

Torrance Library Expands to Meet City's Growth

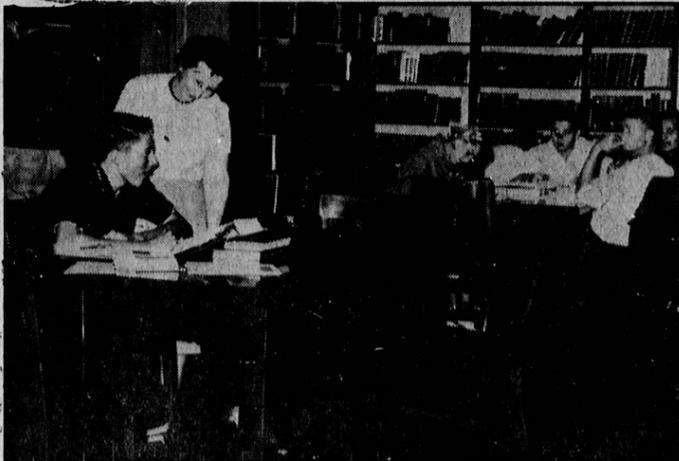


STUDY IN THE SUN . . . Lois Borman, librarian, chats with youngsters who have checked out books ranging from history study volumes to picture books. The El Retiro Park library is the newest Torrance branch and is

the most beautifully designed and appointed. Despite the well-lighted interior, the children who attend would rather take their books outdoors on the steps, or lawn, than to study inside.



INTERESTED GROUP . . . Mrs. Ruth Hatfield summertime library program worker, shows children picture books during a reading hour. Youngsters make up a large percentage of Torrance library attendance, and North Torrance branch, located in McMasters Park, is no exception as above picture indicates.



EVENING SESSION . . . The main Torrance library, located at 1345 Post, is the most cosmopolitan of the four. Age groups have adapted their attendance time to the availability of books and space as it is always crowded during early afternoons for older patrons, late afternoon for elementary age and evenings for teenage time. Mrs. Ida Mason, assistant librarian, helps a student with reference books.



OLD MEMORIES . . . Albert Isen, mayor of Torrance, looks toward the room that housed the first library at 1804 Gramercy Ave. The First Citizen of Torrance and local attorney was also one of the first patrons of this library. Mayor Isen is pictured in front of the Jameison residence holding the library card he received when five years old.

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City's First Library Books Given by Jared Torrance

By BOB WILTON

Public libraries in Torrance have kept pace with the phenomenal growth of this city in general and while there were two libraries when 11,000 people lived here, the now existing four are over-

crowded with more than 100,000 knowledge seeking residents.

The first library was in the home of Mrs. Isabel Torrance Henderson at 1804 Gramercy Ave. and used the dining room for its members from 1913 until 1936. The original collection of books numbered 300 and were donated by the late Jared Sidney Torrance and some of his friends. The Los Angeles County Library extended its services to Torrance and immediately enlarged the small book collection.

The library moved to a new location on El Prado, to the rear of Newberry's store, in 1922. It remained there until a Public Works Project building was erected in 1936 at the main library's present location at 1345 Post Ave.

Mrs. Henderson was librarian from the opening date until 1935 when Mrs. Dorothy Jamieson took over her duties.

The first Torrance branch library was opened in Waleria in 1935 and Mrs. Margaret Dowd was put in charge. She is still librarian of this branch located at 3815 W. 242nd St. in Waleria Park.

As Torrance continued to grow a second branch was opened in 1951. This library is located at 3814 174th St. in McMasters Park. The first librarian there was Mrs. Rose Brown who had been librarian at Perry School. She was succeeded for one year by Mrs. Borman, who is now at El Retiro. Her successor is the present librarian, Mrs. Melba Bonmarito.

In April of this year the third branch was opened in the Hollywood-Riviera area and is located in El Retiro Park. Lois Borman is librarian.

From its beginning with 300 books the Torrance library system now has 39,835 volumes, and it is reported, could use twice this number. The main library and its three branches are bursting at the seams and are in dire need of

more chairs and tables in their crowded quarters.

Last year the branches averaged 50 new titles per week and the main library over 100. Records show the tremendous book circulation has increased 32,000 during the past year and there are 13,943 active book borrowers.

The readers have diversified interests ranging from Perry Mason mysteries to the principles of missile design. Being in the residential heart of the industrial area these libraries carry an excellent collection of technical books. Of course, something other than scientific and "who done it" books are also popular and at present hypnotism and occult studies lead the non-fiction parade with art and fine literature appreciated. Current best sellers have their place on the shelves of the Torrance libraries.

These libraries use a rotation system, as does the county, and most books make the rounds and then come back only by request.

Mrs. Jamieson anticipates the books that will be popular in advance and is assisted by requests from readers and by the staff of county librarians in determining what books will be in demand in the near future.

One outstanding fact is that the libraries of Torrance are abreast of the times and out in front with leading enterprises of the All American City—Torrance.

YOUR PROBLEMS

by Ann Landers



Find Other "Friends" . . .

Dear Ann: My husband sells vacuum cleaners direct to the consumer. This means he is in and out of women's homes all day. I never gave it a thought till my neighbor put a bug in my ear.

She says it's not humanly possible for an attractive man like my husband to be with women all day, in the privacy of their homes and not get involved "here and there."

She said she trusts HIM, but claims a man has to be made of wood not to weaken sooner or later.

We have three children, and get along fine. He makes good money, likes his work and is always home on time. I'm ashamed to admit it but I've examined his clothes for lipstick and have found no traces. Please comment.—QUESTION MARK.

Dear Q. M.: Tell needle-nose to mind her own business and not to bore you with her suspicions. I suspect she's either unmarried or having trouble with her husband. Find other "friends." This woman doesn't have your interests at heart.

Dear Ann: This may not seem like a problem to you—but it sure is a big one to me. I'm a senior in high school and I can count on my thumb the number of live dates I've had this semester. I'm no knockout, but I get my share of whistles. People tell me I have a swell personality, that I'm a "good kid" and lots of fun. But still—no dates.

It can't be that my brains are scaring the fellows off. I'm not THAT smart. I'm just an average student. Give me a clue, Ann. What can I do to prevent this year from being a total flop?—WHY

Dear Why: You may be "a swell kid," but you haven't learned how to make fellows comfortable in your presence. For the umpteenth time:

(1) Be friendly—not aggressive, but at least let a fellow know YOU know he's alive. Sometimes all you need to say is "Hi." (2) When you're alone with a guy ask him questions about things HE'S interested in—then show genuine interest in his answers. (3) Get a fellow to talk about himself. It's everyone's favorite subject. (4) Be cheerful, and fun to be around. This means no backbiting, under-cutting or gossip. It reduces you at once in a boy's eyes.

If you work on these four points, I guarantee business will improve. Good luck.

Dear Ann: When I was young I had a daughter out of wedlock. The same year, I married a man who was a saint. He has always treated this girl like his very own. We now have four other children and are a happy family.

A thousand times I've wanted to tell this girl the truth but I'm afraid she'll lose respect for me. She's almost 16 and very kind and understanding, but I can't get up the nerve. Can you suggest a way to tell her so she won't have a low opinion of me?—GUILTY CONSCIENCE.

Dear Guilty: There's no reason to tell your daughter or anyone else about the past. The only one who has a right to know is your husband. And he knows—so forget it.

Are you tempted to smoke because the crowd does? If so, send for ANN LANDERS' booklet, "Torrance Smoke-ing," enclosing with your request 20c in coin and a large, self-addressed, stamped booklet. (Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of this newspaper enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.) Copyright, 1959, Field Enterprises, Inc.



CHECK OUT . . . Mrs. Margaret Dowd issues books to Dorothy Carden in Waleria branch library. Mrs. Dowd has been librarian of this branch, located at 3815 W. 242nd St., in Waleria Park; since it was opened in 1935.

South Bay Annual Art Show This Weekend

First annual Southwest Regional Art Show sponsored by the South Bay Community Arts Assn. in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation will be presented to the public, free of charge, at the Alondra Community Bldg., 3535 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. in Lawndale.

The art show will be open tomorrow from 8 to 10 p.m. and will continue through Saturday and Sunday, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Frank Jensen, Kirk McDonald and Will Hamner, local people active in the art field will jury the exhibit consisting of original works in oil, casein, watercolor, sculpture and graphics.

Cash prizes will be awarded for first place and ribbons for second in the above categories. A non-competitive show selected by art instructor and local artist Mildred Walker will also be on view.

According to Betty Maxwell, exhibition chairman for the event, areas represented in the

Farewell Luncheon

Mrs. Lynn Leigh, a Delta Sigma Chi sorority member, who is leaving soon for her home in Venezuela after spending a vacation here, was complimented at a luncheon last Friday at the Plush Horse. Attending were Delta Sigma Chi alumnae Mmes. John Agapito, Charles Graham, Bud Winegar, Jack Garner and Zukié Boyes.

Mr., Mrs. Wm. Best Mark 50th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. William Best, 819 Arlington Ave., were complimented at a reception last Sunday afternoon in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

The Bests have been residents of Torrance for the past 29 years. They were married in Joplin, Mo., and lived there and in Oklahoma before coming to Torrance.

Mr. Best has been employed by Columbia Steel Co. for 26 years.

The honored couple are the parents of two sons, Richard Best of Gardena, Jack Best of Torrance; and a daughter, Mrs. Roy Chambers of Torrance.

They also have six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Co-hostesses for Sunday's celebration were Mrs. Roy

Chambers and Mrs. Jack Best.

The table, decorated in gold and white, was centered by a golden wedding anniversary cake baked by Mrs. J. D. Luddy.

Mrs. Norman Chambers presided at the punch bowl and Mrs. Roy Chambers and Mrs. Jack Best served the cake.

Approximately 45 friends and relatives called to offer felicitations.



MR., MRS. WILLIAM BEST . . . On Golden Wedding Day