

City's new librarian takes the reins

Reception to be held tomorrow

By CANDACE ATKINS
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Vivian Hurley, 42, had just finished her interview for a librarian position in Los Gatos and told a friend the town just didn't seem right for her.

"Vivian, a good place for you would be somewhere like Watsonville," her friend answered.

Hurley was branch manager of Headquarters Library in Tulare County and was looking for a change. She wanted what she called "an identifiable community with a relatively small population and a thriving library."

A few weeks later, her brother was reading the want ads in the San Jose Mercury.

"He's a construction line-man," Hurley said. "He just reads the 'L's.'"

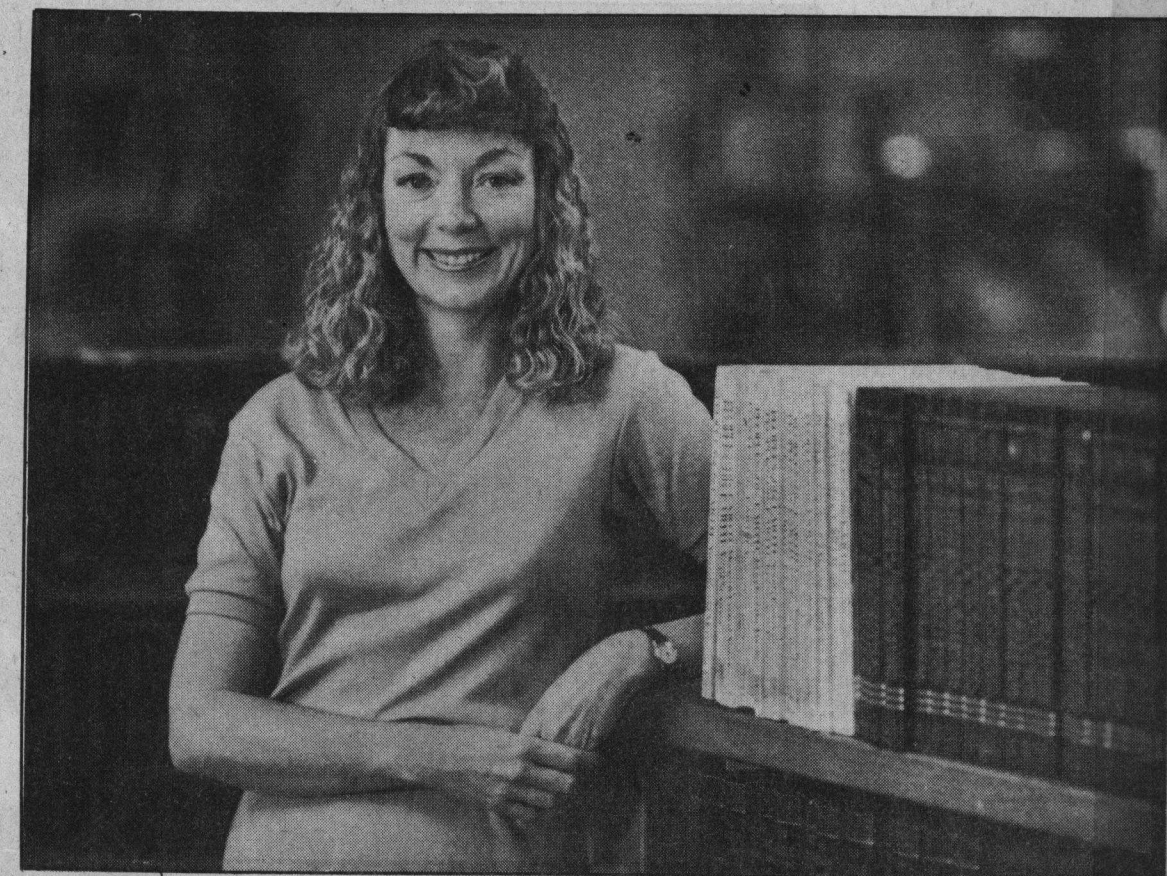
There was Hurley's job — director for Watsonville City Library. The Muleshoe, Texas native sent for the forms, filled out the application, and was eventually selected from dozens of applicants.

She's been on the job since June 6 and will be officially welcomed at a reception tomorrow.

Hurley said she's come home to Watsonville.

"I consider this to be a permanent position," Hurley said. "I want to get to know people, to be active in the community."

She replaces Seely Sumpf,



Kurt Ellison

Hurley feels as if she's 'come home' to Watsonville.

longtime head librarian who retired in January. Hurley said Sumpf left the library running smoothly and efficiently, and that the former librarian had an eye to the future. Sumpf, despite tight budgets year after year, managed to save money that is now being used to initiate an "INLEX" computer check-out system.

"We hope to have it fully on line in January," Hurley said, "but we may see it working as early as October."

Hurley, who worked 13 years at Pike's Peak Library in Colorado Springs, Colo., took part in helping initiate that library's computer system — the first in the

nation to be fully operative.

She sees Watsonville's new system as a critical library need, but equally important, she said, is the staff that will use the system.

"We have a hard-working, dedicated staff," Hurley said. "Ten people do the work of 14."

Hurley also praised the library's book collection.

"We have books here I've never seen," she said.

Hurley said she plans to make an already excellent library even better. She's cleaned out store rooms, is rearranging collections and making plans for growth. She's hoping to expand the library building into the

parking lot area. It's a long-term project, she admits, but she said she's also on the job for the longterm.

The Friends of the Watsonville Library are hosting tomorrow's reception in honor of Vivian Hurley, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the library, 310 Union St.

Also on the afternoon's agenda is an exhibit of a mural depicting the history of Santa Cruz County. Elizabeth Sadoff and Diana Moll, the artists, will discuss the project, which was funded by the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz City Arts Commission, Santa Cruz Historical Trust and local businesses.