

Libraries - 1980-1989

Service

FRIENDS

Library gets grant for children's program

The Santa Cruz city-county library system has received a \$30,000 state grant for a program aimed at increasing the amount of reading school children do.

The program will include efforts to motivate the children, cooperation with

parents, and teacher in-service training, Children's Librarian Susan Elgin told library trustees at their Monday morning meeting.

The \$30,000 was less than the library had requested, but was still only one of seven such

grants awarded from a \$250,000 pot.

The program, called "Children's Literature for Fun and Profit," will be designed for schools in the Santa Cruz City School District, but will also be duplicated at the library's central branch, making it available to children throughout the county.

In another report, trustee Eleanor Engstrand presented details of the level of service committee's suggestions to the library administration, and the responding comments

of the city-county librarian.

Most of the questions concerned the use of volunteers in the library system. Atkins told the committee the volunteers are of value when they can successfully complete tasks now left undone because of a lack of regular employees. However, the value drops if large blocks of staff time must be spent in supervision or training. Atkins added that additional use of volunteer service is expected through the assistance of the Friends of the Library.

A report from the Friends organization was also received by the board. This group has chosen a new board, and held its annual meeting last week, an event attended by some 75 persons. Friends of the Santa Cruz Libraries now has more than 400 members, and a treasury of some \$9,000 to assist with library projects.

In other actions Monday, the library board:

—Learned that consultant John Amend of the California State Library at Sacramento

will visit at the next board session.

—Approved a book distribution policy with the additional specification added by Atkins to spell out how the distribution of new books is based upon circulation of the various branches. The report will be sent to the Board of Supervisors for review. The discussion included an argument between Atkins and Trustee Robert Blankholm over whether the branches receive their fair share of the new book allocations. Blankholm voted against the motion.

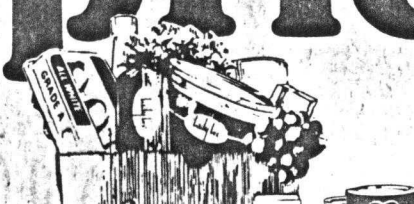
—Trustee Sara Bunnett was re-elected for a term as board chairwoman, and Al Reetz was selected as the vice-chairman.

—Mrs. Engstrand received the expressions of gratitude from trustees for her four-years of service. This meeting was the last session of her term, and she chose not to seek reappointment. Librarian Charles Atkins said the county Board of Supervisors will recommend that the Santa Cruz City Council appoint Jim Lee of Boulder Creek as trustee.

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