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Anniversary Celebration



JOHN C. FREMONT BRANCH
Los Angeles Public Library
6121 Melrose Avenue

June 7, 1987
2 to 4:30 p.m.



Los Angeles Public Library

HISTORY

On June 1, 1927, at 1 p.m., the present home of the John C. Fremont Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library was opened to the public. However, its history dates back to 1912 when the "Colegrove Station" Reading Room was opened in a storefront at the corner of Vine Street and Santa Monica Boulevard by a group of residents.

In 1916, the reading room became part of the city's library system as a sub-branch operated as part of the Hollywood Branch Library.

The collection was moved in 1923 to a bungalow that was erected on the grounds of the Vine Street School. That same year voters approved a bond measure for the construction of new library branches including a permanent home for what was then known as the Santa Monica Boulevard Branch.

In 1925, the bungalow was moved to the corner of Melrose Avenue and Seward Street in anticipation of the construction of a new permanent branch at the northeast corner of Melrose Avenue and June Street. The Board of Library Commissioners that year also voted to change the branch's name to the "John C. Fremont Branch" to honor the noted American explorer, soldier and politician. Fremont had played a major role in the 1846 "Bear Flag" Revolt and in the American conquest of California.

Construction of the new branch was begun on December 26, 1926 and was completed in May 1927. While the branch opened on June 1 there were no chairs or tables for the first week; but this did not deter patrons who leaned against book shelves or just sat on the floor to do their reading.

Since the branch's opening, its collection has grown from 7,800 books to more than 25,000 in 1987. Its circulation during 1985/86 was 80,000.

The John C. Fremont Branch is at 6121 Melrose Avenue in the Thirteenth Council District represented by Councilman Michael Woo.

PROGRAM

Mistress of Ceremonies-----Marjory Hopper
Children's Librarian

Opening-----Wagon Wheel School
Kindergarten Class

Vine Street Folk Dancers
Miriam Lubet, Director

Welcome & Introductions-----Judith Katz
Branch Librarian

Council Recognition-----Michael Woo, Councilman
Thirteenth Council District

Fremont Friends-----Ester Aller, President
Friends of the John C. Fremont Branch

Awards & Presentations-----Rhyllis Weisjohn
Regional Manager

"The Wiz" (musical number)-----Children's Club of Hollywood
Assistance League of Southern California

Fremont Memorabilia-----Nancy Rosen
Young Adult Librarian

Reminiscences & Recognitions-----Mistress of Ceremonies

HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD-----Tom Hatten
Hollywood Personality

REFRESHMENTS