

*Libraries 1970-1978*

## Ben Lomond Library: 'A Credit to the Town'

With all the flap about libraries and their budgets lately, it is interesting to go back and read a Santa Cruz Surf article of January 12, 1914, which was unearthed by Alice Earl Wilder, long-time Ben Lomond-resident.

"Dedicated with appropriate exercises and much popular enthusiasm — a credit to the town," reads the subhead on the story which goes on and on in the flowery language of that era.

Luncheon was served at the Dickinson, which was THE hotel in those days — elegant on the bank above the San Lorenzo at the edge of the bridge. For years it

was a social mainstay of the San Lorenzo Valley.

Following luncheon a dedicatory program was conducted at the new library building. Miss Lulu Hawes' grammar school children sang "California." Elisha Brook gave a welcoming address. Professor Browne and his three sons of Boulder Creek sang. Samuel Leask spoke, then Browne spoke. More songs. Remarks by W.S. Rodgers and J.G. Wright and another song closed the afternoon event.

In the evening everyone assembled again for a "house warming and general good time" during which "dainty refreshments" were served. (Why were the re-

freshments always dainty?)

"When good nights were said people sighed with satisfaction over a happy day, long to be remembered..." the article noted.

The Santa Cruz Board of Library Trustees was well represented with Sam Leask, Dr. Bliss and Dr. Parker present. Librarians Minerva Waterman and Tillie (?) Doeltz were present from Santa Cruz... "Much regret was felt that none of our supervisors had shown their interest by being present," the article remonstrated gently.

The dedication of the new library and clubhouse took place January 10. Those who attended from outside Ben

Lomond went by train and were met at the depot by a committee headed by B. Dickinson and E. Brooks and escorted to the library.

The library itself was "a beautiful shingled building, 28 by 42, on the bank of the San Lorenzo River. This building is divided into two rooms, separated by sliding doors, the smaller room being used as the library and the larger one as a reading and club room.

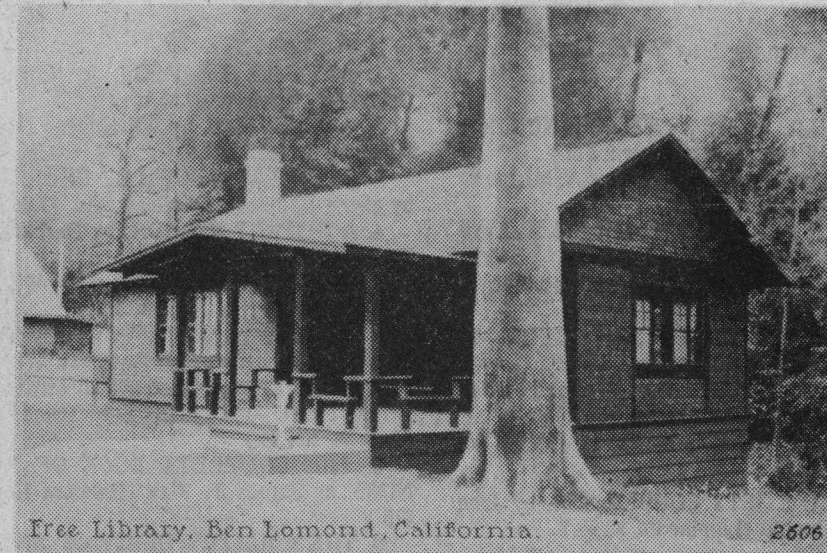
"One side of the latter being mainly taken up with an immense fireplace, the envy of all the visitors. Blazing logs gave a warmth and cheer very inviting on this cool crisp day (and here let me whisper something to

you, the logs needed an-dirons to hold them in place. What a gracious New Year's gift! Perhaps there are some just waiting to be sent to the new library.)

"...Mrs. Cox, the librarian, tells us there are 948 books in the library, all excepting 40 have been donated. Other donations have been promised...

"The frontage facing the San Lorenzo is adorned by a rustic pergola 12 by 24, and from here the view is magnificent. The river right at one's feet with the heavily wooded mountain rising seemingly straight up from the opposite bank of the river is a picture that cannot be described..."

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*The library as depicted on postcard loaned by Alice Earl Wilder*