

ARROYO LIBRARY'S FOUNDING TOLD

(continued from page 1)

problem in so masking the front as not to emphasize this V-shape. A circular porch with free standing columns was therefore used to unite the two units and pull the whole together.

"Between the children's room on the south and the general reading room on the north there was an open court with fountain and berm basin which has since been enclosed and made the fiction collection.

"The entrance lobby also became the delivery room, with the desk so located as to have complete supervision of the children's, general and court reading rooms, as well as control of all rooms and passages nearby. Rooms were provided adjacent to the lobby for the librarian and the staff.

"Below the children's room and on a level with North Figueroa street, with which it connects through an outside entrance as well as an inside entrance from the lobby, is a lecture room seating about 200.

"The heating apparatus, storage and toilet rooms are provided for in a well-lighted basement.

"The style of the building is a rather free and modern interpretation of the classical style of the Ionic order. The lower portion, including all floors, is of reinforced concrete. The upper part is of brick, with all exposed faces of 'medium old gold' bricks trimmed with cream-colored art stone."

As I remember it, there were originally two branch libraries in the Arroyo Seco district. One, the Garvanza branch, had started as a small town library which became a branch of the Los Angeles public library when Garvanza became a part of the city of Los Angeles. Many interesting tales used to be told about the original Garvanza library, how the books were collected, and how the library was maintained with nearly all, if not entirely, volunteer help.

The other branch was always a branch of the public library, but was located in the Stimson Memorial Library of Occidental college, then occupying its buildings at the corner of Pasadena avenue and Avenue 50. Later this branch was moved into a storeroom in the business district, but for some reason or other was later discontinued. Highland Park, however, with its appreciation of books and reading, never gave up asking for a branch library and was most determined to have one.

When the Carnegie money was given to the city for branch library buildings, a very active local committee began work. Money to buy a lot for the building was raised by public subscription, and I think nearly everyone, old and young, contributed. The site chosen seemed almost equally convenient for the people of Garvanza, Highland Park, Annandale, York Valley and Hermon. It was a long time before a name for the branch was decided upon, but finally the choice was made and the building was completed. While the building was being constructed, Miss Guiwits (who had been in charge of the Garvanza branch) and I were allowed to choose the new books to be bought and we thoroughly enjoyed doing it.

When the opening day arrived, we (Miss Guiwits and myself) were both on hand early in the morning and it proved to be a most exciting day. The janitor was there to clean the building, the furniture arrived, the old books were brought over from the Garvanza branch, and several thousand new books were waiting to be unpacked. But the building wasn't finished. At half-past five in the afternoon the workmen were still on the scaffolding inside the building, but by eight o'clock the building looked to be in order, and the opening reception began.

The library board, the librarian, the assistant librarian and apparently all of Highland Park and Garvanza were there, and everyone expected to begin borrowing books then and there. Such a disappointed crowd! The books had to be kept for everyone to see until the next day.

One of the pleasant surprises of the day was the arrival of a whole load of potted plants and ferns, not loaned for the occasion, but given to the branch by the people who expected to use it. Another was the biggest bouquet of wild flowers I ever saw. A thoughtful school principal had suggested that all the children scour the hills for just one kind of flower—brodiaea—and there were thousands of them.

During the few years I was in charge of the branch, there were many pleasant happenings. Schools and clubs and churches as well as individuals all contributed to the upbuilding of the library and its work in many ways. While at first there were just two librarians, soon a children's librarian was added to the staff. It became necessary to roof in the out-door reading room to take care of people and books. All this seemed to show a definite growth and use, and I suppose the records would tell us that that growth and use have steadily increased.

Coincident with the making of plans for a memorial concert Sunday to Everett R. Perry, late head of the Los Angeles library system, Frances R. Foote, first librarian of the Arroyo Seco branch library, prepared the following account of the opening of the Arroyo Seco branch almost 20 years ago. Miss Foote is now a member of the Central library staff.

By Frances R. Foote

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A gift of \$210,000 was secured from Andrew Carnegie by the city of Los Angeles to erect branch library buildings in 1911. The only proviso attached to this gift was that land should be provided by the city or the citizens and an annual allowance made for upkeep equal to a tenth of the cost of each building.

The second branch to be completed was Arroyo Seco, in March, 1914. It was an outgrowth of the old Garvanza branch, which in turn had united with the Highland Park branch established in connection with the Stimson Memorial Library at Occidental college. The lot was purchased by public subscription and the deed to it was presented to a board of library commissioners by a committee of the Garvanza Improvement association composed of Dr. J. L. Smith, president; W. M. Miller, vice-president, and Ernest Braunton. It is 360x135x290 feet and cost \$5,680.

The building was designed by Frederick M. Ashley. It contains 8,736 square feet, being 54 feet wide across the front and 63 feet long. It was planned to shelve 20,000 volumes. Including furniture, equipment and landscaping, its cost was \$39,095. Its architect has described it as follows:

"Located on a V-shaped plot of ground at the intersection of Pasadena avenue and Piedmont street in the northeast section of the city, this library occupies a unique position ideal in every way for a building of this character, as it is not hidden in some obscure location and the rising ground in front allows just the right approach.

"The plan is specially adapted to its location, with the main axes of the two principal reading rooms parallel to the two converging streets. This brought about a