

EL SOBRANTE CHRONOLOGY

- 1938 December Station established in home of Mrs. Blanche Burg, with a stock of 200 books.
- 1943 September Discontinued - World War II - Mrs. Burg took a war job, no other quarters were available.
- 1947 October Under sponsorship of El Sobrante Garden Club, re-opened in a small building purchased by the Garden Club and moved to a site on Maloney Road (later Valley View Rd.) off of Appian Way. Mrs. R. E. Radke appointed library attendant.
- 1949 October Moved to quarters in the Mitchell Building. Shelving materials bought from community contributions, and shelving constructed by H. L. Darlington, John Carl and Thomas Hanscom, who donated their time and skill. Mrs. Radke donated some children's furniture.
- 1956 October 1 Change of status from deposit station to branch library. Mrs. Radke retired, and Mrs. Thea Elizabeth Babbitt was appointed to succeed her.
- 1957 February 28 Friends of the El Sobrante Library, Inc. organized at meeting called by Mrs. John Corl, temporary chairman. Arvil Miner elected president.
- 1958 January 21 El Sobrante County Library Service Area (LIB 2) established to enable community to finance provision of adequate quarters.
- 1959 June Branch enlarged by adding next door store (former barber shop).
- 1959 June Contract agreement made by the City of Richmond and the El Sobrante County Library Service Area (LIB 2) under the Joint-exercise of Powers Act whereby the City of Richmond agreed to purchase a site for a library building, construction to be financed by the Service Area, the library to be operated as a county branch library with books, staff, and services provided by the Contra Costa County Library system.
- 1959 August A trust fund set up with a gift of \$1,108.63 from the treasury of the former El Sobrante Garden Club, to be used for furnishing the new library. John C. Wilson and Robert S. Chang of El Sobrante appointed architects.
- 1960 March Preliminary building plans approved by the Board of Supervisors.
- 1960 May Enlarged by donations received in memory of Mrs. Radke, who died May 3, the El Sobrante Library trust fund account was named the Nelle B. Radke Memorial Fund for El Sobrante Library.

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- 1960 October Final building drawings and specifications approved by the Board of Supervisors. Construction bid awarded to Goyak Construction Co.
- 1960 November 28 Groundbreaking ceremonies.
- 1961 June 3 Dedication of building.
- 1961 August Bookmobile II depot moved into El Sobrante Branch.
- 1961 September Photographic charging introduced at El Sobrante.
- 1967 September Bookmobile operation moved from El Sobrante to El Cerrito basement, releasing some space to El Sobrante.
- 1968 Decision to continue County Service Area Lib-2 to accumulate revenue toward financing expansion of El Sobrante Branch.
- 1968 November 26 Deed of El Sobrante Library building, land and improvements turned over to County of Contra Costa by Contra Costa County Retirement Board.

Submitted by Eleanor Watkins  
7/14/71  
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