

Library - 1980

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# New valley library gets warm reception

By Mary Barnett  
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The first book will be checked out of the new \$800,000 Boulder Creek branch library sometime after noon today.

Although the library opens for business today, it received a rousing welcome at opening ceremonies Friday from several hundred enthusiastic Boulder Creek residents.

Skies above the small mountain community were gray and the air was chilly, but spirits were warm and bright as Boulder Creek celebrated completion of the new 4,600-square-foot, cedar shake building at 13390 West Park Ave.

There were red and yellow balloons and speeches and songs and refreshments and

even a dramatic skit, Marian the Librarian. The San Lorenzo Valley High School marching band led a triumphant march from the tiny, cramped former Boulder Creek library on Central Avenue to the gleaming new structure.

The new branch library, to house about 13,500 volumes, will serve the entire San Lorenzo Valley as well as Boulder Creek. It was designed by more than 80 community members in cooperation with the architectural firms of Vanderyn, Calthorp & Partners, and Jeff Oberdorfer & Associates of Santa Cruz. Features include a fireplace, community room, small outdoor amphitheater, children's room and art gallery. The library boasts more than 600 community donations ranging from works

of art to bulletin boards to wood for the fireplace.

Land for the library was donated to Santa Cruz County in 1980 by Robert Kuerzel. Despite Proposition 13 and financial constraints, the city and county of Santa Cruz managed to come up with \$800,000 to build the new branch of the Santa Cruz City and County Library System. It was the only library built in California during the past year.

County Supervisor Joe Cucchiara, who represents the San Lorenzo Valley on the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, presided at Friday's ceremony. He dedicated the new library to the late June Leone Brosius, who died in October at 60. She served as Boulder Creek librarian

from 1975 until shortly before her death.

"Today is the bright light at the end of a sometimes dark tunnel," Cucchiara declared. "Today a community's dream comes true."

He presented a bouquet of flowers to Anne Gulliver of Friends of the Library, whom he described as "the person who best symbolizes community participation."

At the close of the ceremony, Cucchiara introduced Pam Downing, new Boulder Creek chief librarian, and told her, "Pam, we present you the Boulder Creek library."

Downing was applauded when she announced that in celebration of the occasion, there would be an amnesty on library fines until March 30.