

Grand Jury Probes Action

12-11-78

Libraries Reopen Jan. 2

By BILL NEUBAUER
Sentinel Staff Writer

Jan. 2 is the target date for the reopening branch libraries

and the return of the Bookmobile to countywide service of the city-county library system. Librarian Charles Atkins this

morning said the Santa Cruz City Council Tuesday is expected to include a new county allocation of \$26,000 in the library budget for fiscal 1978-79. When this budget transfer has been made, the council will authorize the actions leading to restoration of library service in all areas, except Twin Lakes, affected by closures in the wake of Proposition 13.

Atkins' announcement came in the wake of a letter of concerns about the library system written to the Library Board by Jay Bartle, foreman of the county grand jury.

In the letter dated Dec. 5, Bartle said the grand jury "is greatly concerned about the abrupt and ill-timed decision of the Library Board and Chief Librarian Atkins to close several branches and the Bookmobile."

Bartle urges the Library Board to create citizen advisory committees at each branch, to increase use of the media to keep citizens informed on library matters and policies, urges the judicious and creative use of alternative resources and urges both the county Board of Supervisors and the Santa Cruz City Council to determine the powers and duties of the Library Board and to define the agency to whom the chief librarian is responsible.

The grand jury letter was not

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Libraries To Reopen On Jan. 2

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mentioned at the Library Board meeting this morning.

Atkins said today the Ben Lomond, Soquel, LaSelva Beach branches will be re-opened and the Bookmobile put into service by Jan. 2 with noted allocations. But, he added, the Ben Lomond branch may not be opened as soon as the others because of the necessity to give it a new book collection and to return shelving taken out when it was closed last July.

The city of Santa Cruz had previously given \$13,000 to re-open Garfield Park branch library, which was also affected by the July closures.

Atkins had hoped to get the services restored earlier this month, but it took the county Board of Supervisors and county administrator an extra week to find the \$26,000 extra the board agreed to spend to get all branches except Twin Lakes opened.

Mrs. Winifred Jensen, president of the LaSelva Beach Library Guild, urged the trustees at their regular meeting this morning to have the LaSelva branch open on Saturdays so that working people may use it.

Atkins said that final hours will be worked out by him between now and the end of the year and that a schedule for the Bookmobile will be printed and distributed.