

Free English Classes *For Adults* Ingles Para Adultos

(Clases son Gratis)

Brea Library
1 Civic Center Circle
(east of the Brea Post Office)
Fridays, 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Viernes, 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Open Registration

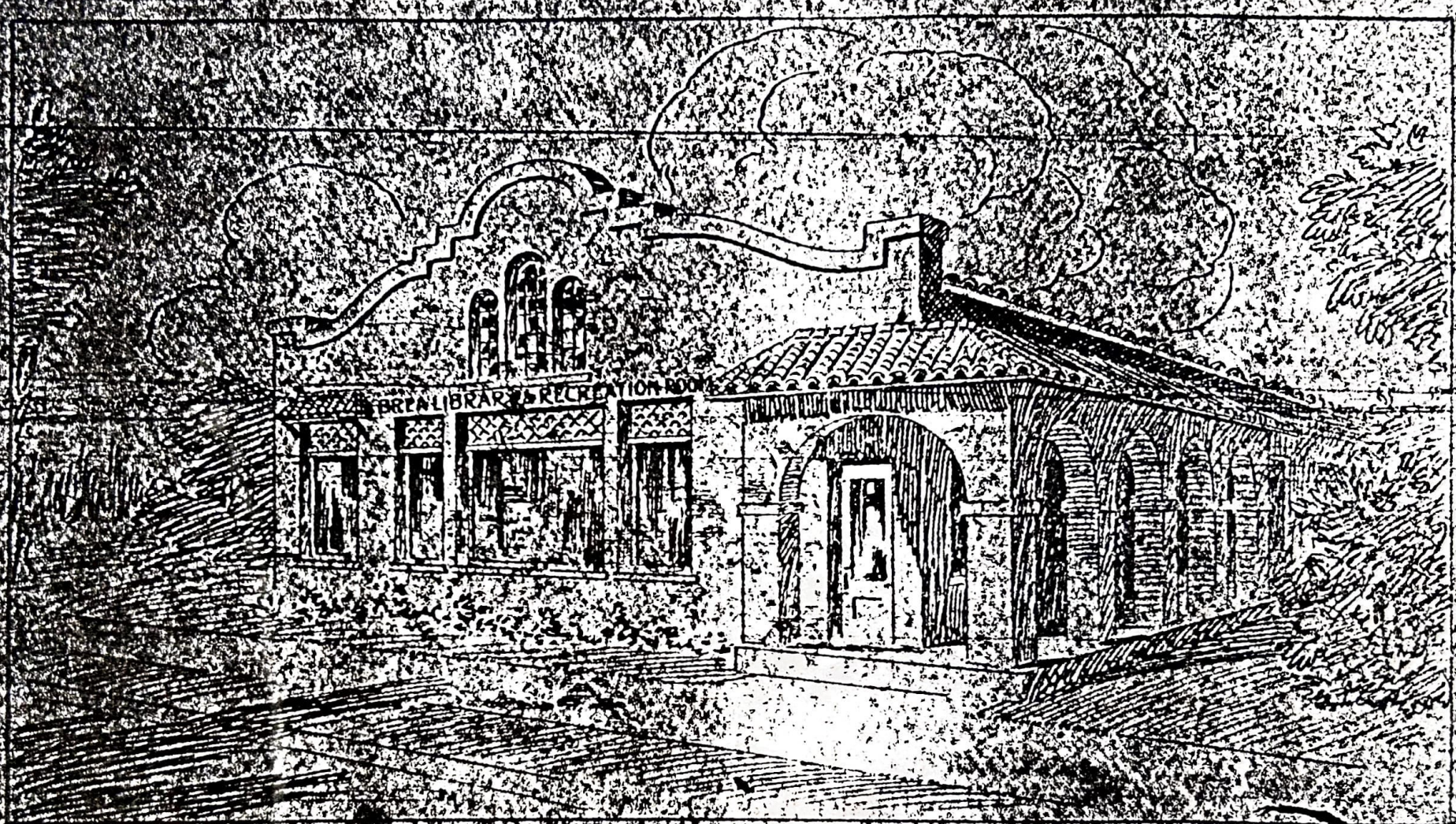
Sorry, no child care - (no se permitir ninos)

Class starts September 27, 1991

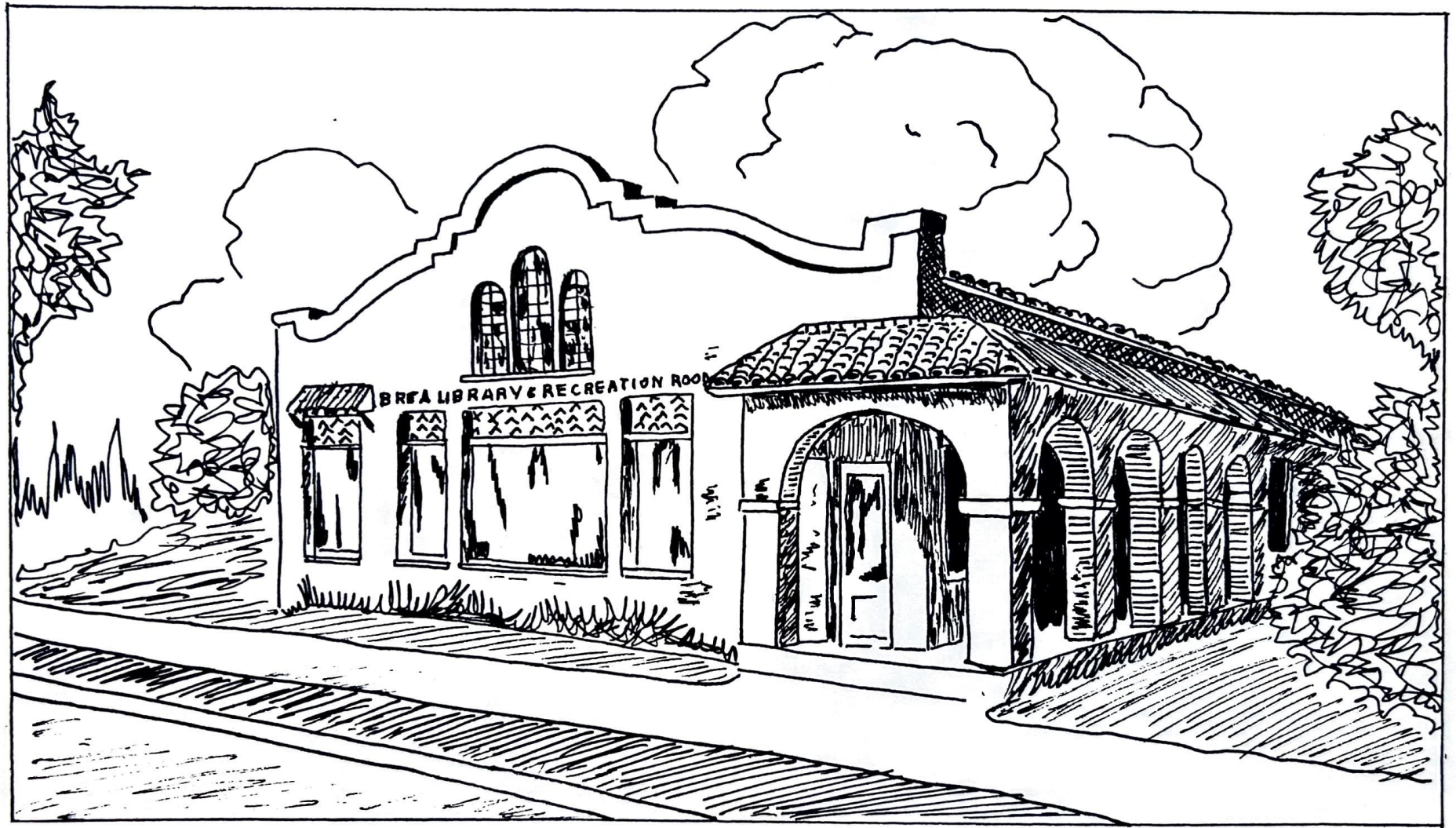
For more information, call 990-7776 or 671-1722

Sponsored by City of Brea and Brea Library

PROPOSED BREA LIBRARY, READING, REST AND RECREATION ROOMS



...ough sketch worked out by the artist from tentative plans. For instance, it is intended that the front entrance be imposing, whereas the artist has shown it as only a single door. The side entrance into the main plan show the front to be one room 30x18 feet for library room for both ladies and gentlemen. From the entrance to the ladies rest room 10x12 fitted with mirrors, tables and perhaps a locker. From the entrance is a door and roller. At the other end of the library room there is a short hallway leading to the men's reading and rest room will be 20x30 feet and will be provided with collapsible chairs, a table, a small locker or table. From the entrance to the men's bath and toilet rooms 12x16 feet. A side entrance is provided for those who might not wish to enter the main entrance lead into the playground.



HIGH-TECH CHILD'S PLAY



Jack E. Hancock/Brea Progress

Future Olinda Elementary School students Kimberly Howland, left, and Brookie Hatch, both aged 2½, get head starts on their computer training following a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the school last Friday.

Library media centers that use state-of-the-art technology opening at district primary schools

By Jennifer D'Andrea
Brea Progress

Hushed voices and the soft crinkle of turning pages of books won't be the only sounds heard from Brea elementary school libraries anymore.

Now the click of little fingers tapping on keyboards connected to state-of-the-art computers will resonate through library media centers opening in five of six Brea Olinda Unified School District elementary schools.

The centers are housed in portable facilities the district bought to make room for the state's class-size reduction program.

The district spent \$1 million from its reserve fund to buy portables for each school and expects to get about \$280,000 back from the state, Assistant Superintendent Gary Goff said.

Portable units at Fanning Ele-

mentary School were put to use as classrooms and the library and computer lab will stay separate.

Each participating school allocated funds for buying new computer equipment for the centers, which combine traditional books with modern technology. Library books line walls on one side of the portables and computer stations are set up on the other side.

Computerized book catalogues replace the old card catalogues.

Starting this month, teachers in the district will attend computer training sessions, Goff said.

Mariposa and Olinda elementary schools formally celebrated the opening of the new centers on Jan. 28 and Feb. 6, respectively.

The schools' technological stock includes computers with Internet access, digital cameras, scanners, and laser and color printers.

Mariposa sixth-grader Sean April, 12, said, "The Internet's fun. The new computers are nice and I like how it's all set up. It'll make it easier because you can find out about authors and what books are all about."

Sixth-grader Stephen Nelson,

11, was impressed with the center.

"It's a lot better than our old library," he said. "You can do a lot more with the computers than play games. I already know how to use the Internet and I can do research on a country or something. It'll make doing the work a lot more fun."

Third-grader Susanne Meyer, 8, was surfing through "Arthur On Line" on the Net.

"I like that the room's bigger and it's funner with more space to walk around," she said. "The computers have sound and they're new. You can play whatever you want."

Parent Lori April likes what the new library media center has to offer.

"There are a lot of kids who don't have computers at home so it's wonderful that they can learn how to use computers at school, because kids need to know how to do that," she said.

Arovista and Laurel elementary schools' library media centers opened Feb. 2. The library side of Country Hills' new center opened in December and the media side is due to open Monday.

OPENING THE BOOK ON LIBRARY EXPANSION

Brea facility is ready to write new chapter

By LaDonna Nicholson
Brea Progress

As the needs of Brea's population continue to grow, the city has been devoting much effort to planned expansion of its branch library.

Residents were invited recently to a meeting held on May 22 at the branch to express ideas for use of the new space.

Cheryl Nakaji breaks every stereotype when it comes to the Hollywood film version of a librarian. Forget the typecast cold demeanor and constant demands to be quiet.

Nakaji is quick with a laugh and the first to help with patrons' inquiries. After managing La Palma's branch library and working as a children's specialist at a Laguna Niguel facility, Cheryl felt the tug of Brea four years ago.

BREA LIBRARY

What: Brea Branch Library
When: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon. and Thurs., noon-8 p.m. Tues.-Wed., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat.
Where: 1 Civic Center Circle, Brea
Info: (714) 671-1722

Her voice fills with pride as she talks about Brea.
"I like working and living in a community. I love not having



Jack E. Hancock Brea Progress

Brea Children's Librarian Roberta Drake is shown signing up Ann Passaro, 9, in the library's summer reading program last week.

volunteers are fantastic." Her enthusiasm for the city and its dedication to its services is catching. As the library expansion project begins to get under way, excitement over the "new" library can only continue to build.

The Brea branch library has had an interesting history.

Established in October 1921, when Brea was still dirt roads and plank board houses, the library was moved in 1929 to the then-"new" City Hall in City Hall Park where it remained

branch.

"We were looking at programs that needed help and asking, 'What could we do to enhance library services,'" Benest said.

As Brea continues to grow, its need for expanded children's and adult book departments grows as well.

"We have a fantastic children's collection, but many of the books are buried under the adult or young adult reading material," Nakaji said.

To open up space, the city de-

In recent reports, the city said it hopes the library expansion project will be completed by September.

If the county library system could find a way to support a larger library, the city would be open to the idea of building such a library.

Benest noted that while not entirely infeasible, an expensive project such as an entirely new library would have to be built without undue increases in costs to Breans — something

Group visits area's libraries to see what's overdue in Brea

By Jennifer D'Andrea
Brea Progress

Open space, a light and airy environment, a large children's area and good study areas are library features that impressed members of Brea's Library Task Force on visits to area libraries.

The group held its second meeting June 4 to discuss features they liked at other libraries that could be adopted in Brea.

Task force members toured three libraries independently run by Huntington Beach, Newport Beach and Cerritos; Irvine and Brea branches of the Orange County Public Library system; and Brea Olinda High School li-

brary. Mayor pro tem and task force member Lynn Daucher visited Edison Corporate Library and the New York Science, Industry and Business Library.

Other library features task force members favored included strong business services, using the city's web page for reserving books and materials, Internet tie-ins and children's services.

"The purpose is not to be designing the answer or to get too technical right now," Daucher said. "Our purpose is to get an overview to see if there is a problem (at the Brea branch). If there is a problem, we probably have to form a more technical committee."

Brea branch librarian Cheryl

Nakaji said Brea patrons most frequently complain of insufficient new books, bestsellers and mysteries. Patrons want longer hours, better parking, more videos, "talking" books and business reference books, increased information desk service, more spacious shelving and Internet access.

In the next month, task force members will "investigate the best ideas," said City Manager Frank Benest. "We'll visit more libraries and come up with additional best ideas. We'll also come back with questions for community outreach and community assessment programs."

The task force will meet again July 8.

BREA PROGRESS

A weekly newspaper with personality

PUBLISHED BY THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER ON THURSDAY MAY 8, 1997

Panel to look at the good and bad in libraries

Task force hopes to upgrade Brea's public library

By Jennifer D'Andrea
Brea Progress

A group of about 25 residents and members of Brea's business community will tour some of the best and worst libraries in Orange County to generate ideas for upgrading Brea's library.

The Heritage Park Regional Library in Irvine and the Newport Beach library top the list of excellent libraries to be toured,

while the Orange library will be examined for its shortcomings.

The new Library Task Force met for the first time Thursday to talk about improving Brea's library, which is part of the county library system. Twenty-one of the county's 31 cities belong to the county library system.

The group will meet for six months to determine how to spruce up Brea's library and find ways to pay for improvements. Brea's effort is not unique; other cities in the county system have formed similar groups, said County Librarian and Brea task force member John Adams.

The task force will consider soliciting community support for the library, which could mean an increase in library fees or a new parcel tax.

Creating a group to work on the library was recommended in the city's Youth and Family Action Plan, in which community members outlined youth and family needs in Brea.

"We hope to determine the needs, the ways of generating resources and other support, what the community is willing to do, and then advocate what we think the community, the city, the school board and the library

should do," City Manager Frank Benest said.

The county library system is currently recuperating from a \$10 million state cutback in 1992 and 1993.

In 1993, the Brea branch had nine staff members, seven of whom worked full time, and was open six days a week. By 1996, only four of five library staff members were full time and the branch was open five days a week.

Other cutbacks Brea's library has suffered include a lack of reference service and the loss of a full-time children's services spe-

cialist, Adams said.

Brea's contribution to the county library system in property-tax dollars was \$282,182 in 1996. The total cost to run the Brea branch in 1997 is \$394,060.

Benest said the city has considered leaving the county system and either creating its own independent library or joining with other cities.

"The basic situation is that currently we're getting some value being a part of the system," Benest said. "We're getting more resources from system than we're putting into the system."

New Brea Librarian Spurs Involvement

By Tony Saavedra
DSP Staff Writer

BREA — Librarian Humberto "Bert" Gallego sees himself as more than a mere baby sitter of books.

The new head supervisor for the Brea Branch County Library, Gallego, 33, fancies himself as a community activist — someone who spurs involvement.

"I'm not a typical librarian as far as sitting around the desk and answering reference questions," says Gallego, a serious but soft-spoken fellow. "There's no reason why the library should play a passive role in the community."

Gallego came to Brea three weeks ago to replace the retired Jessie Thompson, who left after heading the old city library and the new county facility for about 5 years.

Gallego graduated in 1975 with a master's degree in library sciences from Cal State Fullerton, beginning his career in the Los Angeles County Library system.

Working first as a reference librarian and then as the branch manager of the Belvedere library, Gallego quickly expanded his activities to reach beyond the book cases.

He hosted a Spanish storytelling session every Sunday morning on KALI-AM radio for about a year.

Gallego also organized gala Cinco de Mayo celebrations for the library's East Los Angeles community and eventually produced one of the largest Hispanic resource collections in Southern California.

It's no wonder that Gallego doesn't intend to sit still in Brea.

He's already planning a huge Cinco de Mayo festival for 1984, with cultural shows and art exhibits.

Additionally, Gallego is preparing to embark on a door-to-

door library membership drive to reach Brea's Spanish community.

With a few years experience as a salesman and real estate agent, Gallego says he is accustomed to peddling his wares.

"Only this time I'm a librarian," quips Gallego. "I'm not pushing pots or pans, but something everybody needs."

The Brea facility is one of the eight libraries in the county's 25-branch system designated as a Spanish Language Resource Center.

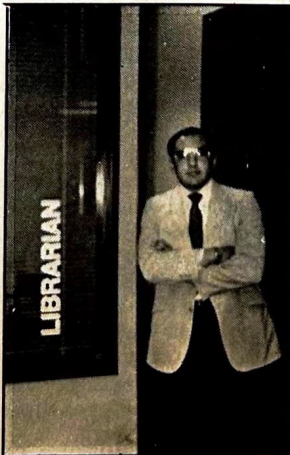
The library receives larger allocations to accommodate Spanish reading materials, bilingual videotapes, cassettes and other resources.

To date, the library boasts roughly 600 books written in Spanish.

Gallego explained that the resources were needed to service the large percent of Hispanic residents in the areas near the library.

According to a county study, 16 to 20 percent of the population in

(Continued on A-2)



Bert Gallego

the adjacent neighborhoods is Hispanic.

Although the ethnic group made up only 3,234 of the city's 27,913 population in 1980, Gallego says the town is "ready for some cultural enrichment." He concedes that his experience in Hispanic resources and his bilingual background are two of the main reasons he was hired to head the Brea library.

However, Gallego was also noted for his experience in business, first as a law student for two years and then as a real estate agent.

Gallego admits that he has done a bit of career hopping since his days as a Los Angeles librarian, including a stint as a 6th grade teacher.

After the passage of Proposition 13, library work became more an act of love than a money-making career. Consequently, Gallego left to find something more financially rewarding.

Ironically, things aren't much better now than when Gallego left the library system in 1978.

But his search for a lucrative career brought him full circle, back to the library.

A resident of La Puente, a city with a large Hispanic population, Gallego is married but has no children.

That's okay, he says.

His wife, Bertha, is an elementary teacher in the Montebello School District.

"She has 30 kids there," he jokes.

APRIL 28, 1988

DORA
OLSEN



A WORLD OF BOOKS — Julie Reardon, left, reference librarian for the Brea Library, accepts a gift of seven Brownie and Girl Scout handbooks from Carol Woffert, center, president of the Republican Women of Brea, Federated, and Jan Wingerter, Brea Girl Scout representative. The Republican Women's group donated the books

(Star-Progress photo by Jack Hancock)
in memory of Mrs. Dora Olsen, who was a member of the group for more than 25 years. Mrs. Olsen was also a Girl Scout leader and worked with youth at Brea Congregational Church. The handbooks outline activities in the worlds, or interest areas, of Girl Scouting.