, and we enjoy the work with our children. We have no special reading project this summer for children, because so many go away for the summer, and we are trying the plan of telling children to read just for the love and enjoyment of reading. We feel if our books and our service in helping them is attractive, it is better education to read for the love of reading than for a prize.

Our circulation is steady and it is very obvious we do most of it in the two hours each evening. Two suggestions I would like to make for the betterment of the Branch: if we could have a continued service from two to nine, the same three days per week, with staff as is; it could be easily worked out and it would relieve the terrible congestion between the hours of seven and eight in the evenings. Many people would stop in on their way home from work between five and seven; also saving them a trip up the hill in the evening. This next suggestion I make sincerely with a prayer in my heart; we need new books and also we need our history, travel, biography, literature, science and sociology books built up. We have had no permanent non-fiction since the depression, and our collection is sadly in need of new material. We could not carry on if it were not for the long loans from S O S and O S and Eagle Rock Branch, but the disadvantage of this is, the patron becomes acquainted with the book and it is sent back; this means we take a request for the book then wait our turn for it which is sometimes two or three months.

We are also discarding many old worn out books, mostly fiction, but a great many of our best circulating books.

We do not expect any spectacular gains, in fact, I think our circulation is practically normal for this community. It may vary a little each way but we feel it is enough to know we serve this many people each day and only hope to do it creditably for our great Los Angeles Public Library System.

Annandale To Occupy Their New Building By Christmas



A new building for the Annandale branch of the Public Library will soon be a reality.

The people of Rockdale and Annandale can well thank the members of the Annandale Improvement Association and their friends for this move from its present inaccessible location, and we believe that the book circulation which has been increased from year to year due largely to the wonderful personalities of the

librarian, its future growth will be greater than could ever be hoped for by its most ardent supporters.

To Mrs. Jennie Mueller, the wife of last year's president of the association goes a large part of the credit for the construction of the building. We probably have no harder workers for this cause. The building which was designed and is being built for her with the approval of the library board, by Alfred H. Nickel, at 923 Annandale Boulevard, has been leased to the City Library for its Annandale branch.

We believe that a closer co-operation between the business men and the residents of this district through the improvement Association would work to the benefit of both and would bring many other much needed improvements to this district.

We understand the contractor is employing all local people and purchasing all material possible from members of this community.

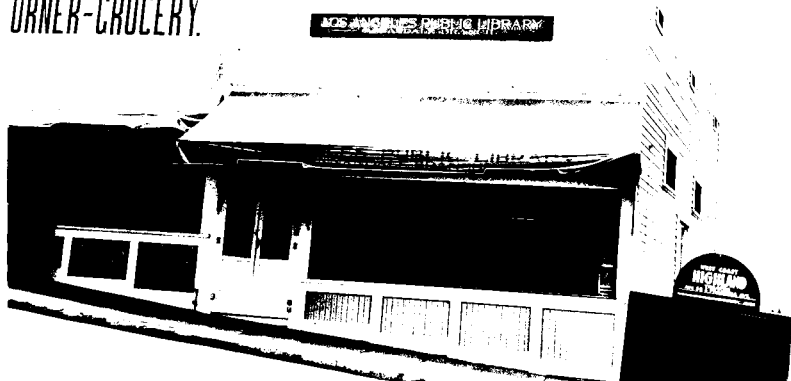
Annandale Public Library
864 Annandale Blvd.



Children's Story Hour.
Travel Club

New location
1003-Annandale Bldg.

CORNER-GROCERY.



view from side window



Children's Room.



Adult Section.