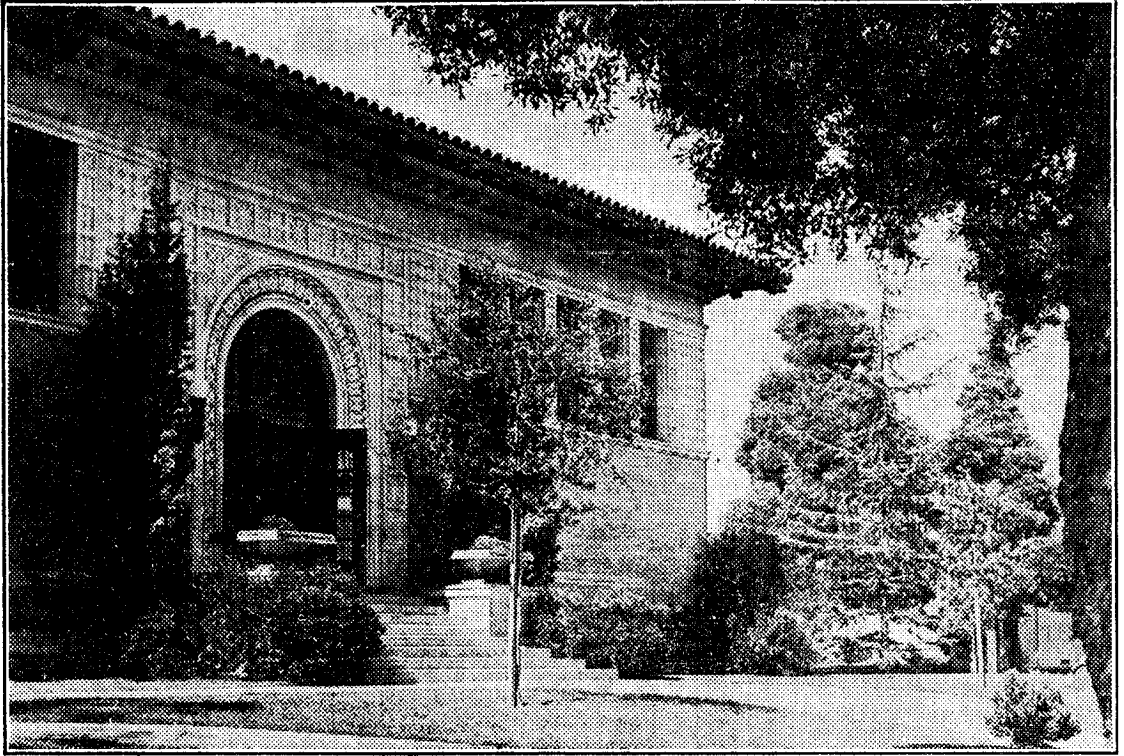


KNOW YOUR SOUTHWEST

No. 6
Vermont
Square
Branch
Library



(Southwest Wave Photo)

▷ (This is the sixth of the Know Your Southwest series, intended to acquaint our readers with the various buildings and points of interest in this community, as seen through the eyes of the staff photographer. Many readers are clipping the articles each Friday, using them to build up an interesting scrapbook.—The Editor).

A community center since opening day almost 24 years ago, the Vermont Square Branch library, located at Forty-eighth and Budlong, is one of the most widely-visited buildings in the entire Southwest, serving and having served as a meeting-place for scores of local organizations, and attracting thousands of residents seeking books.

The branch, opened to the public on March 1, 1913, was the first library building to be built by the city, being the first of six branch buildings constructed by funds from a Carnegie Foundation grant.

Caroline M. Brittan was taken from the University branch to be the first branch librarian at Vermont Square, with Veva Hart as her assistant.

Soon after the branch was established the West Ebell club was organized and held meetings in the library auditorium for a number of years. In 1917 the club, with the assistance of the Vermont Square Improvement association, which was instrumental in securing the branch for its present location, united in presenting Vermont

Square with a motion picture projecting machine.

Throughout the World War the branch hummed with patriotic activity, and was used as headquarters for Red Cross drives. During the year 1917-18 there were 368 meetings in the auditorium. One report stated that "Monday mornings was the only time in the week free for tuning of the piano."

The branch soon became overcrowded, and rooms and offices were changed about to provide necessary space. Today the branch is taxed to its capacity. A wide circulation of books has been enjoyed by the library. For the year 1928-29 Vermont Square led all branches in the system in circulation.

Helen Spotts is the present librarian at Vermont Square, coming to the branch in July, 1929, succeeding Mrs. Jessie I. Cavanaugh, who had held the office for nine years. Miss Spotts formerly was connected with the Jefferson branch.