

# The Reactor

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Perhaps you've heard about the plans to tape oral memories of Sanchez Library at the open house on Sept. 14. You may be planning to share your memories. When I heard about it, it reminded me of my early experiences visiting the Linda Mar store front that served as a library in the 60s and 70s.

I think of the present beautiful building with the blue tile roof as the new library. It's hard to believe it's already eight years old. When I referred to the *Tribune's* files, I

was better than nothing. I suggested the use of empty classrooms to house the library. Later that month, the Pacifica Democrats listened to a talk by Supervisor Fred Lyon, then proceeded to lobby him hard for a revived Sanchez Library. Clark Natwick was particularly cogent in his comments. Lyon was sympathetic, and happily the issue was resolved in the right direction, with two empty classrooms at Pedro Valley School set up as a temporary library site. The Pacifica Friends of the Library was revived. It originally was founded in the early sixties. When it was needed again it came alive.

The wonderful thing about the Sanchez Library is that it represents true democracy in action. The people spoke up. Elected officials responded. There are times when the people get ignored, but this was not one of them. The result, again, is not perfect. The square footage originally projected had to be scaled down. There are fewer books than

discovered Sanchez library first opened in a store front in Linda Mar center in the spring of 1960. In 1964 there was a move within the shopping center. Plans slowly proceeded to build a permanent library. Discussions were held. Money was squirreled away. Sites were bandied about.

Then in 1978 disaster, in the shape of Prop. 13, struck. The library was ordered closed, as county officials responded to drastic cuts in property taxes. I wrote a column in early August that year which suggested a compromise

The glass, however, is definitely more than half full. We have a library, bursting at the seams with kids and adults. It is one of the few libraries in the Bay Area with an outdoor patio that is an integral part of the library. Since it is fenced in, visitors can sit in the sun, or shade of the arbor, and enjoy the latest P. D. James mystery or an abstract book on higher math or the latest magazines. Now you can even get a tan while reading why tans are bad for you. A community meeting room has proved one of the most popular features at Pacifica branch in Sharp Park.

I think I'll put on my wish list a community room for Sanchez. There is room for it. There is the need for it. If enough of us get behind it and lobby for it, the money will be found. Write a letter to the supervisors, or call them at 873-1800. They're good people. They listen. If they think we want it badly enough, they'll figure out a way.