

Why Our New Branch Library Is Called Felipe de Neve Branch

So many inquiries have come to the Felipe De Neve Branch Library concerning the reason for giving a library this Spanish name, and who "Felipe" was, that a few facts about this Spanish gentleman, scholar, soldier and governor may be of general interest.

Felipe De Neve succeeded Governor Barri in the Californias in the year 1774. He was called upon to establish a number of missions—two along the Santa Barbara Channel, two between San Diego and San Gabriel, one at San Francisco (eventually the Santa Clara Mission) and one at San Jose.

For nearly ten years, he acted as military leader and governor of California, with remarkable administrative ability and justice. In 1779 he drew up a "reglamento" which was the administrative basis of the government of provinces during the remainder of the Spanish era. After 1780 Governor De Neve spent most of his time at San Gabriel, superintending the founding of the future city of Los Angeles.

It is due to Felipe De Neve that our city has the honor of being founded and dedicated with proper ceremony on September 4, 1781, with "46 souls attending." An impressive ceremony, led by Don Felipe, was held on the site of the Plaza and a Spanish flag was held aloft with these words: "Here in the name of God and our Sovereign King we will found the Pueblo of Our lady the Queen of the Angels." A cross was placed to mark the spot; a bright blue banner for the Lady of the Angels was flung to the breeze and with a Te Deum and three volleys of musketry, was founded "El Pueblo La Senora de la Reina Los Angeles," the City of Our Lady, the Queen of the Angels.

An interesting coincidence is discovered in the fact that the Lafayette Park was chosen by the Cabrillo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution more than ten years ago as the place for a sun-dial dedicated to the memory of the founder of Los Angeles, Felipe De Neve. This sun-dial is very close to the new library, on the walk leading to the park.

The founding of the city with the padres, the governor and the twelve families consisting of forty-six souls is the subject of one of the great mural paintings which is now being executed by Dean Cornwell to be placed on the walls of the Central Library Rotunda.

The librarian, Mrs. Jessie Cavanaugh, reports that while the demand for fiction is strong, owing to the vacation season, requests are coming in in large numbers for readable non-fiction.

Some of the most popular titles are:

Princess Der Ling. Old Buddha.—Romanticized portrait of the Empress Dowager who ruled China with an iron will for fifty years, drawn by a daughter of the Chinese Christian nobility, who served as lady-in-waiting at the court at palaces of "Old Buddha."

Wednesday, July 24, 1929

Lundborg. The Arctic rescue.—Straightaway tale of the Swedish rescue of the men of the Arctic expedition led by Nobile, enlisting sympathy for the Italian leader.

Lucas-Dubreton. Fourth Musketeer.—One accepts Dumas as one accepts wind blown over meadows and laughter echoing in taverns and a flash of swords that rescue the imperiled honor of a lady. As baroque and thrilling as his novels is the life story of the fourth musketeer related by one who has

caught his spirit of tale-telling.

Draper. Music at Midnight.—The house of Muriel and Paul Draper in Chelsea Street became the center of an amazing circle of musicians, artists, writers and

avored friends. Chaliapin, Henry James, Norman Douglas, John Sargent, Eugene Goossens, Ysaye and other world-loved figures pass like a pageant before us, illumined by Muriel Draper's vivid portraiture.