

## ANGELES MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

1936 - 1949

Since 1936 the fortunes of the Angeles Mesa Branch have fluctuated, reflecting the trend of the times.

From the peak figure of 1933/34 the circulation declined steadily, dropping 50% before reaching the bottom ten years later, when it again started on an upward climb.

Our immediate community consists of small, middle-class homes, built prior to the depression. Our juvenile circulation is an average one and while our greatest adult demand is for practical books, the books in all classes are well used, our reference work being constant though not scholarly.

Since the War there has been a phenomenal growth in the southwest starting with the Westchester development, where our children's librarian told stories at the Fire Station during the summers of 1943 and 1944. We also had special library hours during the week for the bus children from that district, attending the Angeles Mesa School.

Over ten years ago Dr. Ross of University of Southern California in an address before the Angeles Mesa Chamber of Commerce stated that this district had excellent potentialities for growth if intelligently planned and regulated. His predictions have been fulfilled in the continued expansion of View Park and the recent housing developments in the Crenshaw - La Brea area; Crenshaw Village, Baldwin Village and Rancho La Cienega. While west of Crenshaw, many people from these districts use our library, due partly to our ample

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parking space, and we feel that we have every reason to look forward to an era of continued growth.

The installation of fluorescent lights in the reading rooms in 1947 added greatly to the usefulness of our building.

The club room has been used by <sup>many</sup> ~~various~~ groups over the years; League of Women Voters, Air Raid Wardens, Delphian Society, Girl Scout Leaders, Book Club, Forums, Coordinating Council, and for <sup>various</sup> children's activities. A book club was started in 1937 surviving until 1949. Two forums sponsored by the Board of Education were held 1940/41.

During this period three branch librarians in turn served as secretary to the Dorsey-Cienega Coordinating Council, an office which Mrs. Blanchard also held in the Angeles Mesa Chamber of Commerce, now merged with the Crenshaw Ch. of Com.

<sup>Angeles Mesa has had</sup>  
Since 1936 three branch librarians -- Elza Blanchard to Aug. 31, 1942, Miriam Myers Sept. 1, 1942 to June 30, 1944, and Lulah Lloyd July 1, 1944 to and including the present.

Respectfully submitted

Senior Librarian