

Echo Park was the eighth branch of the Los Angeles Public Library system to be established. It began as a deposit of discarded books placed in the Echo Park Clubhouse. Miss Dora Chelgren spent a few hours a week there. In October, 1908, Miss Jane Dick was appointed librarian. At this time Oliver and Edna Best were the playground directors. As soon as Miss Dick was made librarian she insisted upon some real books, and the library was open one afternoon and one evening each week. Then after a time Mrs. Oakley and Miss Kennedy made it possible for the library to be open two afternoons, one evening, and all day Saturday, and this schedule was kept up as long as it was in the playground clubhouse. Miss Florence Hurst was assistant to Miss Dick for many years, and both are remembered with pleasure by many old residents of the community. It grew to be a very delightful little library, and was much appreciated by the residents of the neighborhood. Echo Park was only one of seven playground libraries, all of which had their day of

usefulness to the community, and have been superseded by a fine branch library, or else the need has gone. The old community club house had a certain charm which the more modern buildings lack. It was a bungalow type building, with a long room with a stage at one end, and a huge fireplace at the other. Low windows and beamed ceilings added to its atmosphere. As far as library equipment was concerned it was very inadequate. Book cases with glass doors, which must be locked securely as soon as library hours were over, rough tables and chairs, and trays and charging equipment all had to be out of sight while the other activities were going on. Locks of different kinds were added until the librarian was forced to carry almost as many keys as a turnkey in a prison. No one who ever worked at Echo Park has ever forgotten the process of opening and closing all the myriad cupboards and bookcases, and trying to keep a semblance of order on shelves that were simply bulging with books. Every one enjoyed the people and the fine community spirit, though.

Miss Dick left to work for the government in 1918, and Miss Laura Thompson took her place remaining until 1923, when she was followed by Miss Betty Lord, now Mrs. Fitzpatrick. In August, 1924 Miss Marion McCreew was made librarian. This was the first year any really organized children's work was done, and Miss Frances Hatchette was the first children's librarian. Virginia Steward is also remembered for her loyal work as page and general helper for several years.

With the beginning of 1925 plans for a new clubhouse began to take real form, and it seemed that the time was ripe for the library to seek quarters of its own, where it would not need to be limited in hours and activity. So in April 1925 a small store building at 1811 Temple St. was rented and this the library occupied until its present building was completed in February, 1928.

During the time the library was ^{at 1811} on Temple St. we were open five afternoons and three evenings a week. Hope Hendricks was the first children's librarian, followed by Iris Butler. In the fall of 1927 Nell Steinmetz came and was with us when we

moved into the new building. Since the librarian still had the other two playground libraries, Custer and Hazard under her care, she was assisted by Mrs. Jennie Raymond . Pages during this time were Virginia Steward, Monica Cassidy, Marcia McGrew, and Anna Keleman.

The new building was made possible by the 1925 bond issue. This building occupies the south corner of Echo Park, granted to the Library through the generosity of the Park Board. Since it is a unit of a community center, it was necessary that its architecture be in harmony with the club house, and so the Italian style was chosen. The building is of hollow tile, with a handmade tile roof. The ceiling of the main room is groin-vaulted and lighted by clerestory windows on the sides and long windows at the ends. In addition to the main room and the staff quarters, there is an attractive club room with an inviting fireplace where story hours and educational gatherings are held.

The lighting system has attracted many

visitors, and caused much comment among artists and builders as well as the general public. (The following page is taken from the January, 1931 issue of the Transactions of the Illuminating Engineering Society .)



ECHO PARK BRANCH, LOS ANGELES LIBRARY

Los Angeles, California

LIBRARY READING ROOM

F. D. McKinstry, Los Angeles—Lighting Engineer

This simple, yet attractive reading room, is quite modern in design, arrangement and lighting. The side walls and vaulted ceiling are left in a natural concrete finish. The reading tables and cases are of dark stained hardwood with low reflection factor. Above the book shelves are a series of decorative pictures which give a touch of color.

The exterior walls are purposely very thick and these are pierced by rectangular windows with a curved top in the center of each vault. These are glazed with a honeycomb design. Counter sunk in the sill are mirrored glass reflectors (# 551) made by the *Pittsburgh Reflector Company*, which are fitted with 500-watt Mazda lamps. In the room, which is 91 x 28 feet in size, a total of 26 of these units is employed and the illumination level is 9 foot-candles. The resultant illumination is of a most desirable quality for a library reading room. Its totally indirect character eliminates objectionable shadows and glaring reflections. The arrangement is such as to enhance the architecture of the ceiling. The brightness contrast emphasizes the lines of the vaults and groins and makes the tympanums more prominent. Since the light emanates from the same location as the windows the tendency is to create a natural daytime appearance.

The Echo Park community is chiefly characterized by its heterogeneous quality. There are well defined Jewish, Mexican, Negro and Philippine districts, as well as a large percentage of Americans with a community of artists, musicians and writers on the north side of Sunset Blvd. This heterogeneous quality makes any unified community work impossible. Every agency in the district feels this hampering influence. About all the library can do is build its book collection to meet all community needs. There is no local paper of a character which allows for newspaper publicity and the location of the library so far south of Sunset with no direct street car transportation cuts us off from our logical center of growth. On the other hand, the personnel of the community does not change greatly and our patrons are interesting readers, considerate and appreciative in relation to the staff and proud of their library.

The first staff in the new building

was composed of four members: Marion McGrew, Branch Librarian; Mrs. Nell Steinmetz, Children's librarian; Dorothy Overbeck, junior, and Anna Keleman, page. Our first month's circulation in the new building was 7540 or a 79% gain over the same month in the previous year. The first year in the new building, the circulation was 104416 with a book count of 7942. From then until June 1934 we had a steady increase in circulation with the peak being 164415, with a book collection of 12148. Then the depression budgets began to take their toll and circulation has dropped to 130076 in 1936 with a book count of 12370. June 1936 shows a slight gain, which may or may not mean that we have hit the bottom and are on the up-grade.

There have been comparatively few staff changes at Echo Park. Dorothy Overbeck resigned in April 1929, and her place was taken by Helen Collins. Miss Collins was married in November 3, 1934 to Mr. James Crawford and is still at the branch, and is a very valu-

able staff member. In Sept., 1930 Mrs. Steinmetz went to Hollywood as Children's Librarian and Mrs. Helen Ludwig took her place. She remained until Sept. 1932 with the exception of 6 months leave, during which time Elizabeth Pinney was here. In 1932 Mrs. Ludwig transferred to Arroyo Seco and Muriel Bowler was appointed children's librarian at Echo Park. In the meantime a quarter time page was added to the staff. This position was filled by Hazel Webb, then Douglas Baughman, and then by Minnie Markham. Muriel Bowler was married on Dec. 30, 1932 and became Mrs. W. H. Pickering.

July 1, 1933 Marion McGrew was transferred to Venice Branch and Mrs. Steinmetz came back to Echo Park as Branch Librarian.

The staff at Echo Park work most harmoniously together. Each does her own particular part of the work, yet is always ready to help on some one's else in an emergency.

The chief community changes have been physical ones, such as the widening of Temple

St. and Glendale Blvd. so that they are now very busy thoroughfares.

The building itself has had few changes. Nine very lovely ^{ie} Dufenback silhouettes were added to the Children's room, one Federal Art project painting to the Club Room and two Federal art paintings to the Staff Room. Stack lights were put in the adult room in January of 1935. They improved our lighting and cut our bills in a gratifying manner. In the spring of 1936, we were given a greatly needed coat of paint inside so that our building is restored to its original loveliness.

ECHO PARK BRANCH

520 Glendale Blvd.

Building completed in Feb. 1928

Architects: Walter and Pierpont Davis

Contractor

Furniture and equipment contractor

Material Tile concrete

Cost of Lot gift from Park Dept.

Cost of building

Cost of equipment \$7271.23

Dimensions

Lot

Building 96x60 5760 sq.ft.

Net Yard area

Floor Space

Total sq. ft. 3138

Adult reading room 1120

Juvenile rdg. rm. 1120

Auditorium

Staff quarters 414

rest room 132 sq.ft.

Kitchen 42 sq.ft.

work rm. 120 sq.ft.

office 120 sq.ft.

Seating capacity

Adult	30
Juvenile	30
Aud.	50
Total	110

Book capacity 15000 vol.

Shelving

Adult 798 ft.
Juvenile 560 ft.
Misc. 177 ft. work room, office,
soerting

Total 1535 ft.

Furniture

Finish and color *Dark oak*

Make *Lib. Bureau*

Heating

Make and type of furnace
2 Pacific Unit gas furnaces
2 Magic Way Unit System Mfg. Co.

Thermostat Furnacostat, by
Minneapolis Honeywell
Safety pilot Reliance Mfg. Co.

Make of ventilating fan Diamond Electric

Hot water heater, make and type

Rudd Instantaneous

Floor covering, type and color Linoleum
dark red

Fire extinguishers number 1
make SodAcid by
FyrFyter Pacific Co.

Utilities

Gas
Water
light

Staff Changes

Sept. 1937 Anna Keleman, $\frac{1}{2}$ time page resigned to take full time work with the County Library

Nancy Browne succeeded her
December 1937 $\frac{1}{2}$ time page Minnie Markham retired

Vera Rideout succeeded her
October 1937 Muriel Pickering, Childrens librarian, resigned to lead a life of leisure.

Zelda Cartman, librarian, came for three months, and the Branch Librarian carried on the Childrens work during that time.

January 1939 Marion Stute came as Childrens Librarian.

May 1939 Helen Broderson, CLA, transferred to Main Library, having been at Echo Park almost ever since the building was completed.

Jeanette Fahringer came to Echo Park from Mark Twain

Sept. 1939 Vera Rideout $\frac{1}{2}$ time page resigned to go to school in Berkeley. Anita Heller took her place.

Oct. 1, 1940, branch hours changed to Mon. Wed., Fri., 1-9.

Nancy Browne and Anita Heller both resigned, being unable to get in their hours under the new arrangement.

Ruth Blamey came as $\frac{1}{2}$ time page,

Elizabeth Buchan as $\frac{1}{4}$ time page.

Elizabeth Buchan resigned Jan. 31 1941 to be married

June Howitt took her place.

Marion Stute, Childrens Librarian, was transferred to Van Nuys Oct. 1, 1940

Jessie Hume came as $\frac{1}{2}$ time Ch. Lib.

Branch Librarian, Nell Steinmetz, $\frac{1}{2}$ time Echo Park and half time Malabar, beginning Oct. 1. 1940

Jessie Hume resigned and Barbara McMillam came as substitute Childrens Librarian for a short time, followed by Muriel Gooden, who stayed as substitute till July ,1942, when Dorothy Garey transfered from Malabar. She was here till Sept. 2 1942, then was transfered, being replaced by Marion Yakely.

Ruth Blamey resigned Jy.42 to go to Douglas Aircraft.

Donna Gillis took her place as $\frac{1}{2}$ time M.C. and Beverly Holbert was appointed $\frac{1}{4}$ timeMC Donna Gillis resigned Aug. 42 to get married , and to go to a full time job at Lockheed.

Kathleen Burnett was appointed $\frac{1}{2}$ time M.C. but could not keep the schedule with her school hours, so she became $\frac{1}{4}$ time In Sep.42, and Teresa Radogna was taken on as $\frac{1}{4}$ time M.C. Sep.42.

Nell Steinmetz was given a year's leave in order to take charge of the library at Vega Aircraft.

	Circ.	Book count	Book turnover	Staff turnover
1928-29	104416	7942		
1929-30	118740	8773		
1930-31	133186	10167		
1931-32	149517	11084		
1932-33	163446	11894		
1933-34	164415	12748	mc Pw. 12.55	
1934-35	142113	12205	11.71	
1935-36	130076	12370	10-51	18.58
1936-37	114549	14386	9.14	14.70
1937-38	113852	13683	9.63	16.06
1938-39	116151	13744	9.07	16.95
1939-40	103950	14073	6.798 11mo. count	14.49

1936 - 1949

Looking over the annual reports of Echo Park Library from 1937 to 1939, we see turbulent years of depression and war which are reflected in branch statistics showing the use made of the branch, in the stability of the staff and in the physical condition of the building. During this time, staff and hours of service were cut and book funds were low. The circulation figures which rose to the peak in 1933/34 of 164,415 with a book count of 12,748 began to decline. Still very high in 1938/39--118,151--the circulation went down steadily until 1942/43 when the year's total was 62,635. From this date, it has gradually climbed, reaching the figure of 86,130 in 1948/49. The drop in the use of Echo Park Branch was most acute in the two years 1940/41 and 41/42 after the hours of service were cut to three days a week, and clerical help was taken from the branch. Of course these are the first years of the war also, when people were going into defense work and were too busy and tired for much recreational reading. There were small gains from 1943 in, but the largest

increase (1200) came in 1947/48 when the hours were restored to $5\frac{1}{2}$ days a week and the staff was increased from $\frac{1}{2}$ time to full time children's librarian and a $\frac{1}{2}$ time clerk-typist was added. This is a rather sad period to review if it weren't for the sight of definite progress made in all phases of the work in the last two years.

The community around Echo Park Branch, predominantly residential except for the shopping districts along Sunset Blvd. and Temple Street, has been changing steadily, showing a large and growing Mexican population with smaller numbers of Filipinos, Negroes, and Orientals. The Jewish community along Temple St. has been declining for some years taking away some of Echo Park's best readers to be replaced by Mexicans who are poor borrowers. The section to the north of the north of the branch is middle class American. Here are the most steady and loyal borrowers, but many of them live an inconvenient distance from us. The change in the neighborhood is climaxed by the freeway now under construction which has

moved many families to the east and west of the branch away, and has caused the closing of the Custer Avenue School, one which we served.

One street, Echo Park Avenue, is now blocked to traffic except for a pedestrian underpass just finished, and our parking space is less than half of what it was. I have drawn a rough diagram to accompany this report showing the block before and after the freeway.

There never has been much spirit in this section. The heterogeneous groups refuse to come together despite the efforts of such organizations as the Coordinating Council which was quite active before the war and for some years after it began, is now defunct in this district. The present Branch Librarian attended several meetings of a committee trying to revive it, but the effort was unsuccessful.

STAFF

Nell Steinmetz was Branch Librarian in 1937 (She was appointed in 1933). Her training as a children's librarian was apparent in her interest in activities for children. She opened the club room, under W. P. A. supervision

to be used as a "conversation room" for young people who gathered at the library to study and visit. This was successful both with the youngsters and as a solution to the discipline problem felt in many branches where the buzz of conversation among high school groups annoyed older readers. The project had to be abandoned when W. P. A. help was withdrawn as no suitable volunteers could be found to continue it. Mrs. Steinmetz also served as chairman of the Radio Book Club, presenting dramatizations of children's books over station KEHE. She left the library in 1942 in order to take charge of the library at Vega Aircraft.

Alice Fietz, former Ass't Dept. Librarian in Fiction, returned to Los Angeles Public Library for eight months taking charge of Echo Park until July, 1943, when staff cuts brought her service to an end. An efficient administrator, she was well liked at Echo Park by public and staff and she was here through some difficult war months.

Eleanor Wade, at Echo Park from July 1943 to July 1945, is still remembered by the

patrons for her genuine liking for people and her sympathetic interest in their problems. Her greatest contribution was in this contact with individuals but she also worked with the Coordinating Council and sponsored a lecture series presented here from October thru May of 1943 called "Know Your Allies".

Elizabeth Landram, the present Branch Librarian, has been at Echo Park since 1945. It has been an interesting period of post war adjustment. The library work has been almost entirely with individuals except for the children's class visits.. We sponsored a Spanish class from Belmont Evening High School, and we also had a Great Books series during one summer, but neither group was large and both dwindled during their session.

In February of 1947, the branch opened Tuesday and Thursday from 1-5. At this time, 30 hours clerk-typist was added to the staff. In July, 1947, where a full time children's librarian was found in Echo Park, the clerk-typist was reduced to $\frac{1}{2}$ time. Registration and circulation has increased slightly. With

staff, budget, and hours of service all increased, the building painted, lighting improved, and a new furnace installed, we feel encouraged to our best efforts. We hope the freeway won't prove too great a barrier to expansion. Many patrons whose cards had long since expired here, came in to re-register-- ex-servicemen and civilians alike. The staff, which has been very unstable--from standpoint of length of service--is settling down, I hope. I have had seven children's librarians in four years, and innumerable messenger clerks.

Annual reports throughout the period speak enthusiastically of staff personnel. Among children's librarians who are especially remembered for their successful work with the children are Marion Stute, Jessie Hume, Marion Yakeley (Miss Yakeley was at Echo Park when Elizabeth Landram came to the branch and I cannot say too much for her work. She seemed to have a particular talent for arousing children's interest in books--always calm and even-tempered, she had endless patience with children and adults), and Ruby Busch.

C L A'S worthy of mention are Helen Birderson, Jeanette Fahringer, and Helen Gleason.

BOOK COLLECTIONS

Echo Park needs a larger book appropriation and less restriction on division of fiction and non-fiction funds. To some extent, because of shelving limitations, the book collection has remained about the same--1937-13683: 1949-14037. (not bad; forced to weed out obsolete books and shabby books).

The books are primarily a collection for recreational reading--small reference collection adequate. The small open shelf collection--a revolving collection loaned to several smaller branches. The rental collection used little.

CENTRAL LIBRARY REPORT MORE EXTENSIVE.

The outlook for the branch is questionable without adequate children's service or replacement closer to the Sunset Blvd shopping district.

Miss Elizabeth Landrom was Librarian until February of 1950 when she went on a sick leave from which she never returned. Miss Scheck who took over her duties as a substitute remained until July 1952, when the branch became a sub-branch and Miss Margaret Holgate, who was children's librarian took over the duties of Librarian-in-charge. In July of 1953 Miss Holgate returned to children's work and Mr. Vernald Smith was appointed librarian-in-charge. In May of 1954, Mr. Smith was out on sick leave and Mrs. Anell Knutson arrived as a substitute and in August upon notification that Mr. Smith would not return to Echo Park she was appointed librarian-in-charge. On June 12, 1959 Mrs. Knutson was transferred to Los Feliz branch and Mrs. Ruth Spencer was appointed part-time librarian-in-charge working 20 hours.

Mrs. Ruby K. Busch returned to Echo Park to replace Anna Mae Williston in September 1949 as children's librarian. Mrs Busch did an excellent job until she transferred to Palms- West Los Angeles, November 1, 1950. Miss Margaret Holgate came to Echo Park at this time from Ivanhoe Room. Miss Holgate was children's librarian until she took over the duties as the first librarian-in-charge of Echo Park as a sub-branch. From this time on Echo Park had no children's librarian.

Mary Helen Gleason was clerk-typist on a 30 hour basis until September 1950 when she dropped to 20 hours. Miss Gleason was half time clerk typist until her extended sick leave in 1953 and death in march of 1954. Virginia May Fuggey was replaced by Eileen Komm who transferred from Felipe de Neve in May 1951 as half time clerk typist. Mrs. Norma Lewis replaced Miss Komm and on the event of Miss Gleasons' sick leave took on forty hours until the transferr of Miss Hilda Donnes from Wilshire September of 1953,

When Miss Lewis dropped to 20 hours again and remained at Echo Park until her transfer to Central library in November 1954. Miss Domers remained at Echo Park as a great help to all who came to work with her until her transfer back to Wilshire in July of 1957. Mr. David Hall replaced Miss Lewis after about six months' struggle, with only Miss Domers to carry the load with the help from Hollywood Branch. Mr. Hall remained at Echo Park from May 1955 to August of 1956 when he transferred to Hollywood. Miss Jacquelyne Owens joined the staff August 1956 and transferred to a full time position in Literature in September of 1958 to be replaced for a short space from Oct 1958 to May 1959 only to transfer to a full time position in circulation was Christine Abrahamson. Mrs. Sheila Farmer joined the staff as Miss Sheila Connell, messenger clerk, in July 1956 and left to be a clerk typist at Felipe de Neve for a short time and returned to Echo Park in that capacity to replace Miss Domers. Mrs. Farmer then transferred to circulation department on a full time basis

in February 1958 when Miss Earline Williams came to us. Mrs. Kahn came as a full time clerk typist to Replace Miss Abrahamson when only the half time services of Mrs Ruth Spencer, librarian-in-charge, were available.

ECHO PARK BRANCH LIBRARY

1949~~5~~-----1959

ECHO PARK TEN YEAR HISTORY 1949- 1959

The past ten years at Echo Park have reflected the change in the community. The freeway, of course, has had the greatest influence on the library, and its use. The physical appearance of the approaches to the library were refurnished in 1949- 1950 fiscal year and the Park and Recreation department is given credit for the more pleasing appearance. For the ensuing ten years the grounds have been kept up in fairly good condition.

The year of '49-'50 found the library considering closing The Echo Park Branch because of budgetary conditions. This incident brought the heterogeneous population of the community together enough to make a concentrated effort to keep the library open and this was accomplished. "Little Toot" the children's bookmobile took Elysian Heights school under its wing during this year and later also included Union Avenue school.

It wasn't until '50- '51 that the freeway underpasses were completed and Echo Park looked hopefully to recapturing its library users, who lived on the other side. However, with Echo Park Avenue having been absorbed by the playground to compensate for the land the freeway had taken from them, our patrons found parking a great problem. To quote Miss Schecks' report "many patrons tell us that they can take the street cars and busses direct to town or even to Hollywood more easily than they can get to Glendale and Temple street ." This situation has not changed, and the ~~situation has not changed~~, and the replacement of the branch from this end of the park to the portion at the other end of Echo Park lake now used by the Parks & Recreation District offices appears as the only solution. This would place the library within a block of the Sunset shopping district.

Before + After + reway

Echo Park Lake

Bellevue

Recreation

tree hill

playground

Tennis courts

EP

Echo Park Ave

houses in this area

Temple ST

Glendale Blvd

Echo Park Lake

Recreation Center

7 reway

parking area
Bicycle Rest

Tennis courts

EP

Recreation Center

baseball diamond

Echo Park Ave

Glendale Blvd

Temple ST

In July of 1952 Echo Park Branch became a sub-branch. The tremendous job of weeding a collection to fit its future use fell to Miss Taylor and her staff at the regional branch library. The children's section was under the supervision of Miss Litsey and her staff of Work with Children Department. With the collection finally taking shape the physical arrangement of the library was adapted to the sub-branch status. Placement of books was changed and excess furniture stored in lecture room.

The year of '53-'54 saw the mending problem solving itself by concentration at Central library. The books were all sent to Central for all but the very easiest of mends. This was found to be most satisfactory. Another innovation was the use of pocket books to supplement the western and mystery collections. This, however, did not prove too satisfactory and was dropped the following year.

'54-'55 found the library using transaction cards instead of daters to inform patrons of date due on books. Though the library circulation was not large enough to warrant the installations of a Recordak to co-ordinate the entire system the transaction cards were used for the date due.

From this time on the library appears on a pretty even keel. The library is now faced with the unusual problem of how to make empty shelves appear attractive, as weeding of the collection continues and funds to replace or order the current material needed never seem sufficient. The use of the library mostly for recreational material presents the problem of keeping the collection alive on a sub-branch budget.

The public using the library for the past ten years has been in a state of flux. The community changed from a reading Jewish population to a non-using Mexican and foreign population.

Until the past year or so the public was so unstable and transient that the delinquencies in the registration file have blossomed until the whole file at first glance appears to be nothing but delinquents. However, the last two years there has been a noticeable change in the return of unclaimed overdue notices. At long last the disruption of the Freeway may be settling down. It is most apparent, however, that our reading public is all living on the other side of the freeway and find it very inconvenient to get here by public transportation and almost impossible to park if they come by car.

As you read the reports written each year, it's like a voice in the wilderness continually crying "More time for children's library service." This is an area with many children who need library service but must be introduced to it. We will grant you that new areas are active with children, but those children will come to the library whether you have children's librarians or not. Here, where we have underprivileged children from

homes where parents cannot read or do not know what library can offer to them, as well as to their children, we must stimulate the use of the library. Perhaps, I think like a social worker rather than a librarian, but I strongly feel that introducing children to reading early enough, before they reach the stage of being ashamed of not being able to read well, will break **down** their defiance that leads to mischief-making. These kinds just plain need more help through results may not be phenomenal. They are tomorrow's readers and tax-payers. Just because they are growing up in an established area they should not be abandoned to inadequate service. No librarian alone in a branch, even if she is a children's librarian, can give adequate ~~it~~ library service to schools and individual children. And yet you should see the response you get from just a little attention to the book-hungry youngster in the area.

Everyone talks about the poor reading ability of the youngster today. We can help the teachers with children with a foreign language background by introducing easy but interesting outside reading to stimulate them. They learn to read in school but read for fun in the library.

The library building is well kept by the janitor under supervision of the Maintenance Department. The change to the new method of management has certainly proved beneficial to Echo Park. Even the patrons have commented on the neat appearance of the branch and the nice waxed floors. It's a pleasure to walk into the building when it is kept clean. Of course, the reports through the years continue mentioning the need for better lighting and an application of paint, but these things need planning and time to be accomplished. I feel the planning may have been done, but time and funds always take longer to fall into line.

ECHO PARK BRANCH LIBRARY

Ten-Year Report

The 1959-1969 decade began with a half-time Librarian-in-Charge, not adequate for the task even though ably assisted by a full time and a half-time Clerk Typist. During the next year a Library Assistant was in charge until once again a full-time Librarian could be placed here, in August of 1962, In the succeeding seven years four Librarians have held the post, and the cry of previous decades continues to resound: inevitably, a part of our constituency is neglected. While the Librarian is on break or at supper, before she can respond to the buzzer the patron walks out with his question unanswered. And, often only the most persistent children get helped, by following the Librarian until she completes an

adult reference question. Granting that our small collection will not answer specialized needs, and hoping that SCAN will improve communication with the general public, there is still a need for more attention on the floor. Also, the "paper-work", essential to building up, maintaining and weeding any collection, plus school and community contacts, often find the librarian working on her own time.

A continued heavy influx of Spanish speaking people from all parts of Hispano-America continues to create special needs in this area. The Los Angeles County Welfare Planning Council has reports only for the years '63 and '65, but these are very interesting. Echo Park is not listed as a separate region under the L.A.

Central Area, but the "social profiles" for Westlake and Elysian Park cover our Temple-Glendale area and its neighboring schools. An area covered in the Silver Lake "profile", "ours" since the Edendale Branch was closed, has characteristics which in no way relate to the Westlake and Elysian Park areas. These show a progressive increase in the Spanish-speaking population. But they are not as revealing as the "L.A. Public School Racial and Ethnic Survey," which has the following figures in the fall of 1968 for the two public schools nearest our branch:

	Cortez St.	Rosemont Ave.
Total	1,116	945
Indian	7	4
Negro	17	115
Oriental	57	102
Spanish Speaking	955	541
Total Minority	1,036	762

"Spanish-speaking", as a general rule, so far means people with Spanish surnames, admittedly not a true picture for various reasons, as given in Julian Samora's La Raza, as well as in other surveys:

Anglicizing of Spanish surnames

Cross-marriages

Second, third, etc. generations

with continued use of the surname,
but now Americanized in language
and thinking.

Similarity of Spanish names to
other Latin names.

However, every week people come in wanting help or information, and unable to speak English. The school figures, as well as the testimony of the school staffs, indicate that a large percent of the children of this area come from homes where Spanish is still spoken. I have seen direct evidence of this

when, in school talks, I ask, in Spanish, "How many of you understand what I'm saying now?" and from 50 to 75% delightedly raise their hands. The Vice Principal of the Cortez School who has been a splendid ally in recruiting borrowers, is very much interested in the challenge of this area. It is interesting to note, however, that a year ago, in the Cortez School with its preponderance of Spanish speaking youngsters, only one teacher is listed as having a Spanish surname, while with only 17 Negro pupils there are 11 Negro teachers, and with 57 Oriental children, there are, I think, 6 Oriental teachers.

The Ethnic and Racial Survey by the County Welfare Planning Council has now become mandatory, so more precise and comparative figures on families should be available in the future.

In 1966 the Echo Park Librarians began to ask for special funds for Spanish books, a budget request granted in 1967. Through 1967 the Spanish holdings here consisted of only a few Grammars and Dictionaries. In 1968 and 1969, besides a great many titles ordered and not yet received, including the BARSA Encyclopedia, our present Spanish holdings are, according to Dewey distribution:

000	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	TOTAL
1	7	3	9	38	19	31	6	47	18	179

Holdings in Juvenile books are much more limited, since much less good material has been available. The BARSA Encyclopedia is a translation, rather than an original Spanish language Encyclopedia, as it is better for students to learn their facts from our point of view for school studies.

In addition to the Spanish language collection, efforts have been made to

acquire easier books in English, of interest to older people, and especially those useful in High Schools, including books about their countries, books with less difficult and technical language, books to acquaint them with our land, history and customs, and guides to citizenship.

Again I would emphasize that the term Mexican-American is not a good generalization for this area. Last autumn, at the request of a teacher of English to Spanish-speaking adults, I invited groups and individuals for a "Spanish Evening in the Library", and about thirty people attended. At the coffee hour, after the Library closed, I asked for a show of hands, and found that about, roughly, 50% were Cuban, about 16% Mexican, and the remaining 34% from other South and Central American countries.

As in other years, good communication has been kept with the Echo Park Playground and its staff. When we have had "disorders" they have been helpful; and we try to cooperate in publicity and, when possible, in attendance at their functions.