

Books and Children Have Been Her Life

When you think of Thelma Anderson you just naturally think of children.

As Santa Cruz County and City Children's librarian, she has introduced literally thousands of young readers to the magic of the written word during the past 21 years.

"My aim has always been to get children and books together," she says. "It is important that they read and any means is legitimate to get them started. If you hit the jackpot once, you have them forever. One book leads to another.

"Sometimes the book a child chooses isn't the best but it is part of the ladder that gets him to other, better books."

She's still suggesting such old favorites as TREASURE ISLAND and TOM SAWYER but considers many of the modern classics like Laura Ingols' Wilder House books and Tolkein's THE HOBBIT to be ageless.

Mrs. Anderson is directly responsible for the expansion of the children's department, selecting the books not only for the Main Library but for all of the branches as well. And now there are something like 15,000 children's books in the Main Library alone.

She also developed the Book Club which each summer starts countless children on the road to reading.

Books have always been important to Thelma Anderson. She earned a degree in literature from Washing-

ton State University in Pullman and then worked in the library at Washington State for a time prior to her marriage.

When she was widowed she and her 10-year-old twins, Kent and Mary Helen, moved from Seattle to Santa Cruz and she became associated with the local library.

Over the years she has made friends with countless children, and helped them make friends with books.

An indication of her personal magnetism for children is the letter she received from one class of school children she took on a tour. It says in part:

"These are the hand prints of your friends. Thank you for putting all the interesting things in our laps. Thank you for our library cards. Thank you for letting us go upstairs and downstairs."

Thursday was Thelma Anderson's last day as Children's Librarian. And honoring her on her retirement, the library staff last night gave a dinner for her at Facelli's.

Her plans for the future include traveling, visiting her four grandchildren, "being frivolous," and eventually to write a book for children.

"I've read so many children's books, I decided maybe I could write one," she says. And with the rapport she always has with children, there's no doubt that she'll write a good one.

—MILDRED ANN SMITH



Thelma Anderson and some of her friends.

Guest Night Tuesday For Altrusa Club

The Altrusa Club of Santa Cruz will entertain the Altrusa Clubs of Monterey and Sunnyvale Tuesday evening, gathering with their guests for dinner at the Imperial Star Restaurant in Aptos to share friendship, new ideas, and to plan together for improved service in keeping

At The Library

The Main Library and its Branches will be closed on Monday, February 23, for Washington's Birthday.

As Libraries are concerned with books, it would be fitting to take a look at the history of printing and the printing industry. A standard and most comprehensive work on

marketing, etc. during each period.

THE BOOK FROM MANUSCRIPT TO MARKET, by Leonard G. Winans is exactly what the title states; it tells how a book is made. Victor Strauss' THE PRINTING INDUSTRY is a detailed description of printing methods, and includes a section on computerized composition. A