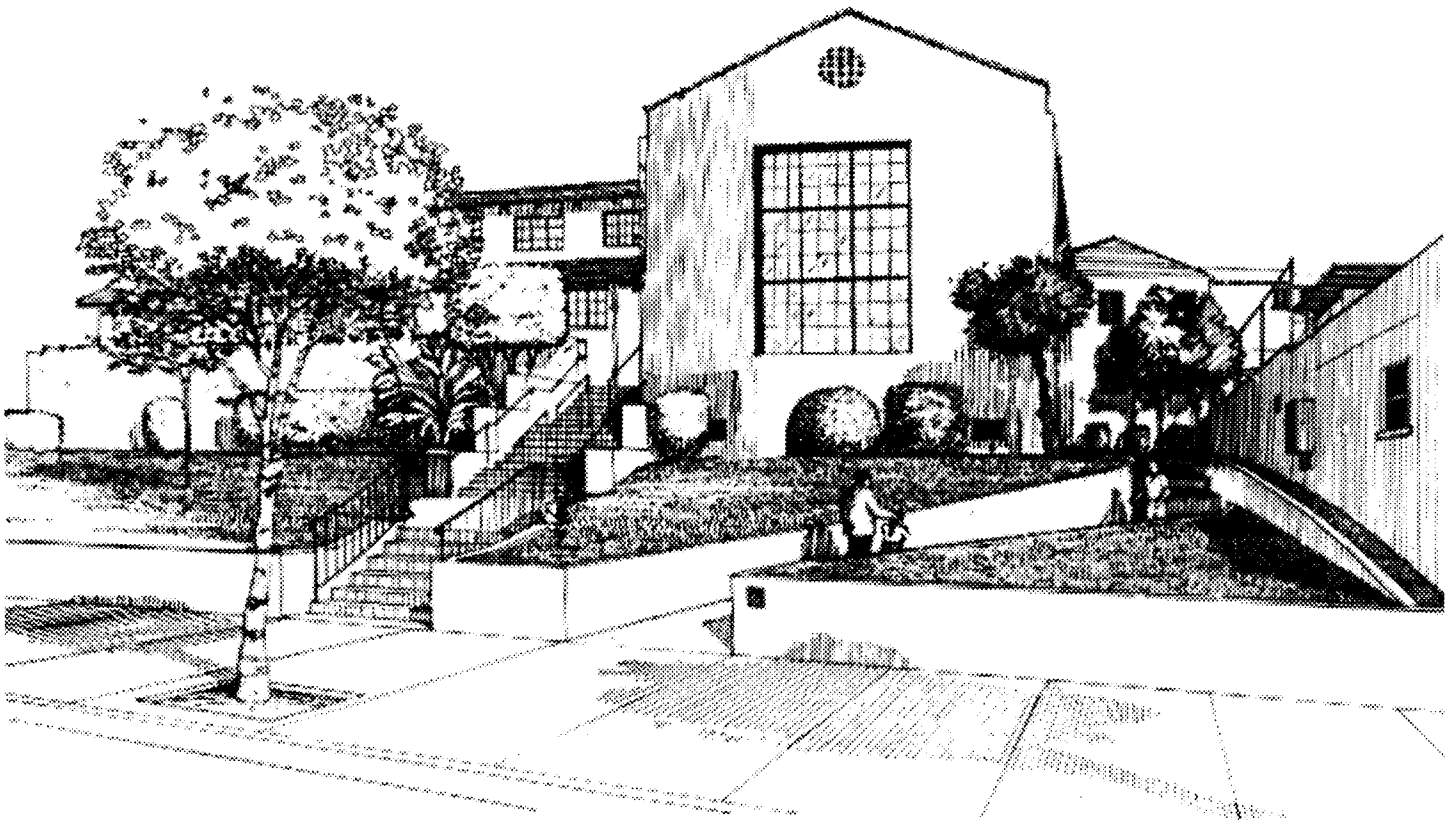


Dedication Ceremonies



EAGLE ROCK COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER

(Formerly the Eagle Rock Branch Library)

Sunday, March 16, 1997

2225 Colorado Boulevard corner Rockland Avenue

Eagle Rock Community Cultural Center

Sunday, March 16, 1997

PROGRAM

Opening Remarks	Dr. Earl Sherburn Community Arts Director Cultural Affairs Department
Raising of the Colors	American Legion Post 276
Star Spangled Banner	Eagle Rock High School Jazz Band
Invocation	Rev. Fr. Paul Scanlon, O.P. Pastor St. Dominic's Church
Acknowledgment	
The Years in Review	Istiharoh Glasgow Member Blue Ribbon Committee
Remarks	Councilman Richard Alatorre 14th District
Remarks	Adolfo V. Nodal General Manager Cultural Affairs Department
Presentation of Certificates	To receive on behalf of the Center Kaye Beckham Commissioner Cultural Heritage Commission
Folk Dance	Kultura Philippine Folk Arts Celia de Fato, Director Accompaniment by Fil-Am Rondalla Tagumpay de Leon, Director
Mariachi Music	Roosevelt Mariachi Group
Closing Remarks	Carmelo Alvarez Arts Director Eagle Rock Community Cultural Center

Master of Ceremonies
Dr. Earl Sherburn

Dedication Ceremonies

HISTORY OF THE EAGLE ROCK BRANCH LIBRARY

In the early part of 1914 a group of citizens of Eagle Rock organized to endeavor to secure a library for Eagle Rock. Previous to 1914 Miss Anna Swan had maintained a small County Library in her dry goods store on Colorado Boulevard and circulated books to the community one day a week.

The following account of the earliest beginning of the Eagle Rock Library was written by Mrs. W. L. Miller, wife of the editor of the Eagle Rock Sentinel, and published in the Sentinel in 1941.

"It (the acquiring of a library) was the idea of W. L. Miller.... He decided that Eagle Rock should have a Carnegie Library. He began to publish articles in the Sentinel on that subject. Godfrey Edwards, one of the boosters at that time for this city, came into the printing office one day and said, 'Miller, it is all right to have a library here, but you are ten years ahead of the times'. Miller said, 'Oh, no, we can get it, so why not try for it?' Mr. Miller began writing about it at once, and in the meantime he went to the Twentieth Century Club and asked the president, Mrs. Myrtle Phinney to appoint a committee from her club, and also went to the P. T. A. and asked that a representative be appointed from that organization. Then they met Mr. Miller and the work was started."

The first library board consisted of Mrs. Carrie Roberts, Godfrey Edwards, L. O. Hatch, Mrs. Blanche Gardiner, and W. L. Miller. Application was made to the Carnegie Corporation for funds. A little difficulty was encountered due to the small population and to the fact that the Carnegie authorities had never heard of Eagle Rock. But through the pressure of these enterprising citizens in stressing the future growth of the community, the request was granted. In March 1914 word was received that \$7500 would be given for the library.

The choosing of a site for the new library was the next most exciting event, and was chosen only after "one of the most intensive battles of the ballots that ever was undertaken in the community." Three sites were considered. One at Kenilworth (now Hermosa) and Colorado, one at Castle (Caspar) and Colorado; and the third at Rowland (Rockland) and Colorado. A total of 809 votes were cast. The site Rowland (Rockland) and Colorado won by a majority of 84. The site was bought for \$1800. Construction was begun at once.

Several names were presented for librarian, but as Mrs. Gardiner had the most experience she was made librarian. The vacancy thus made on the library board was filled by Mrs. Blonda Barks Colburn.

The Eagle Rock Library was formally opened on April 1, 1915 with a reception and "book party". Hundreds of books were donated. The county continued to supply books for six months after the opening. Then the Library Board withdrew from the county organization, levied taxes and became independent. The nucleus of books with which the library started grew rapidly. At first the library loaned out about 1800 books per month. By 1941 when Mrs. Gardiner retired it was loaning out 18,000 books per month.

In 1923 when Eagle Rock became a part of Los Angeles the board resigned and the library became a branch of the Los Angeles library system. In 1927 a new larger building replaced the old Carnegie library which had become inadequate in space and equipment. The floor plan of the old building had been excellent and was followed in the arrangement of the new, but little of the old building was used, except the foundation and the east wall.

The new building was formally opened with appropriate exercises on July 25, 1928.

Written by Dr. Mary LeClere
for Friends of the Library