

Libraries 1980-1989

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## Boulder Creek

# Library site formally accepted

By Laurie Slothower

After some haggling over the wording of the deed, county supervisors finally—and formally—accepted a local businessman's offer of about an acre of land for a future Boulder Creek library.

Robert Kuerzel, making one of his rare public appearances, handed over the signed deeds to county supervisors on Tuesday of last week and suggested the library be named after former San Lorenzo Valley supervisor and Boulder Creek resident Vincent Locatelli.

"We would like to suggest a formal name to honor a person who...has given a major portion of his life to the welfare of the San Lorenzo Valley," Kuerzel said, citing Locatelli's 12 years on the board of supervisors, 15 years on the school board and 20 years on the fire commission.

The formal acceptance of the land was met with polite applause from the audience.

Kuerzel and his daughter, Marilyn Odell, offered the 1.3 acre parcel at the corner of West Park Drive and Highway 9 in Boulder Creek to the county for a future library and even agreed to pay for the title insurance for the transaction.

The board has already earmarked \$500,000 in county library construction funds in the upcoming fiscal year for a Boulder Creek library.

However, some of the supervisors were concerned about the terms of the agreement, which call for a library to be constructed within five years and a general plan review of the site completed within one year.

If these terms were not met, the land would be returned to Kuerzel.

Kuerzel has asked the county to tell him what would be the legal use of the remaining quarter-acre of the lot not used for the library. He is hoping to construct an office on the corner but this would take a general plan

amendment.

Supervisor Pat Liberty clarified that the board does not have to accept general plan change for any specific use. Only after county reviews the site would it be known what is an appropriate use of the corner lot, Liberty noted.

The time limitations bothered Supervisor Marilyn Liddicoat, who said if for some reason the library wasn't opened in five years the land and any partially-constructed building would revert back to Kuerzel.

"I don't want to seem ungrateful...this is indeed a noble gift," said Liddicoat. "But theoretically, these things could drag on for years."

Supervisor Dan Forbus voiced similar worries. "Suppose the county somehow winds up in a real squeeze for money and the library doesn't get built for five years," Forbus said.

The land would go back to Kuerzel,

who had been given "some pretty good exceptions" to build on the land because of his gift, Forbus said.

"We're trying to keep the time period as short as possible. It could take five years or 10 or 15 years and most of us will be dead before a library is built—that is our concern," answered Kuerzel.

Their concerns were partially assuaged by a suggestion from Supervisor Gary Patton. Patton recommended changing the wording on the deed from requiring operation of the library within five years to merely requiring construction.

The board unanimously accepted the deed, with Liberty giving additional direction to the staff to make the library part of a demonstration project for solar energy and alternative sewage disposal systems.

This would help get funds from the state and other agencies for the library, Liberty explained.

Valley school lunch

Local student