

History of the Marin County Free Library

& its Establishment in Corte Madera

By Laurie Thompson, Anne T. Kent California Room



The Parkside Hotel Building was the First Home of the Corte Madera Branch of the Marin
County Free Library

**FEDERATED WOMEN
WANT LIBRARY**

6-15-22

The establishment of a County Library is to be the goal of the County Federated Woman's Clubs if the vigorous initiative taken by the women at the last regular meeting held in Corte Madera is taken as a criterion. Mrs. A. S. Pierson, recently elected president, urged this as one of the most plausible undertakings in the work of the club and was given enthusiastic support by a number of the other leading members of the executive board.

During the meeting the members had the pleasure of listening to State President Mrs. Fitzgerald, who spoke on the need of legislation to aid projects advocated by women of the state. She praised the work of Senator Hiram Johnson. Mrs. W. E. Hubbard spoke on "Child Labor." Warden Johnston spoke on "Youth and Crime" and gave the women an idea of what he termed "The Inside Story of Prison Life."

A basket luncheon was served at noon and lighter refreshments later in the afternoon.

The next meeting place of the Club will be Larkspur.

Federated Women's Clubs meet in Corte Madera, 1922

One of their goals was the establishment of a free library system for Marin

**Corte Madera First
6-23-27 To Join Co. Library**

Monday the Board of Supervisors of this county was notified by the Town Council of Corte Madera that the members of the governing body of that thriving little town had voted to join the County Library. This is the first incorporated town in the county to accept the county library system and the first to officially join the organization.

The unincorporated sections of the county automatically came into the system when the institution was founded by the Board of Supervisor some months ago.

1927: Corte Madera is the first incorporated Town to join the

Marin County Free Library System



Corte Madera Branch established January, 1928

In the Parkside Hotel Building near the Village Square



Children leaving the Corte Madera Branch, 1928

Parkside Hotel Building, Corte Madera Village Square



Bates Brothers Garage, c.1939

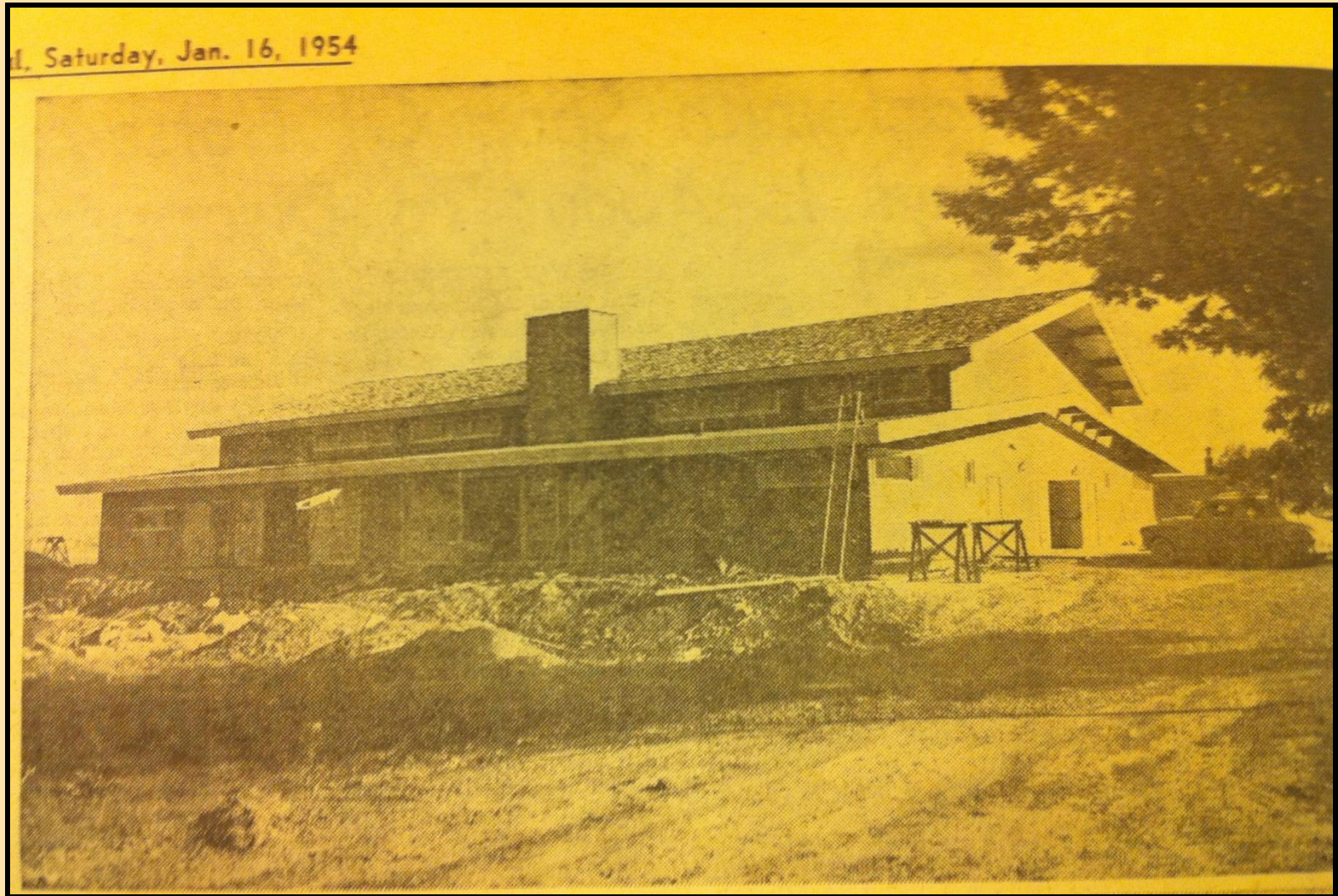
Home to the Corte Madera Library, 1941 - 1954

COURTESY CORTE MADERA HERITAGE & HISTORY GROUP



Corte Madera Branch, c.1941

Librarian, Anna Hall at the Entrance of the Corte Madera Branch
Located in Howard Bate's automotive showroom, 31 Corte Madera Avenue
The Branch moved from the Parkside Hotel to Bates showroom in 1941



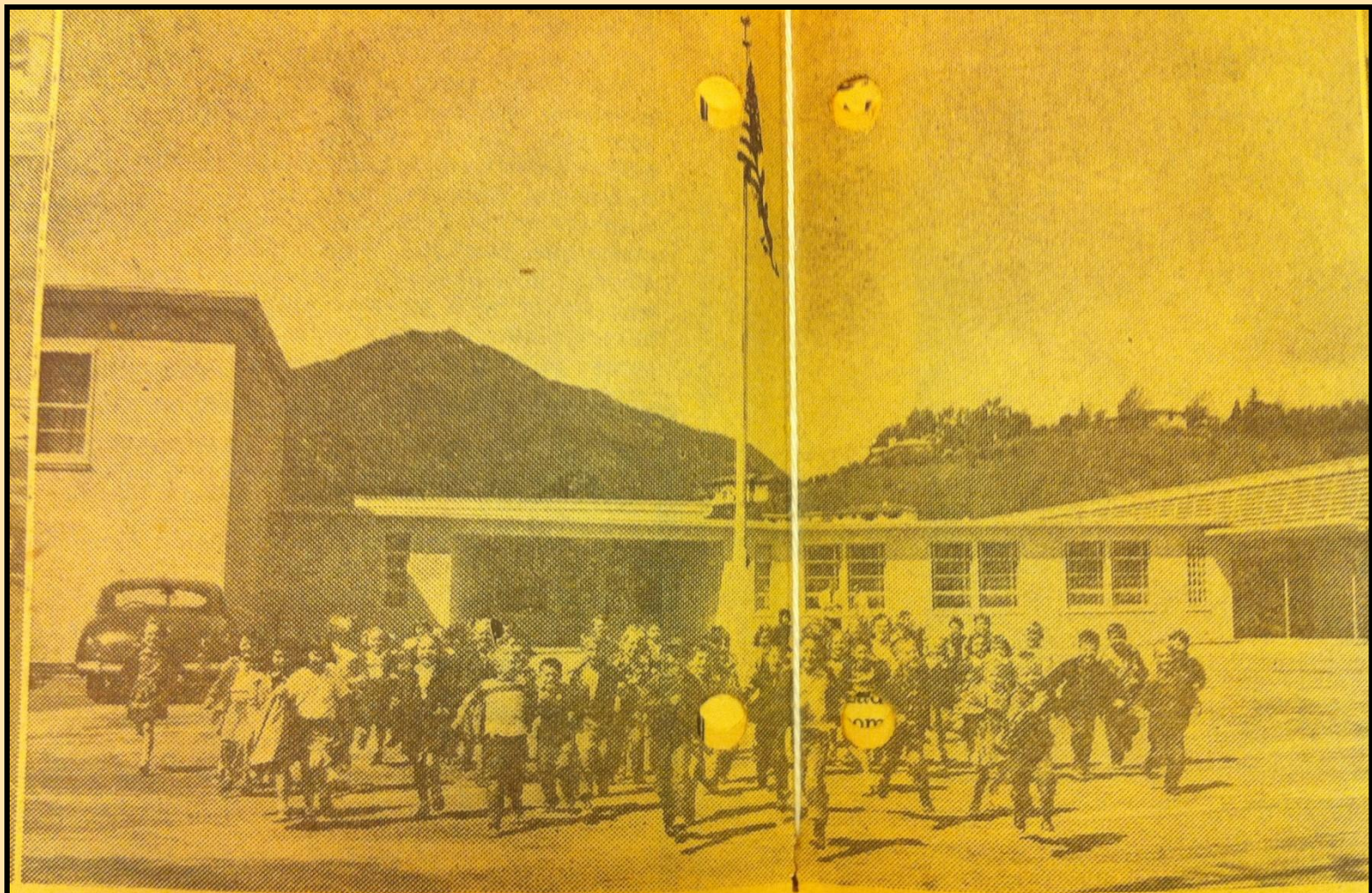
Corté Madera Recreation Center, Under Construction, Jan. 16, 1954

The Corté Madera Branch moved to the new Corté Madera Recreation Center in March, 1954, where a space was designed to accommodate the library



Librarian, Edna Winfield, at the door to the Cortes Madera Branch, 1954

Cortes Madera Recreation Center, Home to the Library, March, 1954 - 1970



ool's out to well-housed kindergarten to third
der children at the brand new Neil N. Cummins

school in Corte Madera. Its opening, April 6
pressure at over-crowded Larkspur-Corte

Neil Cummins School, April 18, 1953

Children from Neil Cummins School were frequent patrons to the Corte Madera

Library when it first opened at the nearby Recreation Center in 1954



WHO READS IN SUMMER? EVERYBODY, IT SEEMS

A score of Corte Madera youngsters proudly display certificates and badges received for completing "North Bay Adventures" summer reading program. In foreground, with poster, are Jean

Thompson, 7, and Paul Clarke, 6. Children had to read 10 books in certain categories to receive awards. Program was staged by North Bay Cooperative Library System, with all Marin County Library branches participating. (Independent-Journal photo)

Children's Summer Reading Game at the Corte Madera Library, c.1960

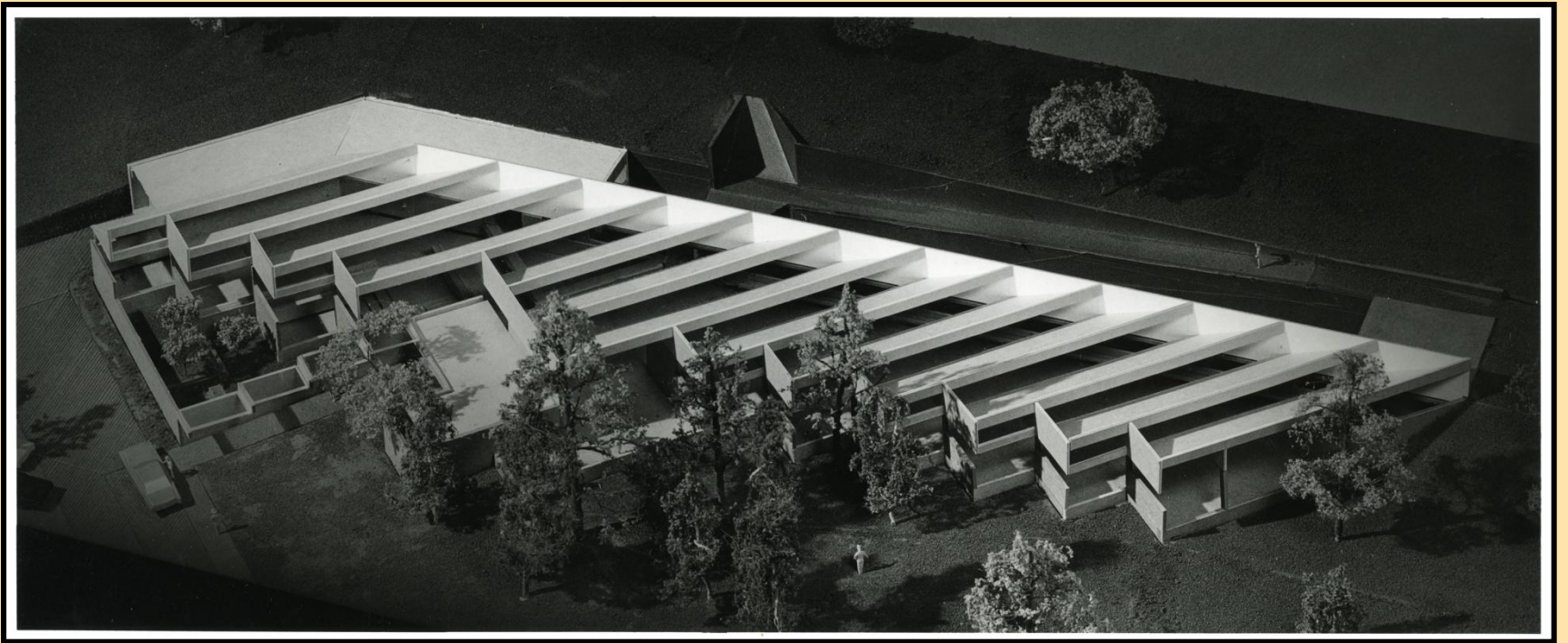
Corte Madera Recreation Center, Home to the Library, March, 1954 - 1970



Fred Sanford (center) & employees from the Town of Corte Madera

In late 1968, 2.7 acres of land were purchased from Fred Sanford for the site of the new Corte Madera Regional Branch on Meadowsweet Drive

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JANA HAEHL



Corte Madera Regional Library Model

Designed by Smith, Barker & Hanssen, Architects



Interior of of Cortes Madera Library under construction, 1971

Designed by Smith, Barker & Hanssen, Architects



A group of Cub Scouts pose outside the nearly complete Library, Oct. 1971

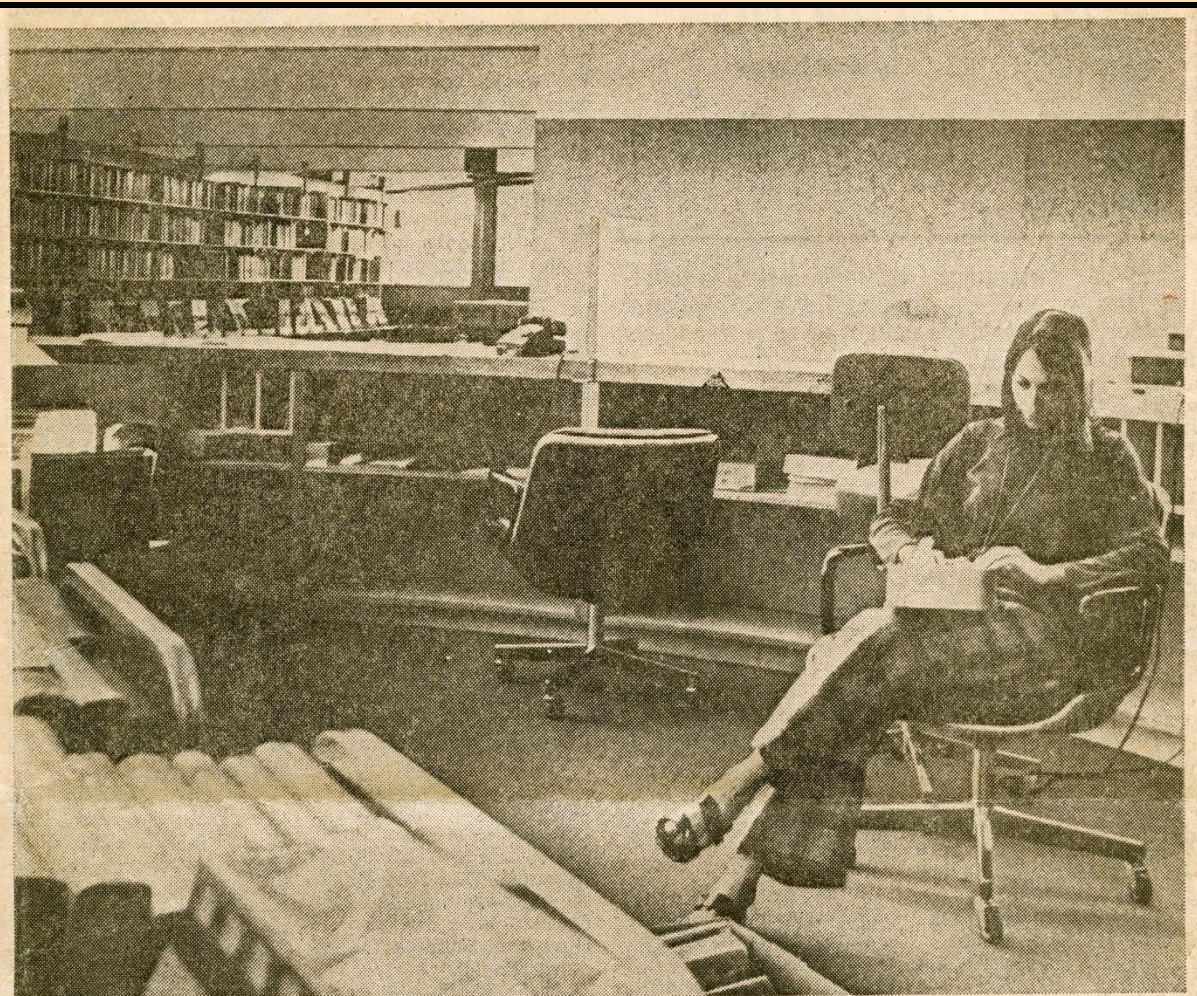
The Library opened to the public on December 1, 1971



Cortes Madera Library shortly before opening in 1971

Final cost of Construction including site development & furnishings was \$684,000

Size: 9800 square feet



FILING — Janet S. Christensen, head librarian, checks files behind the main desk of the new library, located on Meadowsweet Drive

at Stanford Street. The desk is the nerve center of the library where books are checked in and out and questions answered.

Interior of the Corte Madera Library, late November, 1971

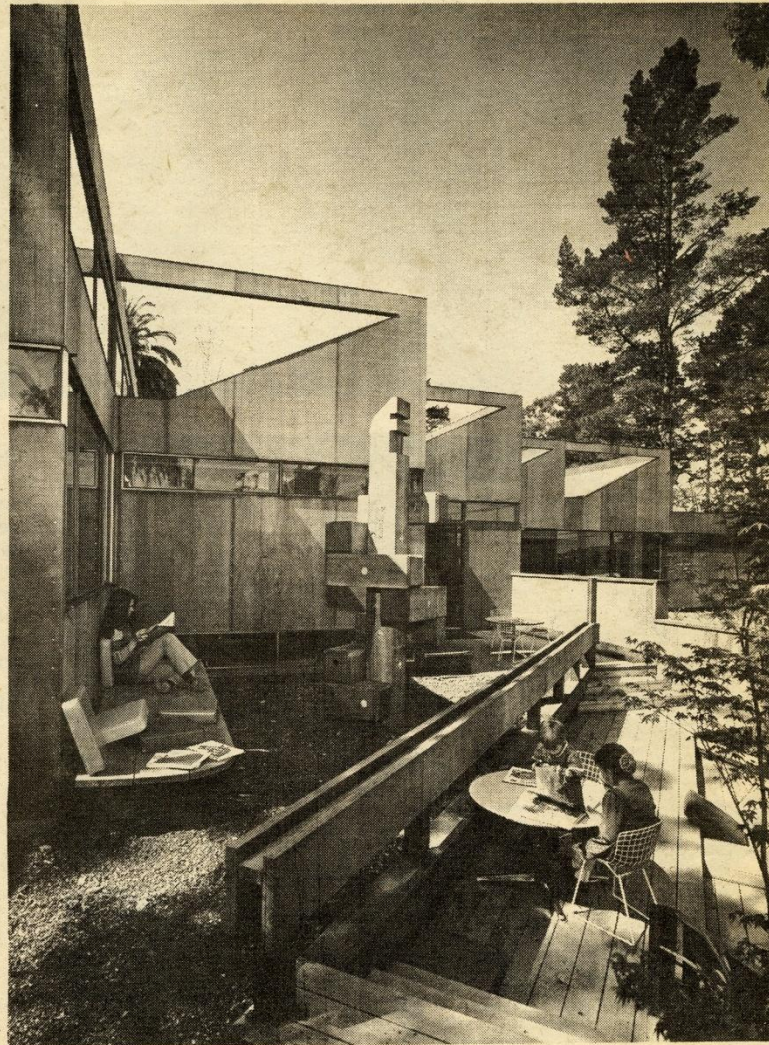
Branch Manager, Janet S. Christensen



Interior of the Corte Madera Library, December, 1971

The Corte Madera Branch of the Marin County Library picked up awards in two national design competitions for its architects, the San Francisco firm of Smith Barker Hanssen. The library was one of nine winners out of 204 entries in the 1972 Library Buildings program sponsored by the American Institute of Architects, the American Library Association and the National Book Committee. It also took a first prize and \$1000 as winner among 150 entries in the 1972 Plywood Design Awards Program of the American Plywood Association.

Gerald Ratto



8 PACIFIC SUN — Week of July 13 - 19, 1972

Exterior of the Corte Madera Library, July, 1972

Corte Madera Library is recipient of several Architectural Awards

**Corte Madera Library
to burn mortgage**

A celebration of the burning of a library building mortgage will be held at 7:30 p.m. March 12 at the Corte Madera Library, 707 Meadowsweet Drive.

Music will be provided by the Nova Albion Brass.

The mortgage will be burned at 8 p.m. by county Librarian Sharon Hammer.

In addition, Grover Sales will talk about his latest book, "Jazz: America's Classical Music."

The Marin County Library Commission

and the

Friends of the Marin County Free Library

invite you to celebrate the burning of the Corte Madera Library mortgage

Wednesday, March 12, 1986

7:30 p.m.

Corte Madera Library
707 Meadowsweet Drive

Yes, it's true, the taxpayers have bought and completely paid for this fine regional library. We all own it now, free of debt. Come help us celebrate.

Program

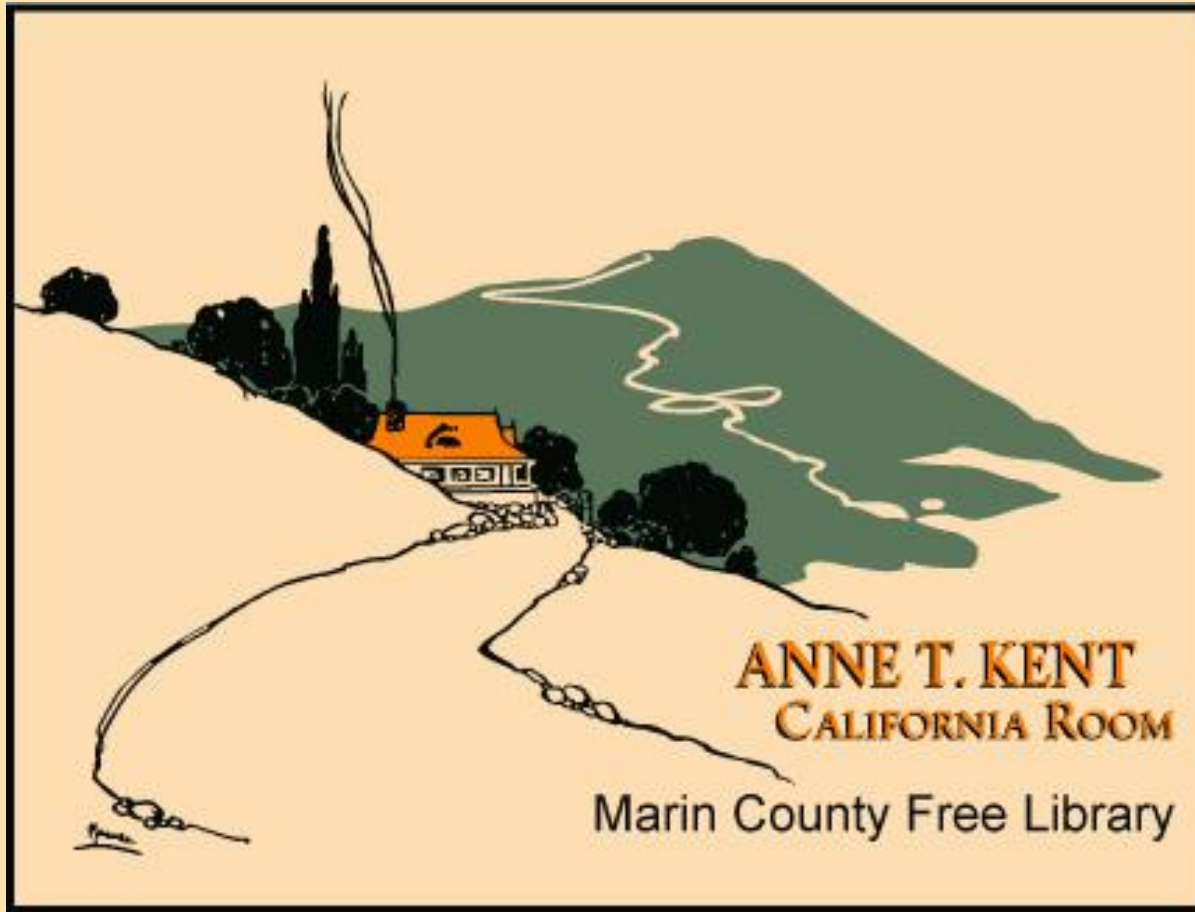
- | | |
|------|--|
| 7:30 | Refreshments and music |
| 8:00 | Mortgage burning |
| 8:15 | Grover Sales, noted Marin author, will talk about his new book, <i>Jazz: America's Classical Music</i> . |

Invite your friends who like jazz music to join us for this special event.



Corte Madera Branch, Debt-free, March 12, 1986

Invitation to the burning of the Corte Madera Library mortgage



ANNE T. KENT
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Marin County Free Library



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