

LIBRARIES 1980-89

La Selva Library

celebrates 2-18-85

fifth anniversary

This month marks the fifth anniversary of the re-opening — with a volunteer staff — of La Selva Beach Branch Library, and that's been cause for celebration, notes branch manager Dot Allen, herself a volunteer.

When she spoke to La Selva Beach Women's Club recently, Allen traced the history of the library. The Women's Club started a library to serve the village in 1950, with just over 300 donated books kept on rolling bookshelves and stored in a close of their clubhouse.

Women's Club members volunteered to run the library until a petition to the Santa Cruz City-County library system was successful and paid, part time staff was provided. Librarians from those years who are still active in the community and members of the Library Guild are Harlaine Roome, Dorothy Conrad and Harriett French, Allen said.

In 1967, a room was rented in a building erected by La Selva Beach Recreation District and in 1968, the library was moved to the village clubhouse.

But Prop. 13 budget cuts caused the library to be closed and after lobbying by Women's Club members and a new guild, the branch was re-opened with a volunteer staff. Rosemary Dempsey and Bertha Johnston, who staff the desk, and Anne-Marie Martinez, president of the guild, have given their services for five years.