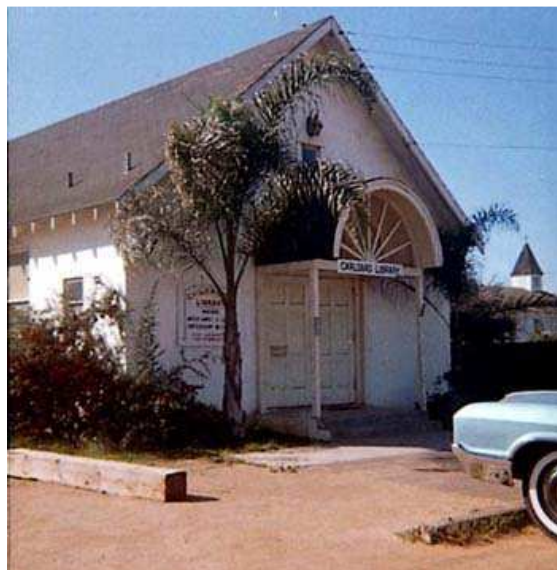


Carlsbad Library Services

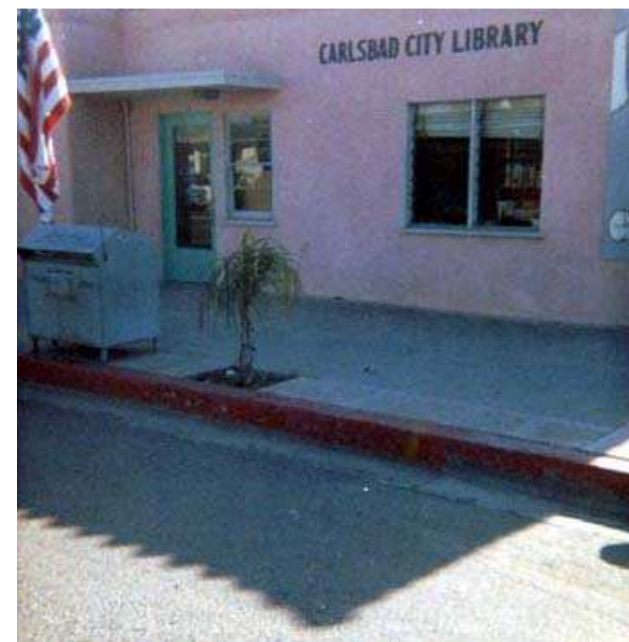
Between 1916 and 1956, the San Diego County Library system provided a small collection of books for Carlsbad residents. Over the years the collection moved from one place to another such as, dry goods stores and newspaper offices. Finally in 1953, San Diego County established a permanent branch library in Carlsbad, and hired Georgina Cole as a part time librarian. From such humble beginnings, the Carlsbad City Library now has two full service libraries. The City of Carlsbad Library has rapidly become one of the most progressive and heavily used libraries in the United States, and recently was ranked the 10th best library in the nation in the 50,000-100,000-population category.



Carlsbad's library service began in 1926, when the San Diego County library stocked a few shelves of books in Chase's Store. In 1931, this small collection of books was moved to the local newspaper office.



Shortly after the City of Carlsbad was incorporated in 1952, the county library moved into a corner of the old St. Patrick's church and shared space with the newly founded Carlsbad City Police Department. With only 400 volumes of books available, the library was kept open just 18 hours a week.



By 1956 under the guidance and influence of Georgina Cole, the Carlsbad City library became a reality, and established its independence from the San Diego County System. By the end of the first year, the library holdings had increased to over 4,000 volumes, 1,400 of which were donated from Georgina Cole's personal library.