

Brief  
HISTORY OF THE ANGELES MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

The Angeles Mesa Branch Library was started by members of a church guild who wanted to provide books for the neighborhood children.

Through the efforts of the Library Committee of what is now the Plymouth Congregational Church, a deposit of 150 books was obtained in 1914 from the County Library and was housed in a store building at 54th Street and Sixth Avenue. The library grew so rapidly that the volunteer workers could no longer take care of it and in 1915 a custodian, Mr. Joseph F. Zika, was appointed by the County Librarian. In June 1917 our local territory was annexed to the City and sometime during the next year the Los Angeles Public Library took over this County Library sub-branch, retaining Mr. Zika as custodian.

The growth of the Library reflects the growth of the section. The district as we know it today had its inception about 1910; As late as 1917, both sides of 54th street were planted in vegetables and the street was not paved. After the war however, the section built up rapidly, the library being moved sometime during the year 1923 into larger quarters at 2616 W. 54th street, where, under the supervision of Mrs. Freda J. Mettler, it continued to grow. Miss Frances Woodworth was made branch librarian in October 1927, the staff was enlarged and preparations were made to move into our present building, which was constructed with funds obtained in the 1925 Branch bond issue and was formally opened and dedicated October 9th, 1928.

Since then, the fortunes of the Angeles Mesa Branch Library have fluctuated reflecting the trend of the times. Our busiest years were the depression ones, our circulation decreasing during the war years and showing a normal gain since then.

Miss Woodworth continued as branch librarian until 1935, when for the next six years, the position was filled by Mrs. Eliza M. Blanchard, followed by Mrs. Miriam Myers, and since 1944, by the present librarian, Mrs. Lulah Lloyd ~~who has been in charge.~~

Mrs. Lloyd speaks for her staff as well as herself when she says that they are proud of their library and consider it a privilege and a pleasure to work in this community.