

Book Sale May Have Treasure For You

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Books which are just dust-catchers for one person may be highly valuable to others, both for sentimental and monetary reasons.

An old speller, for example, may be worth a dime or less on the book market, but for someone who discovers it in a junk shop or book sale, it might bring back precious school day memories long forgotten.

People with special interests, such as railroading, mining or medicine will seek out obscure publications of little or no interest to the average person. These collectors often have such a desire to add to their shelves that the prices seem to be driven far out of proportion.

Some books are valuable because of their historical content, or because of the editions or authors. Just plain age doesn't necessarily have much to do with it, and surprisingly enough, what the books cost when they were new doesn't either.

A lot of books which were cleaned out of shelves throughout the Santa Cruz area will be sold Saturday, June 4, from 10 a.m. through the afternoon on the main Santa Cruz library lawn. The event is a "bargain book mart" sponsored by the Friends of the Santa Cruz Library. Who knows, there just might be a treasure there for you.

Mrs. Geraldine Work, head librarian, said: "The age of the book, the gold embossing and the binding doesn't mean a thing."

She explained that many companies put out "gift volumes" which were done in fancy bindings and used primarily as conversation pieces. So many were issued that they are now nearly without value.

As an example, she said that a home library collection purchased in say, 1900, for \$500 might today be worth only 25 cents. Again, some of these books could be valued at \$100 each or more. It all de-



CHECKING CURRENT price list and demand for old books is a continual process for Mrs. Geraldine Work, right, head Santa Cruz librarian, and one of her assistants, Miss Ruth Collins. Books may be valuable because of collectors who drive up the prices by competition. However, some books are valuable for their sentimental content. Many books from Santa Cruz area shelves will be sold Saturday at the main library lawn in the "bargain book mart" sponsored by Friends of the Santa Cruz library. Bargains, both monetary and sentimental, may be in the stacks.

pends on the collectors.

Mrs. Work and Miss Ruth Collins, a librarian, have been working to re-catalogue and check the library's collection of old books. Many of them have been in the library since it began in 1868; others have been donated to the library.

Some of the oldest books are of little value to the library collection. Others, particularly old Santa Cruz history volumes, are "irreplaceable," Mrs. Work said.

Unknowingly, people often throw away papers, pamphlets and brochures which are far more valuable than the bound vol-

umes they save. Mrs. Work said the library is particularly interested in diaries kept by early county residents, advertising or promotional materials and business catalogues.

"They will often sell for more than the books," Mrs. Work said.

On the other hand, they may not be worth a penny, but have great value to the library.

"A lot of these things which don't fetch much of a price are still needed to fill in gaps in the collections," Miss Collins said.

It is highly difficult for anyone but an expert to tell if what you have is of value.

Mrs. Work said anyone wanting a list of professional book dealers can contact the library. Generally book dealers charge a fee for their research duties.

But if you want to browse, dig and maybe buy a treasure for a dime, it will be worth your while to be at the library lawn Saturday. If you have books, quality magazines or records to donate for the sale, they may be left at any of the library branches. The proceeds will be used by the Friends of the Library in their efforts to expand library services and facilities through volunteer efforts.