

Yes, even libraries borrow from each other

The "greatest thing that ever happened" to the Watsonville Public Library occurred last year and is providing the foundation for things to come in its future.

Last February, Watsonville's library joined the Monterey Bay Area Cooperative (MOBAC) library system.

MOBAC holds an agreement among public libraries in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties to give borrowers access to the "collections, personnel and services of all the member libraries."

In other words, persons holding Watsonville library cards not only can check out any of its 53,000 books but can also borrow any of the 750,000 books on shelves of the six participating libraries.

Also, card holders can check books out from and turn them in to any of the MOBAC libraries.

Mrs. Seely Sumpf, head librarian since October, explained how it works. "If a patron comes to the Watsonville library and can't find the book he wants, his request is relayed to each MOBAC library.

"If the book is found, it is delivered to Watsonville within two days, for MOBAC provides pick-up and delivery service to all its libraries every other day."

A similar arrangement applies to reference material between MOBAC members, the California State Library in Sacramento and the Bay Area Reference Center in San Francisco.

"The search for books and answers to reference questions no longer has to end here for our patrons," Mrs. Sumpf said. "Now we have so many more facilities available to us.

"Joining MOBAC is the greatest thing that ever happened to us."

She credited former head librarian Marie Delmas with linking Watsonville to the MOBAC system.

Other libraries in the system are Harrison Memorial Library in Carmel, Pacific Grove Public Library, Salinas Public Library, Santa Cruz City - County Library (including its 14 branch outlets)

Since being in MOBAC makes speedy access to other libraries' collections possible, individual libraries can use their funds for specialty purposes unique to the area.

Also, Mrs. Sumpf pointed out, items of special interest which could not be justified for purchase, such as fancy art books, might be picked up from member libraries, like the Carmel library which has some fine art books.

The new librarian proudly noted that the Watsonville library has been able to pull its own weight. Many of the member libraries have been borrowing books from it.

"Everybody in the system seems happy with it," she said.

Another item pleasing Mrs. Sumpf comes from the Friends of the (Watsonville) Library, a volunteer group of area people whose stated purpose is to "provide a library program of cultural enrichment for all peoples of the community."

Their new project is a "live" history of the Watsonville area. What they're doing, said Mrs. Sumpf, is tape recording interviews with persons who were around here 50 or so years ago and remember such events as the 1912 Apple Annual (the predecessor to the county fair).

Each tape — only one has been completed — will be on a specific topic or area, and each cassette will be kept on file and indexed so that persons interested in those subjects can look up the tape and listen to them.

Transcribing the tapes to paper will not be done, in most

cases, said the librarian, because of the 11 hours per cassette time it takes, and also because "there is value in having the actual voices there; their expressions and inflections."

Masters of the tapes will also be made and titles will be kept on file in the California State Library as well as locally. Helping the Friends in this work is the Pajaro Valley Historical Association, which provided the cassette recorder in honor of the former librarian, Marie Delmas.

Other Friends' activities, volunteered, is to take book requests from the elderly or those confined to their homes, and to pick up and return those books for them. They only handle the books, and do not provide a shuttle service for these people, Mrs. Sumpf stressed.

Friends also hold a story hour for preschool children on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m.

The Watsonville Public Library has a staff of eight, three of whom work part time. In addition to Mrs. Sumpf, a second new employe is Sandra Fredrickson, who came on the staff as children's librarian Feb. 1.

Besides its 53,000 books, the library subscribes to 140 magazines. It has 3,000 records on file, including, Mrs. Sumpf says, "many that young people want to hear."

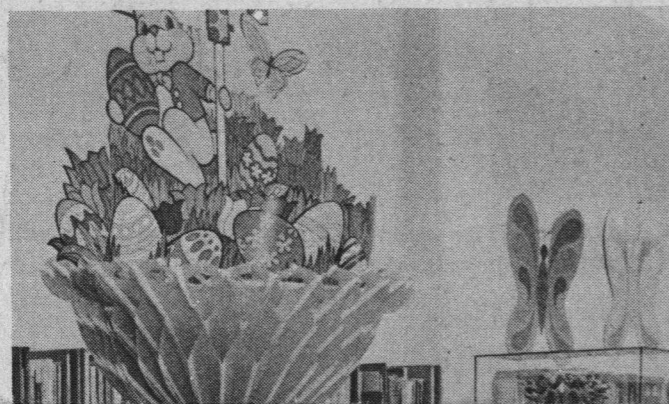
Its 10,000 borrowers produced a circulation of 136,412 books, magazines, records, and reference material last year.



The main reading room is a popular but crowded place.



The library carries nine daily newspapers, including the Los Angeles Times and Sacramento Bee, and heavy readers can even thumb through the Sunday New York Times. Man at the left is reading the Pajaronian.



are Harrison Memorial Library in Carmel, Pacific Grove Public Library, Salinas Public Library, Santa Cruz City - County Library (including its 14 branch outlets) and Monterey County Library in Salinas.

Funded by the state and federal governments, MOBAC has supplied about \$20,000 last year and this for the Watsonville Public Library to "bring it up to better standards," said Mrs. Sumpf.

That money has gone to buy some law books, certain foreign language dictionaries, anthologies and, most importantly, to purchase a \$3,000 microfilm projector and dryprint printer. The machine not only allows users to view microfilm but, by using a special process, to make photo-copies of the projected material.

Funds for this year will be used, among other things, to microfilm old books about the Watsonville area — those rare books whose pages are turning brittle and whose lifespans are growing short.

One of the main reasons for MOBAC is to help cut down needless and expensive duplication of materials in several libraries. For instance, Santa Cruz might have certain reference books and microfilms in their library that aren't available locally, "but to buy them just to have them here would be foolish," said Mrs. Sumpf.



A large array of children's books is available at the library and a preschool children's story hour takes place weekly.