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Book Sales Are Every Thursday At Library

Here's a perpetually unfolding story you are invited to participate in at the Santa Cruz Main Library, 224 Church St.

When the library doors open Thursday mornings there is a rush by knowledgeable people toward a shelf-on-wheels which Dorothy Christian, acquisitions librarian, has dubbed a "book sale truck."

Any hardcover book on this truck, or any record, may be bought for 25 cents each. Any paperback on this truck may be bought for 10 cents each.

And every Thursday an average of 325 items are offered for purchase, and every Thursday many of those items are bought by people who realize that newness or price do not affect the quality of reading fare even a little bit.

In 1977, the proceeds from the weekly book sale was \$2,100. Book sales held annually over a five-year period averaged \$1,470 per year.

The big thing about these sales, Christian reports, is that the people who buy the books or records to give themselves pleasure are also helping to give other patrons pleasure. For the money derived from the weekly sales is used by the library to buy new books and records for the main library and the countywide branches.

In addition to patronizing the book sale truck weekly, one may add to the joy of others by contributing books and records he no longer wishes to keep.

The items sold on the book sale truck come from two sources: the library collection itself

and from individuals, organizations and schools.

The library periodically withdraws from the main collection books and materials which may be outdated for technical purposes or in condition not suitable for the hard usage a library book is usually given.

Then come the donations from others. All books donated are first considered as possible additions to the city-county book collections used at the main library and the various branches. If the librarians who choose the materials for these collections decide that a particular book is not needed in a collection, then that book may be put on the book sale truck some Thursday.

Christian said that about half the donations received are added to the central and branch library collections.

"The main library and the county branches benefit greatly from the gifts they receive and wish to encourage continued donations, especially in light of the effect of Proposition 13 on the library's book budget," she said.

Weekly book sales are held also at the Aptos and Branciforte branch libraries, she added.

You are invited to buy at the book sale truck, you are invited to donate books or records you no longer wish to keep, so that you and other library patrons may continue to enjoy good reading or listening at a fraction of the cost you would pay for the materials if you bought them new.

By Bill Neubauer

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