



McHenry Museum
& Historical Society



McHENRY LIBRARY SITUATED AS CENTRAL STANISLAUS READING ROOM, 1912 - 1971

MM&HS MUSEUM MONTHLY, MAY 2023

RESEARCHED & WRITTEN BY DAVID SEYMOUR

As we conclude National Library Week 2023 (April 23 -29), we celebrate the one-hundred eleventh (111th) anniversary of the opening of the McHenry Library building (now the McHenry Museum), on the first of May. In July of last year, the MM&HS celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the McHenry Museum (when the library was redeveloped as the museum in 1972). With this being our focus, we made little mention of the milestone anniversary of the building itself. For the 111th birthday of the building, we share some highlights from the years when the now-McHenry Museum served as the McHenry Library.

The history of the local library system is multi-faceted. Twenty years ago, Heather Hajek (now Heather Hajek-Eddy and currently with the Kern County Library), wrote a detailed history of how the McHenry Library came to be as part of her master's degree. At the time, she was the librarian of the Patterson branch of the Stanislaus County Library. Her work was published in MM&HS' *Stanislaus Stepping Stones* (July - August 2003), and we reference her work as our story begins.



Hajek described the documented expressed desire for a Modesto library dating back to 1884. In 1892, the Rogers Library Society was chartered. The founder and only president was Caroline Rogers DeYoe (1832-1904); her son, Stimpson (1851-1886), constructed Rogers Hall, in which the 'reading room' was located. *An interesting aside of local historical interest: following the deaths of her son, husband, and grandson, Mrs. Rogers DeYoe commissioned the 'Rogers Fountain'. It stood in the middle of 'I' Street in Modesto until 1953 and featured a statue of her late grandson, Stephen (1882-1889), in the center.*

When Mrs. Rogers DeYoe died in 1904, Rogers Hall was no longer available to be used as a reading room. For the next few years, nearby buildings housed early libraries, including the Johnson Building on Tenth Street (between 'I' and 'J'). During this time, the Carnegie Foundation was handing out large sums of money to fund the creation of libraries nationwide.



ROGERS FOUNTAIN

For reasons not now known, the City of Modesto declined an opportunity to receive \$12,000+ of Carnegie money in December of 1905 to construct such a building.



SOCIETY 'NOTEWORTHY NEWS' ON PAGES 11 & 12

STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE ---->

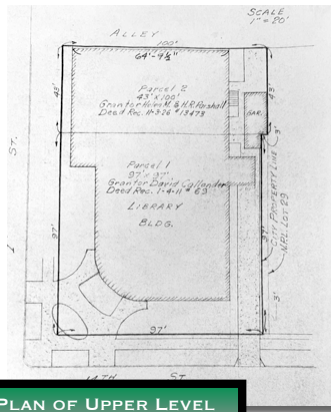
Just two months later, notable resident Oramil McHenry (1861-1906) passed away and left \$20,000 and three lots of land to construct a library expressly for the citizens of Modesto. The only stipulation to the gift was that the City of Modesto was required to maintain and preserve the building. In preparation for a coming full-fledged functioning formal library, Modesto selected its first City Librarian, Blanche Hewel (1875-1956), in October of 1907. She oversaw operations at the Johnson Building location, but her marriage a few months after she was on the job led to her resignation.

It took longer than expected for the McHenry Library to be erected, due to a battle over Oramil McHenry's estate. Renowned architect William Henry Weeks (1864-1936) designed the building, and construction finally began in October of 1911. Every aspect of its design was exacted to the specifications of Oramil's widow, Myrtie McHenry Langdon (1878-1959). Her ideas added grandeur and called for golden oak pillars in the rotunda, a lady's retiring room, a men's smoking room, and three fireplaces.

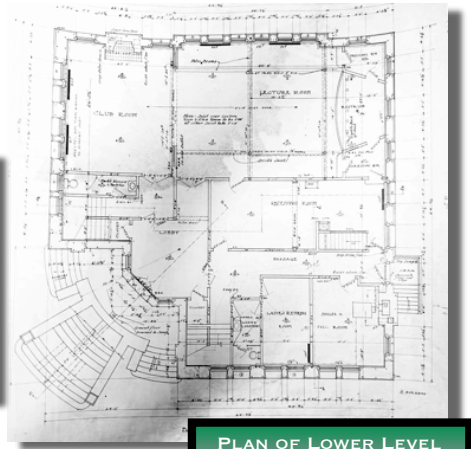
Two receptions were held at the McHenry Library on April 29, 1912, and full operations began May 1st. Cornelia Douglas Provines (1879-1959) was the now-Stanislaus County Librarian, overseeing operations on site. Oramil and Myrtie's son, Merl (1903-1994), checked out the first book. He later said he could not recall the title, and turned it in late!

Meanwhile, other nearby towns launched their own library efforts. In Ceres, organization for a library began in 1903, and in March of 1912 (two months prior to the opening of the McHenry Library), residents there opened the first branch of the new Stanislaus County Library. Turlock's first library opened in 1906; residents there applied for and received Carnegie grant money, and construction was completed in 1916. Turlock utilized their Carnegie Library until 1968, when a new, larger branch of Stanislaus County Library opened in their city; similar to what would occur with the McHenry Library, the Carnegie building was then repurposed at the Carnegie Arts Center.

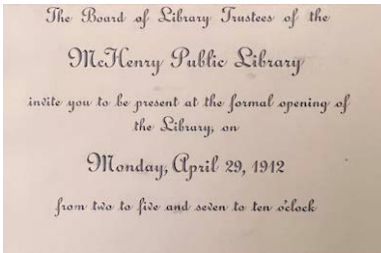
Oakdale, Hughson, and Keyes all had libraries join the County library network in early 1912, followed by Waterford later that same year. Denair, Riverbank, and Salida got their library branches in 1913. Newman's first library was in a bowling alley at the turn of the 20th Century.



PLAN OF UPPER LEVEL



PLAN OF LOWER LEVEL



CORNELIA PROVINES



BESSIE SILVERTHORN



Other towns in the County organized to win Carnegie library funding. Oakdale's Carnegie Library officially opened in January of 1917. Patterson opened its first library within the Las Palmas School site in February of 1912, and later constructed its own Carnegie Library in 1921. Later that year, Riverbank opened a quaint 900 square-foot Carnegie Library.

The communities in Tegner (now part of Turlock) and Grayson also opened library branches. In 1923, Bessie Silverthorn (1881-1968), future librarian at the McHenry branch, organized a branch for Westley. By the mid 1920s, communities throughout in Stanislaus County had their own library branches, including Crows Landing.

Local population grew rapidly, and the McHenry Library, not even a decade into its life, expanded. In 1920, Cornelia Provines was promoted to the California State Library in Sacramento, and Bessie Silverthorn replaced her as head Stanislaus County librarian, a position she held for the next thirty-one years. Miss Silverthorn oversaw the 1927-28 addition to the McHenry Library, which more than doubled its size. What was added was the entirety of the building beyond the east wall where the main room's fireplace is still located today. By 1943, it held close to 300,000 volumes of books and reference materials.

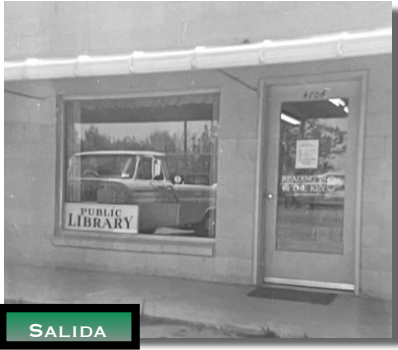
In Modesto proper, along with the McHenry Library, the Stanislaus County Library network grew to include five small branches over the next two decades: three in fire stations, one in a grammar (elementary) school, and one at the County hospital. New leadership was also afoot, with Miss Silverthorn retiring in spring of 1951.

In December of 1951, Stanislaus County's first male lead librarian was named, Frederick Kidder (1919-1986). Mr. Kidder only remained in his position for a matter of months, and left under a cloud of suspicion. In 1952, Carl Hamilton (1917-2002) took the reigns as Stanislaus County and Modesto City Librarian (a co-municipality title was long designated for the top McHenry Library position for many years), until he took a job with the Alameda County Library in 1964. The Hamilton years deliver the most photographic evidence of the McHenry Library.

These photos show the McHenry Library staff in action, hosting events, increasing exposure to the community, and sharing all the library offered. The memorable H. Kathryn Thornburg (1908-2000) is characterized by those who fondly recall her as the heart and soul of the McHenry Library. For many years, Miss Thornburg oversaw the children's section of the library, located in the basement of the building. She later became the supervisor of the multi-branch intra-Modesto locations, a subset of the broader Stanislaus County Library network.



CERES



SALIDA



TURLOCK



NEWMAN



DENAIR



KEYES



EMPIRE



HUGHSON



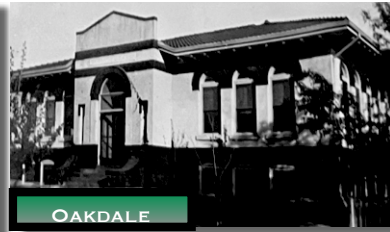
RIVERBANK



PATTERSON



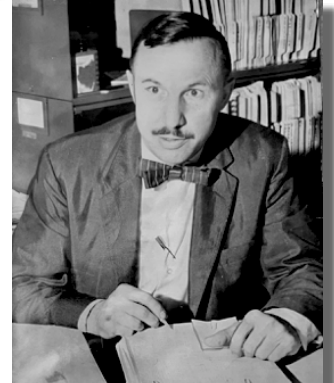
WATERFORD



OAKDALE



KATHRYN THORNBURG
READING TO JEFFREY DUROY



CARL HAMILTON

The intra-Modesto small branches of the now-comprehensive Stanislaus County Library network transitioned from being housed within other facilities to their own stand-alone sites starting in 1960. The McHenry Library still served as the large central location and within Modesto these five new outright* branches came to be.

• 1960 •

The first smaller site was the Silverthorn Branch, dedicated in May of 1960, on Chicago Avenue serving Modesto's west side residents. Named for aforementioned librarian Bessie Silverthorn, she was present at the dedication of the building

• 1962 •

Next to be constructed was the Christopher Columbus 'C.C.' Wright Branch in Ulrich Square (now Roseburg Square), on Roseburg Avenue. Mr. Wright (c. 1850-1906), was a Modesto-elected former California State assemblyman.

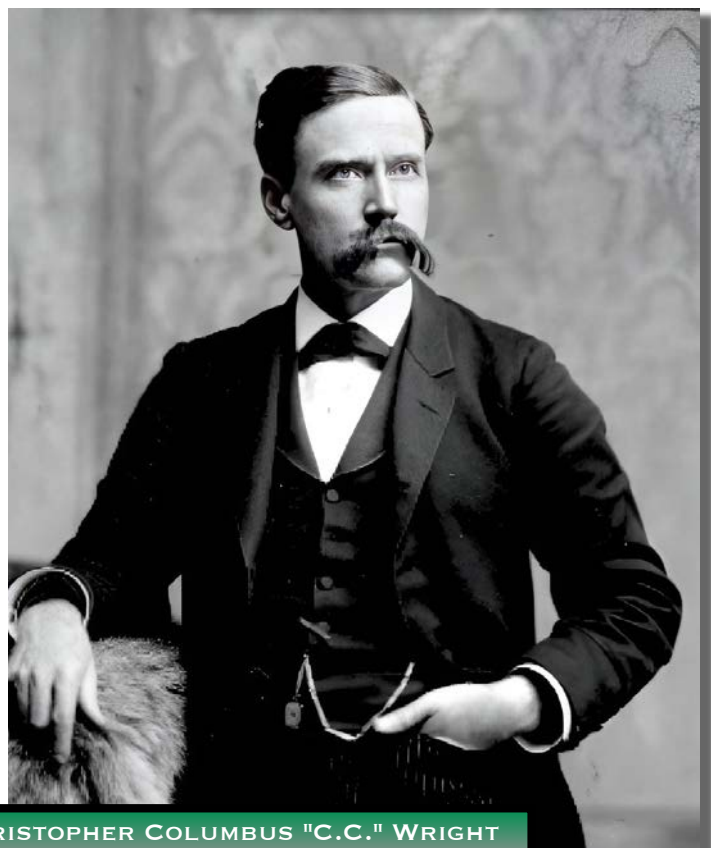
This branch was dedicated on April 29, 1962, coinciding with the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the McHenry Library.



BESSIE SILVERTHORN AT THE 1960 DEDICATION



A historical aside on C.C. Wright: He was (and is) enormously important for his passage of 'The Wright Act of 1887', allowing for the authoritative control of local water through the establishment of irrigation districts in farming regions throughout California. As a result of The Wright Act, Stanislaus County's Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District were the first two locally operated (now 'senior water rights holders') irrigation districts in the state. One could say the 'water wealth' in Modesto's 'Water Wealth, Contentment, Health' slogan-arch is creditable to Mr. Wright's efforts. In fact, 'The Modesto Arch' was christened with a bottle of irrigated canal water in March of 1912 (two months before the McHenry Library was built). Stanislaus County residents – and local farmers in particular – can still thank Mr. Wright today for their utilities' relatively comparative modest-priced water delivery service.



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS "C.C." WRIGHT

• 1964 •

The Broughton Branch opened on Yosemite Boulevard, named for former Modesto assemblywoman, Esto Broughton (1890-1956). The first woman lawyer in Stanislaus County, she was the youngest of the 'first four' women to serve in the California State Assembly, all elected in 1918.

• 1966 •

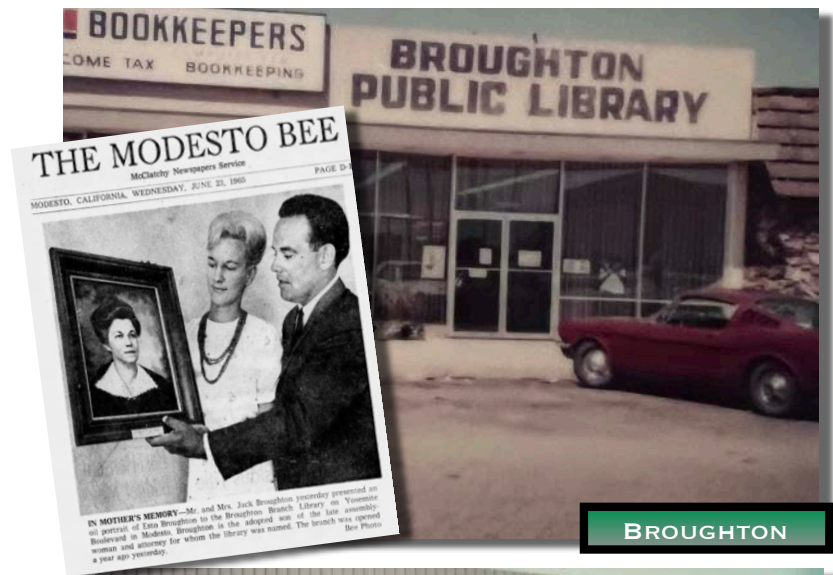
The Elias Branch in the Gregory Gardens shopping center, located at Tully and Bowen, in 1966, was named for former Modesto mayor and noted local historian Solomon 'Sol' Elias (1868-1940). Elias was Modesto's first (and so far, only) Jewish mayor, and we have him to thank for documenting extensive, well-detailed accounts of early 20th century life in Modesto and Stanislaus County.

• 1970 •

On a trial basis which lasted for four years, the Provines Branch, was named for another aforementioned previous County librarian, Cornelia Provines. It opened in the Salvation Army's Red Shield Center to serve Modesto's south side residents. **This was the one site which was not initially outright stand-alone, but later was so, when it was relocated to the Caruso shopping center on Crows Landing Road.*

Carl Hamilton's 1964 departure saw several others hold the chief librarian post for short durations: Mildred Herndon (1909-1996); Martin Elrich (1924-2010), who spent twenty months in the position before resigning for a higher-paying post in Orange County; and Margaret Hale (1925-1999).

In 1967, the librarian who oversaw construction of a new Modesto Main branch of the Stanislaus County Library, and the according closure of the McHenry Library, came to town. Oscar Smaalders (1924-2019) was the man instrumental in the creation of a new, larger library for Modesto. His first major contribution was procuring a larger truck to serve as the 'Book Mobile' for the County. The library system had maintained several vehicles for rural deliveries over the years, but the 1968 'Book Mobile' was much larger, and remained in operation until 1986.



BROUGHTON



ELIAS



PROVINES

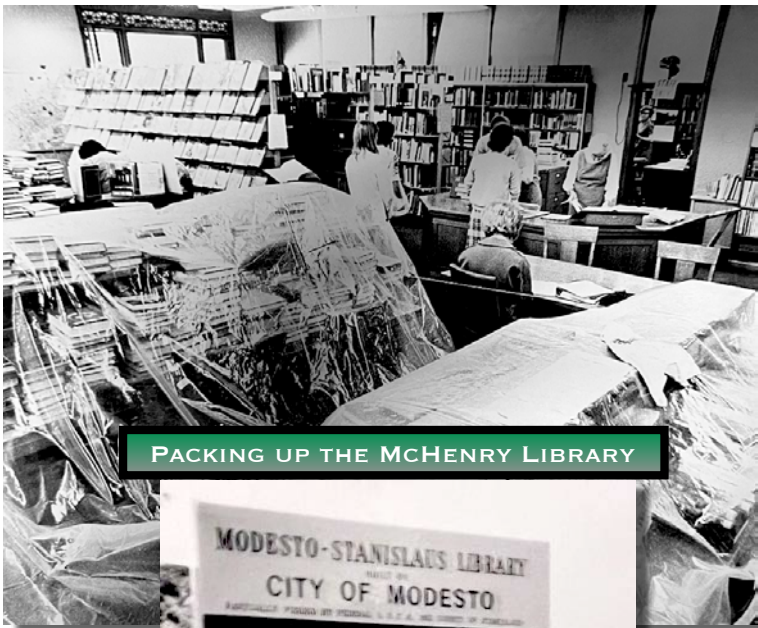


BOOKMOBILE

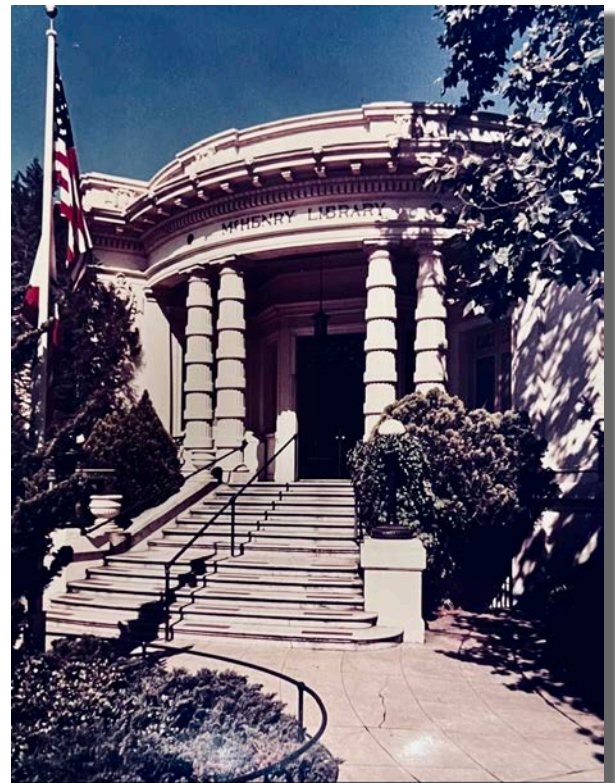
On October 22, 1971, library clerk, Cherree Platt, posted signage in front of the McHenry Library which informed its patrons that the building would close as a public library after fifty-nine years on the following day, October 23rd. Many volumes contained in the McHenry Library were moved just a block away to the new Modesto main branch of the Stanislaus County Library, and on November 15, 1971, the new Stanislaus County Library opened. After an interior remodel and reconfiguration, the McHenry Library was dedicated as the McHenry Museum, on July 4, 1972. In 1978, Proposition 13 led to cutbacks in the county. Oscar Smaalders suggested to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors the closure of the five smaller Modesto branches to save an estimated \$208,000 annually. Today, the Stanislaus County Library operates thirteen branches: Ceres, Denair, Empire, Hughson, Keyes, Modesto, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Salida, Turlock, and Waterford.

The McHenry Museum remains full of reminders of those fifty-nine years when the building served as the McHenry Library. It was the Stanislaus County Library's network's flagship reading room, and it is 111 years old this May 1, 2023

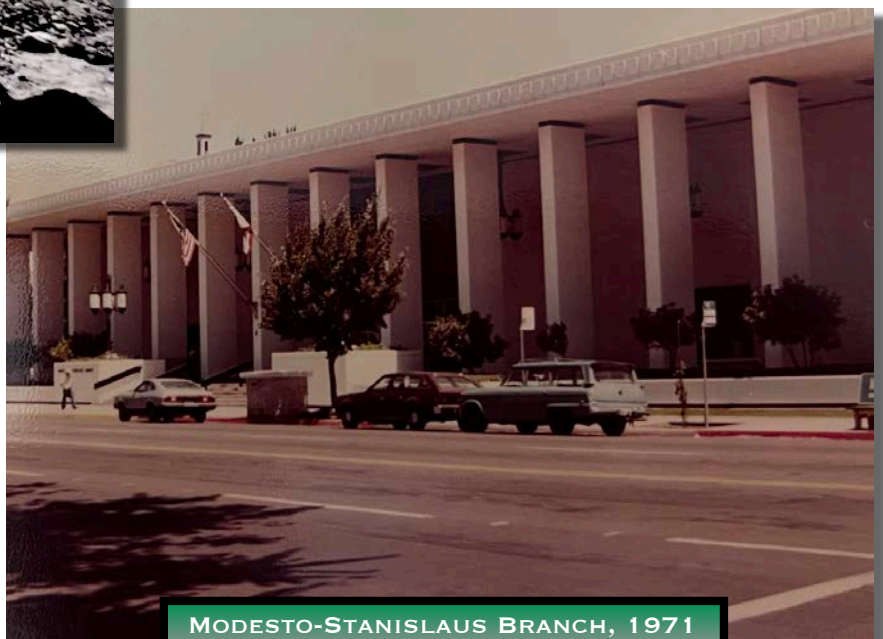
EDITED BY KEITH HIGHMET



PACKING UP THE MCHENRY LIBRARY



OSCAR SMAALDERS



MODESTO-STANISLAUS BRANCH, 1971

*Information for this article comes from various *Modesto Bee* articles, the works of Karen Hajek-Eddy (MM&HS' *Stanislaus Stepping Stones* (July - August 2003)), *Stanislaus Library History: 1912-2012*, By Michael McGranahan (2012). We thank Stanislaus County Librarian John McCloud and City of Modesto volunteer archivist, Janet Lancaster, for their assistance in researching this article.

HISTORICAL AND LIVING MEMORIES OF THE MCHENRY LIBRARY

A widely-known story from the McHenry Library was when Ernest Gallo found some old pamphlets on winemaking in the building's basement just after Prohibition (1920 – 1933) ended. Here, Mr. Gallo increased his own knowledge on fermentation and the care of wine, detailed by UC Davis enology and viticulture professor Frederic T. Bioletti. *"This was the beginning of our knowledge about making commercial wine... These old pamphlets probably saved us from going out of business our very first year"*, said **Ernest Gallo** in the 1994 co-memoir written with his brother, 'Ernest and Julio: Our Story'.

The McHenry Museum & Historical Society reached out to the community recently to gather more memories from the McHenry Library years. Over the past month, we heard from former employees, relatives of former employees, customers of the library, and Modesto's mayor. Please enjoy.

Lee Blevins:

"It's so much a part of my youth. As a boy I'd get a book from there that was so special for a young lad to read. The children's section was downstairs if I recall correctly. I was in high school when the new library opened, and the museum was created. I went to one of the first exhibits, perhaps the first. It was about Alex Schoob, a photographer of our area way back when. I later met his son and his grandson and became involved in photography and picture framing with them."

Rhonda Brink:

"My great Aunt, Ruth Kidd (1903-2000) was the librarian for many years. She ordered books for the county schools. I remember that the children's section was in the basement. We visited the library many times. Aunt Ruth would read us stories."



Lynn Breshears:

"My mom and I made a pilgrimage to this library every Saturday of my childhood. Each of us checked out the limit and spent the week happily reading. The children's section was downstairs. I remember a drinking fountain and a musty smell. When my interest level and reading abilities outpaced the basement, I was allowed upstairs, and can still feel the excitement and pride."

Dale Cogdell:

"My mom would drop me off and I would go downstairs to the kid's section and bring a lot of books home. If I remember right the entrance was on the outside of building."

Carole Johnson Gurnsey:

"Grew up in the basement. Children's Library. My mother used it as a babysitter. Loved reading. Brought home many books."

Maree Mundelius Hawkins worked as a page in the children's section of the McHenry Library from September 1966 to June 1968):

"My McHenry Library experience began as a nine-year-old. We moved to Modesto in 1958 and lived in a house off Scenic Drive, almost to Oakdale Road (still country-like then). Once a week on our way home from St. Stanislaus School (way across town at Maze and Carpenter), my mom would stop at the library. I had just discovered that I loved to read and found the children's room in the basement enchanting and cozy. I remember thinking how beautiful the building was when I went up the outside stairs."

The children's librarian said if I continued to read, she might hire me one day to be a page. Yes, I was hired when I turned 16 (\$1.05 an hour) and worked my junior and senior high school years, and my first year at MJC at least every Monday after school and every other Saturday. A page then shelved books, helped customers find books, and I even checked out books, as well as mended them. It was a great job. If I had not had a passion to become a newspaper reporter, I might very well have been a librarian. As a result of my work years there and my continued love of reading, I developed a passion for supporting libraries. Today I am an active member of the Friends of the Modesto Library! During high school I did use the reference area some evenings and remember the proctor there who kept us quiet. Note-passing became an art in those days."



MAREE MUNDELIUS



Sharon Sauls Henning worked at the McHenry Library from 1969-1971, mostly doing cataloging in the basement under the direction of Tyrone Chu (1936-1994), the eventual owner of the former, long-running Lotus Restaurant in downtown Modesto:

She shared that she loved the smell of new books and loved her job bringing them up to the main floor. As an avid reader, it was a dream job for a young woman. She recalled how fun it was to be the first to open the boxes and see the new books. Toward the end of her tenure at the library, librarian Oscar Smaalders moved her to circulation. She left the job a few months before the McHenry Library closed.



SHARON SAULS

Catalog Dept.

Twainhart Hill, whose mother, Dorothy Stagg (1916-2007), who worked at the McHenry Library:

“My mother, Dorothy Stagg worked as a librarian. She worked for approximately two years, around 1938-1940, at ages 22-24. She was born and grew up in Modesto, graduated from Modesto High School in 1933, and Modesto Junior College in 1936. At that time, she knew she wanted to be a librarian and went to the Riverside Library Service School in Southern California. After graduating, she returned to Modesto and was hired at the McHenry Library. She married in 1940 and moved to Southern California again because my father, William Morris Hill, was employed by Douglas Aircraft Company for World War II efforts. After the war, they returned to Modesto, and approximately in the early 1960's she was asked to come work at Modesto Junior College's library by the same woman who had hired her at the McHenry Library many years before. My mother loved her work as a librarian and especially working with the students at the Reference Desk. My sister, brother, and I, loved growing up with books and a lot of stories to read. She was so grateful for growing up, raising a family, and living in Modesto.”



DOROTHY STAGG

Roger Jones:

“Checked out my earliest books here -- a book about dinosaurs and ‘Spaceship Under the Apple Tree.’ My 8th grade class traveled there for us all to research our term papers. It was an interesting building. Later in life I realized why I love sycamore trees so much -- the library/museum is surrounded by so many.”

Judy Lewis :

“I have great memories of the library in Modesto in the 50's. I remember story time and the children's section where you could find good books. Also I remember the Book Mobile that came around our neighborhoods.”

Ted Pack:

"I lived in Concord, California, as a child. Concord had a population of 5,000 in 1955, when I was in the second grade, and 50,000 when I graduated from high school in 1966. The rapid growth took a toll on the town's infrastructure. When I was in elementary school, Concord had just one city park and one woefully small Carnegie library, with a Children's section about the size of a small living room.

My grandparents, however, had lived in Modesto since the 1920s, and we visited them every couple of months. Whenever we did, I would beg my parents to take me to the library, then marvel at an entire basement full of children's books.

When I was nine, I got to spend a week with my grandparents, all by myself. The first thing I did was to get a library card, using their address and my grandmother's signature. That made me the proud possessor of two library cards, one from Concord, one from Modesto. I felt as sophisticated as a foreign agent with multiple passports. I spent the better part of that week reading to my heart's content."

David Peoples:

"I spent many weekends at this library while in grammar school in the 1950s. I remember the little glass windows that were high on the walls were actually only about a foot off the ground outside; the kids' department was in the basement. My older brother would sometimes be on his hands and knees outside, looking through those windows and knocking on the glass when he spotted me inside. I returned several decades later to discover that my childhood library had become a museum. When I headed down the stairs to check out the basement, the distinctive smells of old wood (and carpet?) immediately transported me back to my childhood. The sensation was startling and nearly overwhelming; a brief moment of time travel that stunned and enthralled me. It was a wonderful visit and the library's transformation to a museum (with lots of 1950s era stuff) was perfect! Probably my favorite building in Modesto."



CHERREE PLATT



Cherree Platt, the McHenry Library employee whose photograph appeared in *The Modesto Bee* in October of 1971, when she placed the final closure sign in front of the building:

Her work for the Stanislaus County Library started at the McHenry Library in 1970, and concluded at the new Modesto Main branch in 1978. Her first memory at the McHenry site was of Judith Helton (1946-1985), who used to clean sixteen-millimeter films. She describes her as artistic and eccentric, and it was Judith who placed a time capsule under a pillar in the rotunda behind the circulation desk. Heidi Warner opened the time capsule it in the late 1970s. Cherree's greatest recollections are the 'cast of characters' who worked in the McHenry Library, including the last children's librarian, Virginia Foote (1912-1997).

Richard Rios:

“Was a student at Lincoln School in the late 40s. Would walk to the library from school or from my home in South Modesto. Spent hours there reading and checking out books. Loved the smell of the books.”

Toby Rush:

“Got my first library card in the basement around 1956.”

Marge Scheuber:

“Wonderful memories of my mom driving us to the McHenry Library, where we would take the outside stairs down to the Children’s books. I remember reading all of the Heidi books and years later named one of my daughters Heidi. Graduated to upstairs in high school where I spent some nights researching for term papers and meeting boys. Now I enjoy volunteering in the Genealogy Room here at Stanislaus County Library helping people with family research.”



Bambi Schmidt:

“Received my first card in the basement children’s library around 1954. Loved checking out books and the general atmosphere of the library. Next came the day I received my card for the upstairs library and the heady feeling of going up the middle stairs leaving behind the beautiful children’s section to the expanse of the adult section. These memories are kept alive by being able to retrace my steps every time I enter this beautiful old building and say, ‘hello, old friend.’”

Laura Wallin:

“My mom took my sisters, brother and me to the children’s library downstairs every week. I joined every book club and to this day love reading! I wish I could remember the name of the wonderful lady who ran the children’s library. My mother got a really sweet letter from her when she was moved to the adult section saying that the four of us represented all the kids she got to know while she was there.”

Judy Tarter Wilson:

“I don’t remember my age when I first walked up those stairs, maybe 10 or 11. I do remember the awe I felt. Such a grand old building holding open doors to a world I never even imagined. About 1946.”

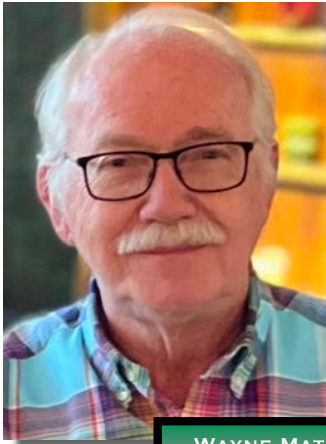
Sue Zwahlen, current mayor of Modesto, who at the McHenry Museum’s 50th anniversary celebration in July of 2022, inspired us to research and write this article on the McHenry Library years (the building which now houses the McHenry Museum). She mentioned the memories of her dad taking her to the building then, and recanted for us recently as well:

“I have wonderful memories of my dad sharing his love of books with me by taking me to the children’s library downstairs. I appreciated that he would take time on his days off to share that experience with me. It was exciting to go down those stairs into the basement space. The musty smell is reminiscent of days gone by. I’m grateful for the rich history of our city that is now preserved in the beautiful McHenry Museum.”

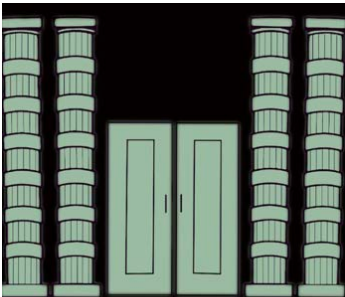




LAKWOOD STUDENTS AT THE MUSEUM



WAYNE MATHES



NEW 'M'



McHENRY McMOBILE MUSEUM

- Did you know that we provide free, educational tours of the museum to students at schools throughout Stanislaus County? These tours are often given in conjunction with a tour of the nearby McHenry Mansion, giving students a double dose of history in a single field trip! For most students, this is their first time visiting our premiere, local community museum. In April, third graders from Modesto's Lakewood Elementary enjoyed a guided tour from our docent committee chair, Kaye Osborn. In May, students from James Marshall Elementary are scheduled to visit.
- We welcome back Wayne Mathes. He now works part-time as a City of Modesto liaison to the MM&HS, and before was the City's cultural services manager from 1977 to 2019.
- We welcome new MM&HS volunteer, Lauren Bone. A current Beyer High School student, she has been volunteering to run our in-museum store, *Stanislaus Selections*. Our volunteers and leadership team are recognized on our web site at McHenrymuseum.org/leadership-team
- We welcome new recent Patron member, Elaine Greydanus. Supporters who give \$100 or greater are recognized on our web site at McHenryMuseum.org/supporters
- The MM&HS has a bookkeeper, Gloria Medlin.
- We've got a new 'M'! Created by local designer, Desiree Cervantes, the 'M' now incorporates the museum's front entrance doors, flanked by the double columns on both sides. Watch our 'M' to evolve with coming colorful iterations!
- The 'McHenry McMobile Museum' made its inaugural debut at 'Earth Day' in Graceada Park on Saturday April 22nd! *'Directly delivering Stanislaus County community history engagement encounters'*, the booth was staffed by executive director David Seymour and volunteers Nancy Norton, Chris Nunes, and Jennifer Aoyama; and Doug Nutson helped with set up and tear down. We thank Mike and Kim Cobleigh (the Cobleigh's have also past donated numerous artifacts which remain on permanent display at the McHenry Museum), Dr. John and Peggy Loeffler, Heather Powell of the Marin County Historical Society, the MM&HS, and the collection of the late Margaret Shields for the artifacts we shared on display. We thank Keith Highiet for conceptualizing the idea of our 'mobile museum'.
- The 'McHenry McMobile Museum' showcased next at the Hughson Fruit and Nut Festival, April 29 - 30. Thank you to Richard Cato, Darin Chiesa, Nancy Norton, Chris Nunes, David Seymour, and Ben Sivils for their help.
- On Monday April 24th, the McHenry Museum & Historical Society held its (first-in-four years!) annual docent appreciation luncheon at the McHenry Museum. Thank you to Patty Heckendorf for making the return of this event so successful. Thank you to all of our dedicated docents, who give their time to greet and guide guests and visitors at the McHenry Museum (photos on next page).
- Are you interested in becoming a docent? We are always looking for members in our community to participate in this enjoyable and rewarding experience. Contact us now by emailing david@mchenrymuseum.org
- A new temporary exhibition featuring the work of local artists, Laura Stokes and Jim Abuan, can be viewed at the McHenry Museum starting May 8th.

IT HAPPENED WHEN...

McHenry Library Holds Daily Open House for Book Lovers

1923

Stanislaus Temperature May Rise To Upper 80s

There is nothing in the Stanislaus district's weather picture to muse the next few days, says the National Weather Service. The large high pressure system projecting Central and Southern California is expected to provide fair and warmer days through Saturday with temperatures in the mid to upper 80s. The prediction of a typically May follows a month of better-than-average weather with only one storm day, April had just 20 of an inch of rain-fall, one-fourth of the month's average precipitation. On nine days the mercury pushed into the 80s and one day in the 90s. The average afternoon temperature was 78.4 degrees over normal. With minimum thermometer readings mostly in the 60s, the lowest April temperature in Modesto was 29 degrees.

1973

BOOK SALE
When: Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Empire Library, 18 S. Abbie St.
Info: Friends of the Empire Library annual book sale. Books of every description will sell for bargain prices, with special pricing for children's books. Money raised is used to enhance library facilities and services for the entire Empire community. Book donations are accepted at the library Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call Jim, (209) 578-3577.

2013

- On May 20, 1923, the McHenry Library held an open house for the public to meet the local Wright Family (no mention of a connection to C.C. Wright!), who whose family members authored numerous books ranging from home gardening to automotive care. What other families were listed as being there to greet guests of this 'open house for book lovers'? The Norrises, Scott's, O'Briens, and Stevensons.
- In May of 1973, Stanislaus County temperatures were set to reach the upper 80s. *The Modesto Bee* reported this was a somewhat unusual high for this time of year.
- On May 4, 2013, the Friends of the Empire Library hosted their annual book sale for the public.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR DOCENT APPRECIATION LUNCH IN APRIL



GET INVOLVED TODAY!

The McHenry Museum & Historical Society (MM&HS) is the support organization of the McHenry Museum, your community museum. We bring Stanislaus County history to life!

• **Volunteer!** Our docents volunteer in four-hour increments to greet and guide guests and visitors during the museum's open hours. Our acquisitions committee explores and evaluates items for the museum to obtain and retain. Volunteer staff runs our in-museum bookstore and gift shop, *Stanislaus Selections*, and help at the intra-County destinations where our McMobile Museum visits. There are more behind-the-scenes opportunities to help as well! Email david@mchenrymuseum.org or visit <https://www.mchenrymuseum.org/contact>

• **Become a Member!** MM&HS members are invited to our annual summer meeting & donor dinner, and our December Soup & Sandwich supper. Donors who give \$100 or more are recognized on our website for their contributions. Join now: <https://checkout.square.site/buy/Y3HL6WU4QLSOHPNPGXWHIDU>

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Your participation helps bring local history to life. Get involved. Today!