



A Miscellany of Placentia Library History

1919

October

First Library Board of Trustees meeting held at 8:00 P.M. at the home of Board member Mrs. ma Hunt Robinson.

1920

January

Library opened as Library Reading Room.

Attendant paid \$.25 an hour.

Original materials purchased from Rev. N.M. Goodell for \$69.40. These included 31 periodicals and 6 newspapers - Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Express, Fullerton Tribune, Santa Ana Register, Placentia Courier, and The Anaheim (?) Plain Dealer.

Rent paid on Reading Room facility was \$30.00 per month.

Hours were 2:00-5:00 P.M. and 7:00-9:00 P.M. every day but Sunday.

Mrs. Rideout was the first employee and was hired to staff the Reading Room and act as janitor. If janitorial work required more time than that allotted to staff the Reading Room, she was paid an additional \$.25 for every extra hour that she worked.

Circulation policy: All magazines except for the current issue could be taken out for 1 week. Overdue fines were \$.01 per day and magazines could not be renewed.

Books could be taken out for 2 weeks and could be renewed. Overdue fines on books were \$.03 per day.

Began with 198 books received from the Boy's Reading Room. March average daily patronage is 4 1/3 people.

February

Total number of books owned increases to 245 after 198 books are donated.

May

Miss Sara Rideout hired as first Librarian. Her salary is \$60.00 per month + \$2.00 for incidentals.

October

First board meeting held at new Library location.

Fee of \$1.00 must be paid for Library privileges by people who live outside the Library District.

November

Miss Harriet Dowling hired to fill position of Librarian.

December

Miss Olive Bailey hired as Librarian.

1921

April Library's book collection valued at \$1400.00

June Statistics: Attendance 1052
Adult books circulated 518
Adult magazines circulated 55
Juvenile books circulated 302
Juvenile magazines circulated 11
Books accessioned 100
Card holders registered 16
Total circulation 886
Total card holders 357

1922

September Library hours extended from 5:00-7:00 pm so that the Library is open continuously from 2:00-9:00 pm.

September Library board decides to open Library from 2:00 - 5:00 pm on Sundays as a reading room only. No items will be checked out. Sunday attendant will be paid \$1.00.

Average Sunday attendance for first month is 2.5 adults and 8 children. Sunday attendance in November averages 2.5 adults and 7.5 children.

December Motion made to take steps to acquire lot on the corner of Bradford Ave. and Center St. for a new Library building. The cost of the lot is \$4200.00

1923

January Deposit of \$100.00 is paid for the purchase of the lot.

The deposit is paid with personal checks written by the three Library Board members.

1924

January Library joins the State Library Association. Membership dues are \$5.00

1925

March Library joins the Chamber of Commerce. Membership fees are \$12.00.

1926

September Mr. Wallace of Los Angeles chosen as the contractor for the new Library building.

October Ground breaking ceremony held for new Library building. Local ministers and civic leaders are invited to speak. First shovel of earth was turned by Library Board President, Mrs. Dowling. This was followed by singing "America".

November Ceremony held for laying of cornerstone. Talk on the history of the Library covering the past 6 years is given by Mrs. Dowling. Items placed in cornerstone include transcript of speech by Mrs. Dowling, a silk flag, coins, and a picture of the County Supervisors

1927

- February** Moving day. First Board meeting in new Library.
- March** Dedication ceremony for new Library. Speakers included Mr. Ferguson, State Librarian, and Mr. Carleton M. Winslow, the Library's architect. The speeches were followed by a tour of the Library

1932

- April** Library Flag presented by the Native Daughters.
- June** Effects of the Great Depression seen as salaries of Library employees are reduced.
- September** Overdue fines raised to \$.02 per day.

1933

- February** The signing of an oil lease with the Placentia Development Company approved
- May** A pay shelf is installed to help raise money to buy new books
- June** Library hours changed to 2:00 – 8:00 pm

1934

- January** Pay shelf raised \$8.50. Fines collected \$9.06.
- September** Library open until 9:00 pm again.

1935

- January** Francis Shalles hired as Librarian at salary of \$100.00 per month. The amount was also to cover the wages of an assistant with the exception of Sunday help.

1938

- December** First page hired.

1939

- January** Overdue notices sent out to patrons owing \$.50 or more in fines.
- July** Mrs. Battle, a WPA worker, hired.
- August** Mae P. Barlass hired as an assistant.

1940

- May** Madeline Cochran hired as Librarian.

1941

- December** Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Library awaits instructions for emergency closings and blackout regulations. Current Library hours are 10:00 am – 9:00 pm.

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| 1943 | |
| April | Employee salaries raised as part of a war emergency plan. |
| May | Library hours changed to 10:00 am – 8:00 pm. |
| July | Mae P. Barlass hired as acting Librarian, and is later hired as Librarian. |
| 1944 | |
| October | Library's 25th anniversary is celebrated with an open house. |
| 1951 | Branch Library is opened at La Jolla School. |
| 1953 | |
| February | Library Board approves the addition of phonograph records to the Library collection. |
| August | Virginia Carpenter hired. |
| 1961 | |
| September | Louise Crowe, later Louise Tracer hired as Librarian. |
| 1962 | Plans for children's wing begun |
| 1963 | |
| November | Library closed in tribute to the late President, John F. Kennedy. |
| 1964 | |
| November | New children's wing completed. Monthly book review sessions at the Library presented by Mrs. Scarborough begin. |
| 1965 | |
| May | Library begins participating in the McNaughton Book program. |
| July | Overdue fines increased to \$.05 per day. |
| 1966 | |
| August | Library joins Orange County Library System. |
| 1967 | |
| September | Selected books sent to McFadden School Library and the New High School Library on long-term loan. |
| 1966 | |
| October | "Largest collection of totem poles in the U.S." given to Library by Mr. Charles Hunt. |
| 1968 | |
| January | Paperback collection started. |
| September | 16mm sound films added to collection. |

1969

September Library celebrates its 50th anniversary. Tour of historical spots organized by Friends group as part of celebration.

1971

May David E. Snow appointed Library Director

November Site of present Library building approved

1973

May Ground breaking ceremony for present Library building held

1974

March Friends of Placentia Library purchase piano for new building

September Dedication of present Library building held. Ray Bradbury is the guest speaker. Dedication plaque reads "Dedicated for the cultural enrichment of the citizens of Placentia".

Summer Film program held at Library all summer

October Placentia Rotary Club donates grandfather clock to Library

1977

April Library begins using a book security system

Computer catalog system replaces the card catalog (1977-1978)

1978

April Dedication of the California Room. Virginia Carpenter is the guest speaker and she signs copies of her book "Placentia, a pleasant place to live".

June/July Library staff layed off and Library hours reduced following the passage of Proposition 13 (the Jarvis Initiative).

1979

December Placentia Library goes on-line with the Anaheim Public Library using a new computer based circulation system.

Placentia Library District celebrates its 60th birthday

1980

April Cannonball found in 1902 donated to the Library by Bob Des Granges.

October Library becomes provisional member of Literacy Volunteers of America.

1981

March Valencia High School donates back issues of the Tesoros, and the school newspaper El Tigre

August Isadora Bower donates a cannonball to the Library

1983

May Wally “Famous” Amos, the national spokesman for Literacy Volunteers of America, is the guest speaker at the Annual Meeting of Literacy Volunteers of Placentia. A portion of the proceeds from the opening day sales at a new franchise is donated to the Library’s literacy program

October Friends of Placentia Library begin their on-going book sale.

1984

California Literacy Campaign begins with headquarters in Placentia City Hall

July First day’s proceeds from new “Famous Amos” franchise in Newport Beach donated to California Literacy Campaign – Placentia.

1985

November Books from the estate of Angelina Backs are donated to the Library and are placed in the California Room

December The Library’s Literacy Center is dedicated.

1986

January A soft sculpture by Marjorie Trout, entitled “The Reading Tree”, is donated to the Library by the Friends of Placentia Library

1987

January The Friends of Placentia Library celebrate their 20th anniversary.

September A video of the Library is made by a student from Fullerton College.

October Library closed for one day to repair minor damage sustained during Whittier earthquake.

1988

August Library receives its second Literacy Campaign grant

October Junior Great Books group is started.

Fall Library is redecorated and slightly remodeled.

1989

September “Placentia Literacy Day” declared by the City of Placentia.

October Library celebrates its 70th birthday. Jack Smith, a journalist with the Los Angeles Times, is the guest speaker.

September Planning grant for “Gulf Arab States” exhibit received.

1990

Summer State budget of 1990/1991 reduces the Public Library Fund of 1990 by 20%.

February Automatic doors installed at Library entrance.

1991

July David E. Snow retires as Library Director.
Elizabeth Minter is hired as Library Director.

1992

February Audio-visual fees and video rental fees dropped

June Videos and CDs moved to open shelving. Literacy Department is expanded into former AV area.

December A microcomputer for use by the public is purchased by the Friends of Placentia Library in honor of David E. Snow, former Library Director.

1993

March California Room is renamed Placentia History Room

August Library Board of Trustees reduces Library hours due to State budgetary problems.

September New hours are implemented.

1994

January Friends sponsor an Author’s Luncheon. Ciji Ware is the guest speaker.