

CHULA VISTA PUBLIC LIBRARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1891-1991



'The Chula Vista Philomathic Society wishes to extend sincere thanks to all who aided in its efforts in starting a public library, by the deep interest manifested and by the liberal contribution of books on the occasion of the library entertainment, hoping their interest may be rewarded by the constant and noble use to which we feel assured the books will be put.'

*Flora M. Johnson, Secretary
August 21, 1891*

*Chula Vista Public Library
Centennial Celebration
1891 - 1991*

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Written by Carol Bowers, Tecolote Publications, San Diego, California

In the Beginning... (1891-1917)



The first Chula Vista Public School, built in 1899 at F Street at Del Mar Avenue. It was the site of the Philomathic Society's "entertainment" which launched the Chula Vista Public Library on August 20, 1891, and was most probably the place where the library, open to the public on Saturday evenings, was housed for several years.

In 1891, Chula Vista was in its infancy, still twenty years away from incorporation as a city. The scrubby landscape was giving way to lemon orchards, but had not yet earned the title of "lemon capital of the world." Still, the town had a literary group called the Philomathic Society which put together an evening of entertainment on August 20, 1891, for the sole purpose of establishing a Chula Vista public library.

"The beautiful moonlight, the popular cause, and the fine programme brought together a large audience," according to the *National City Record*. The admission fee was one book, and by the end of the evening, 225 volumes could be counted, forming the basis for what would one day become one of the busiest library systems in the state of California.

The entertainment that evening consisted of two musical quartettes, elocutionists, and was capped by a paper, prepared by Mrs. Flora

M. Kimball, a lengthy dissertation on the history of books and libraries, ending on a forward-looking note:

All these large libraries like yours had a beginning conceived in the brain of a few enterprising persons and completed by the same spirit that originated them. Your young and beautiful settlement, whose praise is on the tongues of all who visit it, has this evening added another attraction as potent to draw hither the cultured and refined, as are your orange and lemon orchards, your flowering gardens, and model homes. It need never be said that Chula Vista has no public library, and from this day on it should continue to grow as the little children grow, that they in their mature years may reap from it a richer harvest than your citrus groves can ever yield.



Flora Johnson, secretary of the Philomathic Society which was responsible for the start of the Chula Vista Public Library on August 20, 1891. Later that year she married Elmer Flanders, and the young couple participated in many organizations, including the new Congregational Church. Flora helped organize Chula Vista's PTA, and was its first president. The Flanders' son, Raymond, became the city's first paid librarian in 1915.

The fact that Mrs. Kimball was a resident of National City did not diminish the enthusiasm with which her speech was received. The two fledgling towns were intensely interested in one another's activities, and social and "cultural" groups of either area could claim members of both National City and Chula Vista.

In fact, another National City resident, Colonel W.G. Dickinson, is credited with laying out the city of Chula Vista in his position as general manager of the San Diego Land and Town Company, and in encouraging buyers to purchase specially-designated five-acre tracts, just the right size for developing lemon orchards. Colonel Dickinson had died only a month before the entertainment, and a "touching tribute" to him was read that evening as well as the announcement of a large donation of books from his estate sent by his widow, Sarah Dickinson.

The Philomathic Society was ecstatic. For months they had been giving picnics and ice cream socials, but their progress toward creating a library had been that of an inch-worm. Now, in one evening, they had accumulated enough books to fill the beautiful bookcase crafted by one of their members, Henry Fletcher.

On September 3, Secretary Flora M. Johnson announced: "Chula Vista's library and reading room will be opened to the public next Saturday evening, and every Saturday evening thereafter." The site for the library was probably the

Chula Vista School on F Street, adjacent to Del Mar Avenue. It had housed the Philomathic Society's entertainment and most other social and cultural events of Chula Vista at that time.

The Philomathic Society continued its fund-raising socials for many years and also sponsored lecture series at the Chula Vista School. Regular meetings at members' homes featured literary discussions and papers on current and past authors. During these years, Chula Vista blossomed into the "lemon capital

of the world," surviving drought and economic hard times and reaching a population of 550 by 1910.

That year a group of merchants in the burgeoning downtown opened a reading room in a wooden building on the southeast corner of Third Avenue and Center Street. This library, presided over by Harry Welch, was open evenings only. Robert Holmes, a carpenter and general contractor who took part in this early reading room, reminisced about it in 1960:

In 1910, a man named Welch, we all called him "Scotty," said if we could get some books and use of an empty store, he would spend his evenings there looking after the place. We got the use of a small store at 3rd and Center Street, where Ferrantelli Shoe Store is now. I remember that well because across the street was the Fire Alarm, the rim of a railway carriage wheel, and a sledge hammer donated by the village blacksmith. Several parties donated books—Mr. Travers, Major Darling, Mrs. Crockett, Mrs. Wiard, first postmistress of Chula Vista, Judge and Mrs. McCullough, Mr. Holmes. Mr. Akins donated two sets of checkers and chess, and a framed panel of handwriting specimens. After a time we got use of the adjoining store. Another man and myself cut a doorway and put up shelves and two tables for games.



Third Avenue, Chula Vista, 1911, looking north toward Center Street. The storefront library (1910-1917) was probably located just beyond the first tree on the right-hand side of the street.

Maintained by volunteers and subsisting on donated books, this library group sought community support to expand its book inventory. They approached the Chula Vista Improvement Club, which had been in existence as early as 1890, continually lending support and ideas aimed at the improvement of the standard of living in the area.

Perhaps harking back to the successful evening which launched the library in 1891, the club decided to devote their meeting on December 11, 1911, to a "book shower" for the reading room. The response was generous, and at this same meeting, W.R. Edwards submitted a project for establishing an official public library. This proposal was enthusiastically accepted, resulting in the formation of the Chula Vista Library Association.

Nineteen-eleven was also the year that the City of Chula Vista was incorporated. The Chula Vista Library Association wasted no time in asking the City Trustees to form a Library Board, with the intention of establishing a permanent library. On September 13, 1912, the trustees

enacted Ordinance No. 15, officially establishing the Chula Vista Public Library and appointing a five-member library board: Mr. W.R. Edwards (president), Mrs. Mary Crockett, Mrs. L.M. Downing, Mr. E.W. Dyer, and Judge J.H. McCulloch. Harry Welch remained as librarian until September 8, 1915. At this point, the city assumed the responsibility of paying \$180 (per year) rent to the San Diego Land & Town Company for use of the store front building and allotted \$500-\$700 a year from its budget for salaries and maintenance of the library.

The earliest Chula Vista librarians were volunteers from the Philomathic Society and Reading Room Association. The first person with the title of "librarian" was a Miss Rising, about whom little is known, listed as the librarian in 1912. It may be that she was related to H.G. Rising, editor of the short-lived *Chula Vista Review*. Harry L. Welch, presumably the same "Scotty Welch" whom Thomas Holmes wrote about, was librarian in 1914 and 1915 and seems to have been an honorary member of the first Chula Vista Library Board.

The distinction of becoming Chula Vista's first paid librarian went to Raymond J. Flanders, who was hired in 1915 upon graduating from high school. Flanders, whose mother Flora Johnson Flanders had been secretary of the Philomathic Society twenty-five years earlier, served one year before being drafted into the Army to fight in France where he was wounded in the Battle of Argonne. According to his widow Grace Flanders, his mother received a black-edged letter from Washington telling her that her son was missing and presumed dead, but she disregarded it, having received a letter from Raymond himself from a French hospital. Raymond returned from overseas to attend U.C. Berkeley and then back home to Chula Vista, where he spent the rest of his life teaching, operating the family nursery, and going to work for the Rohr Corporation during World War II. During his one-year tenure as librarian in 1915-16, he was charged with keeping careful accounts of circulation and gathering statistics which would be used in petitioning the Carnegie Corporation for a library grant. Miss Lilla B. Dailey filled in for a few months following Raymond Flanders'



Raymond J. Flanders, Chula Vista's first paid librarian.

departure for war, and Miss Kathryn Burke took the position on November 20, 1916, and was the librarian in charge when the new library, funded by the Carnegie Corporation, opened.

In the meantime, the library board expand-

ed its plans for the library. It petitioned the City Council, and on October 6, 1914, a resolution was passed for Chula Vista to become part of the San Diego County Free Library System, an association which remained until 1933.

The Carnegie Years (1917-1955)

Library Board Member Mrs. L.M. Downing was the first to suggest that the city make an effort to secure a grant from the Carnegie Corporation for a library building. Harry Welch, Thomas D. Akins, and John Toomay took up the cause, and interest in the idea spread throughout the community.

Andrew Carnegie was an immigrant from Scotland who had acquired a vast fortune by building a steel company during the Industrial Revolution. Later in life he gave away 90% of

this fortune, donating \$56,162,622 for the construction of 2,509 library buildings throughout the English-speaking parts of the world. More than \$40,000,000 of this amount was spent on the erection of 1,679 public library buildings in 1,412 communities in the United States. George S. Bobinski, in his book *Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development* (American Library Association, 1969), gives this impression of the way Carnegie conducted his gift giving:

Andrew Carnegie himself divided his gifts of libraries into two periods, which he called "retail" and "wholesale." The first lasted from 1886 to 1896, and the second covered the years 1898 to 1919....One of Carnegie's biographers records a conversation between Carnegie and his private secretary: "Here are forty or fifty more libraries, Mr. Carnegie. They need your OK." "Have you examined them all, my boy?" "Yes." Carnegie would peel a few and ask penetrating questions. Answers showed that Mr. Bertram had done his work well. "All right, go ahead with them."

Chula Vista decided to participate in this "wholesale" philanthropy, and on September 17, 1915, a letter was drafted to Mr. James

Bertram, secretary of the Carnegie Corporation in New York:

....The city is now maintaining a library and reading room at a cost of \$1278 per year, which we believe would warrant us in receiving a ten thousand dollar building.... We are located about three and a half miles from National City; the car fare is 30¢ round trip, the cost of which makes it easier to induce our citizens, both young and old, to use our library. If the library can be built now, before the attractions of the city take the interest and attention of the young folks, our town life can be made safer and more attractive to them.

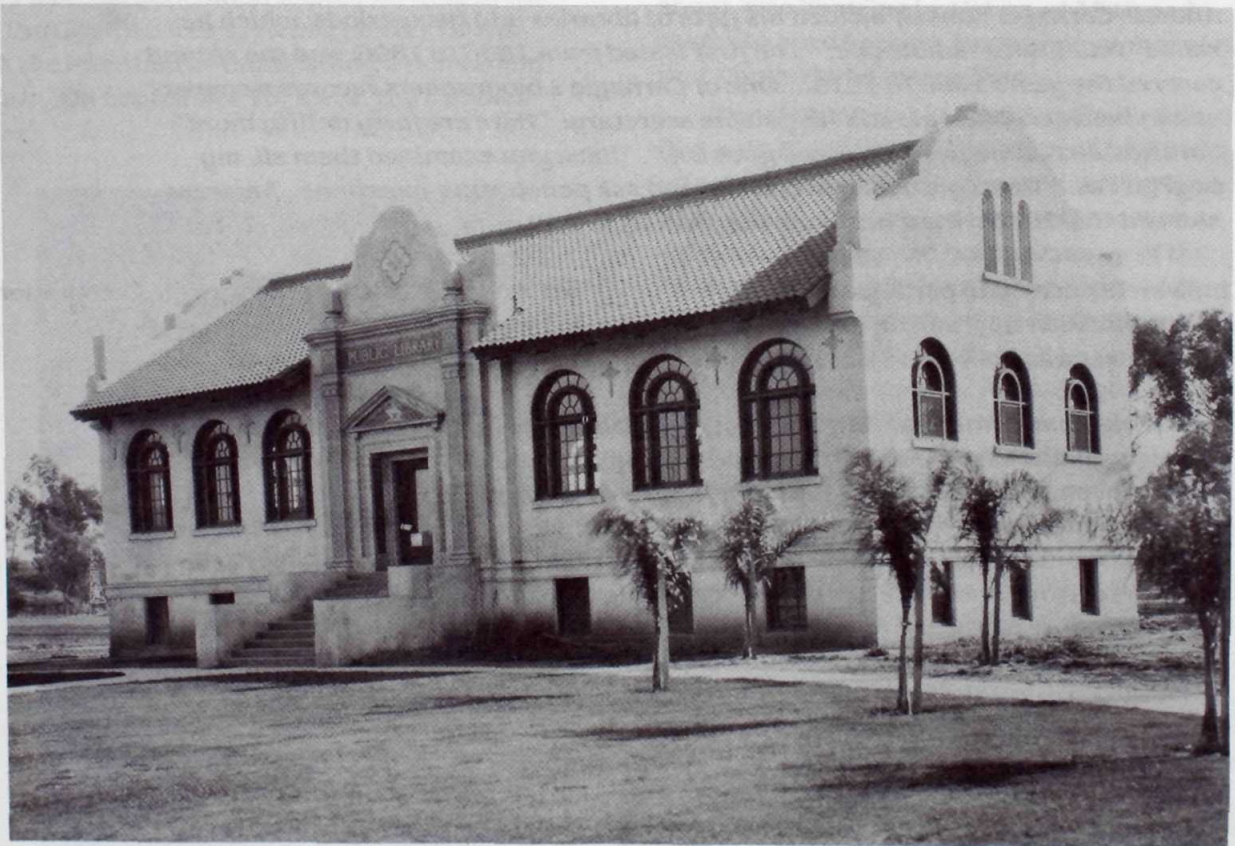
We are now serving over one thousand patrons as cardholders in the library; the circulation from July 1, 1914 to July 1, 1915 was over ten thousand volumes, and three thousand magazines.

The community is growing rapidly; as we had only about 100 people here in the 1900 census; and now have 180 children enrolled in the grade schools, and over fifty pupils of high-school age attending school in San Diego and National City (as we have no high school); we have nine teachers in the grade school so you can readily see that the figures sent by the clerk to the state controller of 2,000 within the city limits is in proportion to the over 750 registered voters, and the church membership of 250, as well as 480 in the Sunday Schools....The people of Chula Vista for the vastly greater part are well educated, refined, and American citizens....

There ensued an exchange of letters between James Bertram and the City Council. A few strings were attached: the library's interior was to be built according to Carnegie plans and the Board of Trustees must pass a resolution to maintain a Free Public Library at a cost of not less than \$1,000 a year. Also, a site must be chosen and paid for by the city. Since the old Chula Vista School at F Street and Del Mar Avenue was being demolished (a new, larger school to be built, interestingly enough, on what was ultimately to become the site of the current library), the city arranged to buy that land for \$800. The ground was deeded to the city on March 7, 1916, approximately a month after the Carnegie Corporation had decided favorably upon the grant to Chula Vista. The only restriction in the school district's deed was that the land be used for a "civic purpose."

Theodore Kistner was the architect chosen for the new library, and construction began in November 1916. The building was mission style, of brick and hollow tile, consisting of one story and a basement, the main floor area measuring 2,100 square feet. On May 3, 1917, the city clerk notified John M. Harkins that the new library building had been placed in the hands of the library trustees. A Grand Opening was held on May 17, 1917. The entire cost of the building, fixtures, and furniture was \$10,314.12, the \$314.12 above the grant being donated by citizens of Chula Vista.

Old-time residents of Chula Vista recall the awe with which one entered this library, where strict quiet and study habits were enforced, particularly under the rule of librarian Ida Collar (1919-1936). Library Board minutes of February 3, 1925, note that "a full report was made by the



The new Chula Vista Public Library, 1917, built with a grant from the Carnegie Corporation.

Librarian regarding the extent to which the library room is used by children as a visiting place rather than a place for silent study. After discussion, the matter of correcting the evil was left to the discretion of the Librarian, for the present."

Children had a friend in Miss Laura Crockett, whose family is numbered among the first residents of Chula Vista. Miss Crockett came to work for the library as an aide in 1921, later became an assistant librarian, and is known to a generation of Chula Vistans as the "children's librarian." She coordinated programs with the schools, directed the summer reading program, but is best remembered for her story-telling sessions. She retired in 1951, after thirty years of service.

By 1930, the population of Chula Vista had grown to a whopping 3,869. Since the library had been designed for a community of 2,000 residents, it was bursting at the seams. The Library Board tried to push through a bond issue for additions to the building in 1929, but it was rejected by voters. During the Great Depression, Chula Vista was a bustling agricultural city, with

acres of orchards and truck farms and three large packing houses. However, newcomers drifting in from the Dust Bowl and other areas of the country found work just as scarce here. Some went to work for local farmers, some started businesses in the growing downtown area, and others simply left town. The library, struggling with more users and fewer tax dollars, not only survived the depression, but took an active part in community events, such as the May Dance and Fiesta de la Luna.

Population tripled during the forties as World War II, and Rohr Aircraft in particular, drew workers to Chula Vista. Lemon groves began to topple, making way for housing, and the slow-paced farming city gave way to industrialization. The library put aside its plans for expansion until "after the war," and did its part for the war effort by collecting "Victory Books" for distribution to soldiers. Library crowding had become almost unbearable, and non-resident Rohr workers were issued a library card only if they could find a resident family to sponsor them.



Interior of the "Carnegie" Chula Vista Public Library, in the thirties.



The Children's Room in the basement of the library. Miss Laura Crockett is seated at the desk.



A Maypole Dance by the Four Leaf Clovers on the lawn of the Chula Vista Public Library, May 1926.

After the war, the Library Board found itself struggling for top priority with a city council overwhelmed by changes. A bond issue for the construction of a new library failed to carry in the April 1946 city election. By 1950, the population was 16,505 and the Planning Commission estimated a future growth to 50,000. Still, the citizens of Chula Vista struggled with the congestion of a library built for a population of 2,000 with no hot water, inadequate facilities at every turn, and a leaky basement to boot. Plans for a new library became bogged down in discussions of whether or not to keep the same site and where the money was going to come from. In December 1952 the Library Board sent an urgent letter to the mayor and the City Council requesting immediate attention to the problem, followed by a more detailed report in January 1953. The board requested that the architectural firm of Johnson, Hatch, and Wulff conduct a survey of library needs and submit a proposal to the city.

(Right) A sanitary bookmark distributed by the library in the thirties or forties, bearing ads of local businesses. Sanitation was a popular concern of the times. A Dr. Ashcroft was frequently consulted on how to sanitize books that may have been exposed to contagion. His suggestion: Place a formaldehyde-soaked blotter every ten pages in the book beginning with the fifth page from the cover, then place the book in an air-tight receptacle where it should be left until the blotters are thoroughly dry. Data on the use of this method by librarians is not available.

CHULA VISTA PUBLIC LIBRARY

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A Library in the Civic Center (1955-1976)

In December 1953 a special Library Board meeting was held to hear a unique proposal by Arthur Lynds, representing Johnson, Tyson, and Lynds. His company would build a library on city property as planned and approved by the Library Board and an architect of its choosing. The city would lease the building for a specified time at the end of which it would have the option of buying the building at a percentage of its cost or continue to lease it.

It seemed to be the answer to the fiscal dilemma. In March 1954 architect Louis Bodmer submitted preliminary plans for a new building, and in April 1954 the City Council voted unanimously to proceed with a contract with Hobart-Topper, Inc. to erect a new library. Thus Chula Vista became the first city in California to build a library financed under a lease-purchase agreement. The plan called for Hobart-Topper and Johnson, Tyson, and Lynds to build the library for \$180,000. They would lease the building

back to the city for \$981.17 a month, and at the end of twenty-five years, the library could buy the building or continue to lease. Actually, the city of Chula Vista had improved its financial status so much by 1960 that it was able to pay \$157,423 for the library building, ending the lease agreement.

Louis Bodmer designed the new library in Spanish Mediterranean style, with a red tile roof and cream stucco walls, to follow the architectural pattern of the Civic Center Complex on Guava Avenue where it was to be located. The new building comprised 12,800 square feet and provided a capacity for 50,000 volumes. Construction began in 1954 and was completed by June 1955. The new library opened its doors June 20, 1955, and a special dedication ceremony was held September 25, 1955. Librarian Janice L. Stewart reported a circulation of 250,000 in the first year of service.



The Chula Vista Public Library in the Civic Center Complex on Guava Avenue.

The roomier facilities provided library patrons with a more modern and open atmosphere. The library began to sponsor musicales, featuring string quartettes and other musicians, including oceanographer / musicologist Sam Hinton. Children's Librarian Suzanne Jung enlarged the summer reading program and upgraded the awards to include tours of Navy ships and puppet shows. Local teachers participated in special presentations, such as the Easter Egg Tree which became a yearly event each spring. The Chula Vista Public Library had become the cultural center of the city.

But it was all happening too fast. By the sixties, the last lemon orchard came tumbling down, replaced by tract homes, and by the middle of that decade the projected population of 50,000 had already been surpassed. Once again, librarians and patrons began to feel the crunch of crowded quarters. The Library Board began to discuss ways to expand services, and in 1964 a remodeling and enlargement project was completed. Yet it was clear that the population explosion was not at an end. That same year Mayor Sparling directed the Board of Trustees to begin an investigation of the future library needs of the community, based on a

projected population of 150,000.

In 1965, the Library Board gave itself a five-year plan. This included hiring a library consultant, Raymond Holt, and later an interior designer, Marshall Brown. The board also began a strategy for a bond issue. Gone were the days when the Carnegie Corporation sent pre-drawn plans. This time the building would be tailor-made for the community. A site was chosen—at Fourth and F Streets, the library once more playing follow-the-leader to the F Street Grammar School.

Over the next several years, the consultant and architect met regularly with board members and with Librarian Bluma Levine. Mrs. Levine wanted to create a "home away from home" for library users. Aspects such as lighting, comfortable carrels for typing and research, parking convenience, traffic flow through the library, the children's room as an attractive place to be, access to the surrounding park grounds—all were discussed continuously with an eye to the pleasure of the patron. While this busy planning period was going on, Chula Vista joined the Serra Regional Library System, giving it access to other libraries in the county.



Interior of the Chula Vista Public Library on Guava Avenue.

A Prize-Winning Library (1976-Now)



The Chula Vista Public Library, 365 F Street, dedicated on July 4, 1976.

In 1972, the library was dealt a blow when voters rejected a bond issue which would have provided funds for the new library. Some felt that because the library bond was tied to development of a new city center complex, the cost repelled the electorate. Whatever the reason, the Library Board felt it was committed to finding another way to finance the new facility. The solution came in 1974 when the City Council was able to obtain \$2.8 million in federal revenue sharing funds. The new library's construction would tie in with the nation's bicentennial celebration on July 4, 1976. Tom Williamson of Richard George Wheeler and Associates would be the architect and Marshall Brown the interior designer. The building contract went to Roel Construction Company, and landscape architects Tucker and Kater were chosen to design the grounds, with work to be completed by Fritz A. Nachant, Inc.

On July 4, 1976, Mayor Thomas D. Hamilton, Jr. officially opened the dedication ceremonies for the new Chula Vista Public Library at 365 F Street. As the U.S. Navy Band played the national anthem, scores of dignitaries and hundreds of Chula Vista residents were on hand to cheer and inspect the new premises, all 55,000 square feet of them. Visitors walked through the front door of the large white building, red tile-roofed to match the civic center complex across the street. There they saw space to shelve 250,000 volumes, seating for 275 adults, a special story hour room for children, two conference rooms, and an auditorium which would seat 152. In addition, there were rooms for media preparation and film preview as well as a photography darkroom and a piano room. Outside, a parking lot for 141 cars and rambling grounds gave the new library a



Interior of the Chula Vista Public Library, 365 F Street.

leisurely setting for reading and study.

With colorful banners to designate areas which had been carefully crafted for maximum use without crowding, the new library received rave notices from all corners. It was featured in the December 1976 edition of the magazine *Interiors*, in an article entitled "Perfectly Orch-

estrated Civic Core." Author Olga Gueft ended her laudatory account with: "Banners, counters, ceiling design, and lighting are combined in a total composition whose clarity makes for easy orientation. This is exhilaration without confusion, with serenity achieved by total design. Even the plants look exuberant."

Herb Lathan, a library trustee who was instrumental in obtaining the federal revenue sharing funds, put it in a more down-to-earth way: "To me a library is still a book. I'll accept all of these other things. I think they are fine, but the only thing that I wanted in the library in Chula Vista was a nice easy chair over by the fireplace where I could sit down and read a book and enjoy it."

With such a facility, it was natural that the Chula Vista Public Library would not only continue, but expand its role as cultural center of the city. One of the sponsors for such events is the Friends of the Chula Vista Library. Founded in 1968 with Judge Manuel Kugler as its first president, it has been active and supportive from the start, not surprising in a community where the library itself was supported solely by volunteers for the first twenty-four years of its existence.

As you walk in the front entrance, past the giant-size mural of Chula Vista's past, you will notice a busy corner to the right, bearing the appearance of a good used-book store. In fact, that is what it is, but the "Book Stop" is run by the Friends, who have been so successful in collecting books that they need a more active outlet than an occasional book sale.

The Friends have long sponsored all the special programs for children, like puppet

shows, magicians and Disney films. Every holiday they buy a Christmas tree and see that Santa Claus visits the library and gives every child a candy cane. In the 1980s they launched an evening cultural series for adults that included plays, music and dance. For the library building's tenth birthday in 1986, they replaced the colorful hanging banners. In 1990 they bought special audio-visual equipment for the auditorium to enhance the programs held there.

The history of Chula Vista was preserved when the Friends made a major contribution toward financing the large photo mural in the entry-way in 1988 and when they sponsored the Library Centennial Celebration in 1991 with an evening's entertainment and the publication of the history of the Chula Vista Public Library now in your hands.

Just as generous with their time and energy are the over 150 Volunteers of the Library, as evidenced by their most recent project, bar-coding of the books at the main library and its two branches.

In 1991 the Library consists of the prize-winning building at 365 F Street and two branches: the Castle Park / Otay Library at 1592 Third Avenue and the Woodlawn Park Library at 115 Spruce Street. There is also the Chula Vista Literacy Team cottage at 210 Landis Avenue where adults can improve their reading skills.



Artist Bill Hutchins' mural of Chula Vista's history greets visitors as they enter the library.

And the future?

Flora Kimball was more prophetic than she knew when she stated in 1891 that the Chula Vista Public Library would be a greater legacy to its citizens than its lemon orchards. The lemon trees are gone, but the library has flourished beyond the early settlers' wildest dreams. Through 100 years of hard experience, the library and the city have learned to plan for the future—and to expect the unexpected. Under way now is a plan to carry the library to the year 2010 and beyond.

This Library Master Plan approved by the City Council was brought forth by the current librarian, Rosemary Lane, who is as unlike the stereotypical "Sh-h-h!" librarian of the past as the modern city is to lemon groves, and who exemplifies why librarians are now called library directors. Supervising a large staff that keeps the library humming is only one of her tasks. She must also be a planner and director, working with City Council, City Manager John Goss, and the Planning Commission to ensure that Chula Vista will no longer be caught with its library bursting at the seams.

The Master Plan envisions a regional/area model rather than a large main/small branch model. As the population of Chula Vista grows, it is more appropriate to plan for area libraries of comparable size and services, each operating semi-autonomously, yet interconnected as part of the Chula Vista Public Library system. Three

such area libraries are being planned, and sites have already been chosen for the Montgomery/Otay area and the Sweetwater/Bonita area. In addition the developer of the new EastLake community has agreed to provide a one-acre site for a library and to provide an interim storefront library for a period of five years.

The first of three area libraries will be built at Fourth and Orange Avenues to serve the citizens of south Chula Vista and the annexed Montgomery Fire District. This will be a 35,000 square foot building funded by grant monies approved by California voters as Proposition 85. This library will have an international theme, exhibit hall, literacy space, and a large Spanish-language collection. Completion is expected in 1994.

There is no doubt that these goals will be accomplished. The Chula Vista Public Library now had approximately 1,000 books for each of the 225 which were collected back in 1891. From that simple yet spirited beginning, the library has contended with unprecedented population growth, the shift from an agricultural to an industrial economic base, world wars, drought, and expanding technology, always providing the community with a place to "sit down and read a book." There has been much more, of course, a center for citizens to exchange ideas and add some color and knowledge to their lives.



*Left: Bluma Levine, librarian from 1962 to 1977, whose patient and well-considered planning paved the way for the beautiful, functional library dedicated on July 4, 1976.
Right: Rosemary Lane, current librarian, who is working on plans for Chula Vista's library needs through the year 2010.*

Through the Years - the City Librarians

Miss Rising (temporary)	dates uncertain
Harry L. Welch	1910(?) - September 8, 1915
Raymond J. Flanders	September, 1915 - August 1, 1916
Lilla B. Dailey	August 1, 1916 - December 1, 1916
Kathryn Burke	November 20, 1916 - July, 1919
Leona Sette	month of July, 1919
Ida Collar	July 23, 1919 - October 1, 1936
Alice (Wesley) Little	October 1, 1936 - March 1, 1939
Lucille Yunker	March 1, 1939 - August 23, 1947
(Mrs. Lucille Ashworth)	
Ruth M. White	September 15, 1947 - June 15, 1951
Janice L. Stewart	July 1, 1951 - August 1, 1962
Bluma Levine	August 1, 1962 - December 31, 1977
Bradley A. Simon	April 3, 1978 - February 27, 1981
Rosemary Lane	September 8, 1981 - Present

Through the Years - Library Board Members

(Listed alphabetically with their terms of office)

Alexander, William J.....7/16/90-present
Ault, Armand A.....4/70-6/61; 9/62-1/63
Averill, Eleanor.....12/60-6/30/62
Baker, Rev. Harold E.....7/7/48-2/60
Bay, Betty A.....10/6/82-6/30/86
Boal, Edgar D.....1/24/29-10/4/33
Brown, M.....8/67-6/68
Calvert, John.....3/70-7/70
Chase, Marie B.....12/57-6/30/82
Clay, Perry A.....12/17/15-8/25
Cotton, Mary.....3/55-7/60
Crockett, Mary.....1912-1914
Cushman, Harriet E.....7/2/17-8/25
Dale, Helen.....9/4/18-3/4/21
Davies, Ethelind.....6/30/41-8/1/57
Dickinson, Donald C.....6/30/39-2/8/45
Donovan, Peggy P.....7/16/90-present
Downing, Mrs. L.M.....1912
Drag, Dr. Francis.....2/69-3/70
Drew, W.H.....1913-1914
Dudderar, M. Gilbert.....7/61-12/69
Dyerm, E.W.....1912-1913
Edwards, W.R.....1912-1913
Eustis, P.S.....6/6/29-6/4/31
Foster, Mrs. Harold.....1969
Hall, Mrs. Keith.....3/52-1/55
Hallman, John.....8/60-7/66
Hegland, Sheridan.....8/22/85-6/30/89
Henderson, Alice L.....3/21-8/8/30
Henderson, H.E.....7/67-6/72
Harkins, J.M.....1916
Johnson, Myrtle.....1913-1914
Kendall, Jacob.....12/63-7/67
Kinmore, E. Winn.....6/47-8/1/60
La Bore, Harry.....9/70-1/77
Lane, Dr. Frank H.....12/6/33-4/47
Lathan, Hubert.....7/72-6/76
Lee, Allie I.....10/1/17-11/7/22

Lindsay, Rodger.....1/30/86-6/30/90
Lynds, Mrs. Arthur L.....4/45-2/52
Lyon, Judith.....7/70-3/73
Lyon, W.T.....1914-1917
Luxem, Frank W., Jr.....9/5/78-1/23/85
Mahoney, Fred.....7/59-12/62
McBreen, William.....8/22/85-6/30/90
McCulloch, Judge J.H.....1912-1913
McDonald, Mrs. Wallace.....8/66-5/67
McVey, Caroline.....8/77-6/30/85
Millar, James.....5/20/63-4/65
Miller, Suzanne C.....10/14/81-6/30/91
Moore, Doris A.....10/28/80-6/30/88
Murray, H. Bruce.....8/76-6/80
Pautler, Larry.....5/78-6/82
Peters, William H.....8/2/33-2/8/39
Phelps, H.....1914-1917
Phillips, William S.....10/9/30-1/8/47
Pray, Louise H.....10/5/32-5/5/48
Putnam, Dan.....8/68-1/69
Rindone, Jerry.....1979-1981
Rindone, Joe.....4/47-6/30/59
Romero, Rober.....8/10/88-present
Roseman, Joan.....6/73-6/79
Sabin, Eldbridge H.....11/7/22-1/10/29
Schwarz, Virginia.....10/62-7/70
Sinatra, John A.....12/70-1/74
Smith, Carol.....5/65-8/69
Smith, W.P.....1916-1917
Smith, Wayne.....1/63-11/63
Sumner, Alice.....2/10/30-2/13/41
Viesca, Jose, Jr.....7/16/90-present
Wentworth, Helen C.....9/7/25-10/5/32
Williams, Ronald E.....4/12/89-present
Wilson, Linda.....6/8/91-present
Wimmer, John D.....8/6/31-7/5/33
Woodbury, Pamela R.....9/74-1/78

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