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Crusade To Expand SC Library Has A Precedent

History does repeat itself—as far back as 1876 civic leaders were advocating expansion of the Santa Cruz Library.

That library, which Santa Cruz "ladies by great exertion and perseverance . . . opened and maintained," had about 1500 volumes; not the 150,000 volumes a projected new Main Library building in Santa Cruz would house.

These facts from the past came to light today in a previously unknown document of Santa Cruz' earlier days, "An Historical Paper" prepared for the "National Centennial Celebration" held July 4, 1876 as part of the 100th anniversary of the nation's founding.

It was unearthed through the efforts of Mrs. Alice Earl Wilder of Ben Lomond and Santa Cruz, a long-time collector of the county's historical past. She found it especially timely, in connection with the campaign for a "Yes" vote on the \$1,400,000 library bond issue to replace the overcrowded 1903-built Main Library and the East Santa Cruz branch, built in 1920.

The 38-page pamphlet was prepared by S. H. Willey, D.D., pastor of the First Congregational

church and a man who was associated with the University of California before it became a university. Mrs. Wilder plans to present it to the University of California Santa Cruz library.

The pamphlet gives brief description of activities, industries, civic organizations and geographical description of Santa Cruz and includes the following section on the "Santa Cruz Library."

"This library was organized in 1868 and incorporated under the general law for libraries. It is not yet large, but it contains about 1500 volumes. It is a good beginning but as our national century opens it ought to be increased four fold.

"The ladies, by great exertion and perseverance, have opened and maintained a free reading room, in connection with the library, and its advantages are free to all.

"Doctor C. L. Anderson is president of the Library Association and John Brazer, Esq., is secretary. Its income is from subscriptions, member's dues, lectures and other entertainments and amounts to some \$600 a year.

"It ought to be our business before we get far into the new century, to multiply that income by ten."

Mrs. Wilder said: "I understand the city library became a tax-supported institution in 1881, existing in various rented buildings until it moved into its present Carnegie building in 1903.

"The San Lorenzo Valley Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday fully endorsed the library bond issue, stating that the members appreciate the services of the library to the citizens of the valley. While we can not vote on the issue, we appreciate the facilities given us through the contract with the county, and the need for more adequate quarters."

Mrs. Wilder received the historical document from Hal Morris, now owner of Don's Plaza stationery store. He provided it through his arrangement with John Howell Books in San Francisco, which gathers historical documents, old paintings and items of interest to persons in particular California counties.

Mrs. Wilder first summered in the San Lorenzo Valley in 1896 and her family purchased her present home in Ben Lomond in 1901. It was the first home of James Pierce, president of the Ben Lomond Lumber company.

"It's funny," Mrs. Wilder mused, "how some things so important to us never change; things so vital as books, a place to house them, to find them and to read them. We never seem to have quite enough space."

PLAYING CARD EXEC MATTHEW FOLLMAN DIES

Cincinnati, Ohio (P) — Matthew A. Follman, 80, president of the U.S. Playing Card Co. from 1940 until he retired in 1953, died Tuesday. Follman, who came to Cincinnati in 1929 as vice president of the firm, was born in Muskegon, Mich.

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