

Watsonville loses librarian

Hurley heads for Wyoming open spaces

By EMILIO ALVARADO
STAFF WRITER

WATSONVILLE — Vivian Hurley, Watsonville's library director for nearly seven years, is heading for the wide open spaces of Wyoming.

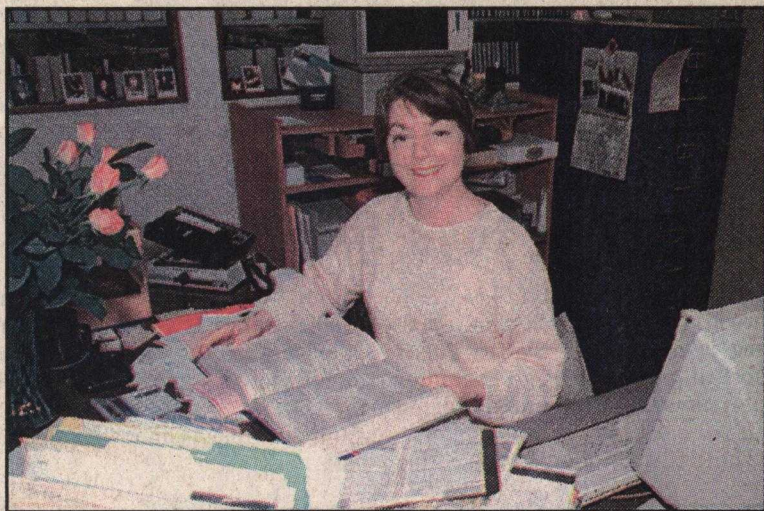
Hurley, 48, who took over as library director in June 1988, is going to Rock Springs, Wyo., where she will become director of the city's downtown library. Rock Springs, a community of about 22,000 people, is situated in the southwestern part of the state. Her job starts June 5.

There are several reasons for leaving Watsonville, she said. It's hard to point to just one.

"It's a big soup," she said. Mostly, it's personal, not professional, she said.

Hurley is not a stranger to Wyoming. She lived there for two years during the early '80s. The state's austere beauty and solitude that spans from horizon to horizon left its mark on her.

"I miss that part of the country," Hurley said.



Michael McCollum

Library director Vivian Hurley will leave Watsonville to take over the library in Rock Springs, Wyo.

She is looking forward to Wyoming's sunshine. She'll miss many of Watsonville's charms. One thing she won't miss is the fog.

"I hate the fog," she said.

Wyoming may have more sunny days than Watsonville, but winters there are harsh even though the area where Hurley is going is considered "desert country." She said the average high temperature during the winter is about 33

degrees, the low is around 7.

It will take some adjustment, trading in Watsonville's mild seasons for Wyoming's bitterly cold winters that can stretch for what seems like an eternity.

Not to fear. Hurley said she knows just what to do in such cruel climate. "You have to wear two of everything and something heavy on top," Hurley said.

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Hurley, who will be leaving Watsonville next week, is also no stranger to small towns. She was born in Mule Shoe, Texas, a tiny town in the Texas panhandle.

Under Hurley's leadership, the Watsonville library was run efficiently and never took the blows that neighboring libraries suffered. While county libraries buckled under financial woes and were forced to reduce hours, Watsonville library never had to take such measures. The library was even able to install a new computer system and expand its stacks.

Two of the biggest disappoint-

ments for Hurley were last year's defeat of Measure L, the library tax, and not getting a state grant to expand the library.

Watsonville City Manager Steve Salomon said Hurley has done a good job of running the library. Even under the looming shadow of budget cuts, the library fared well.

"It has been a tough time," Salomon said. "But the library did very well. That is a reflection of (the library staff's) efforts."

The city will search for a new library director, Salomon said. In the meantime, an in-house interim director may be named. The city wants to make sure it finds the right person for the job.

"We're not in a hurry," Salomon said. "We want to do it right. We want to find the right person."