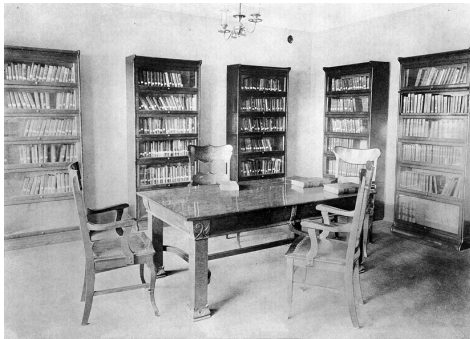


Santa Clara City Library History



The State of California chartered the Town of Santa Clara in 1852. The Board of Town Trustees first established a public library in fall 1903. There are conflicting statements regarding the first librarian. One source states Franklin S. Hichborn set up the first library in 1903 and Shelby Dodson volunteered his services as librarian. Another says William A. Beattie was appointed the town librarian at a monthly salary of \$20. The Library opened in two rooms in the Franck Building at 1047 Franklin Street in November 1903.



The Town Trustees did not provide a permanent location until 1914 when the Library was assigned quarters on the second floor of the then newly erected City Hall at Franklin & Washington Streets.



It was not until October 1953 that a trained, professional librarian, Miss Frances M. Klune, was appointed to head the Library. Miss Klune was the driving force for establishing a dynamic program of library services, which included investment in a separate library building. In the fall of 1955 a 7,900 square foot library opened in the City Plaza at the corner of Main & Lexington Streets. That building is now a branch library known as the Mission Library Family Reading Center.

In 1960 Bookmobile service was added. The original bookmobile was replaced with a new vehicle in 1976 and that vehicle replaced with a third model in 1993. Bookmobile service was discontinued at the end of August 2003.

In the spring of 1964, Edward Durrell Stone was hired to design a new Central Library. Groundbreaking occurred September 27, 1965 at a location on Homestead Road on farmland formerly owned by the Neves Family.



The 36,000 square foot Central Library was dedicated April 2, 1967 and opened to the public a couple days later. From 1966 through 1968 the City operated a “Fairway Glen Neighborhood Library-Study Center” in the Fairway Glen Shopping Center off Lafayette Avenue, north of Bayshore.

Central Library was expanded by 8,000 square feet in 1980. The Library went from a card catalog to an online catalog in 1992. The Library’s Internet access network was established in 1997. The Mission Library was remodeled in 1999-2000 and plans for a new Central Park Library were approved in 1999. In August 2001, the Central Library was closed in preparation for its demolition and the collections moved to a Temporary Facility on Lochinvar Avenue, which opened in October 2001. The Temporary Library closed in March 2004.



The new Central Park Library opened to the public in April 2004. The Central Park Library celebrated its 5th Anniversary with many special events and programs in April 2009.