

BRANCH HISTORY

1959-1960

According to the report this was a difficult year. Children's Librarian was ill during the fall months, two new ones in succeeding months. Service, especially to children, could not be very effective.

There was no increase in adult readers. Adult circulation was sustained largely by elderly, retired people who read widely.

The branch was used as headquarters for the census team during the spring. It was also used as a meeting place for the Wilshire Coordinating Council Committees.

Staff 1959/60 was as follows:

Senior Librarian	Johanna Sutton	Began 10/22/56
Children's Librarian	Minnie Martin	Sick Leave Sept. 1959 Resigned Jan. 1960
	Agnes Davis	Began 6/1/60
Librarian	Lucille Berggren	Began 10/13/59 - one day Transferred to Central
	Elizabeth C. Williams	Feb. - June 1960 Transferred to La Cienaga
Librarian Trainee	Charles Wulach	Returned to Vermont Square 2/11/60
Clerk Typists	Jaunita Goodlow 20 Hours	Resigned 9/2/60
	Carmelithyra Maxwell 20 Hours	Resigned 9/8/60
Messenger Clerks	Jonathan Suehiro 10 Hours	Resigned 6/24/60
	Elaine Matthews 10 Hours	

1960-1961

Some adjustment in community housing was made in order to prepare for the building of the Santa Monica Freeway. Nearby houses were removed. The construction of the freeway caused the area to be divided to about 2 blocks south of the branch site, making the branch less accessible to some portions.

An increase in use by children and young adults was especially noted. School-branch relationship was satisfying.

The Human Relations Committee of the Coordinating Council met at the branch once per month, thus, allowing the librarians the opportunity to meet leading members of the community.

There was a one hundred per cent turnover in personnel during the fiscal year. A new Senior Librarian, inexperienced in branches; a new Children's Librarian, recently graduated from Library School; a clerk-typist new to branch work; and two new messenger clerks.

Staff 1960/61 was as follows:

Branch Librarian	Evelyn Greenwald	Began 7/18/60
Children's Librarian	Agnes Davis	
Clerk Typist	Gladys Hicks	Began 9/12/60
Messenger Clerks	Freddie Banks 10 Hours	
	Walton Green 10 Hours	Began 9/7/60
	Elaine Matthews 10 Hours	Resigned 1/26/61

Branch Librarian Johanna Sutton transferred to Vermont Square July 22, 1960.

1961-1962

The neighborhood consisted of a mixture of Oriental, Spanish, Caucasian and Negro. The largest per cent ^{was} is Negro.

The Santa Monica Freeway was under construction much of the time, apparently causing a dent in circulation.

Book collection was reported to be stale and in poor condition physically. Weeding was a major project for the librarians.

Children's work was revitalized through the efforts of a dedicated children's Librarian who was more concerned with reading interests than with circulation figures. Many classes made visits to the branch and story hours were held during the summer months.

The third branch librarian in twelve months began work this year. Through her efforts more branch publicity was placed in the local papers, thus, bring response from areas nearby and far away as Buckingham Road, west, Santa Barbara Ave., south, Olympic, North.

Children's Librarian established contact with the P.T.A. groups and the Senior Librarian attended meetings of the Wilshire Coordinating Council.

Staff for 1961/62 was as follows:

Senior Librarians	Evelyn Greenwald	Transferred to Vermont Square 7/3/61
	Mary S. Hestwood	Began 7/10/61 Transferred to Baldwin Hills 4/10/62
Children's Librarian	Agnes Davis	
Clerk Typist	Gladys Hicks	
Messenger Clerks	Walton Green 10 Hours	
	Brenda Saxton 10 Hours	

1962-1963

The racial composite of the community continued to be predominantly Negro and smaller percentages of other groups.

Progress in freeway construction was noted and construction of new apartment buildings were beginning under way. A shopping center was proposed during this year and will be located on Washington and 10th Ave.

The building was vandalized Dec. 3, 1962 - drawers and closets were ransacked, windows were broken and a complete set of keys were stolen.

The need for a Young Adult Librarian was pointed out in detail.

Work with children continued to be satisfying. According to the report Washington Irving was becoming more and more a children's branch as a result of the Children's Librarian's patience and sincerity. There were seven story hours, about nineteen different classes made 32 visits to the library and 246 registered readers for the Summer Reading Program.

There were no major staff changes. Branch Librarian was on six weeks sick leave during January and February, 1963. The need for additional clerk-typist time was pointed out.

Staff for 1962/63 was as follows:

Senior Librarian	Florence Purdy	
Children's Librarian	Agnes Davis	
Clerk Typists	Gladys Hicks	
	Patricia McNeal	
	20 Hours	
Messenger Clerks	Antoinette Lewis	
	10 Hours	
	Bruce Downs	
	10 Hours	
	Walton Green	Resigned 6/17/63
	10 Hours	
	Ernestine Jeragan	Resigned 11/16/62
	10 Hours	
	Brenda Saxton	Resigned 10/1/62
	10 Hours	

1963-1964

Many more apartment buildings ^{were} replacing single residences. The million dollar shopping center about ten blocks away was almost a realization. Some impact upon the branch was anticipated.

Some of the leaded windows, expensive to repair, were damaged by little pock shots and had to be replaced by heavy plate glass. Building was painted

inside and out thereby greatly improving its appearance. New sink counter, utility table and refrigerator in staff were new additions this year.

The book collection was adequate in number but not necessarily in usefulness. The need for weeding and adding new additions were pointed out.

Librarian felt that service to adults was adequate but could stand improvement. Young adults come but get little professional help.

Children's work continued to be promising. School visits, story hours and summer reading were all carried out with vigor.

Branch received an additional 20 hour clerk-typist which was an asset but another change in Senior Librarians meant staff readjustment and a slow down in work toward improving the collection.

Staff in 1963/64 was as follows:

Senior Librarian	Anell Knutson	Began 4/27/64
	Florence Purdy	Transferred to Baldwin Hills 4/24/64
Children's Librarian	Agnes Davis	
Clerk Typists	Gladys Hicks	
	John Plummer Jr. 20 Hours	Began 10/14/63
	Patricia McNeal	Resigned 10/11/63
Messenger Clerks	Antoinette Lewis	
	William Fukuhara	Began 6/8/64
	Bruce Downs	Resigned 10/25/63
	Joan Cummings	Resigned 5/22/64

1964-1965

Same pattern of development in the community as previously reported. A small playground was established at 2nd Ave. and 24th Street, a boon for the children. The shopping center at 10th Ave. and Washington Blvd. has been completed.

Furniture was rearranged to make supervision of reading rooms easier. The book collection was also rearranged to better utilize available space. The collection showed evidence of weeding and was much improved.

The usual activities with children were carried out, and their response was gratifying.

Branch Librarian attended meetings of the Wilshire Coordinating Council and a conference on the Economic Opportunity Act sponsored by the Urban League.

Staff for 1964/65 was as follows:

Senior Librarian	Anell Knutson	
Children's Librarian	Agnes M. Davis	
Clerk Typists	Gladys Hicks	
	Daniel Nobori 20 Hours	Began 11/2/64
	John Plummer	Resigned 10/14/63
Messenger Clerks	Antoinette Lewis	
	William Fukuhara	Began 6/8/64

1965-1966

The book collection was fairly well weeded and thereby made more usable. There was an increase in the book count both juvenile and adult. Excellent cooperation between the branch and schools, particularly Arlington Heights Elementary which is located close enough for many classes to take trips to the branch. Service to 24th St. Elementary School was hampered by a construction program and change of principals.

The automating of registration and circulation procedures this year effected both patrons and staff as machine errors became apparent sometimes creating antagonism on the part of patrons.

The Watts Riots effected library hours and circulation for a brief period. Many patrons refused to venture out for awhile.

Neighborhood Youth Corp workers were sometimes very helpful and sometimes frustrating to work with.

Three of 20 hour clerk-typists and two messenger clerks who had worked two

to four years resigned.

Staff for 1965/66 was as follows:

Senior Librarian	Anell Knutson	
Children's Librarian	Agnes M. Davis	
Clerk Typists	Gladys Hicks	
	Betty Cravin 20 Hours	Began 1/13/66
	Daniel Nobori 20 Hours	Resigned 7/23/65
	Everett Wells	Resigned 8/6/65
	Sharon Wilson	Resigned 1/2/66
Messenger Clerks	Michele Lomax 10 Hours	Began 2/7/66
	Renie Beasley 10 Hours	Began 4/4/66
	William Fukuhara	Resigned 2/4/66
	Antoinette Yarbrough	Resigned 4/1/66

1966-1967

There was no sizable change in the community pattern. Santa Monica Freeway was completed and landscaped. All school dwellings had some building expansion during this year. Widney High, a new school for handicapped children was scheduled to open September 1967. It is located in the Western Ave. and 24th Street area.

The old glass case was removed from the south wall in the adult reading room and new shelving was installed in its place.

The book collection continued to show improvement as a result of weeding, binding and replacing.

The Federal Project sponsored a Mother's meeting on dental health featuring a movie and a round table discussion. Though the attendance was

moderate, interest prevailed throughout the affair.

The campaign for passage of Proposition A, Library Bond Issue, helped focus attention on branch-community relations. Although the Bond Issue was defeated, much effort and hard work on the part of the staff went into the campaign.

The branch participated in the Books and Bubbles Party for the Central Region during the Bond Campaign. The affair was held in the Brockman Gallery, Degnan Blvd. at 43rd Street.

In addition to the usual work with children, the Federal Project cooperated with the branch in producing a creative play activity which brought good response.

Book discussion group known as the Book Buzzers met weekly during the summer.

Work with schools was curtailed due to the absence of a branch librarian during most of the fiscal year. The Children's Librarian had to assume many of the administrative duties of the Branch Librarian.

Changes in staff consisted of a new Branch Librarian, two 20 hour clerk-typists within three months, two new messenger clerks and two Neighborhood Youth Corp employees were trained.

Staff for 1966/67 was as follows:

Senior Librarian	Mary D. Brooks	Began 4/27/67
Children's Librarian	Agnes M. Davis	
Clerk Typists	Gladys Hicks	
	Harriet Jones 20 Hours	Began 1/9/67
	Betty Mark 20 Hours	Began 11/28/66 Transferred to Junipero Serra Branch 1/6/67
Messenger Clerks	Natalie Sherwood	Began 8/1/66 (10 Hours)
	Marilyn Uyremura 10 Hours	Began 11/4/66

1967-1968

The community was still predominantly Negro, with very few white families

with children. Oriental, Spanish and Whites make up approximately 20% combined.

New file cabinets for pamphlets, cushioned posture chairs for staff use, new section for the children's catalog, new clock over the front entrance and a fire extinguisher all were worthy additions this year.

Branch sponsored open house during the month of April. Guest for the occasion was author Lorenz Graham who spoke about his experiences as a writer of books and how a book gets published. Members of the staff conducted tours showing how books are processed and circulated. There were book exhibits and displays of arts and crafts by the Hobby Club. Mothers from the P.T.A. served as hostesses.

Two meetings were held as efforts to establish a "Friends" group for the branch. Only 2 people attended the first. About eighteen were in attendance at the second at which time author Lorenz Graham related some of his experiences in Haiti and showed slides. Cello and violin music was provided by one of the messenger clerks and her brother. Unlike the previous year, Children's Librarian had more time to devote to the needs of her young patrons. In addition to the regular school visits and class trips to the branch, the Book Buzzers Club was quite active.

Reading guidance was offered girls from the Young Women's Rehabilitation Home, located on Kinsely Drive near Venice, who came to the branch in small groups on alternate Tuesdays.

No major staff changes. However four messengers clerks were hired and subsequently resigned during the fiscal year.

Staff for 1967/68 was as follows:

Senior Librarian	Mary D. Brooks	
Children's Librarian	Agnes M. Davis	
Clerk Typists	Gladys Hicks	
	Harriet Jones	
	20 Hours	
Messenger Clerks	Jan Cooper	Began 8/30/67
	10 Hours	
	Marilyn Uyremura	Resigned 8/25/67
	10 Hours	Rehired 6/18/68
	Natalie Sherwood	Resigned 9/29/67
	Dennis Oyakawa	Began 9/1/67
		Resigned 2/9/68

Harmon Outlaw

Began 10/2/67
Resigned 10/20/67

Terle Starks

Began 2/15/68
Resigned 5/10/68

Mark Lomax

Began 5/15/68
Resigned 6/14/68

1968-1969

The pattern of population development is the same as that which exists in many communities of the inner city. Blacks in larger proportion, with caucasians, orientals, and spanish groups in the minority. Many rest homes and half-way homes for young people have sprung up and are reflected in the branch's patronage.

A new file cabinet in the librarian's office, clock in the kitchen and a mirror in the public rest room were much needed additions in the building this year.

Activities included a series of 12 film-showings for young adults, films for senior citizens, and reading guidance sessions with groups of girls from the Young Women's Rehabilitation Home (maternity).

Work with schools was intensified as a result of renewed cooperation from 24th Street Elementary School. Many new children were introduced to the library by the Children's Librarian. The Hobby Club met weekly, sponsoring exhibits throughout the year. Story hours and the Summer Reading Program was carried out as usual with good response.

Staff for 1968/69 was as follows:

Senior Librarian Mary B. Brooks

Children's Librarian Agnes M. Davis

Clerk Typists Gladys Hicks

Harriet Jones
20 HoursJan Cooper
10 HoursCarrye Mars
10 HoursMarilyn Uyremura
10 Hours

Began 9/16/68

Resigned 9/16/68 ?

Left Jan. 77
Dorene Tuggle Feb 77-Apr. 77
Marica O'Neil Apr. 77-Apr. 78
Dorene Tuggle Apr. 78-Jun 78
Imeg Brown Jun. 78