

OUR San Bernardino Public Library System is a real treasure house, loaded with reading material of all kinds and information on almost every subject of interest, as well as special local history collections, audio-visual equipment and many other services. The main downtown library, located at 4th Street and Arrowhead Avenue and four branch libraries are easily accessible to everyone throughout the city. The branch libraries often have special exhibits, story hours for pre-school children and summer reading clubs for those of school age, but it is the main library that contains special collections and services making it one of the best in the county. Anyone can use its facilities free of charge and books can also be checked out by anyone with a library card, which is also gratis.

OUR LOCAL LIBRARY

by MARTHA GAINES STOEBE

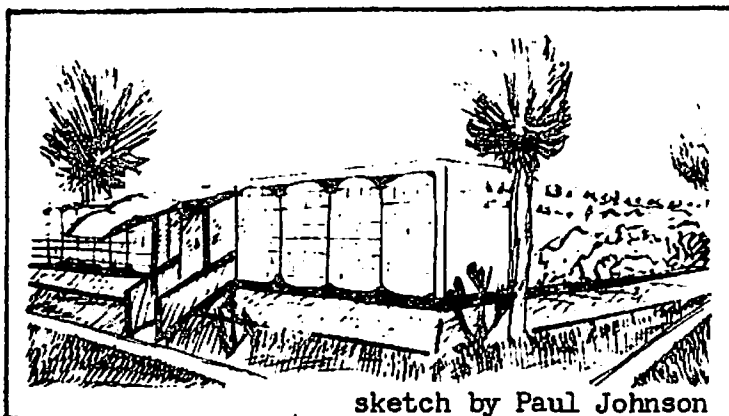
Upon entering the Arrowhead entrance of the downtown library, you will be on the main floor. Immediately past the front desk to the right is the Research Department. Here you will find librarians willing to help you with any questions. You can even telephone them a question and they will call you back with the answer. In this area the genealogical section is located, where you can find information on early families in many states, given names from different countries and other such data. In case there is a book you want, which cannot be found in the library, the reference librarians will gladly order it for you from another library, even as far away as Sacramento if need be.

Leaving the Reference Department, you'll find the main collection of fiction and non-fiction books around the walls on many built-in shelves. Fiction is arranged alphabetically by author and non-fiction by subject. Non-fiction books are numbered on the back, so the easiest way to find the one you want is to look it up in the card catalog.

Also on the library's main floor, you'll find an area where you can sit down and read all the latest newspapers, or examine displays of new books and others of seasonal interest, along with racks of paperbacks on a variety of subjects. There are plenty of chairs and tables available for those who wish to sit down and read or take notes.

The library's downstairs floor can be reached by stairs from the main floor or from the parking lot in back of the building. This section contains five important rooms: the Children's Room, the Periodical Room, The California Room, the Community Room and Audio-visual Room. The Children's Room is full of all the best books for children of all ages, as well as encyclopedias and other reference materials for the young. Its librarians are always glad to help and the card catalog there is a good way to teach children how to use a library. There is even a film cassetteviewer to add interest for the children and there is a story hour once a week for pre-school children.

The Community Room is used by the Historical Society, Genealogical Society and other local organizations. Movies for children are shown in this room on a regular schedule and the Friends of the Library hold their annual book sale there also.



sketch by Paul Johnson

Our Periodical Room contains The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature from 1890 and the magazines to go with them -- so it's possible to look up magazines and newspapers, including the San Bernardino Sun from 1906. A wide selection of government documents are also housed in this area and film readers are available so you can read any of the microfilms, using same for 15

(Continued on Page 6)